

2559

RECEIVED

922 Monte Vista Dr.
West Chester, Pa. 19380
Jan. 20, 2007

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Att. Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Dept. Of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron St.
Harrisburg, Pa. 17110-9408

Dear Ms. Bender:

Many communities are working very hard to deal with issues of animal cruelty and irresponsible ownership of dogs and other animals. We are all very opposed to puppy mills. As dog owners, my husband and I are opposed to the proposed amendments to the Pa. Dog Law issued on Dec. 16. We strongly support humane treatment of dogs, including clean water, clean living conditions, nutritious diet, regular veterinary care, proper socialization, as well as kind and loving human companionship. The proposed regulations will not accomplish these aims.

As presently written these proposed amendments will create a new Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement within the Department of Agriculture. This bureau will be staffed by lawyers, and charged with inspecting all kennels. These amendments add stringent and specific requirements in a number of areas and would require the rebuilding of many kennels that are already in compliance with federal and state standards.

Dog owners and small hobby breeders who keep their dogs on their own residential premises but are covered by the Pennsylvania Dog Law will be unable to comply with these rigid standards. They already provide care and maintain their animals in conditions that are far superior to these proposed amendments. In the case of the record keeping requirements these serve no useful purpose and would be very difficult to verify in all but the most egregious circumstances. The Bureau admits that it has not enforced the regulations that are already on the books. The prudent step would be to hire more dog wardens, instead of lawyers, and give them the power to enforce the regulations that already exist. In trying to attack the problem of puppy mills you will cause irreparable harm to dog owners and the show and hobby breeder of purebred dogs as well as causing severe hardship for all responsible dog owners or is that your intent?

Lastly, the amendments specifically exempt SPCAs and humane societies calling them temporary shelter situations, What is the definition of a temporary shelter situation- 6 weeks, 8 weeks, indefinitely. Is there presently documentation by them of their contacting the rescue group for the purebred dog that they receive. Every animal, purebred or not, should be in a safe and loving environment.

We ask that these amendments be withdrawn as they are ill advised and will not accomplish their intended purpose.

Sincerely,

John R. Edelman, Sr.
Corinne R. Edelman