

CARBURY KERRIES

990 SUNNYSIDE ROAD, HUMMELSTOWN, PA 17036-9731

February 1, 2007

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

Re: Doc No. 06-2452

Dear Ms. Bender,

As a dog fancier since my youth I need to comment on this latest set of rules and regulations that your department has come up with to govern the raising of dogs in the Commonwealth. I realize that you believe that these rules will address the concern we all have over the people who raise dogs as a business but I would like to comment on the unintended consequences of some of these rules.

One of the greatest concerns I have is the effect the rules will have on those of us who rescue dogs from all sorts of difficult and dangerous situations. Some of those who rescue in a responsible fashion may have many dogs pass through their hands in a year's time. They do not always keep many on their premises at the same time. Sometimes they are there for only a day or two. As the rules are now written these dogs would all count toward the 25+ total that the rules cite. Perhaps modifying this kennel license requirement would address some of the problems.

A second problem I have with the new rules is the requirement that dogs be exercised on paved or grass free surfaces. I happen to have dog runs at my house which are both on concrete. The puppies that I raise on this surface are in need of training to urinate and defecate on other surfaces. For puppies being sold to homes this could be a real problem. Most people's yards are grass covered and this is the surface that the puppy will have access to for most of his life. Reconsidering this rule is certainly in order.

Finally, I can not believe that rules for the size of dogs that are allowed to exercise together is appropriate. If weight is the defining factor the disparity in size (height) would be considerable and bulldogs would run with greyhounds, a very dangerous combination. Or if height were the deciding scale Newfoundlands might run with Pointers, another problem combination. If you believe that you

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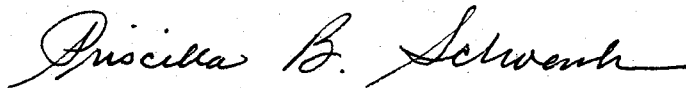
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must have a rule governing what dogs may run together perhaps the quantity rather than the quality (size) might be addressed.

There are many other issues I have with these proposed rules that can be summarized by saying that you have tried to cover way too many concerns. I realize in this contentious world it would be helpful to have a rule for everything. But people are way too creative and will find ways to circumvent any rule you might create. I am sure it is more useful to have rules that cover the general situation, as they do now, rather than 60+ pages of rules that your staff could not possibly remember in every detail.

Please reconsider, in total, the rules you have proposed. Considering those of us who will be the victims of the unintended consequences would also be helpful. I am available at anytime for a personal conference and would also be available by phone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Priscilla B. Schwenk". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Priscilla B. Schwenk

cc: file
Jeffrey Piccola
John Payne
Sean Pendrak