

Emmie J. Jones
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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Att: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, Pa., 17110-9408

Dear Ms. Bender,

As stated above, my name is Emmie Jones . My husband and I have been involved in dogs since 1968, both as breeders and exhibitors, as well as showing dogs owned by others. We operated a small boarding and breeding kennel near Albany N.Y. until moving to central Pa. in 1976. Due to business demands (we owned and operated The Blue Dog Pet Shop in Lemoyne from 1976 until 1997) we reluctantly gave up our favorite pastime for those years. However, we have once again returned to "dogs" and are currently campaigning a Kerry Blue Terrier and a Bouvier des Flandres.

I am writing to you because I am concerned about the amendments that have been proposed to the PA. Dog Law regulations. While we firmly believe that inhumane and sub-standard conditions are intolerable in any kennel, whether a commercial breeding venue or a hobby kennel, we don't feel that many, if not most, of the proposed changes are needed. Most of them are burdensome, and many of them would be prohibitively expensive, especially to the many dedicated small breeders and exhibitors of pure bred dogs. These would be the changes required for size, both indoors and outdoors, lighting requirements, substrate requirements, etc. Most hobby breeders/exhibitors keep their dogs in their homes, as we do, where they are very much a part of the family, very much loved, very well socialized, and very well cared for.

Then there is the issue of "temporary housing". How is this going to affect the many dedicated dog lovers who open their homes and their hearts to provide "foster care" to stray and abandoned dogs taken in by the many rescue organizations in the state? True, there are some people who overdo this, but these issues can be taken care of by current regulations and inspections, as witness the recent incident in Dauphin County.

Also, the proposed changes to the requirements for record keeping re: cleaning, exercise, etc. are excessive and would very difficult to verify accurately. Any deviation from good husbandry in any premise would be obviously visible upon inspection, and would be in violation of already existing regulations.

What IS needed is adequate enforcement of the current regulations. If this could be accomplished and very specific shortcomings are found to exist then these specific items should be addressed. I have visited some "puppy mills" and have been appalled at the conditions there. And yes, I feel that these entities in particular need to be more closely and frequently inspected and regulated. However, there needs to be a distinction made between these commercial/wholesale breeders (and I use the term "breeders" very loosely - these people do not care about the dogs in their care - just the profits of their business) and those folks who truly care about purebred dogs and those dogs that end up in the care of "foster parents" and

rescue organizations. The current proposed amendments do not differentiate on this basis, and seem to be a just a list of things that should be looked into for improving the environment for dogs.

Please consider the suggestions made for the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs, and reconsider the amendments now being proposed. More thought and co-operation among all parties is needed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Emmie J. Jones". The signature is fluid and connected, with a large initial "E" and "J".

Emmie J. Jones