

National Red Setter Field Trial Club, Inc.



Askew's Carolina Lady
Founding dam, NRSFTC

AMERICAN FIELD

THE SPORTSMAN'S JOURNAL



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Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America

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February 5, 2007

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The Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, Pa. 17110-940

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

To Whom It May Concern:

It has come to the attention of The National Red Setter Field Trial Club that the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is seeking to impose extreme regulations in connection with dog ownership, dog transport and kennel management in the state. This letter voices our organization's opposition to the enactment of excessive constraints that will effectively eliminate the rights of dog fanciers and threaten the very existence of all manner of recreational dog activities in the state of Pennsylvania.

We are a national group of bird dog field trial enthusiasts with an abiding resolve to preserve, protect and promote the Irish Red Setter in hunting sports. Our is a mission of devotion that members have labored to carry forward for well over a half century. This undertaking, reverently known as the Purest Challenge in Sportsdom, experienced its birth in Pennsylvania, a state with a rich traditional bird dog heritage. Many of our best and brightest still reside in or regularly attend the myriad of dog sporting events in the state.

Dog ownership is a right we dog lovers hold very dear. The bond between man and dog is eternal, we believe, not to be lightly dismissed. And while we certainly support responsible dog ownership, these unreasonable regulations make it impossible for citizens of ordinary means to keep them. Members of The National Red Setter Field Trial Club are strenuously averse to losing all we enjoy and all we struggled to gain for our breed and our sport as a result of extreme dog laws.

Please record our vigorous objection to the proposed regulations under Section 902 of the Dog Law, amending Chapters 21, 23, 25 and 27. Our specific objections are documented in the attached. We are confident that the dog fancy across the nation will come forward in opposition to this damaging proposition.

Sincerely,

Christie Young, Secretary
National Red Setter Field Trial Club

cc: Hon. Millard, Myers, Oliver, Frank, Pickett, Sturla, Yewcic
(Attachments)

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Resolution of the National Red Setter Field Trial Club

February 3, 2007

Whereas The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, under section 902 of the Dog Law (act) (3 P. S. § 459-902), proposes to amend the Chapters 21, 23, 25 and 27. Section 902 of the act, and

Whereas the proposed regulations will require doubling of kennel sizes, exercising every dog on a leash for 20 minutes a day and documenting it, require health certificates for all dogs entering the state (including puppies purchased out of state), prohibit licensed kennels from doing business with private parties, and impose strict temperature controls for inside and outside kennels, ...and the National Red Setter Field Trial Club considers such regulations to be unnecessary, frivolous, in some cases contraindicated for the health and well being of bird dogs, and an infringement upon our free market system,

Whereas the proposed regulations will impose massive amounts of paperwork on kennel owners (a record will have to be kept for each dog giving the day and time its bowls are cleaned, the days and times it is exercised on a leash, the days and times its kennels are cleaned, etc.) ...and the National Red Setter Field Trial Club is opposed to any increase in the paperwork and bureaucracy of a centralized governmental agency with minimum or nonexistent return on such an investment in time and cost for our membership,

Whereas the proposed regulations will impose fines of a minimum of \$100 a day, up to \$500 a day for even small violations, ...and the National Red Setter Field Trial Club considers such fines to be exorbitant and far beyond the scope of the offense in comparison to other civil and/or criminal fines already in effect,

Whereas the state can seize any dog that is not in compliance with the regulations, and charge the owner for each dog's care while in custody, and can levy heavy fines and dog seizures on non-licensed kennels, ...and the National Red Setter Field Trial Club is extremely concerned that such seizures amount to illegal search and seizure and may in fact be a violation of our rights guaranteed under the United States Constitution,

Whereas the proposed regulations permit entry of the homes and vehicles of owners of kennels residing on the same property as the kennels, ...and the National Red Setter Field Trial Club is gravely concerned regarding the potential for violation of individual rights to privacy, and this likewise may in fact be a violation of our rights guaranteed under the United States Constitution,

Whereas any National Red Setter Field Trial Club member residing in Pennsylvania would be required to obtain a kennel license, and any club member who keeps, sells or gives away 26 dogs

a year, must comply with the proposed regulations, ...and the National Red Setter Field Trial Club is opposed to any organization, regulation, statute or edict which restricts the ability of our membership to engage in lawful and rightful canine breeding for the purpose of producing high quality hunting and field trial dogs,

Whereas the proposed regulations impose additional layers of regulation on an arena already rife with regulations, many of which are enforced sporadically or inconsistently, ...and the National Red Setter Field Trial Club is concerned regarding the continuing efforts at increase in governmental oversight while oftentimes ignoring the enforcement of current statutes,

Whereas the commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a rich history of hunting and the use of bird dogs for both sport and pleasure, and the commonwealth of Pennsylvania has a vast array of hunting and field trialing activities that contribute to the economic and social well being of the region, ...and the National Red Setter Field Trial Club supports the hunting and field trialing traditions of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and is likewise interested in the continued economic stability of the region, and also recognizes that our mission statement of promoting high quality bird dogs supports conservation efforts in the act of hunting, and that the adoption of the proposed regulations will stifle such conservation efforts,

We, the Executive Officers and Board of Directors of the National Red Setter Field Trial Club do hereby state our most vigorous opposition to the said proposed changes in the regulations as noted above.

By order of the Board of Directors, National Red Setter Field Trial Club, this 3rd of February 2007.

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