

Governor Edward Rendell
Room 225
Main Capital Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

February 1, 2007

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Dear Governor. Rendell,

I am writing to you as a Pennsylvania tax payer **and** as a member of the Dog Fancy regarding the **Proposed Rulemaking to the PA Department of Agriculture under Section 902 of the Dog Law Act, proposing to amend Chapters 21, 23, 25 and 27, Dog Law Enforcement [36 Pa.B. 7596].**

My concerns are twofold:

- 1) **The costs that the Pennsylvania tax payers will have to additionally incur to support and enforce these proposed revisions; and**
- 2) **the Pennsylvania Dog Fancy "hobbyist breeders" would have to incur unnecessary and inappropriate costs as well affecting the way their litters are bred and raised, which is quite different from commercial kennels/puppy millers. The commercial kennel/puppy millers are the antithesis of the hobbyist breeder, to structure them equally is doing a great disservice to those law abiding and tax paying citizens, the hobbyist breeder.**

I respectfully suggest the following two solutions to these two separate issues:

- 1) **If these proposed revisions are maintained, by exempting and carving out the Dog Fancy "hobbyist breeders" from these revisions, you will effect a cost savings to the budget for the proposed revisions; and**
- 2) **this cost savings will lessen the burden to the Pennsylvania tax payers for the proposed revisions, which would be greatly appreciated by the Pennsylvania tax payers.**

In order to help facilitate your understanding of who are the **Dog Fancy "hobbyist breeders"**, I have respectfully attached a document which carefully explains the difference between the **"hobbyist breeder"** and those entities that sell dogs/puppies for **profit**, i.e. pet stores specializing in the sale of dogs/puppies, puppy millers and any and all others who are selling dogs/puppies **"for profit"** unlike the **"hobbyist breeders"** whose only goal is to help preserve and perpetuate the individual **pure-bred breeds** to the best of each **breed standard** for future generations. These dogs/puppies are bred using only superior structurally and temperamentally parents, who each have passed stringent and specific health tests including but not limited to: hips and elbows certified with no dysplasia, thyroid panels, heart check, eyes and hearing checks by licensed veterinarians as well as temperament testing by renowned animal behaviorists and/or breed experts. Importantly, the hobbyist breeder is not a **quantity** breeder, and generally has one litter or possibly two (not the same parents) per year. This litter is raised in the house environment which produces a superior temperament puppy as well as being exposed to the natural training of living with its canine parents and siblings, which provides very important lessons to the young puppy that last its lifetime. The only way these life-lessons are learned is by having the puppies together until at least 8 weeks, thereafter they may go into new homes having been fully emotionally and socially adjusted. It is these important experiences that a puppy must have to become an intelligent and well adjusted member of its future human family.

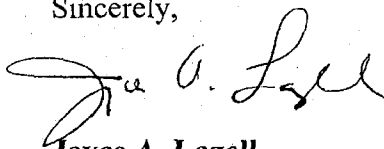
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There is a also a trickle down affect of the harm that these proposed revisions would affect: Dog Fancy hobbyist breeders generate a lot of business for many forms of Pennsylvania small businesses: small stores selling **pet products only**, dog grooming businesses, professional dog handlers for the dog fancy as well as classes for dog handlers and owners, all of which generate revenue in the form of taxes to the Commonwealth of PA. If the dog fancy hobbyist breeder was negatively impacted by the costs of these revisions it could prevent them from supporting these businesses monetarily.

We believe **enforcement** of current regulations would be more than sufficient to ensure the health and well being of animals in our state, it is the lack of these regulations being **uniformly** enforced, **i.e. puppy millers in Oxford going unregulated** that has lead to the perception that Pennsylvania has a problem.

I would be happy to meet with you or your representatives to further discuss these issues.

Sincerely,



Joyce A. Lazell
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Pennsylvania Citizen and Tax Payer

Legislative Liaison for the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States to the American Kennel Club

Cc: Mary Y. Bender, Director
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**Attachments: Chart Comparison of Hobbyist Breeders and commercial puppy sellers
Definition of the Hobbyist Breeder**