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**Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement  
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender  
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture  
2301 North Cameron Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408**

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

**February 5, 2007**

Dear Ms. Bender:

I am writing as I am greatly concerned over the new pending legislation regarding the ownership of dogs in the state of Pennsylvania. I am a dog owner. I am a taxpayer, I am a dog lover. I am a dog trainer and behaviorist. I counsel people whose dogs are from horrendous situations and need behavior modification to survive the ordeal and transference to a 'normal' family life. My hobbies are showing my dogs, competing in the breed ring, agility venues as well as obedience. I have been doing this for the last 18 years of my life. My dogs are my life. They make my life worth living. They heal other people.

I am dismayed and disheartened by the new impending legislation. I voted for Mr. Rendell, but I am beginning to see that perhaps I was wrong.

I am writing to comment on the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006. I believe that inhumane and substandard kennel conditions should not be tolerated, but I do not agree that most of the proposed regulatory changes are needed, or would necessarily have a beneficial outcome if adopted. Many are impractical, excessively burdensome and costly, unenforceable, and/or will not improve the quality of life for the dogs in these kennels.

These regulations further denigrate our companion animals to the status of livestock. The tens of thousands of years people have co existed with dogs has proven a relationship far beyond that of livestock. The heroic work our dogs do for the benefit of humans is voluminous. Be it search and rescue, seeing eye, handicap assisting police K-9, drug detection, and tracking, the work our dogs do is significant to the community of humankind.,

\* The definition of "temporary housing" would require thousands of small residential hobby and show breeding households to become licensed which could not possibly comply with the regulations, and which there is no reason to regulate. There is significant scientific evidence to the contrary over the isolations of companion animals from their human homes.

\* The obligations of owners of "temporary housing" which are made subject to inspection by the proposal are not enumerated or limited.

\* There is no scientific or accepted husbandry basis for the amended space and exercise requirements.

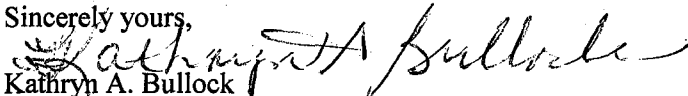
\* **Smaller breeders and dog owners who maintain their dogs in their own residential**

premises 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.

Take our companion animals out of the livestock regulatory thought process. Come into the twenty first century, where dogs are are our pets, companions, partners and family members. Visit the studies done at Berkley with Dr.Ian Dunbar regarding the socialization of young dogs. Base you law upon science as it exists, not as some would wish to regulate it.

And last, but not least, please, oh please, *Shut down the PUPPY MILLS for which Pennsylvania is famous for*, and that I, as a trainer and educator see far too many poorly bred, poorly socialized animals, suffering needlessly for the small monetary profit to some backward thinking farmer.

Sincerely yours,

  
Kathryn A. Bullock  
40 Indian Run Road  
Glenmoore, Pa. 19343