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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Re: Comments on Doc. No. 06-2452

Dear Ms. Bender,

I have been training dogs for over 30 years now and teach beginning basic classes at Dauphin Dog Training Club.

It is my opinion that the problem our society is facing today with aggressive dogs and the subsequent dog laws that accompany them are under socialized dogs bred as an agricultural commodity. I feel that your newly proposed regulations take us further down the path of dogs as livestock and farther away from dogs as the trusted loyal companion that they should be.

My observations as a dog trainer are that puppies raised in a home environment are much easier to train, cause less problems for their owners, are more emotionally stable, and less likely to be abandoned by their owner. I can personally vouch for this as I recently acquired a new puppy from a different breeder and the results of the breeder's care, effort and the environment she raised the puppy in are abundantly apparent.

The changes that you propose I predict would increase the instances of dog/dog aggression because of the inability of dogs of various breeds, ages and sexes to interact during playtime. I predict that even more dogs will have difficulty adapting to households because they were never allowed to experience as puppies, what they will encounter in their new homes.

While you may keep me employed as a dog trainer because of your newly proposed regulations, these are not the situations I enjoy, and not the reason I work with people and their dogs.

Sincerely,



Heidi Stum
Member - Association of Pet Dog Trainers