# Dog Law Bureau Chief: We Will Help You

(Continued from Page A40)

Hess said the kennel license cost would be made up easily in not having to have a rabies vaccine administered by a veterinarian for each dog on the premises.

Those selling fewer than 26 dogs per year must have rabies vaccinations for each dog, and the shots must be administered by a veterinarian.

The savings in veterinary costs alone should more than cover the cost of registering as a kennel.

Another benefit to being licensed is that it is an established use and a state-licensed operation that should be protected through normal grandfather clauses included in most zoning ordinances.

Further, those with registered kennels receive information about pending changes or issues directly through the Bureau, as well as receiving help with maintaining standards.

There are basically two types of breeding operations in the state. The elite breeders are those concerned with developing top lines of certain breeds which bring higher prices, but have a limited market.

Bulk breeders are those concerned with providing healthy, well-bred dogs for the average

The dog market in Pennsylvania is fairly large. Hess said out of Lancaster alone, there are an estimated 20,000 dogs exported every

While the dog industry has its breed organizations and policy development organizations, people are people and just as some car dealers, doctors, lawyers, elected officials, etc., practice unethically.

Within the dog industry, there is no longer any room for tolerating substandard operations, Hess said.

"There is a tremendouse amount of public attention focused on the dog breeding industry," Hess said. Opponents to animal use have 'only a few kennels they're able to hold up as being substandard."

However, he said he expects that those few will continue to receive public scrutiny until they accept and use better management practices.

"If you're not registered, register quickly and get the benefits," Hess said.

According to the law the fines are up to \$300 for a lack of a dog license required at six months, or the lack of a rabies vaccination by three months.

Recently, state Secretary of Agriculture Charles Brosius announced the changes to the state Dog Law and changes in operation.

In addition to announcing that licensed veterinarians from the PDA Bureau of Animal Industry were to begin assisting in inspections of licensed kennels. According to the news release, "The two bureaus will work together in developing a best-management practice guide to raise the standards of practice in licensed kennels.

And the south central region of Pennsylvania is being targeted for extra manpower.

"Staff resources will be shifted to give higher priority to kennel inspections, and one additional dog law enforcement officer will be hired to assist in monitoring kennel activitiés in south central Pennsylvania," Brosius said.

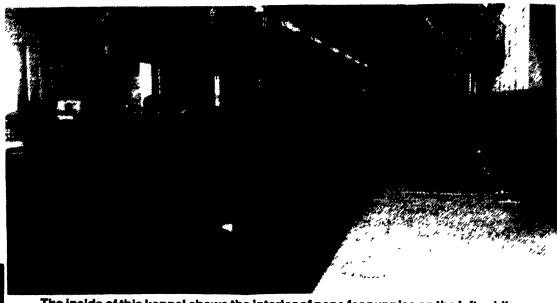
For other areas of the state, several part-time officers are to be

Meanwhile, the state Legislature is currently working on proposed laws, including proposals from the PDA that would allow

veterinarians to issue dog licenses and reduced the age for when a dog is required to be licensed from six months to three months.

Other interests also have been lobbying for change, telling stories, some documented, of poor practices in caring and breeding of dogs. According to Hess, the industry needs to be involved in policing itself.

For the individuals who are borderline, Hess advised, "If you have dogs in back of the barn in pens and you want to save yourself the trouble of paying fines and all that goes along with it," register and the Bureau will help.



The inside of this kennel shows the interior of pens for puppies on the left, while on the right wall is a row of interior boxes for dogs. Those boxes are connected to an out-

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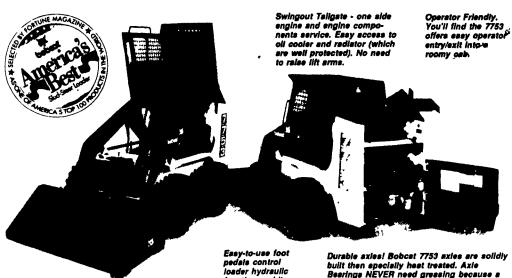
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