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

Mary Ann Hendrickson
R D #1, Box 56A
Uniondale, PA 18470

Re. Doc. No. 06-2452



Dear Ms. Bender,

It has been brought to my attention the newly proposed amendments to the PA dog law regulations. As the owner of a companion dog, I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed changes.

I took the liberty of including a picture of my dog Ginger so you can see the result produced by a caring breeder. I purchased Ginger directly from a local 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 her life as a member of my family. By buying directly from a breeder, I was able to see the conditions in which Ginger was raised, and saw for myself what her parents were like.

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.

Ginger is the product of a caring, reputable sheltie breeder. As you can see, she is a true family member with a sweet, gentle and intelligent personality. I credit these qualities 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, and made housebreaking a fast and relatively easy 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.

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
COMMISSION

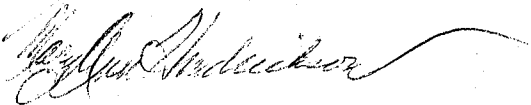
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Additionally, my first sheltie, Cindy, was purchased from a small, local breeder as well, and she shared our lives for nearly sixteen years. I have every reason to believe that Ginger will likewise enjoy a long and healthy life because of the care her breeder took to ensure that she was in excellent health.

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, whose 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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Mary Ann Hendrickson", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mary Ann Hendrickson