



*The Montgomery County Society for  
The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals*

2559

January 16, 2007

Ms. Mary Bender  
Director of Dog Law Enforcement  
2301 N. Cameron St.  
Room 102  
Harrisburg PA 17110

Dear Ms. Bender

My name is Carmen J. Ronio and I am the Executive Director of the Montgomery County S.P.C.A. and also a Board Member of the Federated Humane Societies of Pennsylvania. I am writing to comment on some aspects of the proposed changes to the Pennsylvania Dog Law Regulations.

Firstly, they are written in a manner that is difficult to understand and in areas confusing.

We see problems with the proposed regulation regarding the walking or exercise periods for shelter dogs of twenty minutes per day. Our shelters handle approximately five thousand dogs a year; in some cases these animals are aggressive and/or not socialized and cannot be handled. Having enough staff on hand to do as the regulations require would be daunting and also prohibitively expensive. If we establish volunteers to walk dogs, we will no doubt see problems with our insurance carriers. Can there be a provision made for kennels having inside and outside runs? Is it really necessary for record keeping regarding feeding and cleaning?

The holding period of fourteen days for puppies turned into shelters for adoption will cause undo hardship on most Humane Societies. Our shelter does not accept puppies less than eight weeks of age and all of our kennel population is examined by our veterinarian staff. Housing puppies for so long, even in an isolation ward, may cause or even become a deterrent to the puppies' health.

The Montgomery County S.P.C.A. fully supports the Bureau of Dog Laws efforts to strengthen the regulations and we applaud most of the proposed changes.

Best Regards,

Carmen J. Ronio  
Executive Director

CJR:ew

RECEIVED  
2007 JAN 29 AM 8:21  
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION