

2300 Park Boulevard  
Altoona, PA 16601  
January 16, 2007

2559

SUBJECT: Doc. No. 06-2452

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

Dear Ms. Bender:

The newly-proposed amendments to the PA dog law regulations have been brought to my attention. As the owner of two companion dogs, I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed changes.

Because I wanted the best chance at getting a healthy dog with a good temperament, I purchased my dogs directly from reputable breeders - not from pet shops or large-scale commercial kennels. I wanted to know that my puppies were exposed to a variety of normal household situations and were prepared to live the life of a family companion in my home. By buying directly from reputable breeders, I was able to see the conditions in which my puppies were raised.

The proposed changes, particularly those applying to "Kennels-Primary Enclosures," are of particular concern to me. 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 be required to have housing facilities that comply with the specifications outlined in the proposed changes. Small-scale breeders, who fall into the Class 1 designation, would no longer be able to maintain, breed, whelp, or raise their dogs within their homes. These breeders, who strive to produce dogs that are true to breed type, of good temperament, and, as much as possible, free from genetic disorders, would be forced to either restrict their numbers or build facilities to meet these proposed standards.


I credit my dogs' good temperament to thoughtful breeding and to the love and attention that my breeders provided. Most importantly, this included exposure to everyday sights and sounds, such as:

1. My puppies were regularly taken outside to potty on grass. This is of importance to me, as it helped with the housebreaking process.
2. In a home situation, my puppies were exposed to different surfaces and noises such as kitchen appliances, television, and other noises that occur in my home.
3. My puppies were given opportunities to interact with other dogs, which helped develop social skills needed to meet other dogs we come in contact with.

While I applaud the efforts to improve the living conditions for the dogs and puppies being raised in commercial facilities, I find it a great disservice to the reputable breeder, whose standards far surpass in many ways, what these proposed amendments mandate. I, for one, want the choice to buy from a small-scale, reputable breeder, and oppose these amendments.

Sincerely,

Linda Ziance



Cc: Senator John Eichelberger  
Representative Richard Geist  
Representative Bernie O'Neill

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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