

2559

Amy R. Scheiner, D.V.M.  
102 Bent Twig Lane  
Gaithersburg, MD 20878  
January 16, 2007

Ms. Mary Bender  
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

RE: Document No. 06-2452

Dear Ms. Bender,

The newly proposed amendments to the PA dog law regulations have recently been brought to my attention. As the owner of a companion dog, I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed changes.

I purchased my dog directly from a reputable breeder, not a pet shop or large-scale commercial kennel, because I wanted the best chance at getting a healthy dog with a good temperament. I wanted to know that my puppy had been exposed to a variety of normal household situations and was prepared to live the life of a family companion. By buying directly from a breeder, I was able to observe the conditions in which my puppy was raised.

The proposed changes, especially those applying to "Kennels—Primary Enclosures," are of particular concern to me. It is my understanding that, in these proposed changes, if a cumulative total of twenty-six (26) dogs are housed at the "establishment" during a calendar year, then licensed breeders will be required to have housing facilities that comply with the specifications outlined in the proposed changes. Small scale breeders who fall into the class 1 designation would no longer be able to maintain, breed, whelp or raise their dogs within their homes. These breeders, who strive to produce dogs which are true to breed type, have good temperaments, and are, inasmuch as possible, free from genetic disorders, would be forced to either restrict their numbers or build facilities to meet the standards.

I credit my dog's good temperament to thoughtful breeding and to the love and attention that my breeder gave my puppy. Most importantly, this included exposure to everyday sights and sounds such as:

- 1) My puppy was taken outside to urinate and defecated on grass regularly. This is of importance to me as it helped with the housebreaking process.
- 2) In a home situation, my puppy was exposed to different surfaces and noises such as kitchen appliances, television and other noises that occur in my home.
- 3) My puppy was given the opportunity to interact with other dogs, helping with social skills needed to meet other dogs with which we come in frequent contact.

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
NEW COMMISSION

2007 JAN 29 AM 8:21

RECEIVED

While I applaud the efforts to improve the living conditions for dogs and puppies being raised in commercial facilities, I find it a great disservice to the reputable breeder (whose standards far surpass what these proposed amendments mandate). I, for one, want the choice to buy a dog or puppy from a small scale, reputable breeder and therefore oppose these amendments.

Sincerely,

*Amy R. Scheiner, DVM*

Amy R. Scheiner, D.V.M.