



TATAROWICZ  
7 HOPKINSON COURT/ TITUSVILLE, NJ 08560

February 14, 2007

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Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement  
Mary Bender  
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Ms. Bender,

Allow me to introduce myself- I am a dog trainer- veterinary assistant and dog lover from New Jersey – who has many clients and friends in Pennsylvania that would be affected by the changes proposed to the dog laws on 12/16/2006.

As a veterinary employee – I see many people who help shelter lost dogs in their homes until their owner or a new home can be found. They do this out of the goodness of their hearts- paying all expenses on their own- and couldn't possibly afford even your low figure of \$5,000 to change their housing facilities for these pets.

My students- some of whom are breeders but many who just love canine sports – have many dogs for different sports or in different stages of their lives- where they may have retired from the sport they participated in and now enjoy retirement with their families. They, too, couldn't possibly afford the changes nor could they do your proposed "exercise " record keeping. This is rather time consuming, considering they have families and jobs to attend to as well. I question the suggestion of running dogs of same sexes together. Most experienced trainers will tell you that a mix is a safer option, dogs of the same sex often engage in a power struggle or jealousy issues that can escalate in times of over activity.

Lastly, as an owner of a dog going through chemotherapy, what precautions are your wardens taking as they travel from one kennel to the next? I have to be very careful exposing my dog to anything that to a normal healthy dog wouldn't cause a problem but for him, could set him back months in his treatment or even cause his death. Will your wardens be sanitizing their shoes- clothing and such at each kennel they visit to avoid cross contamination? Then of course there is the cost of those wardens- \$15,000 the 1<sup>st</sup> year per warden- I would imagine you will be needing quite a few wardens to cover the entire state. I am a NJ resident now- and can't imagine how the Pennsylvania residents will react to tax increases those of us living in NJ live with on a daily basis!

I thank you for your time and consideration- I do agree that so called " puppy mills" need to be stopped and the welfare of the dogs should be paramount but I don't believe these changes will necessarily stop them. It will stop those of us who truly love dogs and want them to be good family members and welcome in their community.

Sincerely,

Lynn E. Tatarowicz  
CC: Rep David Steil, Senator Charles McIlhinney

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