

3-11-2007

Ms. Mary Bender;

I am writing to you regarding the proposed changes to Pennsylvania's dog laws. I am apposed to the proposed changes to our dog laws.

I have owned beagles since 1981 and ran beagles with family members for 10 years before that. I enjoy hunting and going to competition events throughout Pennsylvania and adjoining states to Pennsylvania. Many of the proposed changes would prohibit me and many other beagle owners in Pennsylvania to be able to run our beagles in competition and hunting.

Pennsylvania has over 60 beagle clubs. Their objectives are to help to improve the beagle breed with head to head competition and provide a local training area for our beagles. In fact this started in the 1800's and from this the AKC was formed. These local clubs are dependant on the income from these trials to pay their bills including PA property taxes. It isn't uncommon to have beaglers from several states at these trials. Many of the proposals would eliminate these trial participants.

As a group we do breed beagles but these breedings are for the purpose of improving the beagle breed. Most of the puppies from these litters are spoken for months in advance of the breeding.

Back a few years ago we passed a Rabies Law to help reduce an increased rabies outbreak in Pennsylvania. With this law was a promise of many rabies clinics across the state to provide low cost rabies vaccinations that would comply with the new law. This did happen in the first several years but today it is difficult to arrange a rabies clinic. I was able to buy rabies vaccine for \$1.50/shot, today it cost over \$30.00 for that same vaccine. This law however well intentioned has increased my cost of keeping my beagles.

So in conclusion I ask you to consider carefully the full reaching effect of new dog laws without first improving the implementation of current dog laws.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey L Sherman

RECEIVED

2007 MAR 16 11 45

INDEPENDENT PENNSYLVANIA
REPRESENTATIVE