

January 18, 2007
59 Blue Pond Rd
Newville, PA 17241

Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N Cameron St
Harrisburg PA 17110-9408

Re. Doc. No. 06-2452

Dear Ms Bender,

I have been receiving information on the proposed amendments from many different sources and as a dog owner, trainer and shower and occasional breeder, I am worried about the proposals. My dogs live with me in my house and are not kennel dogs. My dogs were bought from reputable breeders who also keep their dogs in the house as pets first, show dogs second. These breeders spend considerable amount of time and money to insure they raise good dogs with good temperaments. Puppies need to be exposed to items found in houses and they need to be exposed to as many different surfaces as possible to become good canine citizens and good pets. The way I understand the proposals dogs would be considered nothing more than livestock to be kept in a barn with concrete surfaces and not be exposed to surfaces they will find in a home. The time spent keeping track of everything in the proposal would mean the breeder would have no time to properly socialize the puppies.

I also wonder that if the proposal should pass that my dogs would not be allowed to play with the dogs that my sisters and my mother has because of size differences. At present my 2 dogs are not spayed but one will be spayed by summer if not earlier. The other is a breed puppy that I co-own with her breeder and her breeder wants to breed her if she gets all of her health clearances. Another situation that has just happened is because of my father's recent death, 2 of my sisters will be moving home with my mother and I. This is for financial reasons because my Dad did not leave any pension for my Mom. Between us we will have 7 dogs with another addition because one of my sisters has just lost a dog. These dogs are all different sizes and weights. All but one are female and all are either spayed or neutered except for my 2. Will this make us a kennel thus forcing us to break the law because we would be unable to abide by the proposed rules? We leave on acreage so room is not a problem.

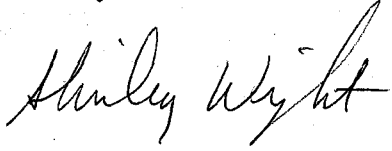
The way I read the proposals the only breeders that will be able to abide by them are the puppy mills because they already treat the dogs as livestock and not as pets. If the proposals go through I will buy any future dog from out of state where I know it was raised properly. We all know something has to be done about the puppy mills but forcing good breeders out of business is not the way to do it. If we are unable to breed dogs properly and keep dogs as pets the state will find out they are losing revenue because without good breeders there will be no more dog shows or other dog events in this state. It's the good dog breeders who bring money into the state by putting on the shows, agility trials, obedience trials, field trials, herding trials and many other dog events.

I am also worried about losing my right to have a pet. These proposals sound like Big Brother is taking away my rights to have the type of dog I want and how to keep my dog and what I can do with my dog.

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My Vet can vouch for the care I give my dogs. My dogs are trained in obedience. I have shown in the breed ring, obedience ring and agility ring. I have also done freestyle and have taken my dogs to visit nursing homes and have done other demos for the public to see how a well trained dog is an asset to the community. How would these proposals affect the police dogs, service dogs and search and rescue dogs? They all came from a good breeder and not a puppy mill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shirley Wright". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Shirley Wright