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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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 against changing the current Dog Law (ID#2-152, 2559) . The current law, when enforced has closed the bad kennels and changed many others for the better without having the obvious agenda of closing Pennsylvania taxpaying businesses (or taxpayers hobbies

The current Dog Law is sufficient to close the bad kennels and will shut illegal kennels down if properly enforced. The regulations call for clean, safe quarters and healthy dogs and puppies. Anymore would be against the PA. Constitution's right to own property. The Dog Wardens are trained to know if a system is working properly whether it has 4" pipe or 6" pipe should not matter.

The proposed Dog Law changes are aimed at closing all kennels. Is it not strange that Michael Wolf, who had his kennel license taken away never had his dogs taken away nor was there follow up to see if he came down to a legal limit? When they finally were taken it was with media coverage and was truly a sad situation for the dogs.. I am sure the donations and adoptions have poured in from the media coverage. But why did the dogs get left there for so long? This is where enforcement should focus. Don't hurt everyone because of a few.

It is not a good idea to let the people who inspect confiscate the dogs and profit from this matter. This definitely is conflict of interest..

What happened to due process of law in Pennsylvania? I am sure that this will end up costing the taxpayers money since it, also sounds very against the constitution and some group will eventually fight it. It already is costing us money since the Dog Law fund cannot cover all these new salaries and high priced prosecutors. \$15,000 to upgrade each dog warden just the first year alone is the first estimate and probably low.

How do we look when we close a business because it can't prove that it walked a dog for 20 minutes even though the dog is in a 20 foot indoor/outdoor pen? Or they have 20 toy dogs in their house and a fenced in backyard to romp together in. And if the person has just 20 dogs with an occasional litter, you are talking almost seven hours a day that the owner, who probably works a fulltime job, must walk their dogs in order to meet the new law. This is on top of the regular cleaning and feeding chores that a kennel has on a daily basis.

Most small commercial kennels have no hired help and spend 8-10 hours in their kennels now. Show kennels are just the fancier working around soccer games, grooming and the family. They can not afford to hire a dog walker and

most will drop their license and go underground. Since it is illegal to limit the number of pets a person in Pennsylvania can have, as long as they license the individual dogs and stay under 26 at a given time they will violate no law by doing so. Is this what we want to do?

The changes are also written by someone who never did daily hands on chores. How many breeders were consulted? Filling out forms for two hours a day will not insure that the item checked was done-looking in the water pans will tell the inspector that. I know small show breeders and rescues that will not be able to keep their beloved dogs as well as many reputable commercial kennels. Is this our goal? Do we eliminate all chicken farms and pig ranches next? It is obvious that stopping all breeding is the hidden agenda and then all animal usage.

Why is a 14 day quarantine mandatory for a kennel getting a litter in from the co-owner's house? In fourteen days a puppy not being handled will get to be shy. Why can an individual not sell a litter to a kennel or pet store. Home raised pups are preferred over kennel raised ones and many individuals find themselves overwhelmed by the litter so they would all end up yet again at the same humane societies that seem to be the only ones profiting by the New Dog Law.


Do not think this is the puppy mill bill as it is not aimed at just commercial kennels but at our constitutional rights to own pets. It is aimed at all of us since co-owners, rescues and everyone will be under the new police state that Rendell recommends.

Yes some rescues should be monitored but an individual housing two dogs at a time in their home for a rescue should not be required to meet kennel requirements, just like a show breeder raising pups in their bedroom could never pass the non porous surface or kennel requirements. More stringent laws are not the answer. Better enforcement of current laws is the answer. Stealing a breeders stock and pets is not the answer. Removing the license and setting them up with a timetable for reduction in the dogs while monitored is the answer.

The uproar being heard should be listened to and all of us must tell the governor that we will not support his changes.

Sincerely,

Robert Grim



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