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February 18, 2007

2007 MAR -2 PM 2: 20

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dog Law Advisory Board:
Mary Bender, Director
Pennsylvania Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

I am writing as a Pennsylvania dog owner. I would like to comment and provide feedback on the proposed amendments to the Dog Law Regulations Act 225 issued on December 16, 2006. I support the suggestion of removing enforcement from the local district magistrate to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

I'm a life long animal lover. However, many of the proposed changes are impractical and burdensome. These changes will not likely improve the conditions in licensed kennels. The proposed regulations will require a substantial increase in manpower with many hours dedicated to filling out bureaucratic reports or recordkeeping. Several areas will be difficult to enforce and the proposed regulations are very general to not include definitions to terms such as:

- 20 minute exercise requirements,
- Quarantine
- A number of standards are poorly worded.

I agree with the Pennsylvania Beagle Gundog Association's position on this legislation, when they note the following:

- The 20 minutes daily exercise requirement is not practical for our small hound kennel owners. A "20 minute" walk on a leash has a totally different means of exercise than our hounds are accustomed to. The beagle is designed to hunt and trail rabbits from scent. Four hounds running a rabbit after a 6 hour day of hunting far exceeds the 20 minute exercise requirement suggested. A 20 minute rabbit chase is a more extensive method of exercise than the "20 minute" walks on a leash down the street.
- The Beagle as well as other sporting dogs (Pointers, Retrievers, Spaniels, Fox Hounds, Coonhounds, Bassett Hounds) just to name a few, is bred for a different purpose rather than a house pet. These dogs are sporting/ hunting dogs. Different breeds are not considered in these proposals. The AKC website provides information specifying the purpose of each breed.
- The laws and regulations are not based from scientific research rather they are based on emotions. Research was conducted to develop the

current kennel size parameters that have been established which is distinguished by the size of the dog.

- Acclimation to weather: Due to dog developing different coats different times of year, it is actually more inhumane to bring a dog in and out of the house as their bodies and coats become accustomed to the temperature in which they are living. Constant change in living temperature is not healthy for a dog.
- Seizure of kenneled hounds is at the mercy of the shelter at which the dog is dropped off. If dogs have been removed without good reason, no cost should be associated to the owner.

Again, many of the dog law proposals are unrealistic and will be extremely difficult for our membership to abide by. Please take our feedback into consideration in the development of updates to the dog laws.

Thank you,

Scott Dennis
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