

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 Cortney Lannan of Route 104, Liverpool, PA 17045. I am a current dog owner. I participate in a number of dog events, including flyball, herding, and conformation shows.

I am writing to comment on the proposed changes to the PA Dog Law. While I agree that our dogs should be treated humanely and with as much care as possible, I do not agree with the need for new regulations. The proposed regulations would not benefit our dogs or their caretakers. They are cumbersome, require large amounts of money and time to implement and continue, cause our dogs to live without socialization and many freedoms they deserve not only for their well being but for their health.

I will list a few items and why I disagree with them:

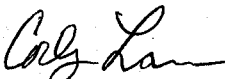
Many small hobby breeders will be treated as commercial kennels and will not be able to comply with the proposed regulations due to the costliness and amount of time it would take to maintain the records required. The vast majority of hobby breeders already provide care and housing in their homes far superior to that which is offered by a cement building. The housing requirements alone will cause many people to remove their dogs from their everyday lives. Dogs are not a commodity, they cannot be put in a cement building with artificial lighting 24 hours a day and left there, with minimal human interaction. This is unhealthy for the dogs both physically and mentally. Many breeds, especially the small breeds, will not adapt to being put into these conditions when they have lived their entire lives with their owners. There will be a rise in health problems in many of the dogs put into these conditions, that are currently living in a home with their owners.

The proposed regulation to keep dogs of different sizes from interacting is another problem point. When dogs are at the different dog sporting events and shows there are usually points in time where the large and small must mingle and stand beside each other waiting to enter the ring. If a dog is not allowed to socially interact with dogs of different sizes at home, they cannot be trained and taught how to behave around the various sizes. This will cause a great lack in socialization that is necessary for dogs to function in society.

This is not a complete view of all the problems in the proposed regulations, but it should give representation of what I see as being wrong.

Instead of new regulations, why not make sure the existing regulations are being enforced? If the existing regulations would be properly enforced there would be no need for these new regulations. How would the new regulations be enforced when there is not enough manpower to enforce the old ones? I think we need to work on bettering our enforcement of the existing regulations and then re-evaluate the condition of the dogs in the state before implementing regulations that will cause our dogs and their owners to be separated. I strongly urge you to rethink the proposed regulations in respect to the wellbeing of our dogs. I believe you will then see that this proposal needs to be withdrawn. I do not agree with the proposed regulations and urge them to be withdrawn.

Sincerely,



Cortney Lannan
Route 104
Liverpool, PA 17045

CC: Hon. Russell H. Fairchild
Senator John R. Gordner

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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