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January 9, 2007

Dear Ms. Bender:

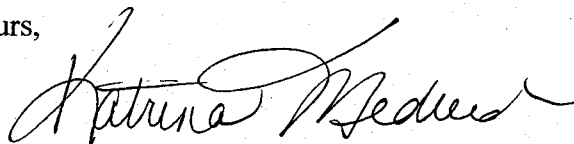
My name is Katrina Medved, I am a small hobby Boxer exhibitor and breeder. I have been in this breed for 6 years, in which time I have attended Fairmont State College in the Veterinary Technician Program. I worked as a Vet Tech for almost 5 years. I have dealt with breeders that are less than reputable, and make pure profit off of their breeding practices; however, I have also been in contact with many reputable breeders that put the welfare and care of their dogs far above proper standards. I personally health check and clear ALL of my Boxers, I have few litters but the ones I have are sold on contracts with spay and neuter requirements. I also give a partial refund to puppy owners towards the sterilization of my puppies.

I am writing to comment on the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006. I believe that substandard kennel conditions should not be tolerated, but I do not agree that most of the proposed regulatory changes are needed, or would have a beneficial outcome if voted on. Many are impractical, burdensome, costly, 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.
- * 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, would be unable to comply with the unyielding commercial kennel standards.
- * The record keeping requirements with respect to exercise, cleaning, and other aspects of kennel management are excessive. Such egregious circumstances already violate existing regulations.

The Bureau has 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 inhumane treatment of dogs because of defect in the existing regulations, it should cite these specific failings and propose changes based on them. The current proposal appears to be merely a list of ideas for improving the environment for dogs that has no connection to specific occasion in which the welfare of dogs could not be protected, and no basis in science or accepted canine husbandry practices. I urge that this proposal be withdrawn, and examples of proper legislation be given by the public.

Sincerely yours,



Katrina Medved

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REVIEW COMMISSION