

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

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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/breeder of several show dogs, I am writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed changes.

I am a reputable small breeder, not a pet shop or large-scale commercial kennel. My dogs are raised in my home with my family. They are healthy with very good temperaments. My puppies have been exposed daily to a variety of normal household situations since they reside inside my house. This helps them adjust to their new life of someone's family companion. By buying directly from a small breeder like me, individuals are able to see the conditions in which their puppy is kept and 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, like myself, 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 all my dog's good temperaments to thoughtful breeding and to the love and attention that I give my puppies. Most importantly, this included exposure to everyday sights and sounds, such as:

- 1) My puppies are taken outside to potty and exercise on grass regularly. This helps in the importance of housebreaking for the new owner.
- 2) In our home situation, my puppies are exposed to different surfaces and noises such as kitchen appliances, television and other everyday noises that occur in my home.
- 3) My puppies are given opportunity to interact with my other dogs, helping with social skills which are needed when they are to meet other dogs that they will come in contact with after they leave my home.

While I appreciate the efforts to improve the living conditions for the dogs and puppies being raised in bigger commercial facilities, I find these law changes a great disservice to the reputable breeder, who standards far surpass in many ways, what these proposed amendments mandate. I would like to see the laws that are now on the books for breeders be enforced instead of seeing new ones added I am really opposed to these new amendments.

Sincerely,


Sandra L. Rolenaitis

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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