

February 5, 2007

Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman
 Independent Regulatory Review Commission
 333 Market Street 14th floor
 Harrisburg, PA 17101

Re: Regulation - ID #2-152 ((#2559))

MR. Coccodrilli:

This regulation is absurd and will greatly affect the commerce of your state. Additionally, it is disparity treatment to kennel owners, breeders and sporting dog people. It does nothing to help the animals! How many of you people voting on this regulation know anything about dogs, dog training or breeding? Does this regulation address cats or fish? How about rabbits or pigeons? Do lab rats or cattle fall under similar regulations?

I am a officer and director of 2 sporting dog clubs in New England and the former President of the Association of New England Field Trial Clubs Inc.. The detail of this above referenced regulation will only hurt the legitimate kennel owners and breeders in your state (while driving the 'puppy farm' people to another state), but will in fact cause cities, towns and counties huge monetary expense that is not funded! Imagining closing 1 kennel with 30 dogs in training because the kennel runs are 6' by 12' (like mine) instead of 6' by 15' as proposed. Where would the local animal control officer keep these dogs? They would board them with a vet or other large boarding kennel and the locals people would pay for this! We (sporting dog people) spend hundreds of thousands of dollars competing in field trials and dog shows in your state. We can move these venues to another state quite easily. We spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on dog purchase and training from your state. We also spend millions on horses, tack, trailers and supplies. We can go elsewhere for these also!

My 35+ years of experience in dog breeding, training and field trial competition allow me to estimate a loss of over \$5 million/ year to your state and hundreds of jobs if this regulation is passed. It will not help the animals – only hurt them! I would like to see written documentation of the magnitude of incidents that justify these harsh regulations. I would like to see the case and point evidence that supports these unrealistic requirements to be enacted. Further more, I would like the opportunity to review the final version of this regulation before it is voted.

Sincerely,

Thomas F. Gates, Sr.
 604 New Vermont Road
 Bolton Landing, New York 12814

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