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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

January 28, 2007

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

Dear Ms. Bender:

As a Pediatrician and dog owner, I have some serious concerns about the proposed amendments to the current dog law regulations. I became aware of these proposed changes through my involvement with training and showing my personal dog. I also teach "systems thinking" at the college I am affiliated with and one of our principles is the "unintended consequences" of changes in the system. While I am adamantly supportive of humane treatment of animals, the proposed changes will have the "unintended consequence" of crippling reputable breeders who believe strongly in socializing their puppies to enjoy and live with humans.

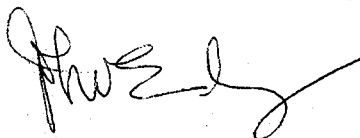
The proposed rules are quite complicated and I reviewed them carefully on your website. Some of the proposals, with good intent to stop "puppy mills" and such, will make it more difficult for potential owners who want a pure bred dog to be adjusted to a family situation when obtained. I have had personal experience with owning dogs being properly socialized and those who have not. The former makes a much better show dog and, more importantly, a better family member.

As a Pediatrician I value the advantage pets have to the well-being of a child. They offer love, companionship, and learning about responsibilities. But there is nothing I worry about much more than a poorly socialized dog in a family and have seen enough bites and trauma to reinforce my opinions.

I am sure your intentions with these changes are honorable, and you most likely have groups such as PETA breathing down your neck over these issues, but I believe the changes will not accomplish your goals and will likely make things much worse for valid specialty dog breeders to accomplish their goals—providing proper and well-socialized dogs for our future.

I urge you to reconsider implementing these regulation changes. They are not in the best interest of the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,



John E. Neely MD