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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

January 20, 2007

Re: Doc. No. 06-2452

Dear Ms. Bender,

I have read the proposed changes to the Pennsylvania Dog Laws and would like to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed changes.

I am a reputable breeder on a small scale. I breed only occasionally and do so when I have researched the breeding thoroughly and feel that with this breeding, I am improving the breed. I raise my puppies inside our home and expose the puppies to various situations that will make the puppy a good, solid puppy and later a great adult dog. I do testing and socialize the puppies so I can match the potential puppy family with the right puppy. I spend countless hours preparing written information for the puppy buyers and offer them the opportunity to come to my home and play with the puppies from 4 weeks until they take their puppy to his/her new home.

This also offers the potential puppy owners the opportunity to see how their puppy was raised and make sure that the family is ready to accept the responsibility of puppy/dog ownership, hence making the possibility of this puppy ending up in a rescue situation or worse, in an animal shelter.

The proposed changes, particularly those applying to "Kennels-Primary Enclosures", are of particular concern to me. It is my understanding that in these proposed changes, if a cumulative total of 26 dogs are housed in the "Establishment" during a calendar year, then licensed breeders will be required to have housing facilities that comply with the specifications outlined in the proposed changes. Small-scale breeders, who fall into the Class 1 designation, would no longer be able to maintain, breed, whelp and raise their dogs within their homes. These breeders who strive to produce dogs which are true to breed type, of good temperament and, inasmuch as possible, free from genetic disorders, would be forced to either restrict their numbers or build facilities to meet the standards.

I credit the fact that I breed dogs that have the above aforementioned qualities and that I spend very much time observing, playing, socializing and testing my puppies that are raised in my home in the center of the activity of the household and have never had a puppy returned to date. If my puppies were required to be raised in a Kennel outside of

my home, I would not have that opportunity to do so. The puppies would not have the opportunity to experience the daily, normal noises of the household, learn behaviors that will make it easier to housetrain the puppy and interact with children, older dogs and other family members.

While I applaud the efforts to improve the living conditions for the dogs and puppies being raised in commercial facilities, I find it a great disservice to the reputable breeder whose standards far surpass, in many ways, what these amendments mandate. I, for one as a reputable small breeder, want the choice of how to raise my puppies and have the ability to breed on a small scale to improve the breed of which I am very involved, and oppose these amendments.

Sincerely,
Terry Hilliard

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