

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

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Re. Doc. No. 06-2452

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Bender,

The breeder of my sheltie has brought to my attention the newly proposed dog law. As a person who cares very deeply about my beloved sheltie, I would like to express my concerns about these proposed changes.

I purchased my dog directly from a reputable breeder, not from a pet shop, shelter, or rescue because I wanted to know that my dog would have a good temperament and be healthy. Shelties have a reputation as being shy and noise sensitive. I wanted to know that my dog had been exposed to different situations and was prepared to live the life as a family pet. By purchasing directly from a breeder I was able to see the conditions the dog was raised in. My breeder raises her dogs in the house and works hard to provide the puppies with attention that builds confidence. I know this because my puppy was content from the day I brought him home and has been a valuable new member of the family.

Upon reading your proposed changes I am primarily concerned about the "Kennels-Primary Enclosures" portion of this proposal. It is my understanding that in these proposed changes, if a cumulative total of 26 dogs are housed at "the Establishment" during a calendar year, then licensed breeders will have to build housing quarters to meet the specifications outlined in these proposed changes.

I credit my dog's good temperament to the love and attention my breeder gave her puppies. Most importantly to me, this included constant exposure to everyday life noises, sights and sounds.

1. My puppy was taken outside to potty on grass regularly. This was important to me and helped my puppy with the housebreaking process
2. My puppy was socialized with other dogs and is comfortable in our neighborhood setting where he sees, meets, and plays with other dogs of various breeds daily.
3. In a home situation my puppy was exposed to television, radio, dish washer, clothes washer, drier, coffee machines, and many many other noises that occur regularly in my home.

While I applaud the efforts to improve the living conditions for those poor dogs who live in puppy mills, I feel it would be a greater service to those dogs to not allow "for profit" breeding to occur in the first place.

Sincerely,

Ronda Newcomer
 +
 Walt Brewbaker

cc Pat Vance
 Glen Grell

We concur whole-heartedly with the above. Not only have we purchased two well-adjusted Shelties from our breeder, but we have become close friends with her and her family. No one could be more concerned about breeding + raising high quality dogs.