

account of my inability to answer it at an earlier opportunity; but it has been quite impossible for me to keep up my correspondence for weeks past, owing to circumstances over which I had no control.

I was much surprised to receive a letter from you, upon a subject that had been settled long ago, when we first started our Charity.

In the first place we keep our dogs such a short time; that it would be impossible to license them. Many go out the same day they are brought in, and many are sent to the Country on our waiting list, just as fast as we can fill the demand. We have but one dog that stays permanently at the Refuge, and that dog's license is bought and paid for by my daughter. There is not another dog that has been there as long as three months. We consider that we are assisting the City in keeping the streets clear of stray and homeless dogs and cats, and at the same time we ask nothing in return from the City, beyond allowing the dogs to remain a short time in our care. Each person that takes one of our dogs is obliged to sign an agreement and to buy a license (see enclosed agreement); and, moreover, our Society out of its very limited funds gives many licenses to persons who are too poor to buy them.

We cannot see where we are taking any advantage of the City or its laws, but quite the reverse, our Association is not only a very humane Association but it assists the City and saves it expense. These Refuges are allowed to exist in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and many other Cities without molestation.

If you require any further explanation our Counsel, Mr. Edwin J. Farber, will be glad to come before the Police Board.

Believe me,

Yours very truly,

ELLA M. FARBER, President,
Animal Refuge Association.

N.B. I beg to remind the Police Commissioners that we are doing humanitarian work free of charge to the City, which another Society charges more for doing than is paid in any other City, and to such purpose that we can still pick up over 500 dogs from the Streets every year.

The other Society also keeps many dogs without licenses for a long period, where the animals are salable, and disposes of