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

Ref: PA Dog Law

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am a resident in the state of New Jersey and am very much concerned about the dog legislation in Pennsylvania. Why, because bad dog/cat/animal legislation is passed in Pennsylvania, or else where in the country, effects everyone.

I am a responsible dog/cat/animal owner and am a member of several dog clubs. We take responsible ownership very seriously.

I am writing to comment on the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006. I believe that inhumane and substandard kennel conditions should not be tolerated, but I do not agree that most of the proposed regulatory changes are needed, or would necessarily have a beneficial outcome if adopted. Many are impractical, excessively burdensome and costly, unenforceable, and/or will not improve the quality of life for the dogs in these kennels.

Examples of problems with the proposal are the following:

- * The definition of "temporary housing" would require thousands of small residential hobby and show breeding households to become licensed which could not possibly comply with the regulations, and which there is no reason to regulate.
- * The obligations of owners of "temporary housing" which are made subject to inspection by the proposal are not enumerated or limited.
- * There is no scientific or accepted husbandry basis for the amended space and exercise requirements.
- * The regulations will require wholesale renovation, if not rebuilding, of many kennels already built in compliance with current federal and/or state standards. There is

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no scientific foundation for the arbitrary, rigid engineering standards specified.

* Smaller breeders and dog owners who maintain their dogs in their own residential premises but are covered by the Pennsylvania dog law, who provide care and conditions far superior to those required by the proposed new standards, would be unable to comply with the rigid commercial kennel standards.

* The record keeping requirements with respect to exercise, cleaning, and other aspects of kennel management are excessively burdensome and serve no useful purpose, as it would be impossible to verify their accuracy in all but the most egregious circumstances. Such egregious circumstances already violate existing regulations.

* The proposals pertaining to housing and social interaction of dogs of different sizes are contrary to good husbandry, socialization and training practices.

I urge that this proposal be withdrawn.

New overly restricted rules and regulations for kennels are being formulated without input from any kennel or dog owners. These regulations would not allow any breeders or pet owners to have their dogs and puppies in their homes or in their yards to exercise!

These are absurd requirements! Most of us have our dogs in our homes. Ninety percent of these proposed rules could not be abided by, by hobby breeders and pet owners.

I thank you for your time and sincerely hope that you take all the comments and letters that you receive, on this matter, to heart and that you represent the people as you have dedicated your service to do. We still live in a Democratic Republic where the voices of the people should be heard, not the agendas of individual politicians or special interest groups. The people of the state of Pennsylvania and across the nation are the future of this country!

Respectfully submitted,


Andria Filippini-Maloney