

October 13, 1995

RECEIVED BY
OFFICE OF CITY CLERK
1995 OCT 17 AM 10:57
CAMBRIDGE MA

Dear Mayor Reeves and Members of the Council,

I am writing to you concerning the dog leash law in the city of Cambridge. I am concerned about the vigorous enforcement of the leash law which has resulted in warnings and/or fines for many dog owners who have taken the time and effort to train their dogs to be obedient enough to walk unleashed.

I fully support the need for safety in our communities, but believe that it would best be served by a law that gave the animal control officer the latitude to decide if the dog posed a threat to the public. (Most 18 pound poodles do not, but a 200 pound rottweiler might). As the Boston Globe noted the other day, well over 90% of the dog bites are by unneutered male dogs. I also support the continued banning of dogs from children's playgrounds.

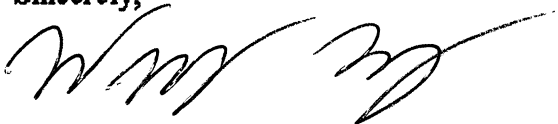
According to the animal control officer, there are approximately 70 dog bites in Cambridge per year, and only a small percentage of those are off of the owners property. As a matter of comparison, dogs are allowed off the leash on Boston Common and despite the sometimes fifty dogs there in an evening, there have been no problems in recent years.

Dog owners help maintain the vitality of our neighborhoods. Dog owners are generally law abiding citizens from many backgrounds who walk the streets and parks of our city on a daily basis. It is unfortunate that for many of us, the laws dictate that rather than going to the neighborhood park with out dog, we are better off staying at home in our private yards--at least those dog owners lucky enough to be able to afford one.

I fully support the vigorous enforcement of feces removal laws, continued licensing of dogs and the banning of them from children's play areas. I would also support continuing the leash law for unneutered male dogs--this would be easy to do since dogs are licensed at different levels according to whether they have been neutered or not.

I would appreciate having this issue brought up at the City Council meeting on October 30th..

Sincerely,



Wyllys Terry

205 Hamilton Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
868-0886

Consent Communication #5

S-324

Communication was received from Wyllys T. Terry, 205 Hamilton Street, transmitting concern regarding the dog leash law in the City of Cambridge.

In City Council October 23, 1995

Placed on file