



Above and Beyond English Setter Rescue

www.esrescue.org

2559

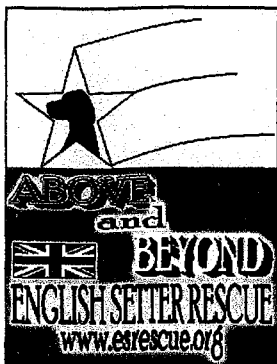
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
PAWEN/COMMISSION

07 FEB 20 PM 3:32

RECEIVED

Dear Mary,

I am writing on behalf of my rescue as well as others who are in this period of worry about how these new dog laws will affect what we do. It is very much a concern to us all, that the baby is being thrown out with the bath water, which is very sad. Puppy mills are a huge concern for us all and our hopes were that Pennsylvania was finally going to do something about the horrible conditions these poor animals are living in. Now to find out that this law will probably affect what we do too and that is really discouraging. Rescue, for the most part, (I know there are some less than legitimate rescues out there) is a hard working and giving bunch of people. There is no profit to be made, except for the swelling of the heart and soul when a dog who came in that is in terrible condition, is healed physically and given confidence to go on to a new home and live a wonderful life. This is all due to the hard work of so many people. The bottom line here is profit, for the most part and this is where the state of PA needs to draw the line. Our rescue spends all the money that comes in and more. Many of us spend our own money without expecting reimbursement. This is the BIG difference between the people PA should be going after and we rescues who are doing good and heartwarming work on behalf of the dogs of this nation. Since English Setters are not that popular of a breed in the Northeast, we pull dogs from the South and Midwest, where most live the hunting dog life, tied to a dog box, or living the outdoor kennel life from one hunting season to another. Many of the dogs coming to us are failed hunters according to whomever is the owner of that dog. These dogs are expected to perform in the manner that person deems they should many without any training. When they do not they are left in the field, dumped in a shelter or shot in the head. I am sure this happens to most of the sporting breeds who are unfortunate enough to be living in these areas. So we want to let the state of PA know that our concerns are valid and want them addressed. Every dog that comes into our program is vetted. Since most are transported East or North, they come with a health certificate. Mostar, our transporter, has rules in place to make sure that any dog they transport has one.



Above and Beyond English Setter Rescue

www.esrescue.org

Our dogs are tested for heartworm, parasites, given any vaccines needed, either before going to their foster home or once there. They are also spayed or neutered. Sometimes the shelter or whomever has the dog prior to coming into our program will get these things done. We usually have to pay a fee to the shelter once the dog is released to us. In foster care, our dogs live in home situations all over the country. We have volunteers from ME to NM. Our dogs are loved and cared for while in these foster homes. Housebroken and worked with to change any undesirable behaviors. We have a minimum of 2 weeks in a foster home evaluation before a dog is even posted to our website. When an application comes in, the potential adopters receive an initial interview, we check their vet reference and personal references. If all is well with those we set up a home visit. We are looking for a place where an English Setter will flourish. Our volunteers on our applications team spend lots of hours on the phone getting the necessary information to make sure our dogs are going to a great home.

I see little of this even with breeders. I don't know any breeder who does a home visit. They may check a vet reference at most. The puppy millers just want the buyer to plop down their money and you take the dog home. I think we all know education on the public's part is the key here. We also are here for the life of any dog we place. If at the age of 10 someone cannot keep one of our dogs for any reason, that dog **MUST** come back to us. There are some good breeders who do require this and I do applaud them for it. Of course to the millers the puppy sold makes room to bring more in, more \$'s in their pockets at these poor dogs misery and expense.

I think we in rescue need to speak out on behalf of what we do. We are so far away from the businesses that need a law like this and we are not happy that this will affect what we do.

Governor Rendell has 2 rescued GR's from DVGRR, perhaps he should listen to the rescues and their concerns. Without rescue he would not have his dogs.

Please feel free to contact me at any time. These dogs are my passion and why I am here on this earth.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Girard, Founder & President,

Above and Beyond English Setter Rescue 610-367-1803