

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

2559

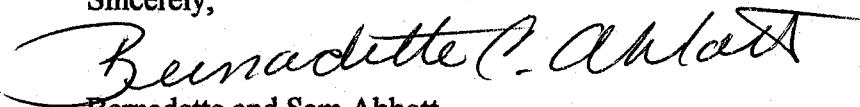
Dear Ms. Bender:

My name is Bernadette Abbott and my husband Harry "Sam" Abbott has been involved in the business of dogs for well over 37 years. He has been a fulltime groomer since 1979 and I have been grooming part time just as long. We have enjoyed showing Boxers in conformation for a limited time in the early eighties at which time we left the conformation ring to try our hand at some performance events. We have also produced a few litters of puppies over the years. We raised all of our puppies in our living room where they could be exposed to all of the sights, sounds and smells of a household. No matter what show career they might have they need to be a good household companion dog first! We have been involved with Butler Dog Training Association for over 15 years and we both have held board positions and Sam held the office of President. We instruct the puppy class that we hold for new puppy owners. I am now the Public education coordinator, Top canine ambassador and legislative liaison for our club through the AKC. I tell you all of this because I want you to know that we not only know dogs and live with them but, they are also our livelihood.

As we have reviewed the new proposals to the dog laws we are concerned that any changes to the current laws will only hurt the small hobby breeders and these are the very people that care the most about the health and welfare of their dogs! Do you wish to drive them out of the state? Think of the money lost by their leaving. As PA would become known as a state where they do not care or understand their dog breeders. Then the state would lose millions of tourist dollars from the out of state dog show people who would not come to shows being held in this state. I was also the chairperson for our small obedience trial and I can assure you that we had many people attend from Ohio, West Virginia, New York and Maryland. We hold it in the historical town of Saxonburg and know for a fact that some people have returned to visit there during other times as well. They would not have done that had it not been for them coming to a dog show.

We feel that there needs to be no new dog laws proposed at this time, just the ones we have already need to be enforced! We urge that these new proposals be withdrawn. If any changes need to be made it is to hire more dog wardens across the state to enforce the laws that we have now!

Sincerely,



Bernadette and Sam Abbott  
997 Lyn Road  
Sarver, PA 16055

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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