2554

Dear Ms. Bender :

I appreciated the priviledge you gave us to sit in on your first meeting with the advisory board concerning dog law, I thought this was a worthwhile day and feel there are many concerned people on the board that are interested in taking a common sense approach to this matter. You advised the public to write, and would appreciate the input of the public.

I realize this is a very serious matter and the stakes are high, not only concerning this generation, but the future generations as well. I now build rolltop desks as well as raising a few pugs, since retiring from 30 years of dairy farming. We have raised many different kinds of animals over the years, and enjoy our dogs, as well as the challenge of raising a good quality pup that will bring much happiness to someones life.

Since becomming a member of several organizations concerning dogs, we have heard several complaints of legal as well as illegal operations, some of dog law officers, as well as a few of dissatisfied customers .

We need dog law officers and had no complaint of our past inspector(now laid off), I felt he did a great job and he was very much concerned about kennel and dog conditions, as well as the paper work. We do need inspectors with with experience with raising animals as well as a good common sense approach concerning animal husbandry.

One inspector though, from York Co., who is filling in for Lanc. Co., forced a foot of a puppy through the wire.(This case is pending.) this is not the kind of person we need for a an inspector. If she loses this, it will be interesting to see how she will be penalized, or is it only the breeder who can be cited ? Is the inspector immune from the law ?

It is understandable why govenor Rendell is catering to PETA, and ALF as well as ELF, after considering the large amount of money they supposedly donated to his campagn, But if they would put there whole agenda up at one time, they could deceive no one, this is only there first step.

I am sending a copy of, a letter to the editor, of the Intell of 12- 26-06. We are seeing more of this all the time, concerning the opinion of a vocal few. Although we well know the philosophy taught in the classrooms today will be practised on the streets tomorrow. Some states though do not allow the negative publicity being promoted by groups such as PETA. See . Oct - 25-2ooo. Wi. or 1-11-2001 Texas., in the book "High Stakes", written by award winning Ron Hevener, which is printed by Pennywood Press, and can be bought in bookstores for $12.95. The sobering information is provided by National Animal Interest Alliance and is a must have for legislators, educators, and reporters concerning the crimes commited by animal rights groups. Just because there is an extreme left operating in Pa., does not mean we need to fall to the extreme right.

One thing though is certain, as long as there is a demand for animals, someone, somewhere will raise puppys, even though it may not be in Pa., I consider it a part of the advisors duty to inform the govenor of this concern. Would our government betray anything for the sake of there jobs and income? These new proposed laws are just one more step toward suspending our individual liberties.

There should be no question to anyone as to why these new laws are being proposed. It is on account of peer pressure of a misinformed public, due to PETA's efforts, and the state not only allows this, but promotes it. PETA's goal is not only to wipe out some of the breeders, but all of them. Do we also consider the effects these laws would have on the next generations? It should be clear to all of us that the moral landscape of a state is largely determined by its laws, "Show me your laws and I will show you your God".

Your responsibility is to inform the govenor of this situation, and hope such will be done without a biased opinion."A great Lighthouse is one which stands there, flashing out beams of Light, indifferent to the waves which beat against it.

I consider the opinion and input of the advisor to be very important to the agricultural community of this great state of Pennsylvania, and hope you will research the facts, rather than conforming to peer pressure from a vocal few, before giving Mr. Rendell your honest, unbiased opinion.

In his controversial novel, Ron Hevener(who also owns a greyhound kennel in Lanc. Co.) delivers to his readers a bold and daring commentary on todays changing society. He mentions dog lovers are souls who believe in right and wrong in a world of twisted politics and a society gone mad.

Concerning my personal opinion of the newley proposed laws :

I do not feel more new laws would accomplish anything other than creating a bureaucratic headache for each and everyone concerned. The goal of PETA is to have or make laws

and rules which cannot be met by any of the people all the time. If we give them an inch, they will want a yard, then a mile.

Concerning the kennel conditions in Pa. : I recently visited with the AKC inspector when he was here doing his regular inspection, his area covers from Maryland to Maine on the east coast, most of his time is spent in Pa., N.J., and N.Y. He says Pa. has the best kept kennels and especially Lanc., yet this is where most of the focus is concernig bad kennels, I am assuming you know as well as I do, what the reason is for that.

At the meeting one of the advisors made a suggestion that possibly the breeders should be required to take an exam, concerning there knowledge of breeding and raising a good quality puppy. I would not condemn that, as that is important, although I would expect all kennel breeders would be quite familiar with animal husbandry, not only by what they read in books or learn in any school, but from hands on experience.

The breeders I would expect that would need that education are the ones with only one or two dogs ,and at the spur of the moment decide to breed their dog to any dog that happens to to be in the neighborood, if he happens to be of the same species, regardless of his character. I would never buy a dog, except from a respectable kennel.

One area where breeders should have more education is, how do I discern who is qualified to own one of our puppys ? Too many buyers do not realize in this day and age, the responsibility of owning a dog. If they then have a behavioral problem, it is the breeders fault. This reminds me of the girl who spoke at the mike at the meeting, concerning her efforts to train a dog she says was abused by the breeder. Why would I have reason to believe that. I do have a reason to not believe it. Although it could be possible, how do I know ? She did not explain herself.

One of my greatest concerns, as a dog breeder is : Who is capable of raising our puppy ? Some of the questions I would like to ask would be considered an offense, or too personal by some.

Why is there no law requiring the buyer to take a certain exam before buying a dog in Pa.? This would not have to be extensive or expensive. It could be taken at any veterinarian office, (which would be preferred for numerous reasons) or at the kennel office. This would need to be signed by the buyer and seller and would be kept by the breeder for the inspectors to see if they wish.

These are some of the questions I would like for the retail buyer to answer before I would sell him a puppy :

1. Do you at the present time own a dog or cat ? If so, what kind ?
2. Have you ever had a dog before ? If so, what became of it ?
3. What is the reason you want a dog ?
4. Do you plan to spay or neuter your dog ? If not, why not ? We sell our dogs as pets. If you want a dog to breed, the same dog will cost twice as much, you will also need to furnish reference regarding his future home.
5. Do you prefer a male or female ? Why ?
6. Who will be primarily responsible for your dog ? Grooming, training, and general care?
7. Who will take care of your dog while you are on vacation ?
8. Will someone be home with your dog during the day ?
9. If not, how long will it be alone ? Where will it stay when alone ?
10. Does your lifestyle allow time for a dog ?
11. Is your own character and personality strong enough to establish the proper relationship between you and a dog ?
12. Are you single or married ?
13. Do you have children ? If so, what are there ages ?
14. Are the people you live with anxious to have a dog ?
15. Do live in the city, or country ?
16. Do you have a lawn ? If so is it fenced in ?
17. Is your living enviornment suitable for a dog ?
18. Please describe the conditions where your dog will live ?
19. Can you afford the cost of dog ownership ? Including purchase, upkeep, veterinary care and food ?
20. Reference from your neighbor, or veterinarian ?
21. Name and address, and telephone number of your veterinarian .

For reference of our dogs you may call Smoketown Veterinary Hospital at 717-394-5542 and ask to speak to Dr. Shellenbergers assistant.

If they answer any of these questions in the negative, a dog may not be a good choice for them.

We try to avoid the customer who buys a dog, trying to impress, or make a statement to there friends or neighbors. These are the dogs that eventually end up on the street or in an animal shelter, if they are that fortunate.

We as the seller should have the right to refuse a sale, to anyone we suspect does not meet these standards. This certification would also help make the buyer aware of some of his responsibilitys and obligations.

That is one new law I think should be proposed, and would benefit the seller as well as the buyer.

Another new law I feel should be proposed, is that anyone going from kennel to kennel, including dog law officers, should be required to wear disposable gloves and boots.

In summary :

I think we all realize we need dog laws, as well as officers to enforce those laws. The dog law officer should be required to have experience with animal husbandry, as well as experience with raising and owning a dog. They should have a better education concerning dogs than what can be read in books or seen on the news. They need to be able to discern the information from a misinformed public(or news media,) and reality.

I do feel there should be a law against intentionally selling inferior puppys to the customer.
" We already have that law "
There should be a law against inhumane treatment of dogs .
" We already have that law. "
There should be a law against keeping dogs in dilapidated buildings.
" We already have that law. "
WE need inspectors to enforce these laws.
" We already have that. "
There needs to be a law concerning record keeping.
" We already have all these laws. "

I am assuming govenor Rendell is depending on your input and opinion on this particular issue. I also hope you will research the facts, and consider the far reaching impact this could have for the future of the state of Pennsylvania, and I sincerly hope you will give him an honest, unbiased opinion.

Those who disregard history are condemned to repeat it, the basic principles of this great state are systematically being thwarted and made ineffective by alien principles. We need to stand united against animal rights activists. To quote Mr. Keefer : There is a colossal difference between animal welfare and animal rights.

Sincerly
John Lapp
3016 Irishtown Rd
Ronks, Pa. 17572

12/26/05

INTELLIGENCER JOURNAL, LANCASTER, PA.

Roads are no place for horses, buggies and kids

TO THE EDITOR:

I was not surprised to read ("A tough night for buggies," Intell, Dec. 18) that there were several accidents involving buggies and vehicles.

As a horse owner and farm manager, I am keenly aware of the unpredictable nature of horses. Horses are herd animals and, when put in stressful situations, can be extremely dangerous.

When will the rest of Lancaster County realize that our modern-day roads are no place for the horse and carriage. We are not only endangering the lives of animals and adults, but also children. As a new mother, I wouldn't consider for a second exposing my daughter to that kind of danger.

There are all sorts of laws the "English" must adhere to concerning the safety of cars: seatbelts, car seats and vehicle inspections, but there is nothing of the sort for the Amish. They can pack as many kids as they want in a buggy with no restraints.

I have seen what happens to a horse and buggy when the horse disregards its owner's commands and darts out in front of a tractor trailer. It is a crumpled mess of flesh, bone and metal. And what about the bitter cold and scorching heat these horses must endure during the winter and summer months? It boils down to nothing more than animal cruelty.

Finally, I have to add that the metal spikes added to the horses' shoes for traction on our slippery paved roads completely destroys them and the burden of repair costs is on us, the taxpayers.

To me, the solution is simple. The cost of buying and maintaining a horse should be used to hire Amish taxis to drive them where they need to go. Or, they need to just break down and buy a car. I see several Amish teens driving them anyway.

Jennifer MacNeill-Traylor
Conestoga