

306 Nebinger Street  
Lewisberry, PA 17339  
February 7, 2007

Mary Bender  
Pa. Dept of Agriculture  
2301 North Cameron St  
Harrisburg, Pa 17110

Re: Doc # 06-2452 Proposed Changes to the Dog Law

Dear Ms. Bender,

I have recently been made aware of the newly proposed Pa. Dog law regulations. Yes, inhumane and substandard care and housing should definitely not be tolerated, but not at the expense of responsible breeders. *My husband and I are the proud happy owners of a Chesapeake Bay retriever, bred in a small kennel in Berry County. Many of the families in our town of Lewisberry own dogs that enrich their lives in a variety of ways, and were initially bred in kennels owned by small scale breeders. That you would jeopardize the future of these breeders that contribute to the very core of American life is APPALLING!*

Under the proposed changes as I read them, small scale breeders will fall into the same set of requirements as the large commercial operations. Licensed breeders with a K1 license would no longer be able to maintain, breed, whelp and raise their dogs within their homes-but this is exactly the setting from which I want to be able to buy a puppy or dog! I want a dog that was raised in a home from breeders who are careful about the health of their dogs, their temperaments, and bred dogs that look like the breed they are supposed to be! These breeders would have to either stop raising dogs or build facilities to meet the commercial breeders' standards which are not the way I want a puppy I'd buy raised. The proposed regulations favor the large scale operations that will have the budget to build these "sterile" kennel facilities and hire staff to maintain the outlined record keeping requirements. Why, we don't even require 20 minutes of daily mandated physical exercise for our children in schools, but for dogs we do!

I want to be able to buy a dog directly from a reputable breeder, not a pet shop or large scale commercial kennel. I want to know that my puppy was raised in a loving home and exposed to a variety of household situations. I want to be able to buy a dog bred with thought to health temperament, given lots of human contact and exposed to everyday sights and sounds. I want to be able to buy a dog that was allowed to romp in the grass and was played with by children and around other dogs. This proposal goes against the very pack nature of dogs and their need to socialize with other dogs and humans.

This effort to improve living conditions for dogs and puppies in large commercial operations/puppy mills is laudable. It is a great disservice though to Pa. dog lovers and the buying public to place reputable small scale breeders under the same regulations as these large operations that most of us object to anyway. I oppose these amendments and urge that this proposal be withdrawn. Let's put some common sense thought into the dog law and target the real culprit: large scale multiple breed puppy farms. Why not simply try really enforcing the current dog laws before wasting taxpayer money on regulations that require unenforceable record keeping & exercise standards, and will hurt the very type of breeder that should be praised for the manner in which they raise their animals?

Sincerely,

Mary K. Muir