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January 30 2007

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement

Attn: Ms Mary Bender

Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

2301 North Cameron Street

Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Letter of Opposition

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Dear Ms Bender:

My husband and I have read of the proposed amendments to the PA dog Law, and we would like to voice our objections to these changes.

We are dog owners, participates in Obedience classes, herding trails, and travel the states to enter in dog conformation shows regarding our breed with American Kennel Club and CKC (Canadian Kennel Club)

We are not breeders. However, after reading these proposed changes, we are very concerned and frightened by their intentions or actions. These restrictions are boldly written to benefit the big business or Dealer Breeders, as to those who supply pet stores and have many classifieds with "puppies for sale" ads in local newspapers everyday. To my understanding, was that TRULY the intent? Did you really mean to destroy the occasional reputable dog breeders who already are the subject to enforcement, if their record keepings and housing is not meeting the state requirements? Does this mean to prevent dog clubs from having get together, or to squash the entire local, tax-paying dog fancy?

I feel and know that these changes will create a whole lot of nightmares or BIG issues with the supply of dogs that are not healthy, untested, and are not SOCIALIZED properly, and that the dogs are sold to unscreened homes that puts up the cash. This is what will result from passing these amendments. We appreciate and are willing to pay for how much time, care and personal attention, and most importantly of "all" socializations. Small breeders do spend all of their time to create a sound, stable, and sane dog.

Big Business, Pet Stores, Big Kennels may have a great "staff-to-dog" ratio with cleanliness or grooming care, with dogs on concrete floors all day, which is hard and cold. It does not compare to the small local dog breeder who screens potential puppy's homes and takes back any dog who doesn't do well with it's new owner. I don not know any Big Business, Pet Stores, or Multi dollar Big Kennels that offer that service or take back the dogs. How many spend the time with the puppies/dogs for Socialization to life? NONE of them do. Sitting in a crate all day and night, no place to relieve itself but on newspapers that it has to sleep on. Small local breeders do not do this at all, and give the puppy the best of all. Since big businesses are to busy to even keep up. I do know that local small breeders spend 100% care on each puppy, all testing are done and most importantly of all socialization. Puppies most important stages of it's life is from birth to 10 weeks before they go to new screened homes with loving family or persons willing to care for their puppy.

All puppies need to be socialized with breeder, strangers, other dogs/puppies, children, sight, sound and smells and to be out in public. They are healthier with small local breeders. Could you imagine if the amendment was proposed the states would flock with mentally unstable under socialized dogs who mostly are euthanized, mostly because of lack of attention, or rearing of puppies. This would relate to BIG

business, Pet Stores, and Big Kennels (Puppymills). They simply can not provide the time or full term care.

Puppies need to be around everything, and to do better in public places. Expose to all sorts of anything. Small local breeders always abide by the dog club rules, registeries, or are under strict breeders code of ethics-abide by AKC or CKC. This does show how much the small breeders involves themselves and respects the breed of dog.

I am against Puppy Mills , they are in my eyes, a commercial business breeder, who don't give 2 hoots about the dogs being there.

Please withdrawl the amendments. Please focus on enforcing the laws we already have., to better enforcement of what we already have in place will have PA to overcome it's "PuppyMill State" Do you realize that these changes will promote puppy mills? Long-scale breeding of untested , not healthy, and unsocial zed dogs "IS" a puppy mill, no matter how clean it is or staff-dog-ratio care. It is not enough to provide for the best interest of the puppies/dogs.

Sincerely,

Kim and Shawn Matthews

*Kim and Shawn Matthews*