

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

Dear Ms. Bender:

I am writing to urge you to oppose Gov. Rendell's proposed new dog kennel regulations.

The new rules are being promoted by radical animal rights groups such as the Humane Society of the US (HSUS) and PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). They say they will "stop puppy mills" (the animal-rights derogatory term for commercial kennels) and "help pets."

Nothing could be farther from the truth!

Because the animal rights groups' true agenda is to prohibit animals and meat-eating in our society, they are deliberately misleading the public and our legislators.

The proposed changes are punitive, vague, impractical, excessively burdensome and costly, and not based on accepted rules of animal husbandry. They will not stop abusive breeders or help dogs in substandard kennels, but they will definitely harm the reputable hobby breeders of Pennsylvania.

The current laws are perfectly satisfactory. Instead of wasting time and money with new regulations that are not enforceable and include many unconstitutional and illegal provisions, the Governor should allocate money and manpower to enforce the current laws.

Why are pet owners across the country concerned about this law? We are concerned for animal owners everywhere, but also because the animal rights proponents have already said that success in Pennsylvania will lead them to bring it to the other states as well, one by one. Think about it – if this approach to law were to become common everywhere, what would be the effect on our society? By stopping small, reputable breeders out of proportion with the larger commercial breeders, at first it would "merely" (and I say that ironically) encourage increases in commercial breeding (as opposed to in-home breeding), smuggling over the border, and the development of a black market. Over time this would lead to reduction in the quality of pets, drastic increase in prices, reduction of individual breed gene pools to the point of extinction, and eventually the end of dog ownership except by the extremely rich. This is the reason this type of law is being pushed everywhere by animal rights organizations, whose true agenda is to outlaw animals and meat-eating in our society.

Don't punish law-abiding pet owners for the misdeeds of scofflaws – get out there and enforce the laws that are already on the books!

Thank you for your consideration.

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*Bonnie G. Chandler*

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