

**Ellen O'Neill-Stephens (King County Senior Deputy Prosecutor)**

**concerns with KCAC Animal Cruelty Response**

**7/30/07 & 9/24/07**

**From:** Ellen O'Neill-Stephens [<mailto:Ellen.OneillStephens@Seattle.Gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 24, 2007 9:28 AM  
**To:** O'Neill-Stephens, Ellen; Walsen', 'Celeste  
**Subject:** RE: Permission to quote email

Celeste, It would be fine to quote my remarks about evidence gathering. I do want to make it clear though that our office aggressively pursues animal cruelty cases once the offense is referred to our office. However, if an investigation of the offense is not properly conducted or evidence has not been preserved, then it can affect how we are able to prosecute the case. See you in October. Ellen

**From:** Ellen O'Neill-Stephens [<mailto:Ellen.OneillStephens@Seattle.Gov>]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 30, 2007 12:24 PM  
**To:** Gerberding, John  
**Cc:** [cwalsen@notation.com](mailto:cwalsen@notation.com); [dan.satterberg@metrokc.gov](mailto:dan.satterberg@metrokc.gov)  
**Subject:** RE: King County Welfare Ordinance 2007-0284

Hi John,

It appears that the county council wants a system put in place where the animal control officer would work with a specific prosecutor/unit to ensure that animal abusers are tried and sentenced. They also want the animal control officer to receive training in evidence gathering so that we will have more successful prosecutions. In the few animal abuse cases that I did, evidence gathering was often non-existent and we often had to dismiss or reduce charges because of this.

Is our office able to use resources to enhance prosecutions of animal abuse?

There is also a great deal of animal abuse in domestic violence cases. We often don't charge that offense or use it for negotiation purposes because of poor evidence gathering

The report is due in mid-August to allow for budget requests for 2008.

Who should Celeste contact from our office?

Ellen