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Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Dept. of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Dear Ms. Bender,

I have been involved with dogs my whole life. I currently run a grooming shop and I also show dogs.

I am writing to you to voice my opposition of the proposed changes to the current dog laws. It is my first impression, that whoever was involved in drafting the proposal, has no first hand experience or knowledge about responsible dog breeding , raising of puppies or pet ownership.

- **Doesn't discriminate between hobby/show breeders and puppy mills:** As far as the definition of "temporary housing", this measure would require that numerous residential hobby and show breeders be forced out of business. I feel this would be a grave mistake as these are the individuals who go the extra mile, research pedigrees, do all health checks, require spay and neutering for their pet quality puppies. Take back any puppy they sell, should the need arise and provide the public with healthy, happy dogs. As a dog show person I would not think of buying a puppy from a kennel surrounding. I would only deal with a hobby breeder who raises their puppies in their home. Puppies raised in a home setting are monitored more closely, are better socialized and usually grow up to be more well rounded trustworthy companions. I have seen this first hand, having groomed dogs for over 30 yrs. I can usually pick out the pet shop and back yard breed dogs. Poor conformation, under socialized and many aggressive
- **Exercising only same sex /size dogs together:** Obviously this was written with no understanding or discrimination of breeds. i.e. terriers verses sporting dogs etc.. It is virtually impossible to run intact breeding males together, or females for that matter, without a dog fight and risk or serious injury. Dogs can only be bred when they are in "season" so there is no justification for this. Most breeds do better with a mix of male and female. Naturally this does not apply when a bitch is in season. Many dogs are more accepting to a dog of a different size, feeling less threatened etc.
- **Rescue groups house dogs with specific needs:** Most rescue volunteers house dogs to be re-homed at their residence. These dogs usually come with issues and need one on one attention. Housing them in kennels, as set forth by the proposal would cause

severe mental and physical stress on dogs already in a venerable state. Most of these people are cleaning up someone else's mistake. A lot of the dogs are from Pet Shops (puppy mill produced) or back yard breeders. Any reputable breeder will take back any dog they bred at any stage in the dogs life and re-home them. Therefore cutting down on the number of dogs going to shelters and being faced with euthanasia.

- **Adequately enforce existing dog laws:** Most of the changes seem impractical, unenforceable and won't improve the quality of life for dogs in these kennel settings. It is my feeling that the current laws be more adequately enforced. The Dog Law Bureau has already conceded that this is not happening. They need to cite specific deficiencies and address them directly.
- **Transmitting disease via inspectors:** The persons responsible for inspecting virtually ever dog breeder in Pennsylvania, would have to be educated as to how easily disease can be transmitted. i.e. hands/shoes/clothing etc. Most hobby/show breeders are very careful not to contaminate their homes. They change shoes and clothing after being exposed to strange healthy dogs. i.e. dog shows. Are theses inspectors going to guarantee protection against transmission of disease? After all "NO PUPPY MILL" kennel has the same ethics as a hobby/show breeder. They operate more as a business, producing a product for the public.

It is my feeling that this proposal is unjustified, impossible to enforce and would seriously hurt the fancy in general. I strongly urge this proposal be withdrawn.

Sincerely your,



Carol Stull