

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,

My name is Robert Ficocelli from Nesquehoning Pennsylvania. I have had several dogs in my life over the past 43 years. Currently my family and I are happy to share our lives with our second wonderful Golden Retriever.

I am writing to share some concerns I have about the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania Dog law Regulations issued December 16, 2006 and my view on the preservation of "Reputable Breeders".

My concern is that Temporary Housing requirements under the proposed amendments will negatively affect the reputable breeders and do little to rid our state of the puppy mills. The stringent requirements for Temporary housing will almost surely force most if not all of the law abiding reputable breeders to have to give up their love and passion, due to amongst other things, financial reasons for restructuring. Please realize that most of the reputable breeders share their homes with their dogs where the dogs get far superior care while gaining indispensable socializations skills among human adults and children and other dogs of various sizes and ages from puppies through adults. These dogs are not just means to an end as in the commercial business, but rather these dogs are part of the reputable breeders family. What could possibly be more beneficial for the dogs and puppies from birth being raised in their current homes and then continuing when they go to live in their new homes with their new families?

Please keep in mind that various breeds have different needs. For example, the Golden Retriever is a people dog. They thrive with and need to be around people. In this example the reputable breeder and their home provides for these needs and far exceeds the de-socialization of kenneling.

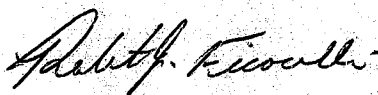
The true law abiding "Reputable Breeders" have the love of their dogs, the love of the breed, preservation of the breed, health certifications, lineage and breed standard along with the highest ethics as their roots for breeding. Compile this with their scrutinization of perspective owners in order to help insure that quality dogs are going to quality families and homes who will love and care for them make it clear that they, truly are the one who are keeping the breed standard and health clearances of the dogs alive and well.

I do believe that "puppy mills" need to be eliminated in our state, as the people who operate those mills care nothing about the people they sell to and care even less about the dogs and puppies they use and abuse.

I do believe a heightened enforcement of current existing PA dog law enforcement will help root out and put out of business these mills. If any deficiencies in the current law exist, they will be found out during this time. The next step in the process would be to have consultations with the reputable breeders and Pennsylvania state dog clubs about any found deficiencies. A good proactive choice would be to add some of the reputable breeders and officials from the state clubs who work with the dogs day in and day out as part of the Governmental Panel. I am convinced that the outcome of these consultations would yield correct positive law and enforcement change that will rid our state of the commercial puppy mills while still preserving the reputable breeders with the dogs being the ultimate beneficiaries at the end of the day. After all, certified healthy, happy dogs and puppies with satisfied owners are what this is all about any way.

Thank you for your time and attention, please consider what I have written.

Sincerely,



Robert J. Ficocelli
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