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www.bullrunacdclub.org

A letter from:
Barbara Finegan, President
Bull Run Australian Cattle Dog Club
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New Bloomfield, PA 17068

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

January 26, 2007

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

In reference to proposed changes to the PA Dog Law Enforcement Act, 7 PA. CODE CHS. 21, 23, 25 AND 27

Dear Ms. Bender:

The Bull Run Australian Cattle Dog Club would like to offer its firm objections to the amendments proposed to the current PA Dog Law (as issued on 12-16-06). We do not agree that the majority of proposed changes are needed or required, and we see no real potential benefit should these changes be adopted. In fact, the proposed changes are excessively burdensome and rather unenforceable, and shall provide no real improvement for the dogs they are meant to benefit. Please work instead towards enforcing the laws already on the books.

BRACDC does not support puppy mills in their known sense (dogs who never leave cages and are repeatedly bred with no health testing, no socialization, no screening of homes for the pups sold). We support and promote only responsible breeders who health test their dogs, properly socialize any pups to people, places, other dogs, nature, automobiles, etc., screen potential homes carefully, and keep excellent records. These proposed amendments will make it impossible for such responsible breeders to exist.

What you will leave us with is large-scale corporate breeders, such as those who supply pet stores. Those pups receive little or no testing, no socialization as described above, no screening of potential homes. It's no wonder our shelters and rescues are overwhelmed. Responsible breeders will take their dogs back should there be a problem. Do large-scale breeders such as the Hunte Corporation offer the same? Of course not, but corporate breeders are exactly what is being promoted and rewarded should these amendments be approved. These amendments show a negation of responsibility; the consequences of supporting the corporate, dollar-bill method of dog breeding are many. Just ask any rescue organization.

Also, as there is no scientific basis for the specific recommendations (such as airflow, husbandry, space or exercise requirements) being made in the amendments, we simply cannot support these amendments. **We urge that they be withdrawn.**

We fully support the enforcement of Pennsylvania's CURRENT Dog Law. We fully appreciate the struggle to extract Pennsylvania from its reputation as a Puppy Mill state. However, so many issues addressed could be easily corrected with better and more consistent enforcement of the laws already on the books. Again, we respectfully request that these proposed amendments be withdrawn.

Sincerely,

Barbara Finegan, for the Bull Run Australian Cattle Dog Club

The Bull Run Australian Cattle Dog Club is a regional specialty breed club, comprised of 71 members which include breeders and pet owners; we are equally accepting of dogs registered or unregistered, rescued, or cattle dog mixes. We believe in Public Education and the proper promotion of our breed, encourage the complete health testing and socialization of our dogs to people, places, and things; we work for the development of new health tests and responsible breeding, with all that it entails.

The Bull Run Australian Cattle Dog Club philosophy: We urge all members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the AKC, as the only standard of excellence by which ACDs should be judged. We do all in our power to protect and advance the interest of the breed and at all times promote sportsmanlike conduct. The Bull Run Club also conducts licensed and sanctioned matches, shows, herding tests and trials and obedience and agility trials under the rules of the AKC.

- ✓ CC: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman • Independent Regulatory Review Commission
333 Market Street, 14th Floor, Harrisburg, PA 17101 • Reference to Regulation ID #2-152 (#2559)
- CC: Jake Corman, Senate Box 203034, Harrisburg, PA 17120-3034
- CC: Mark Keller, 5 East Wing, PO Box 202086, Harrisburg, PA 17120-2086
- CC: PA Federation of Dog Clubs, via email