

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

Re. Doc. No. 06-2452

Dear Ms. Bender,

I understand that there are some newly proposed amendments to the PA dog law regulations. I'm writing to express my concerns and opposition to the proposed changes that have been brought to my attention. I am owned by three beautiful sheltie pups there ages are two at 4 years old and one at one and a half years old and believe me, they own me!

I purchased my pups directly from an in home breeder that came highly recommended to me. I have had 6 pups so far in my life, all coming from in home breeders. My first pup was a Bassett Hound in 1981. When he went to doggie heaven in 1992 I purchased two Sheltie pups from an in home breeder. When they went to doggie heaven in 2003 & 2005, I purchased my three current pups. I really don't like the word purchased because it's not the money exchange but the love and gratification you get from adopting a pup.

I want to let you know I will never purchase a pup from a commercial kennel or pet store, because I feel the best chance of getting a healthy pup with good temperament is from an in home breeder. From my experience all of my pups were exposed to the in home experience exposed to all the things of a normal household and I actually was able to see for myself the conditions how the pup is raised for the first 6 to 8 weeks that are so crucial for them and the new owners. My wife has made the comment that the most recent addition to our family was already trained when we picked him up at 9 weeks old. Also from what I have read it's extremely important for the pups to be raised and kept on natural surfaces like grass, not concrete!

The proposed changes, particularly those applying to "Kennels-Primary Enclosures", are of particular concern to me. It is my understanding that in these proposed changes, if a cumulative total of 26 dogs are housed at "the Establishment" during a calendar year, then licensed breeders will be required to have housing facilities that comply with the specifications outlined in the proposed changes? Small scale breeders who fall into this class 1 designation, would no longer be able to maintain, breed, whelp or raise their pups within their homes. These breeders, who strive to produce pups which are true to breed type, good temperament and inasmuch as possible free from genetic disorders, would be forced to either restrict their numbers or build facilities to meet the standards?

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I do appreciate the efforts to improve the conditions for dogs and pups being raised in commercial facilities and pet stores, but I feel it's a great disservice to the reputable in home breeder who I think standards far surpass what these proposed amendments mandate. I feel the current established in home reputable breeders be exempt from the proposed amendments mandate.

I also have one thought to pass along to you and the people who are rumored to have proposed or instigated these changes for their benefit. I sincerely hope that our Governor isn't caving in to a group from our area known as the Main Line Rescue. I personally have had an extremely bad experience with that group along with several of my friends. In fact they are one of the reasons I have elected to write you. If they are applying for a commercial breeder kennel facility they should be turned down.

To summarize, I oppose these amendments. Thank you for your time and consideration and if you need to contact me for any reason, please do. I'm President of a small business in Upper Merion Twp. Pa

Sincerely


R L Salkowski

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