

2559

125 Ridge Road
York Springs, PA 17372

January 12, 2007

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

INDEPENDENT REGULATORY
REVIEW COMMISSION

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RECEIVED

Dear Ms. Bender,

Subject: proposed amendments to the Pennsylvania Dog Law Regulations

My name is Laurie Stone; I live in York Springs, PA. My husband and I own dogs that are our family companions. We show in conformation, have done obedience training, taken our dogs hiking and camping with us. Some of our dogs have participated in 'Meet the Breeds' held at local dog shows. My husband is a member of the Harrisburg Shetland Sheepdog Club. I belong to the Samoyed Club of America and serve on the board of the Samoyed Club of America Education and Research Foundation. We both belong to Harrisburg Kennel Club, where I have served on the Board of Directors for the last 8 years.

This letter is being written to comment on the proposed amendments to the PA dog law regulations issued December 16, 2006. It is agreed substandard, inhumane kennel conditions are not acceptable. However, I must disagree with the proposed changes. The current dog laws when enforced can stop existing deplorable kennel conditions. The proposed changes are excessive and impractical. Sadly, they will not improve quality of life for the affected dogs.

- Some of the problems of the proposal are there is NO scientific husbandry basis for the amended space and exercise requirements. The proposal regarding housing and social interaction of dogs of different sizes are contrary to good husbandry, socialization and training practices.

My Samoyeds historically have been raised in homes with their families. They are and were considered part of the family unit. The breed specifically requires human contact and varied social interactions with other dogs.

- Smaller breeders and dog owners who have their dogs in their own homes and are covered by the PA dog law, who provide care and conditions superior to those required by the newly proposed standards, would not be able to comply with the rigid commercial kennel standards. The definition of "temporary housing" would require thousands of small residential hobby and show breeders to become licensed which could not compile with the regulations, and which there is no reason to regulate.

Many of these same breeders and dog owners exhibit their dogs at local events. The AKC has states "over the past 12 years, dog owners have increased their dog show spending by 138%". "A weekend dog show could inject as much as \$1,075,000 into your local community." The proposed amendments, which dog owners could not compile, would also cause those same owners to be unable to exhibit. This money would be lost to local communities.

This is not even remotely a complete list of deficiencies with the proposed amendments. I associate myself with the detailed comments made by the Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs. Plus, the Bureau has admitted the current regulations were not adequately enforced. The current proposed

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amendments seem to be a list of ideas, which have no bearing to any specific circumstances and basis in accepted canine husbandry practices. I strongly urge the proposal be withdrawn.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurie Stone". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Laurie Stone