



19.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager
October 15, 2001

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 01-211, regarding a report on the City's procedures for responding to after-hour calls such as the rabid skunk incident, Animal Commission Director Mark McCabe reports the following:

The current hours of operation of the Animal control office are as follows:

Monday - Friday	7:30 AM – 6:30 PM
Saturday	7:30 AM – 4:00 PM
Sunday	7:00AM – 3:30PM

Most holidays are covered by one Animal Control officer working an 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. shift. There are times due to sickness or vacation time that this schedule will vary.

The Animal control department and the Cambridge Police department would be the departments responsible for responding to after hour complaints were there is a threat of public safety, such as a rabid wild animal or a vicious dog.

After hour protocol is as follows: The initial call should be made to emergency communications. The dispatcher makes a determination if Animal Control is needed immediately. If an Animal Control Officer is needed, the telephone numbers for the three Animal Control Officers are available to the dispatchers. The dispatchers call the Animal Control Officers at home and if they are available, they will respond. If the dispatcher is unable to communicate with an Animal Control Officer, they direct the call to the Animal Rescue League of Boston. The Animal Rescue League supports local Animal Control Departments in the Boston metro region for animal emergency calls. The police department also has equipment available to handle vicious dogs and rabid animals. In 1993 and again in 1995 the Animal Control Officers attended the in house training academy at the Cambridge Police Department and offered training in regards to responding to calls of rabid animals and dog bite situations. This training also included police officers from Harvard University.

The current response protocol has worked effectively for the past 15 years. In the situation with the rabid skunk the Animal Rescue League did respond, remove and test the animal as needed.

Very truly yours,

Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec



Consent Agenda #19

**Awaiting Report Item
Number 01-211**, regarding
the City's procedures for
responding to after-hour calls
such as the skunk incident.

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In City Council October 15, 2001

Charter Right
exercised by
Councillor Born
on City Council
October 29, 2001

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