

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement  
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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2007 FEB -1 AM 9:57  
INFORMATION REGULATION  
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Dear Ms. Bender:

My name is Lois DiMarzio and I live in Huntingdon Valley, PA. I have owned many dogs, mostly golden retrievers, raised 9 Seeing Eye Dogs and 2 Autism Service Dogs in the past 25 years. I belong to Lower Bucks Dog Training Club and worked with the PA Federation of Dog Clubs to get the Puppy Lemon Law passed. If you look back at the pictures taken of the governor and people instrumental in getting the bill passed, you'll see me.

I am writing to comment on the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006. While poor kennel conditions can not be tolerated, I don't think that most of the proposed regulatory changes are needed, or would necessarily help if passed. Many are impractical and would force small hobby breeders out of business. Hobby breeders are the backbone of good, affordable breeding in this country.

Smaller breeders and dog owners who maintain their dogs in their own homes but are covered by the Pennsylvania dog law, who provide care and conditions far superior to those required by the proposed new standards, would be unable to comply with the rigid commercial kennel standards. My friend keeps her dogs in her house; the brood bitches have their own special room with a tile floor, heat and air, beautifully maintained and immaculate. To force her to comply with your rules would put her out of business. Not that she makes any profit from breeding her dogs and selling the pups. It actually costs her money. She does it for the good of

the breed, being careful to whom she breeds her dogs to promote a better golden retriever. She's trying to do good and you're trying to stop her.

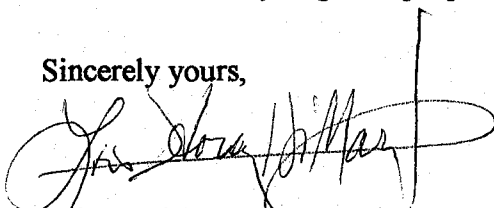
The record keeping requirements with respect to exercise, cleaning, and other aspects of kennel management are ridiculous and serve no useful purpose. It would be impossible to verify their accuracy and you want to waste my tax money on having them enforced??? Why bother to pass a law you can't enforce?

The proposals pertaining to housing and social interaction of dogs of different sizes are contrary to good husbandry, socialization and training practices. Good hobby breeders know how to properly socialize their dogs. They teach love, kindness, and happiness. These things can not be regulated by the state.

I support the more detailed comments on this proposal made by the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs. The Bureau has acknowledged that its current rules have not been adequately enforced. If, passing the new rules, the Bureau finds it still can't prevent inhumane treatment of dogs because of loopholes in the law, it should cite these specific loopholes and fix them. The current proposal appears to be merely a wish list for improving the living conditions for dogs that has no connection to specific instances in which the welfare of dogs is compromised.

Please, reconsider passing these proposals. Get together with the PA Federation of Dog Clubs, a body of over 100 dog clubs, people who know dogs and what it takes to breed and maintain a healthy dog; and propose some laws that have meaning and are enforceable.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lois Hottinger DiMarzio", written over a horizontal line.

Lois Hottinger DiMarzio