

CAMBRIDGE COMMITTEE FOR RESPONSIBLE RESEARCH, INC.

P.O. Box 1626

Cambridge, MA 02238

Cambridge City Council

c/o City Clerk Connerton

795 Mass. Ave.

Cambridge MA 02139

## A. SUMMARY OF ISSUES AND CITY COUNCIL OPTIONS

Here is a brief outline of the positions of the Cambridge Committee for Responsible Research (CCRR), the Mayoral Blue Ribbon Committee on Laboratory Animals (BRC), and other concerned parties regarding issues surrounding City regulation of animal experimentation.

**1. Right to Know:** It is generally acknowledged that the people have a right to know the nature and purpose of procedures being conducted. In 1987, the City Council unanimously passed an order asking Cambridge institutions to make public the protocols of all painful experiments and minutes of the Animal Care Committee (ACC) meetings. BRC member Attorney Steven Wise has further proposed a sunshine provision requiring that ACC meetings be open to the public (this is the case at a number of state universities). The Biotechnology Council has requested protection of trade secrets. All proposals now provide such protection.

**2. Animal Advocacy:** The BRC has unanimously recommended that an unaffiliated community member sit on all ACCs to represent community concerns about animal welfare. CCRR would require the member to be nominated by an animal protection organization such as the Massachusetts SPCA. The BRC has split on this issue; an alternative endorsed by institutional BRC member Dr. John Moses would require that the community member be knowledgeable about animal welfare philosophies and that the appointment be subject to City approval. Councillors Wolf and Duehay had proposed empowering the City Manager to make this appointment.

**3. Inspections:** The BRC has unanimously recommended the appointment of a neutral, professional Commissioner of Laboratory Animals to monitor the laboratories and regulate activity. CCRR had proposed that the Cambridge Animal Commission carry out this function but accepts the BRC compromise.

**4. Humane Care:** The BRC has unanimously recommended that standards be uniformly applied to all institutions. It has further recommended that deficiencies found by the BRC (see attached problem sheet) be removed through action by the Commissioner. BRC member Steven Wise's proposal would specify required changes. The alternate would empower the Commissioner to issue regulations to require the needed changes.

**5. Community Standards:** The City Council unanimously passed an order banning the Draize and LD50 tests. CCRR has further proposed prohibiting all non-medical experiments causing severe pain and not using painkillers and anesthesia. All institutions have denied doing this kind of experimentation but CCRR has learned that the Draize test

was conducted in Cambridge at least as late as a few years ago.

**6. Registration and Penalties:** The BRC has unanimously recommended that all institutions be required to register with the Commissioner and that the ordinance specify appropriate penalties. Using the DNA ordinance as a model, as suggested by a number of City Councillors, Attorney Steven Wise has provided that the cost of implementing the ordinance be apportioned to the institutions.

### B. SUMMARY OF PROBLEMS FOUND IN CAMBRIDGE ANIMAL LABS

**1. Primate Care.** The BRC, in pre-announced inspections, found monkeys housed singly in barren cages. Unannounced federal inspections have in the past found monkeys in total darkness. Federal law stipulating that the psychological needs of primates be met is being ignored.

**2. Euthanasia.** In three labs, animals were killed by breaking their necks or by smothering in plastic bags. Neutral BRC member Dr. Stuart Wiles found these methods unacceptable.

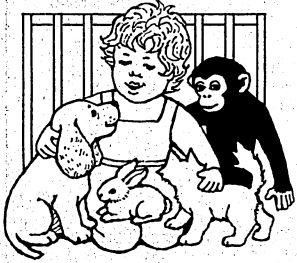
**3. Hygiene.** During its pre-announced inspections, the BRC found labs with insufficient air changes resulting in strong odors. Violations have also been found in most of the past federal inspections. These included: rabbits in need of veterinary attention, cages with sharp, loose wires protruding, cat cages so badly rusted with urine that they were impossible to clean, and a dog cage spattered with bile, vomit and diarrhea.

**4. Veterinary Monitoring.** At one institution, sick animals were found who, according to Veterinarian Stuart Wiles, were in obvious need of euthanasia. These animals were checked only once a day despite the fact that their induced tumors were in advanced stages.

**5. Surveillance.** One facility had no alarm system to alert personnel to abnormal changes in temperature or loss of power. It should be noted that four squirrel monkeys died of heat exhaustion in July 1988 because personnel were unaware of equipment malfunction.

**6. Animal Care Committees.** Attorney Steven Wise found several Animal Care Committees dominated by individuals with conflicts of interest. Veterinarian Stuart Wiles noted a disturbing lack of authority in at least one Animal Care Committee whose Chair said they lacked the power to order euthanasia of an animal in severe pain.

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

May 30, 1989

Cambridge City Council  
c/o Cambridge City Clerk  
795 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Councillors,

Regarding the Ordinance for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, please find enclosed a fact sheet containing the following:

- A. A summary of the issues and relevant options as proposed by all parties concerned.
- B. A summary of deficiencies as found by the Mayoral Blue Ribbon Committee (BRC) or reported in federal inspections.

We believe that consensus is now at hand and that the minor differences in the positions of various parties can be resolved. It should be simple to hammer out an ordinance incorporating agreements made by the BRC and longstanding City Council orders and policy statements. Specifically, we believe that such an ordinance should include the Draize and LD50 ban agreed upon earlier and that it should provide for the public's right to know.

Thank you for your attention as we reach the conclusion of this long, drawn-out process. We look forward to your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

Ole Anderson  
Executive Director

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Comm. from Ole Anderson, Exec. Director, Cambridge Committee for Responsible Research, Inc., enclosing a fact sheet summarizing the issues & options proposed by all parties concerned & the deficiencies as found by the Mayor's Blue Ribbon Committee or reported in federal inspections Re: Care & Use of Laboratory Animals in Cambridge.

In City Council,

June 5, 1989

6-5-89

Referred to the  
Meeting at 6:00 pm  
on 6-5-89