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Weber's Golden Retrievers

342 Deer Run Drive, Roaring Spring, PA 16673

Mary Bender, Director
PA Dept. of Agriculture
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
2301 North Cameron Street, Room 102
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

3/2/07

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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Dear Ms. Bender,

I would like to be specific about my concerns regarding Governor Rendell's proposal related to the kennel regulation. I have viewed the content of the new proposal and compared it to the current regulation. Please include the following in your "comment/response document."

I understand that the Governor owns two golden retrievers and I certainly understand his love for dogs. However, since he never ran a kennel, he is probably ignorant in some matters.

Any law must be enforceable with measures for accountability or it is useless. I imagine his concern is to rid of Pennsylvania of its reputation of being the puppy mill state. That's great, however, his proposal would also hurt the reputable pre-existing breeders, like myself, who have years of good inspections, a great rapport with my veterinarian, and originally set up my physical kennel under the old requirements and specifications. There should be grandfather clause for pre-existing kennels in good standing. The new proposal will not guarantee that dogs will be treated any healthier.

A good breeder cannot afford to rebuild and/or it may physically be impossible to double the size of the current runs in their current location. A good breeder is not rich and already struggles to make a profit and have enough time in a day for her family, as well as her business.

The new proposal would require endless record keeping that would be unenforceable and a ridiculous demand on breeder's time. Just try to record all the things in the new proposal for your family members for a week.

Exercising twenty minutes a day at a minimum is of course an excellent idea, however, how are you going to enforce it? Most breeders exercise five times a day for twenty minutes each time!

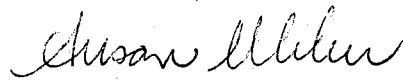
It is my opinion that the Dept. of Revenue, the Dept. of Agriculture and the AKC/ACA need to coordinate their efforts to rid PA of puppy mills. Double checks need to be put in the system. Check that if a person registers over 26 dogs in a year that they are a licensed kennel and are inspected twice a year. Check that they pay sales & income tax on their sales. Require they sell their dogs to private homes. Check & require that the dogs being used for breeding stock are pure bred. Require health clearances (OFA/CERF) on breeding stock. Check with veterinarians on the health of the puppies. Exams or Certification of good health are already required. Set up a hotline for vets to report bad breeders. Target the Mennonite and Amish farms. There are too many loopholes in the system because there is not coordination and sharing of records already

kept. I would think double checks and coordinating efforts would make more of an impact in ridding the state of puppy mills.

Another issue I have a problem with is why the PA farmer and private breeding kennels are not treated equally under current tax laws. Private kennels are regulated and licensed by the Dept. of Agriculture so why isn't our feed and equipment tax-exempt just like a farmer who raise and sell their breeding stock? Please send me a copy of the exact law that differentiates us.

Sincerely,

Susan Weber

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Weber".

Cc: Mike Brubaker, Chairman
Ag & Rural Affairs