

Rec'd 2/15/07

2559

Department of Agriculture, attn: Mary Bender & Governor Rendell

Ms. Bender,

My name is Barb Wilson owner of a small doggie daycare facility in Lancaster County. I am writing to you at this time in order to voice some concerns about the new proposed kennel regulations. The new proposed regulations are alarming with their far-reaching legislative proposals and their very ambiguous wording. I do possess a kennel license and have always met all requirements in every inspection of the facility for more than a decade. According to these proposals, the small independent daycares will face closure for many reasons that are not based upon any realistic or scientific basis. This establishment takes great care with the dogs that frequent it. Often it takes several weeks before a new dog can come into daycare. Being sure all the dogs' immunizations are up to date. It is a very small facility, never are there more than ten dogs at a time in daycare. It is small because the dogs need to feel like they are going there to play all day with their pack. They must all get along and be able to respect me as the top dog. It is a very personalized business. The dogs are picked up at their door for school and dropped off at home in the evening. Often I know these dogs all their lives and their owners and I are friends and almost like family. With the passage of these new regulations, we could not have dogs from the same home together or dogs from the same playgroups that they have been in all their lives. This business is not a breeding facility and having on average of eight dogs at a time is anything but cruel. In addition, they have a separate area that has central air and heat and is the largest area in the entire home. They have over half an acre to run and play and can come in and out of the facility at will. We video tape the dogs several times a month so that we can make a compilation disc of their growth throughout the year. The owners love seeing these videos and most of all they love knowing that their dogs are having fun, getting exercise, and love all day. Instead of being alone at home while, their owners work long hours to pay taxes to this fine state. Under your new regulations, I would not be able to group female and male dogs together even if they are brothers and sisters from the same home and even though they must all be fixed in order to attend daycare. Furthermore I could not have different sized dogs together. And probably the most ridiculous proposal is that dogs cannot be on grass. This is absurd and scientifically without basis. After all these are dogs we are speaking

about. Dogs who love to run, romp, play, roll, and lay on the grass. What is next Mr. Rendell, farmers must stone layer their pastures because the grass is to dirty for the cows to be on?

I do understand the intended objective of increased control over what is called the puppy mill abuse problem. Breeder farms do need the current regulations to be enforced and in essence cleaned up. It is a terrible problem and a condition that the government has allowed to continue and increase into the mess that has given Lancaster County a terrible reputation within the canine associations across this country. All I can say is shame on the puppy mills and shame on the legislature for their selfish self serving behaviors. Their actions thus far have turned a blind eye on enforcing the current laws. Laws that are more than sufficient to cover all the abuses that big time breeder farms are allowed to commit on a daily basis. Instead our esteemed and highly overpaid political dictatorship once again assumes that we the common folk will bend and blindly follow whatever is told to us. All the while never knowing that once again we will be paying the bill for all your committees and their needs. And the raising of more tax money to pay for all your platitudes. As one of the common underlings let me just say we are not all stupid and uncaring and we are all tired of your same old routine. So please take a moment while enjoying your catered meal today to realize you will be putting this common person out of a nineteen year hard working dream come true. And realize as you choke down your tax paid free meal that this common person will do all I can to live off the dole and work the system for all its worth if you feel that you must do your best to ruin my life's work. So now with the stroke of a pen our disgraceful governor and his co-harts in the legislature will wipe out all facets of honest working and volunteering people who work with dogs all over this state.

I do realize that by writing this letter and voicing my opinion I am making myself a target for further scrutiny by your minions. The time has come for people in this state to take a stand and say what they believe and stop saying what we do not believe in order to stay below your radar.

Sincerely,

Barbara Wilson-a life long registered democratic voter who will be changing my registration and doing my absolute utmost to make sure everyone I met never forgets the corruption in all three houses of government in our state.