



# City of Cambridge

8.

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 11, 1993

## COUNCILLOR WOLF

**WHEREAS:** A number of newspaper reports about rabies in animals -- especially raccoons and cats -- has given great concern to residents about the spread of rabies, a very serious disease, in the community; and

**WHEREAS:** An official from the state department of Public Health was quoted as saying that the spread of rabies to domestic animals "serves as a link to possible human exposure...."; now therefore be it

**ORDERED:** That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to gather together health and animal officials to review the situation and to make recommendations to the City Council regarding any action that the City Council should take to strengthen leash laws, establish programs of immunizations, beef up public information efforts, or any other actions that would be appropriate to safeguard residents; and be it further

**ORDERED:** That the City Manager be and hereby is requested to report back to the Council the recommendation forthcoming from the experts.

In City Council January 11, 1993.  
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.  
Attest:- D. Margaret Drury, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:- *D. Margaret Drury*

D. Margaret Drury  
City Clerk

## Fitchburg cat found to have raccoon rabies

FITCHBURG - A strain of raccoon rabies that has worried state officials has spread to a cat, the first domestic animal to be confirmed with the illness in Massachusetts.

The spread of rabies to domestic animals concerns state officials because it "serves as a link to possible human exposure, which needs to be taken seriously," Kate McCormack of the state Department of Public Health said yesterday.

A cat owned by a Fitchburg woman tested positive in the state lab this week for the mid-Atlantic strain of rabies that appeared in West Virginia in 1977 and has spread north and into Massachusetts this year, McCormack said.

The cat was one of two given to a Fitchburg woman by a Lunenburg man two weeks ago, said Fitchburg Board of Health director Jeffrey Jerszyk. The man, whom officials declined to identify, told them the second cat had bitten him.

"The assumption is that it likely had rabies," McCormack said of the second cat, which was being tested yesterday. The Lunenburg man is receiving medication until tests determine if the second cat had rabies, McCormack said.

There have been 16 cases of rabies in raccoons in north Worcester County since September, McCormack said.



NON-CONSENT ORDER #8

CM-17

Councillor Wolf re: Investigation into spread of rabies and actions to safeguard residents.

See S-1993 #41 for rep.

Report received 1/25/93

In City Council,

January 11, 1993

Order adopted

NC