

March 9, 2007

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Bureau Of Dog Law Enforcement
Attn: Ms. Mary Bender
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 N. Cameron St.
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Ms. Bender:

I am writing in regard to the proposed "new dog rules/regulations" by Governor Rendell and his associates. I own Labrador Retrievers that I train for hunting and AKC field competitions. I have **VERY GRAVE** concerns relative to these proposed laws. Many people I train with as well as friends own boarding/training kennels and also breed retrievers. These are fine upstanding people and are meticulous in the quality of care the dogs receive. They do the necessary clearances on all their breeding dogs as well as DNA testing. They have excellent reputations throughout this state as well other states across the country. Should these proposals come to fruition, they will most definitely be put out of business. There's no possible way they could afford to comply with the ridiculous standards the Governor and the ASPCA are trying to make legal.

These standards are the language of the ASPCA and PETA coupled with the HSUS and there is absolutely **NO evidence nor has there been any research done to prove that these "new" standards are necessary.** Neither Governor Rendell or the ASPCA have any evidence to back up these new proposed standards. The ASPCA lawyers would like you to believe differently as stated by the rhetoric that is contained in the letter they have sent you. The ASPCA has been misleading the public for years—we all know that. I know it because I rehab foster dogs and I've had very unfortunate dealings with the ASPCA; I have had the opportunity to see the dark side of the ASPCA; what they **REALLY** stand for is making money by playing on the sympathies of John Q. Public, the average dog owner who thinks the ASPCA is a great savior for animals when in fact, they will use ploys such as puppy mills (one of their favorites) to get the unknowing pet owner to donate monies into their coffers without being made aware of **ALL** the facts. Thus we have the puppy mill ploy because ASPCA, HSUS and PETA all know that above all else the pictures people see on TV and in magazines tug at the heart strings and they are encouraged to jump on ASPCA's bandwagon. They educate the public to **THEIR** definitions of the truth so the money just keeps pouring in.

In fact, a good number of puppy mills here have been disbanded over the last five years. Yes, we are all aware that puppy mills still do exist **BUT** if the current dog laws were followed as they are written and enough staff was hired to see that those laws were carried out in the manner in which they were written the problems could more readily be resolved. Instead, Governor Rendell chooses to punish the many fine kennels, breeders and trainers across this state. Governor Rendell should know that we are very much aware that the ASPCA, HSUS and PETA **ALL LOBBIED** for him during his last campaign and now the paybacks are coming. Politics as usual!!!! But we will make sure that the good people of Pennsylvania learn the **TRUE** facts!!!!

As you yourself stated Ms. Bender, \$47,000,000 a year is poured into this state from over 600 AKC sponsored events—I wonder how many Pennsylvanians know that little fact. Hotels, motels, restaurants, tourist attractions and the local towns where the events are held **ALL PROFIT** from these events. Trust me when I tell you that should these new "dog laws" pass, there are thousands of us across this state that are ready to **MAKE SURE** that these events will **NO LONGER** be held in Pennsylvania. I am sure that New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland would **LOVE** to benefit from the monies netted by these dog events and knowing dog people as well as I do, it won't take very long to get that ball rolling.

I sincerely hope that Governor Rendell does not underestimate the ability of what we dog people can accomplish. The internet is a **VERY STRONG AND POWERFUL** tool of communication across the state as are local newspapers, TV, etc. I along with these dog people will take whatever steps necessary to make very sure the dogs owners in Pennsylvania get the true facts behind this move on behalf of Governor Rendell and the ASPCA. We are going to make sure that Pennsylvanians know that Governor Rendell has seriously jeopardized the \$47,000,000 that we all know this state could certainly use. Perhaps the governor should put forth as much effort in improving the schools in Pennsylvania and helping cities to fight the rapidly rising crime rates.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Pat Fenstermacher
wndancer@earthlink.net

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