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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

18 January 2007

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement  
Attn: Ms Mary Bender  
PA Department of Agriculture  
2301 N Cameron St  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Ms. Bender

I have been heavily involved with dogs for the past 20 years and wish to express my concerns about the December 16, 2005 proposed legislation regarding the breeding of dogs.

I have served as trainer, training director, board member and president of the Obedience Training Club of Harrisburg and have over 15 years of membership in that organization. For the past 10 years, I have belonged to the Harrisburg Kennel Club and am currently serving on their board and as Obedience Chairperson for both of their shows held at the PA Farm Show Complex. For over 9 years, I was employed as the program coordinator of Susquehanna Service Dogs, an organization that breeds, raises, and trains dogs to assist people with hearing or physical disabilities.

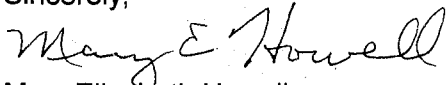
Over the past 20 years, I have earned competitive titles on every one of the dogs that I personally own. Those titles include obedience, rally obedience, Canine Good Citizen, Therapy Dogs International, Delta Society Pet Partnerships, and ATTS (temperament title) to name only a few. I also teach basic obedience in both group and individual classes.

Over the past 10 years, I have bred 7 litters. In all of those litters, I was careful to obtain all of the appropriate health clearances for my breed before breeding and for the puppies after they were whelped. ALL of those litters were whelped in my living room and lived there until going to new homes at 8 weeks of age. From those litters, over 25 dogs have become or are in training to become Assistance Dogs. I attribute their success to an early start in socialization. (I usually have nearly 100 DIFFERENT people visit my puppies in their first 8 weeks.) That is not possible under the sterile, laboratory conditions being proposed by this administration.

Please reconsider the proposed amendments to the PA dog law regulations proposed on December 16, 2006 and pass or enforce legislation that would eliminate the deplorable conditions in PA's puppy mills without affecting the conscientious hobby breeder like myself.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Mary Elizabeth Howell  
President  
Redfern Canines

CC: PA Federation of Dog Clubs  
Hon. Jeffrey A Piccola  
Hon. Susan C Helm  
Hon. Edward G Rendell