

I live in Columbia county on 7 acres with a small indoor arena I use to train my own dogs in several sports such as agility. I have friends who I've also invited to do the same. We've lived here 16 years and enjoy friendly relationships with all of my neighbors. We generally are only training 1-3 dogs at any given time and have never had problems with noise or aggression towards farm animals. Our sessions are always early afternoon or evenings a few times per week and have never run over two hours long.

People who are interested in training their dogs are ALSO the types who respect the rules of cleaning up after their dogs, maintaining all required vaccines and do not allow misbehavior such as aggression or excessive noise. In fact, in the ten years I've been involved in dog sports both in regular training classes and showing dogs, I have never once seen acts of aggression between any sport dogs. While "pet dog" folks tend to be lax about these types of rules, the sport dog community is stringent about maintaining respect among each other. In fact, if a problem ever arose, it would certainly be quickly addressed and resolved since this is so important to us.

Since covid, many new people have become new dog owners. Many of these new pet dogs are suffering from a lack of stimulation and could truly benefit from training classes in barns like ours allowing more to become better citizens. Training dogs can really be addictive and fun and so enjoyable for all parties.

Training at my barn involves dogs precise attention to cues which occur quickly. These dogs are certainly not the types who present problems to the community. Please support this bill!