

Gelnett, Wanda B.

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From: Linda Hartheimer [hartheimer@optonline.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2007 9:43 PM
To: IRRRC
Subject: Oppose PA Dog Law

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

Linda H. Hartheimer
 60 Eagle Rim Road
 Upper Saddle River, NJ 07458

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

Dear Ms. Bender:

I am writing to you in opposition of the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulat do not believe in inhumane kennel conditions but I do not agree that most of the proposed change have a beneficial outcome if adopted.

As Legislative Liaison for the Weimaraner Club of America, I feel that this bill would discriminat against many of our members who live in Pennsylvania and are small hobby breeders and dog fanc These proposals would be burdensome and impractical for quality home-based kennels, breeders rescue groups, where these changes are not needed. This would also limit the availability of heal well-socialized dogs.

I am also a member of the dog fancy who regularly attends dog events in Pennsylvania such as conformation, agility and obedience shows. If severe restrictions are placed on Pennsylvania bre this may lead to the end of dog events in your state. I would not spend money on events, hotels, restaurants in a state that puts such severe restrictions on responsible breeders. I would also recommend that the Weimaraner Club of America not hold anymore national events in your state WCA held its National Specialty show in Gettysburg in 2005 and is planning on holding the 2007 Specialty in Cranberry, PA.

Examples of problems with the proposal are the following:

- The definition of "temporary housing" would require thousands of small residential hobby a breeding households to become licensed which could not possibly comply with the regulator

which there is no reason to regulate.

- Smaller breeders and dog owners who maintain their dogs in their own residential premises covered by the Pennsylvania dog law, who provide care and conditions far superior to those by the proposed new standards, would be unable to comply with the rigid commercial kennel standards.
- The record keeping requirements with respect to exercise, cleaning, and other aspects of k management are excessively burdensome and serve no useful purpose, as it would be imposs verify their accuracy in all but the most egregious circumstances. Such egregious circumst already violate existing regulations.
- The proposals pertaining to housing and social interaction of dogs of different sizes are co good husbandry, socialization and training practices.

The Bureau has tacitly conceded that its current regulations have not been adequately enforced current proposal appears to be merely a laundry list of ideas for improving the environment for c has no connection to specific instances in which the welfare of dogs could not be secured and no science or accepted canine husbandry practices.

I strongly urge that this proposal be withdrawn.

Sincerely,

Linda Hartheimer
Legislative Liaison
Weimaraner Club of America