

## **Breeder Bill (w/ numerical limits) Sample Letters to the Editor**

### **Letter #1:**

As a responsible dog owner and a person who loves animals, I strongly oppose (House/Senate) Bill \_\_\_\_\_. Limiting the number of dogs a person can own won't make them a better owner. Bad owners are bad owners--regardless of how many dogs they have.

If the (General Assembly State Legislature, etc.) really wants to address the issue of substandard kennels, they should focus on strong enforcement of good standards of care regardless of the number of dogs a person owns. These standards of care should also be applied to ALL dogs, whether they are in a commercial dog kennel or an animal shelter.

The (insert state) Legislature/General Assembly should reject this ineffective measure and focus on enforcing laws that punish ALL negligence and cruelty cases-- whether they are in a shelter, a commercial kennel, or in someone's home.

### **Letter #2:**

(Insert bill #) will not take care of puppy mills in (insert state). People who mistreat dogs and force them to live in horrible conditions are already breaking our animal cruelty laws. Why would they adhere to new laws that limit the number of dogs they can own? And how will this limit automatically make them better dog owners?

Meanwhile, where are these "extra" dogs supposed to go? This bill would force law-abiding citizens to give up dogs to shelters, where they will be kept and maybe even euthanized at a significant cost to the taxpayers. (If applicable, you may wish to include the following: Ironically, however, these shelters are exempt from the bill and not required to maintain the same level of care as breeders.)

I am very concerned about the horrific treatment of some dogs in our state. This is why I strongly oppose (insert bill number) as it is currently written and I urge our lawmakers to focus on enforcing existing cruelty laws and bringing animal abusers to justice while protecting the welfare and well-being of all dogs and the rights of responsible breeders.

### **Letter #3:**

As a responsible breeder in (insert state), I oppose (insert bill number). I keep my dogs in clean enclosures with plenty of food and water. I make sure they get enough exercise and are properly socialized, and I work to make sure they go to good, loving homes. If (insert bill number) passes, I will be forced to give up some of my dogs to shelters. (If applicable, you may want to include – Shelters are not required to provide the same level of care I give them now). In addition, taxpayers will be forced to take on the cost of caring for my dogs, or having them euthanized. If the lawmakers truly care about the dogs in (Insert state), they need to focus on that ensuring all owners are responsible and take good care of their dogs, regardless of how many they own.