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January 16, 2007

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

Dear Mary Bender,

I am writing in reference to the proposed new Dog Law Legislation. I am a member of the Harrisburg Kennel Club and the Obedience Training Class of Harrisburg both members of the PA Federation of Dog Clubs. Cindy Miller is our AKC Delegate and we have had several discussions and e-mail correspondence about the new proposed laws. I have owned and loved dogs since I was 6 years old and am now 55. I have owned, raised, trained, instructed classes in obedience and agility, shown in obedience and conformation and a past Training Secretary, Board Member and President for 9 years for OTCH. I have been in the dog world most of my adult life.

When I decide to purchase a puppy I look for a hobby breeder whose goal is the betterment of his/her chosen breed. Who owns the mother and she is a family pet first and the father is available to see, has raised the puppies in her bedroom or kitchen usually staying up through the night whelping the litter, have had all the health clearances on the parents such as DNA testing for eyes, X rays for hips and elbows and any other health clearances available for that particular breed. I want a puppy that has been exposed to life in a home not a "kennel" where there are telephones, vacuum cleaners, doorbells, bicycles, skateboards, children, cats, love and affection. I want the puppies to play and exercise outside to build strong healthy bodies and get used to eliminating in the yard, be crate trained so when you can't supervise your puppy you can provide a safe environment, been riding in the car so car sickness is not an issue, and participated in home life in general. I want a puppy who will grow up to be a Canine Good Citizen. Puppies should be raised the way they will live when put in their forever homes not in disinfected, non-porous environments. This is not possible from the large commercial breeders and puppy mills that treat puppies as products and profit is a priority. Your proposed laws will only hurt those who generally don't make money from raising a litter of puppies who breed for the pure love of their chosen breed and feel by breeding they will improve their breed. They know the puppies they produce will bring unconditional love and joy to the families who adopt them.

We do not need more dog laws we need the existing laws enforced like we have seen lately in Dauphin and Lancaster, PA. We need qualified people for education on animal husbandry and a campaign to discourage purchasing from pet shops and puppy mills **not more attorneys**. We should not exhaust our funds on attorney's salaries and additional legislation.

Thank you in advance for taking your time to review the many concerns of the dog community pertaining to these proposed dog laws.

Respectfully,

*Brenda L. Winston*

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