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February 1, 2007

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 have been reading over the proposed changes in the Pennsylvania Dog Law and feel that those of us who are reputable small breeders, whose main objective is to breed a better dog are the ones that will suffer because of many of the parts of the law. I am amazed that none of these breeders were asked to be on the committee.

The constant record keeping for the most normal acts will take time away from grooming, socializing and play. We want our puppies to have great personalities with a great love of people.

The idea that dogs should be separated by gender is ridiculous. Males are not accepting of other males. A male and one or two females can be exercised very successfully. The only time that this should change is when the female is in season and breedable.

Why in the world would petshop kennels be exempt from the space rulings? They are the ones called 'puppy mills'. Those poor little dogs, and not the ones that are brought up with love and manners, are the ones that really need advocates

No Grass Paddocks??? Why would you deny dogs from playing in grassy paddocks? They love it. It builds muscle tone and endurance.

Most small reputable breeders have trained their dogs (even puppies) to be housebroken. A drain between the indoor and outdoor kennel facilities would be a hazard to their safety. Ground level ventilation is also unacceptable - the vents will attract puppies and encourage chewing of unacceptable items.

On the subject of bedding - each dog should have a bed that they recognize as their own. Their scent is on the bed once they have slept and will be their chosen sleeping area until it needs washing. Daily washing of bedding is a waste of time and effort.

The laws and enforcement of them truly make the Kennel Inspectors sound like the ENEMY rather than the extremely helpful caring people that are very willing to help us solve any problems which we think we have.

These comments barely touch the surface. Please consider the dedication and position of breeders such as myself.

Yours Truly
Hitching Post Farm Kennel

Carol E. Brown

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