



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

ANIMAL COMMISSION

51 INMAN STREET
CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139
498-9041

GINGER GAY
Director

November 16, 1979

CAPTAIN JOSEPH CUSACK
Cambridge Police Department
Assistant Director

Dear Councillor

BRANDON REINES
Project Coordinator

KEVIN DOHERTY
Health and Hospitals

JOHN CORCORAN
JEAN CROCKETT
ELLEN KIRCHHEIMER

The Cambridge Animal Commission is submitting these changes in the animal control laws in order to update and centralize animal control in Cambridge. We hope in view of the progress the Commission has been able to make in our spay/neuter program (over 200 cat spays; over 60 dog spays in just three months), and the progress on enforcement of the leash/curb ordinance, the Council will now see fit to support our efforts to strengthen the program.

Section 1: We have changed the fee structure for licensing in order to encourage owners of unspayed/unneutered dogs to alter their pets. This is a most common practice in other cities. Since Cambridge has an estimated dog population of 16,000, we feel this will encourage pet population control.

Section 2: Monies now derived from dog licenses is appropriated to libraries. This law was written over 50 years ago when animal control was not a problem. It only makes sense to use animal license fees for animals (i.e., spaying programs, rabies clinics, adoption programs, educational programs, etc.).

Section 3: Presently, according to state law, licensing is required to be done in the City Clerk's office. We would like to have this done in our office so we could help pet owners, answer any questions or problems they might have. Mr. Paul Healy has no objection to our assuming this responsibility.

Section 4: According to statistics, family pets do not make good laboratory subjects. They are not amenable to constant caging, and, from a medical standpoint, are a most unreliable research source because no prior health data is known.

Section 5: Amending Chapter 474 "an Act providing certain dogs shall be inoculated with an approved rabies vaccine before licensing". Any dog lawfully impounded and not so vaccinated may be released to the owner thereof upon proof that said owner has obtained a fourteen (14) day temporary license from the Animal Commission. Said temporary license shall permit the owner a fourteen (14) day grace period in which to have said dog vaccinated. Failure to have the dog vaccinated within this time period will cause forfeiture of the license fee and subject to further fine for unlicensed dog.

We hope to have your support on the above important animal legislation.

S-639

Comm. from Paul E. Healy, City Clerk, transmitting one from the Cambridge Animal Commission re: changes in the animal control laws.

In City Council,

December 3, 1979

Placed on File