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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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RECEIVED

Dear Ms. Bender:

Although I am not a breeder or a kennel I have many concerns about the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations. I agree that inhumane or substandard kennel conditions cannot be tolerated. However, many of the proposed amendments are impractical and unenforceable and will most likely not address the problems they are meant to solve.

- **The definition of "temporary housing" would require thousands of small residential hobby and show breeding households to become licensed which could not possibly comply with the regulations, and which there is no reason to regulate. There are many concerned volunteers who temporarily house animals who have lost their homes or need special care and they would be unable to continue to help shelters and homeless pets.**

* **Smaller breeders and dog owners who maintain their dogs in their own residential premises but are covered by the Pennsylvania dog law, who provide care and conditions far superior to those required by the proposed new standards. Good breeders need to be able to properly exercise puppies outdoors. I am not a breeder but I do buy my pets from good small breeders because I want a healthy, well socialized dog. I compete in many dog sports like tracking, agility and obedience and small breeders seem to provide the best pets that can do it all. They would be unable to comply with the rigid commercial kennel standards.**

* **The proposals pertaining to housing and social interaction of dogs of different sizes are contrary to good husbandry, socialization and training practices. Those of us who enjoy playing and working with our dogs know that dogs must experience social interaction with many different dogs if they are to be well adjusted and able to be safe around other animals and children.**

The above is far from a complete list of the deficiencies with the proposed regulations. I also associate myself with the more detailed comments on this proposal by the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs.

The Bureau has tacitly conceded that its current regulations have not been adequately enforced. I believe that the first order of business would be to enforce the existing rules and then address specific instances that need changing.

I urge that this proposal be withdrawn.

Sincerely,

Ellen Berman
828 Northridge Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15216

