

Box 281
 Pine Grove Mills, PA 16868
 January 21, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender:

My name is Pat Welser, Box 281, Pine Grove Mills, PA and I am writing to express my displeasure with the proposed revisions to the PA Dog Law Regulations.

I have had dogs all my life but got my first pure bred collie in 1957 and my life hasn't been the same since. Shortly after I got my collie I became involved in training and showing dogs in conformation, obedience, tracking and later agility and rally. Through all these years dogs have been my hobby and a very important part of my life. All my dogs have been very dear to me and beloved companions, not just show dogs. In the past I bred a few litters but only when I wanted a new puppy for myself and never made money in doing this. I am a member of Nitta-Nee Kennel Club and Mt. Nittany Dog Training Club. Both of these clubs do all they can to promote responsible dog ownership

Of course, I abhor puppy mills and would like to see them all eradicated. However, I don't believe the proposed new amendments to the Dog Laws will do this. Puppy mills will find a way to evade the regulations. Ethical breeders and dog owners will more likely be affected. In fact, the new regulations threaten to destroy the dog hobby I have loved for so many years. It seems that legislators have been unduly influenced by radical animal rights groups. Many of the proposed changes are impractical, excessively burdensome and costly, unenforceable, and will not improve the quality of life for the dogs. Smaller breeders and dog owners who maintain their dogs on their own residential premises, but are covered by the PA Dog Law, and who provide care and conditions far superior to those required by the proposed new standards, would be unable to comply with the rigid commercial kennel standards. The proposal pertaining to housing and social interaction of dogs of different sizes and sex are contrary to good socialization and training purposes. The record-keeping requirements regarding exercise, cleaning, and other aspects of kennel management are burdensome and would be impossible to verify. Licensed breeders could not have their dogs/puppies in their homes or yards to exercise. The new department would consist of lawyers and Criminal Justice college graduates to serve as an eight member "swat team" to inspect kennels. (How would this be paid for?)

Please, please, please do not let these proposed changes become law. I am not saying we do not need dog laws. Perhaps what is needed is more enforcement of existing laws or work with the PA Federation of Dog Clubs on rewording and reorganization of the new proposed laws. If they are passed as they now stand it will be a disaster for all dedicated dog fanciers.

Sincerely,

Pat Welser

Pat Welser

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 COMMISSION

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