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543 Sweetbriar Drive
Harrisburg, PA 17111

2007 FEB 28 PM 2:42

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Dear Ms. Bender:

I am a member of the Harrisburg Kennel Club and the owner of a champion Bernese Mountain Dog and a pet quality Golden Retriever. My decision to purchase the dogs I have was based on a thorough review of the breeds, screening of parents, visiting homes of current owners, review of pedigrees and health certifications and signed contracts to protect the future interests of the dog and the breeder.

All of the dogs that I have raised and loved were bred by individuals that would have had to be licensed as kennels under the proposed legislation. I chose these dogs because instead of being raised in a crate or fenced area, they were raised in a loving home with early human contact. They were provided interaction with dogs of all sizes and ages and learned early how to play and act, not only with their parents and siblings but other puppies and dogs.

Upon bringing the dogs into our "pack" we socialized them with dogs ranging from a 2 pound terrier mix to a 200 pound mastiff. We have dogs that can play and walk with any other animal without fear of being hurt or hurting the other dogs!! When we need to board our puppies, we chose a small kennel where they are provided long walks and play time in a grass covered play yard. Every effort has been made to provide them a safe, loving, friendly home environment.

At shows we have provided our berner with the opportunity to meet dogs of all sizes and temperaments. He has grown to be a large, but lovable teddy bear,

This new legislation would not allow them to have walk time with animals that are smaller and perhaps more lively. It would stop them from having the opportunity to chase a ball in a safe, fenced grass play yard. In fact, it may cause the kennel to close because of the ridiculous proposed regulations regarding record keeping and kennel requirements.

Regarding the requirements for dogs coming into the Commonwealth, the new health certificate regulations may limit those people willing to participate in dog shows—which certainly brings LARGE sums of money into the state.

STOP the proposed legislation. **ENFORCE** the legislation we have. **SHUT** down puppy mills and **KEEP THEM SHUT**. Encourage family breeders that screen and test

their animals for things like hip dysplasia, DNA diseases and eye problems, and provide individual human attention that is not possible in a puppy mill. SAY NO TO PETA and the SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS that are supporting this legislation.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I sincerely hope this legislation will not become law and destroy legitimate breeders and kennels. It would be a sad day when Pennsylvania no longer has representation at shows like Westminster because of "well meaning" law makers that have not considered the impact of legislation on the very breeders and kennels that should be championed—those who are concerned about the health and well being of dogs.

Sincerely,

Florence M. Smith

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cc: Governor Edward Rendell
Sean Pendrak