

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

2559

Re. Doc. No. 06-2452

Dear Ms. Bender,

The newly proposed amendments to the PA dog law regulations have been brought to my attention. As the owner of (a / several) companion dog (s), I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed changes.

I purchased my dog directly from a reputable breeder, not a pet shop or large-scale commercial kennel, because I wanted the best chance at getting a healthy dog with a good temperament. I wanted to know that my puppy had been exposed to a variety of normal household situations and was prepared to live the life of a family companion. By buying directly from a breeder, I was able to see the conditions in which my puppy was 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 which are true to breed type, of good temperament, and, inasmuch as possible, free from genetic disorders, would be forced to either restrict their numbers or build facilities to meet the standards.

I credit my dog's good temperament to thoughtful breeding and to the love and attention that my breeder gave my puppy. Most importantly, this included exposure to everyday sights and sounds, such as:

- 1) My puppy was taken outside to potty on grass regularly. This is of importance to me, as it helped with the housebreaking process.
- 2) In a home situation, my puppy was exposed to different surfaces and noises such as kitchen appliances, television and other noises that occur in my home.
- 3) My puppy was given opportunity to interact with other dogs, helping with 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, who 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,

Betsy Geertson
Wheaten4@comcast.net

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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

Re. Comments on Doc. No. 06-2452

Dear Ms. Bender,

I teach puppy classes and have trained dogs for a number of years.

It is my opinion that the problem our society is facing today with aggressive dogs and the subsequent dog laws that accompany them are under socialized dogs bred as an agricultural commodity. I feel that your newly proposed regulations take us further down the path of dogs as livestock and farther away from dogs as the trusted loyal companion that they should be.

My observations as a dog trainer that puppies raised in a home environment are much easier to train, cause less problems for their owners, are more emotionally stable, and less likely to be abandoned by their owner.

The changes that you propose I predict would increase the instances of dog/dog aggression because of the inability of dogs of various breeds, ages and sexes to interact during playtime. I predict that even more dogs will have difficulty adapting to households because they were never allowed to experience as puppies, what they will encounter in their new homes.

While you may keep me employed as a dog trainer because of your newly proposed regulations, these are not the situations I enjoy, and not the reason I work with people and their dogs.

Sincerely,



Betsy Geertson
Carol Crouch

Owners of Manners N More Dog Training School
Bellefonte Pa

Wheaten4@comcast.net