



Tails of the Tundra Siberian Husky Rescue, Inc.

second-hand dogs give first-class love

PO Box 612 - Colmar, PA 18915 - www.siberescue.com

January 30, 2007

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

RECEIVED
 2007 FEB -6 PM 2:19
 INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 BOARD OF PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Ms. Bender:

Tails of the Tundra Siberian Husky Rescue, Inc. is a 501c3 non-profit organization dedicated to rescuing Siberian Huskies and Siberian Husky mixes from shelters, abusive homes, or owners who can no longer properly care for their dogs. Our goals are to place these dogs in loving homes and to educate people about the characteristics of this often misunderstood breed. Our rescue brings these Siberians into the homes of foster volunteers until we can find them permanent loving homes.

We, the Board of Directors of the rescue, are writing to comment on the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006. We understand the plight of the state to recognize and help lessen the dangers of disreputable breeders as well as the inhumane treatment of animals. However, as written, the proposals will put an undue hardship on legitimate rescues and small reputable breeders.

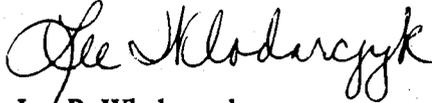
Examples of problems with the proposal include:

- We have foster homes in several states and it would be difficult to provide a health certification every time a dog travels to an adoption or an event. Health certifications for all foster dogs in our care are kept on file in our corporate office, and each dog wears a rabies tag.
- The proposals pertaining to housing and social interaction of dogs of different sizes will hinder us in properly evaluating the foster dogs as well as limit their socialization opportunities. Siberian huskies come in a large array of sizes and weights and it is possible for someone to own a 75 pound husky and a 35 pound husky, and have a 40 pound and 95 pound huskies as fosters. None of these dogs would be able to exercise together should the proposal pass as written. Dog trainers, behaviorists and many studies tout the importance of socialization early and often for dogs. If we are unable to allow dogs of different sizes to interact, we will be unable to assess how they will fair in a home with a dog of a different size.

- The definition of temporary housing would require rescue foster homes and small breeders to perform renovations that would be unaffordable for many or will not be able to done in a residential setting.
- Our rescue consists of volunteers who do what they can in their spare time to help Siberian Huskies and Siberian Husky mixes. While recordkeeping is important, the new requirements relating to exercise and cleaning as well as other aspects of kennel management are arduous and virtually impossible to perform. Not to mention it will also be virtually impossible for anyone to verify the accuracy of these records.

The above represent only a few of the issues we found with the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations. If passed, these regulations will limit our rescue in assisting the state and humane societies in saving dogs as we will not be able to meet these standards. In conclusion, we agree that something needs to be done to ensure dogs are well cared for and bred correctly. However, the proposed amendments will serve only to thwart the efforts of rescues and hinder small reputable breeders. We ask that the proposal be withdrawn and the state use their resources to actively enforce the regulations and laws already in place.

Sincerely,



Lee R. Wlodarczyk

Corresponding Secretary

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Tails of the Tundra Siberian Husky Rescue, Inc.

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