

RECEIVED
DOG LAW ENFORCEMENT

Sally Kamm
325 Swan Street
Harrisburg, PA 17111-1910

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JAN 3 2007

December 28, 2006



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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

2007 JAN -6 AM 10:23

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RE: Proposed Changes to Dog Law

Dear Ms. Bender:

I am writing to you concerning the proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania dog law regulations issued on December 16, 2006. While I certainly believe that dogs should be raised in humane and ideal conditions, I feel that the proposed changes will not meet that goal, and may actually cause greater harm than good.

I have been showing dogs for almost 27 years. I am extremely active in dogs, as I am currently on the Board of the Harrisburg Kennel Club, assistant show chair for the Harrisburg Kennel Club, the President of the American Pointer Club, and the show chair for the Chesapeake Siberian Husky Club.

While I have never had near enough dogs on my property to even consider a kennel license, I support the feelings of my fellow Pennsylvanians who raise and show dogs for the following reasons:

- It is detrimental to a dog's feet and eyes to require that a dog run on stone and/or gravel. Stones can cause feet to splay. Stone and gravel can cause damage to the eyes when kicked up in a dog's face by another dog. There are dogs who will eat stones, resulting chipped teeth, surgery to remove stones, and/or death.
- Dividing dogs who will run together by weight is not logical and can be detrimental. A 60 pound Bulldog who is 19 inches tall at the shoulder, and a 60 pound German Shorthaired Pointer who is 25 inches tall at the shoulder, have a completely different activity rate. A 60 pound Bulldog is better off exercising with a 25 pound Shetland Sheepdog who is 16 inches tall.
- Requiring dogs to be whelped in a separate building with concrete floors and drains could result in the unnecessary death of many puppies. The majority of reputable breeders whelp litters in controlled, highly monitored conditions, such as in their own home, not in a kennel building. Dogs whelped in a home are monitored constantly and in an environment of comfort and security. Whelping conditions such as described in the proposed changes would be extremely detrimental to toy breeds.

People who breed and show dogs do so as a hobby. Many are raised and cared for in the home. To require them to take their dogs out of a home environment and kennel them is actually dropping the dog's standard of living. To inflict this additional burden of cost to the hobby breeder will cause the hobby breeder to not own or breed dogs. Large commercial breeders will simply do what is asked and pass the expense onto the consumer. If these changes are made, dogs bred with concern for the betterment of the breed, dogs screened for hereditary defects prior to breeding, and dogs raised in a loving home environment will be a thing of the past. The only people financially able to comply will be those who treat dogs as livestock and as a business. Reputable hobby breeders breed for the love of the breed and the betterment of the breed, not to supply pet stores.

The current proposal appears to be random thoughts without scientific merit for improving the quality of life of the dog. I urge that this proposal be withdrawn.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sally Kamm".

Sally Kamm