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of  
Western Pennsylvania

7658 Franklin Road  
Cranberry Twp, PA 16066-2506

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

January 22, 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:

We are writing in reference to the proposed amendments to the state dog law regulations which were issued in December. While good intentions might be behind proposed changes, in our opinion, they have fallen short of these intentions. While we wholeheartedly agree that inhumane treatment of dogs through abuse, substandard care and living conditions or any other means is unacceptable and should not be tolerated, none of us believe that the changes to the regulations, as proposed, are necessary.

All of our club members are animal lovers with most being pet owners first then breeders or dog show exhibitors. Some members have kennels to house their dogs and others have their dogs living in their homes. While you may be targeting "puppy mills", you are also targeting individuals who breed on a much smaller scale. Those of us with small kennels or who have our dogs living in our homes, whether we breed or not, are providing care and conditions that are most likely superior to the care and conditions required by the proposal. By imposing commercial kennel requirements, great expense will be incurred with care and conditions suffering. It is difficult to believe this is the intent of the law.

The proposal regarding housing of dogs of different sizes is completely against accepted training and socialization practices that have been utilized for years by trainers and owners. This proposal can prevent dogs from becoming and remaining "Good Citizens."

As enforcement of the current dog welfare statutes have proven inadequate, it is difficult to imagine that an increase in requirements will be make them more enforceable. These proposed amendments appear to have come from a list of ideas with no cohesiveness or basis in science or canine husbandry. We urge that this proposal be withdrawn.

Sincerely,

*Patricia Curtis*

President  
on behalf of the Basset Hound Club of Western Pennsylvania

cc: All Pennsylvania State Senators  
All Pennsylvania State Representatives