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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Mary Bender
PA Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110

Dear Ms. Bender,

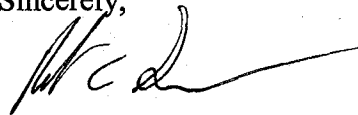
I have recently been made aware of the newly proposed PA dog law regulations. I agree that inhumane and substandard care and housing if dogs should not be tolerated but not at the expense of responsible breeders.

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. As a dog owner in Pennsylvania, I want a dog that was raised in a home environment from breeders who care about the health of their dogs and their temperaments. Small scale breeders will have to either stop raising dogs or begin to build facilities to meet the commercial breeders' standards, which is not the way I want a puppy that I'd buy to be raised. The proposed regulations favor the large scale operations that will have the budget to build these "sterile" kennel facilities and to hire staff to maintain the outline record keeping requirements.

I want, as I recently have, to be able to buy a dog directly from a reputable breeder, not a pet shop or a large scale commercial kennel. I want to know that my puppy was raised in a good environment and exposed to a variety of household situations. I want to be able to buy a dog that was allowed to play in the grass and to be with other dogs and puppies. This proposal goes against the very nature of the dog as a pack animal 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, however, a great disservice to Pennsylvania dog lovers to place reputable small scale breeders under the same regulations as these larger, commercial operations. I strongly oppose these amendments and urge that this proposal be withdrawn.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Gessner
169 Blue Jay Lane
New Columbia, PA 17856