

Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Att: Ms. Bender
Pa Dept of Agriculture
23801 N Cameron St
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear MS Bender

My husband and I are dog owners and very concerned about the proposed changes to the PA dog Law Regulations.

We own several dogs. I have 2 small dogs that I do competitive Obedience and Agility. My husband has 6 hunting dogs. One is an indoor house dog. The other 5 are outdoor hunting dogs. These dogs are real hunting dogs. So all of our dogs have a job and are trained and of course well socialized.

My 2 dogs have attended formal training classes from the day I purchased them. Even now they attend a weekly class. This in addition to the daily training I do with them. My husband has also had formal training for his dogs or they will be when they reach the right age.

We have several concerns about the proposed changes. As all our dogs are in environments where they mix with other dogs of all sizes and breeds, it is necessary from early age to socialize with all types of dogs. So the proposal of socializing dogs of different sizes is a major concern for us. It really is not in the interest of most dogs.

As my husband's English setter had a litter of puppies this spring which we kept in our basement until they had their first shots – So the proposed changes concerning smaller breeders is not well thought out. Our English setter who had these puppies was our house dog and no way would we even consider putting her outside to have these puppies. We wanted to be close to monitor and be sure everything was good. This was her first litter. Not only our situation, but I know of show Conformation breeders who keep their litters in their homes. This way they can take the best care possible of the litter and really learn about the puppies in order to place them in the best possible home – for pets, for Agility, Obedience or show homes


Our outside dogs have a very nice kennel with cement runs. However they love being out and running on the grass, sniffing and doing doggy things. They are hunting dogs. Can you image them not being on grass? I attended a class with a dog that was never on grass. For most of the class this dog was rolling in the grass and could not settle down because he was not use to being on grass. Most dogs love going to class because they earn treats. This dog just loved the grass.

The other aspects of all the regulation concerning renovations meeting various laws seems very burdensome and unrealistic to monitor.

Vets having to approve cleaning materials. The recordkeeping aspects concerning cleaning, exercising and other things are very burdensome also. Once we border my 2 dogs where I train. My training center also has boarding kennel. This kennel is not the most modern. I know these regulations could put this kennel out of business, which would be tragic. The dogs are well cared for. The owner of the kennel really understands dogs and dog behavior. I have great pictures of my little cavalier sleeping with an Irish Setter. They are sharing a pillow. She had no problem as she has been trained and socialized well.

I hope you seriously re look at the proposed changes. I believe these changes are trying to prevent "puppy mill operations" and have the best intent. However I do not believe the proposed changes will have the impact that you want. I think the best way to control puppy mills is to inforce the laws currently on the books by close monitoring.

Thank you


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