

February 7, 2007

Mary Bender
Pa. Dept of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron St
Harrisburg, Pa 17110

Re: Doc # 06-2452 Proposed Changes to the Dog Law

Dear Ms. Bender,

I have recently been made aware of the newly proposed Pa Dog law regulations. Yes, inhumane and substandard care and housing should definitely not be tolerated but not at the expense of responsible breeders. *We are responsible pet owners who purchased our Chesapeake Bay Retriever from a small breeder. It is breeders like ours that truly love the breed they raise and know the importance of good breeding for not only health, but also temperament. In fact, our small breeder researched stud dogs before having her females bred. She was extremely concerned for the health of the puppies. She also offered to take any of the puppies back if the new owner could not make the new puppy/human relationship work. She is truly a conscientious person who*

Under the proposed changes as I read them, small scale breeders will fall into the same set of requirements as the large commercial operations. Licensed breeders with a K1 license would no longer be able to maintain, breed, whelp and raise their dogs within their homes-but this is exactly the setting from which I want to be able to buy a puppy or dog! I want a dog that was raised in a home from breeders who are careful about the health of their dogs, their temperaments and bred dogs that look like the breed they are supposed to be! These breeders would have to either stop raising dogs or build facilities to meet the commercial breeders' standards which are not the way I want a puppy I'd buy raised. The proposed regulations favor the large scale operations that will have the budget to build these "sterile" kennel facilities and hire staff to maintain the outlined record keeping requirements. Why we don't even require 20 minutes of daily mandated physical exercise for our children in schools but for dogs we do!

I want to be able to buy a dog directly from a reputable breeder, not a pet shop or large scale commercial kennel. I want to know that my puppy was raised in a loving home and exposed to a variety of household situations. I want be able to buy a dog bred with thought to health, temperament, given lots of human contact and exposed to everyday sights and sounds. I want to be able to buy a dog that was allowed to romp in the grass and was played with by children and around other dogs. This proposal goes against the very pack nature of dogs and their need to socialize with other dogs and humans.

This effort to improve living conditions for dogs and puppies in large commercial operations/puppy mills is laudable. It is a great disservice though to Pa dog lovers and the buying public to place reputable small scale breeders under the same regulations as these large operations that most of us object to anyway. I oppose these amendments and urge that this proposal be withdrawn. Let's put some common sense thought into the dog law and target the real culprit-large scale multiple breed puppy farms. Why not simply try really enforcing the current dog laws before wasting taxpayer money on regulations that require unenforceable record keeping & exercise standards and will hurt the very type of breeder that should be praised for the manner in which they raise their animals. !!!

Sincerely,

Holly B. Hesterman
Jill R. Hester

Thank You for your time.

loses the breed. and I can say without a doubt, the all small breeders I have ever known are a credit to the breed they raise. Please reconsider this propo law!! It is our desire to purchase another puppy in the future from the same breeder we can only hope she is still breeding & no prohibited by this new law

cc: Senator Rob Wonderling
24th District