

Bender, Mary

From: Juli Gardill [gardill@atlanticbb.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 13, 2007 5:35 PM
To: Mary Bender
Subject: Pennsylvania Proposed Changes to Kennel Regulations

Juli Gardill
 3350 Menoher Blvd
 Johnstown, PA 15905-5500

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March 13, 2007

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
 REVIEW COMMISSION

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

Dear Mary Bender:

Dear Ms. Bender,

My name is Juli Gardill, I live at 3350 Menoher Blvd. Johnstown , Pa. 15905. I am an avid mounted foxhunter and subscribing member of the Rolling Rock Hunt, Ligonier, Pa. We hunt a pack of Old English Foxhounds three times a week during the season, October-March.

As a 13 year hunt member, I can tell you that I have never seen anything but kindness, compassion and top-notch care given to our hounds. We have a spotless kennel and a world-class huntsman/kennelsman that makes his hounds his first priority.

I was recently informed of proposed changes to Pennsylvania dog law, specifically kennel regulations. I am writing to comment on the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006.

I do believe that inhumane and substandard kennel conditions should not be toleratetd, but I do not agree that most of the proposed changes are needed, or would necessarily have a beneficial outcome if adopted. Many impractical, excessively burdensome and costly, unenforceable and/or will not improve the quality of life in these kennels.

I understand that one of the proposals dictates that animals be sperated out by size when it comes to excercise. Our hounds are "walked out" as pack every day they are not hunting, weather permitting, to help keep them fit and healthy. They hunt as a pack and are encouraged to socialize as one when ever possible. It is what they are bred to do! Seperating them by size or gender would do nothing but undermine the very nature of a pack. They must be togther not apart.

It is this kind of oversight that gives me the impression that actual dog breeders were not able to give input into these proposed regulations, but that animal rights oriented individuals were invited to provide input. This means those with actual experience were unable to contribute valuable information into the decision making process.

The current proposal appears to be merely a laundry list of ideas for improving the environment for dogs that has no connection to specific instances in which the welfare of dogs could not be secured and no basis in science or accepted canine husbandry practices. I strongly urge that this proposal be withdrawn.

Please see that these proposed regulations are re-visited with the purpose of amending the unreasonable requirements and thereby improve the health and welfare of dogs in Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

Juli L. Gardill
814-255-6707