

Accountability in Research  
For Their Sake

CAMBRIDGE COMMITTEE FOR RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH, INC.  
P.O. Box 1626  
Cambridge, MA 02238  
(617) 547-9255

April 10, 1989

Cambridge City Council  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Councillors,

Cambridge institutes using animals, and their well-funded allies in the Massachusetts biomedical community, have finally responded to the report of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on Laboratory Animals (BRC). You may have recently received a letter from the group called "CURE", urging rejection of the moderate reforms in the care and use of laboratory animals proposed by concerned Cambridge citizens.

Contrary to the conclusions of two of the three members of the BRC that current federal and state regulations are inadequate, CURE chairman David Nathan states in his letter that "current regulations are clearly working to protect animals." He states further: "freedom of information, unannounced inspections, better care of primates and enforcement of regulations" are "already extensively and effectively regulated by current federal and state law." This unsubstantiated claim is made in spite of the fact that:

- fewer than 5% of Cambridge lab animals have **any** type of government inspection;
- primates are housed singly and in barren cages, despite federal stipulations;
- the institutions have refused to release any protocols describing procedures the animals undergo, despite requests from the city;
- animals are euthanized in at least three labs by breaking their necks or by asphyxiation by carbon dioxide, neither with any anesthesia. Euthanasia, according to state and federal law, produces instantaneous death without visible evidence of pain or distress or which uses anesthesia.

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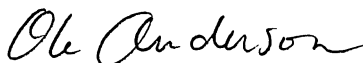
Using a frequent tactic of the research establishment, CURE attempts to paint CCRR as an "extremist animal rights group", presumably one who supports "break-ins, vandalism, and 'liberation' of animals."

In fact, CCRR's goals are moderate and reasonable. We have never, as CURE implies, attempted to "stop" or "gravely threaten" important research. CCRR's proposed ordinance could in no way be "dangerous to medical progress."

Furthermore, this letter falsely claims that CCRR means a true animal advocate to be "someone opposed to animal research." In fact, CCRR's proposed ordinance provides only that each institution's animal care committee have one member "who is nominated by an animal protection organization such as the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals." About this moderate proposal, he says, "there can be no compromise on this issue." In our view, Chairman Nathan appears to be supporting the more extremist and unreasonable view, namely virtually unregulated laboratory activity with little or no independent oversight.

Thank you for this opportunity to set the record straight. We look forward to your continued cooperation and to working together with the City Council in providing a balanced ordinance.

Sincerely,



Ole Anderson  
Executive Director

APR 10 1989  
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK  
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Comm. from Ole Anderson, Dir., Cambridge  
Committee for Responsible Research, Inc. Re:  
response of a group called "CURE" to the re-  
port of the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee on  
Laboratory Animals; said response calling for  
a rejection of proposed reforms.

In City Council,

May 1, 1989

*Referred to hearing  
scheduled for  
June 5, 1989 at 6 PM.*