

Cadie Pruss
 105 Jennie Lane
 Lewistown, PA 17044

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

Re. Doc. No. 06-2452

Dear Ms. Bender,

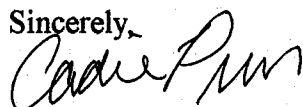
There are many, many responsible breeders in Pennsylvania that are already providing care, and responsibility toward the dogs that they are produced that should not be included in these new regulations. There is a whole different "industry" of dogs revolving around breed improvement and dog shows that are not differentiated in this new proposed legislation. Many of these breeders hold Class I or Class II licenses. For the purpose of this letter I will call these responsible breeders "show breeders".

Most "show" breeders:

- ❖ Belong to a club that has a **Code of Ethics** on the care, treatment, and sale of dogs
- ❖ Have **questionnaires** either written or verbal that they ask of each person inquiring about a dog/puppy to ensure that each dog/puppy is placed in an appropriate home
- ❖ Have **written contracts requiring that the dog/puppy be returned to the breeder** if the purchaser can no longer keep the dog/puppy
- ❖ **Support local breed rescue organizations-** even though the vast majority of the dogs ending up in rescue were produced by high volume breeders
- ❖ **Sell puppies on spay/neuter agreements** so that others not as concerned will not be contributing to the problem
- ❖ **Stay in contact with buyers** to ensure a smooth transition and happiness for the length of the dogs' life.
- ❖ **Do not allow their stud dogs to be used by non-"show" breeders**
- ❖ **Spend far more money on their dogs' food, vet bills, toys, treats, training,** than they ever make from the sale of dogs/puppies in a year
- ❖ Have **waiting lists** for puppies they produce.

Show breeders truly love their dogs and do not skimp on care. Show breeders will all agree that they feel dogs produced by high volume, for-profit breeders and not receiving the care and attention they deserve- dogs are **Companion animals** after all, not livestock. Show breeders are not the "industry" that this document is referring to and should not be subject to these same laws which seek to treat dogs more like livestock and less like companions.

Sincerely,



Cadie Pruss

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 REVIEW COMMISSION

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RECEIVED

Cadie Pruss
105 Jennie Lane
Lewistown, PA 17044
(717) 242-4154

January 3, 2007

Senator Jake Corman
31 West Third Street
Lewistown, PA 17044

Dear Senator Corman,

Re. Doc. No. 06-2452

I spoke with you in person at the banquet for the Mifflin County Conservation District back in October 2006 about the impending changes to the Pennsylvania dog law, but at the time they had not been published. The proposed changes were listed in the December 16, 2006 PA Bulletin and I have now had the opportunity to review these proposed changes.

As I mentioned to you in person, I do agree that "commercial" dog kennels, i.e. kennels producing dogs for profit and the purpose of resale only do not currently keep the health and welfare of the dog first and should be subject to regulation changes that improve the living conditions of those dogs. However, I feel that these proposed changes will not infact accomplish the stated goal.

The first paragraph contains the following statement, "The Department proposes to amend numerous sections of the current regulations to address changes in the industry....." Upon reading these proposed changes it has become quite apparent to me that this administration does not understand that clearly there are two separate "industries" being affected by these regulations. The first "industry" is that of the commercial, for-profit, puppy producer. These producers produce large volumes of puppies to supply pet shops and other commercial uses. Typically they hold class Class II-Class V Kennel licenses. The second "industry" is that of the "hobby" show breeder. Typically these breeders hold Class I kennel licenses and many raise their dogs in their homes with their families.

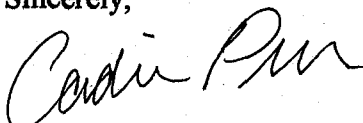
As a participant in the second type of "industry" I am very concerned by the proposed comments. I do agree that dogs/puppies living in conditions typical of commercial, for-profit, operations need additional regulations to insure their health, safety and welfare. I do not agree that all licensed kennels be treated the same way.

The proposed changes to these regulations would impose undo hardship to most Class I kennel owners ("*It is estimated that the costs will range from \$5,000 to \$20,000 per existing kennel for compliance with the new standards*"), and actually lessen the standard of living of the dogs in their care.

I would like the opportunity to meet with you again in person to discuss my concerns over this issue.

Senator Corman, I do not derive any significant portion of my income from the sale of dogs and these proposed changes would not impact my livelihood, but they would impact the quality of my life.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Sincerely,



Cadie Pruss