

File No. 6630 Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

to allow her to keep as many of these dogs as he sees fit.

He further stated that the City has gotten itself into the hole by allowing her to purchase licenses for ten of the dogs, and that there was no written law to compel her to do away with the animals.

He also said, in the event we saw fit to go over his head, direct to the Mayor, he would drop the case altogether and would not have any thing to do with it.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) J. B. Bourne,

2216 McCulloch Street.

File No: 6630.

OPINION.

LAW DEPARTMENT.

Baltimore, August 1st, 1907.

Hon. J. Barry Mahool,
Mayor of the City of Baltimore,

Dear Sir:-

I am in receipt of your letter of the 31st instant, with respect to Mrs. Joy, the real or alleged owner of twenty-three dogs and twelve or fourteen cats, which are naturally a source of concern to her next door neighbor, Mr. J. B. Bourne, #2216 McCulloch Street.

Cats have never been deemed by our local legislature to be of sufficient dignity in the scale of animals to be the subject of restrictive or destructive legislation. Their obnoxious characteristics appear to have been patiently endured as one of the inevitable features of City life. In the present case it would seem that the twelve or fourteen cats harbored in Mrs. Joy's residence could be safely left to the police surveillance of the twenty-three dogs under the same roof. So far as they are concerned, in the absence of more definite information as to their original number, I hazard the suggestion that the grievance will shortly correct itself, unless the dogs are lost to all the usual canine instincts. If, however, the ordure of these cats together with that of the dogs is allowed to accumulate on the premises in such a manner as to constitute a nuisance dangerous to health, the Commissioner of Health would have the power to abate the