

January 21, 2007

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Ms. Bender:

My name is Barbara Martin and I reside in Eighty Four PA. I have been involved in dog obedience training and competition for over 20 years. I would like to comment on the suggested new regulations for keeping dogs in the state of Pennsylvania.

No one wishes to have animals raised in unhealthy or cruel circumstances, including myself. However I do not agree that these changes as proposed will be of benefit nor do I see how they can possibly be enforceable.

My dogs are my companions and live in my home. To suggest that I be required to kennel them or to exercise them on concrete or gravel rather than grass is beyond reason. It is common dog husbandry knowledge that it is much better for dogs' joints to run on a resilient surface such as grass than on concrete.

If I wished to buy a dog from a breeder, I certainly would much prefer to purchase from a breeder who has raised their puppies in a home environment where they can be acclimatized to household sounds and to other dogs beside their dam. And yet these regulations require puppies to be raised in kennel situations and to be kept from adults. Additionally it requires that males be kept from females except when breeding. How are these puppies and dogs to be socialized to other dogs?

Requiring small in-home breeders who could not possibly comply with these regulations to become licensed and regulated is both unfair and without reason. It is these breeders above all other breeders who should be supported and not punished as these proposed regulations will do. It is these very in-home breeders who provide the pet-owning population with healthy, well socialized and trained puppies. And yet there is no provision within these proposed regulations to allow for small breeders and dog owners.

I strongly urge you to withdraw these overly stringent proposed regulations.

Cordially,

Barbara Martin

no address

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

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