

## Dog Law Bureau Chief: We Will Help You

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past special.

It can be assumed that, as they have in the past, owners of dog kennels and other breeding operations have been working and planning to meet this demand for puppies.

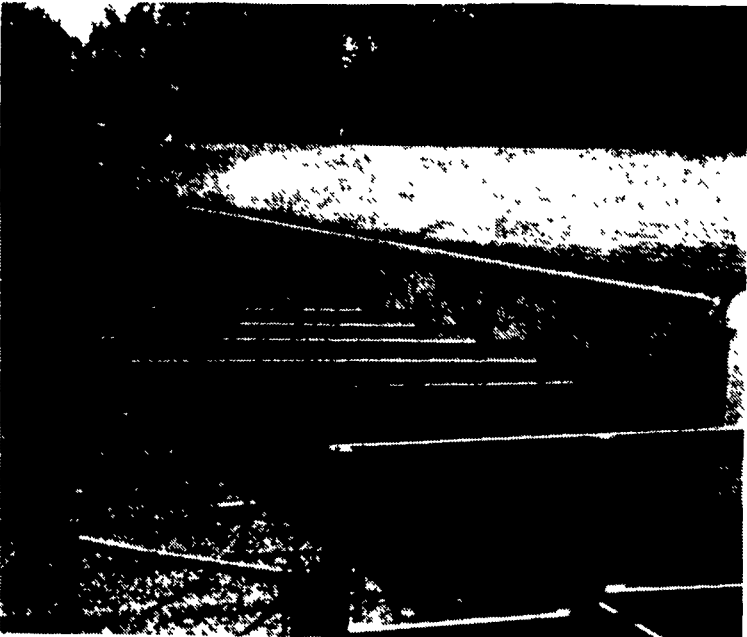
While opponents and critics of those who give animals as gifts are vocal and noisome, they aren't as numerous as those buying puppies.

And, according to Richard Hess, director of the state Department of

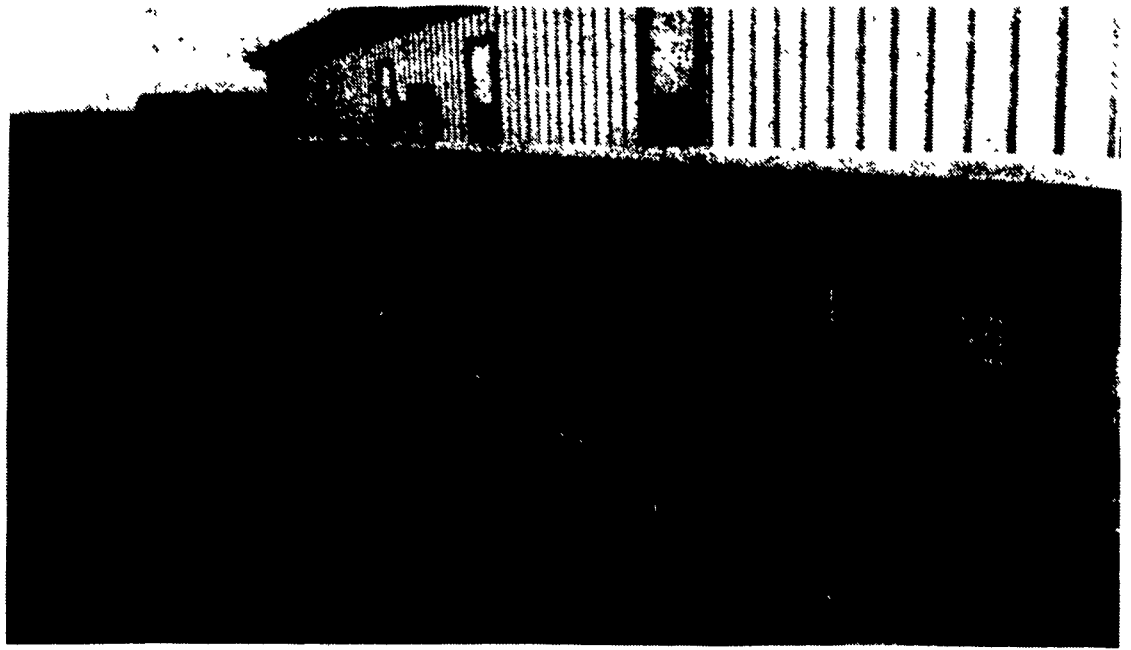
Agriculture Bureau of Dog Law, while there are few actual cases behind the claims of those purporting to fight "puppy mills" (a term used to describe neglected, unsuitable breeding operations), there are breeders whose practices can not be defended.

What serious dog breeders can do to establish a respected and legally protected operation is to register their operation as a kennel.

Those who sell from one to 25 dogs per year are not required to be licensed as a kennel by the state.



A good dog kennel operation can incorporate different designs and materials, but animal safety and comfort, as well as cleaning and maintenance efficiency are key. In order to know whether or not a facility complies with existing or about to be implemented laws, call the state Department of Agriculture Bureau of Dog Law. Even if this facility didn't meet the minimum requirements for registering as a kennel, the benefits to doing so voluntarily are strong economically and business-wise.



This is a top-notch breeding kennel facility that provides an elevated outside run, inside warmth, a constant source of clean water, and an effective maintenance/cleaning schedule, good records, and well maintained veterinary supplies. To help kennel owners comply with changes in the law, the state Department of Agriculture is offering provide a compliance inspection with the promise of issuing no fines on a first visit.

Only those with sales of 26 or more are required.

However, Hess said that those who aren't required to license their kennel should probably consider it, for the benefits — economic, social and legal — that such registration can provide.

Hess said that in carrying out its duties and responsibilities, the Bureau of Dog Law does not want to put anyone out of business nor bother a hobbyist, but it does want compliance with suitable dog-raising practices.

A set of new dog law regulations are going to go into effect soon

which would require some restructuring, redesigning or rebuilding in order to comply.

As a sort of gift in itself to licensed kennel owners and others who may seek to register as a licensed kennel, the state will help achieve compliance with the laws.

Hess said that what the Bureau is offering dog breeders is the opportunity to have a department official come to the operation to do a compliance check.

This visit by officials would review the requirements of the law and those not needing any changes will have the protection of the

department against false claims of neglect.

No matter what conditions, Hess said the first visit to a facility will be a compliance check and not result in a fine.

If corrections are required and not made to a facility to make it come into compliance, the department will act accordingly.

While the majority of those supplying puppies run clean, healthy and safe operations, there are those on the fringe of the Pennsylvania dog industry whose operations are not up to snuff.

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# ATTENTION

## 609 TOBACCO FARMERS

There have been a lot of rumors going around Lancaster Co. about this year's 609 tobacco crop. We would like to address the rumors pertaining to Oldham Tobacco.

Oldham Tobacco has been accused of trying to hold the price of tobacco down. This is completely untrue. We have in the past, are now and will continue to work to get higher prices for Lancaster Co. farmers. We have passed the farmers message on to the companies we buy for. These tobacco prices are not what the 609 farmers expected and they are upset! What the companies will do we do not know nor do we control.

It is true we made the choice to stop participating in the auction at Paradise. We do not feel the auction is fair in the way they distribute tobacco to buyers. We asked the auction management to explain their distribution policy and were told one company deserved half of the tobacco sold at auction and if we didn't like it we could leave. That is what we chose to do!

Oldham tobacco has supported the auction and raised the price in the past. We can not continue to participate as long as we receive that type of treatment.

We have been accused of trying to destroy the auction. This is not true! We closed our field buying stations down when the auction began. We asked our customers to support the auction as well. We support & believe in the auction system, but only one that is fair to all buyers.

We will continue to buy 609 tobacco at our location in Quarryville. We are located behind Ross' Feed & Grain on Church St. If you would like to have a buyer come by, have your tobacco picked up or discuss tobacco prices, please call Bobby, H.M., Ron or Joey at 786-6135.

**BOBBY OLDHAM TOBACCO**  
27 N. Church St, Quarryville, PA  
(717) 786-6135

*Celebrating 15 years of service to Lancaster Co. Farmers*