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Dear Ms. Bender:

My name is Patty Depp and I live in Pittsburgh Pa. I have been involved with dogs since 1968. I have seen dogs laws come and go but now I must step up to the plate and let you know how unhappy I am with these new changes you want to put in place.

I am writing to comment on the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006. I believe that inhumane and substandard kennel conditions should not be tolerated, but I do not agree that most of the proposed regulatory changes are needed, or would necessarily have a beneficial outcome if adopted. Many are impractical, excessively burdensome and costly, unenforceable, and or will not improve the quality of life for the dogs in these kennels.

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. Breeders that have one or two litters a year should not be licensed.

The proposals pertaining to housing and social interaction of dogs of different sizes are contrary to good husbandry, socialization and training practices.

Being a small hobby breeder and show person that raises dogs for work in the obedience, field and Search and Rescue need the older dogs to help with training skills along with socialization with other dogs and people. I find this to be very important in the social upbringing of the puppy. Puppies that don't have this type of socialization have fear and social problems FOREVER.

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 proposed by the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs.

The Bureau has tacitly conceded that its current regulations have not been adequately enforced. If, after implementing its recently announced enhanced enforcement program, the Bureau finds it is still unable to prevent inhuman treatment of dogs because of specific deficiencies in the existion regulations, it should cite these specific deficiencies and propose changes based on them. The current proposal appears to be merely a laundry list of ideas for improving the environment for dogs, that has no connection to specific instances in which the welfare of dogs could not be secured, and no basis in science or accepted canine husbandry practices. I urge that this proposal be withdrawn.

Sincerely yours,

*Patricia Depp*

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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