

2559

Bender, Mary

From: Betsy DeMarino [breiver@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2007 4:04 PM
To: Mary Bender
Subject: Pennsylvania Proposed Changes to Kennel Regulations

Betsy DeMarino
261 Brandywine Dr.
West Chester, PA 19382-6702

March 13, 2007

Mary Bender
Bureau of Dog Law Enforcement
Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture
2301 North Cameron Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9408

Dear Mary Bender:

As a small animal veterinarian, I am very concerned about the proposed changes to the licensing of dog kennels. While I understand the reasons for attempting to stop the negligent practices of puppy mills, I fear that all responsible dog breeders, kennels, field trials, dog rescues and agility programs will be adversely effected by the proposed law. Actual breeders of purebred AKC dogs and veterinarians were not consulted. For example, the proposal restricts breeders from keeping puppies in their homes and exercising them on their lawns. As a veterinarian, I can attest that the most well adjusted puppies come from home environments. The requirements for record keeping are onerous and serve no useful purpose. Likewise, the requirement for cages and cage size should not be relevant for breeders who keep their dogs free in a home environment, which is preferable in any event to being kept in cages. I fear that a law like this would lower the quality of home-raised puppies available to the public. The law also seems to apply randomly to all dogs kept in any kind of kennel situation, even those kept in kennels for sporting activities such as field trials, hunting and agility-even at training facilities. There is no one-law-fits-all perfect kennel. Active dogs require a great deal of outdoor time and activity, often in groups. I would hope that before any proposal becomes law there would be input from breeders, trainers, veterinarians and sportsmen, at the very least.

Sincerely,

Betsy R. DeMarino, V.M.D.
610-420-2111

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REVIEW COMMISSION

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