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

March 15, 2007

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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

Re: Proposed Dog Law Enforcement Regulation #2-152 (#2559)

Dear Ms. Bender,

I am writing this letter as a dog owner and as a person who has bred one litter of puppies. We own and show English Springer Spaniels. Our dogs are our family members who roam our house freely and sleep at night in crates as their beds. I am writing to talk about my problems with the new Pa. proposed dog laws.

21.14 I think that a distinction should be made between a commercial breeder and a hobby/show breeder who breeds perhaps two or less litters a year. By no means, should a home living hobby breeder be expected to maintain premises equivalent to a commercial breeder. The maximum dog number would have to be further defined because a hobby/show breeder could have 2 litters of 12 dogs each for 8 to 12 weeks of the year, but then they would go to their prospective carefully chosen homes for permanent residence. I would also like to see the age of puppies raised to at least 8 weeks minimum for sale, and preferably 10 weeks. Shot protocols have changed by reputable vets just in the past few years and have been moved back to pups at least 6 to 7 weeks of age. Therefore, the pups should stay with their breeder and litter for their own protection and further socialization.


21.23 I take issue with requiring dogs of one size or sex to only play with the same size or sex. All dogs need frequent socialization, and this is more important for puppies. Males and females should run together, unless they are in season, of course, and then I am very careful to crate one at a time and let the other run free.

21.24 I - I feel there is a real financial burden on the engineering standards set forth in this section and I don't think it is fair to expect any person who has a kennel license to adhere to these requirements instantly, but rather give them a certain amount of time to come up to standard. I would like to see the hobby/show breeder exempt from this. I think that the record keeping in this section would

place a burden on kennel operators and I would rather see a level of standard instead of recording keeping.

In conclusion, I would like to say that I know that these laws were designed to help to control the puppy mills in Pa., but there has to be some differentiation between these puppy breeders and reputable people who breed only occasionally, and certainly not for profit. There is no profit in breeding for hobby. After paying for certifications for hips, eyes, thyroid, and blood tests and health visits to vets for the puppies, litters cost several thousand dollars. Maybe, the new law should exempt people who breed fewer than 3 litters per year. Including these people in the new law would be an extreme hardship. Again, people who treat their dogs very well and breed very responsibly already should not be included in this law that is to regulate puppy mills. Puppy Mills are the "bad guys", not the hobby/show breeder.

Sincerely,

  
Patricia Morris and George Morris  
183 Cobalt Ridge Dr.S.  
Levittown, Pa. 19057