

May 2015

The ACO Voice

A Monthly Magazine from Animal Control Training Services

Safety First, Meet the Staff Second



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Longtime ACO Dies in Crash

By Nate Morabito, WJHL

A Johnson City - Washington County, Tennessee Animal Control Officer died on May 4 after police say a truck pulled out in front of his motorcycle. Johnson City police confirmed that 55 year-old Andrew Barnett died following that crash near West Market Street and Lamons Court.

Officers say the wreck occurred around 4:30 P.M. Johnson City police say that's when a Toyota Tacoma pulled out in front of Barnett's motorcycle. At that point, officers say the motorcycle hit the truck in the driver's side door.

Fellow Animal Control Officer Wayne Thomas confirmed Barnett's death. Thomas says Barnett worked for animal control for roughly 12 years.

Johnson City Police Officer David Smith says there was no indication that alcohol, drugs or speed played a factor in the crash. He says he plans on turning the case file over to the District Attorney's Office to determine if the driver of the truck will face a citation for failure to yield or other charges.

In Loving Memory - Andrew Barnett was very passionate about his job, he loved the animals and fought

hard in the courts to protect them. He did this job for 12 years and saved the lives of many animals. Andrew had a funny side that we all enjoyed and will miss. Over his years of service he worked closely with our city and county law enforcement officers on animal-related cases. Local court judges and officers knew him well for his passion in prosecuting animal cruelty cases. His willingness to assist people and animals at any time will be greatly missed. Our animal control center is small, more of a "family" than a work place, this is a big loss for us. Please pray for his family. He had 3 dogs, one cat, a great wife who he loved dearly. We are saddened that he will not be with us when we move into our new animal control center at the end of May, 2015.



The following is a poem one of my employees wrote the day after his passing.

Debbie Dobbs, Director

Washington County - Johnson City (TN) Animal Shelter

BASE TO ANDREW

*The news of Andrew was sad,
This couldn't be right.
But God knew for Andrew,
No more animal cruelty fights.*

*Good job you have done,
So many animals you have saved,
But God said Andrew; I need you this day.*

*So, Base to Andrew,
Even tho you are gone,
Our promise to you:
The fight for animals will go on.*

*So for each dog we will save,
Each cat that gets a home,*

*Each cruelty case we go on,
We know you'll be watching, we won't be alone.*

*So, Base to Andrew
We'll think of you each and every day,
And your spirit will be with us along the way.*

*We lost a friend, and it doesn't seem right,
The animals lost a voice that helped their lives have light.*

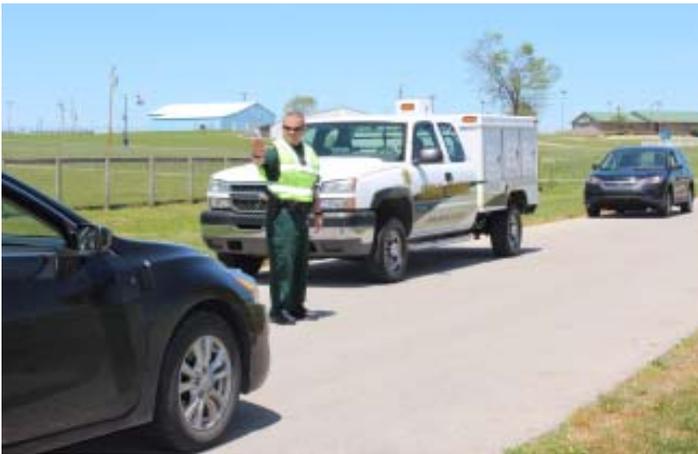
*So, Base to Andrew
The last call we have for you
We miss you our friend
And all the animals do too.*

*Rest in Peace My Friend
Portia Ferguson, May 2015*

Safety First, Meet the Staff Second

By Jeffrey Clemens, ACTS

Specific occupational safety and health risk factors vary depending on the specific sector and industry. Construction workers might be particularly at risk of falls, for instance, whereas fishermen might be particularly at risk of drowning. The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics identifies the fishing, aviation, lumber, metalworking, agriculture, mining, and transportation industries as among some of the more dangerous for workers. But what about the position of an



Animal Control Officer? ACO's are presented with a wide range of situations that can be potentially harmful or fatal. ACO's are exposed to many hazards that can adversely affect their health and well-being. In addition to the aggressive behavior from humans and animals, long hours, standby and changing shifts, physically demanding tasks, violence, and exposures to infectious diseases and harmful chemicals are examples of hazards that put ACO's at risk for illness and injury. Highways, roads and public streets present some of the most dangerous work environments for an ACO. Whether it is in response to a leash law call, loose livestock, or injured domestic animals or wildlife, these types of calls place the individual at extreme risk. Employee safety is a shared responsibility between the employee and the employer. Employees need not put themselves in situations that compromise their safety by not using common sense. However, the same applies to the employer. To familiarize oneself regarding employee safety laws, the best place to start is with the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR Title 29, Labor).

Individual states are also governed by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). California's labor

Code 6401, for example, requires employers to "furnish and use safety devices and safeguards." Because the term "safety device" includes "any practicable method of mitigating or preventing" danger, this covers protective footwear, gloves, etc. California's Labor Code 6403 also requires employers to "provide and use safety devices and safeguards reasonably adequate to render the employment and place of employment safe."

This month, ACTS would like to recognize the effort put forth on behalf of Mike Cassidy, the Director of Jessamine County Public Services and Animal Care and Control in Nicholasville, Kentucky. The Jessamine County Animal Care and Control's mission is to provide services which safeguard the public health and safety, to humanely house and care for animals in its charge, to protect the animals of the community from neglect, and to provide its citizens with information concerning responsible ownership. In addition, employee safety is also a priority. Mike provided safety jackets and vests for the ACO's while working in conditions that require high visibility to keep the employees safe. Thank you, Mike! We hope that other departments will follow your lead. Now, let's meet the Jessamine County ACO staff!

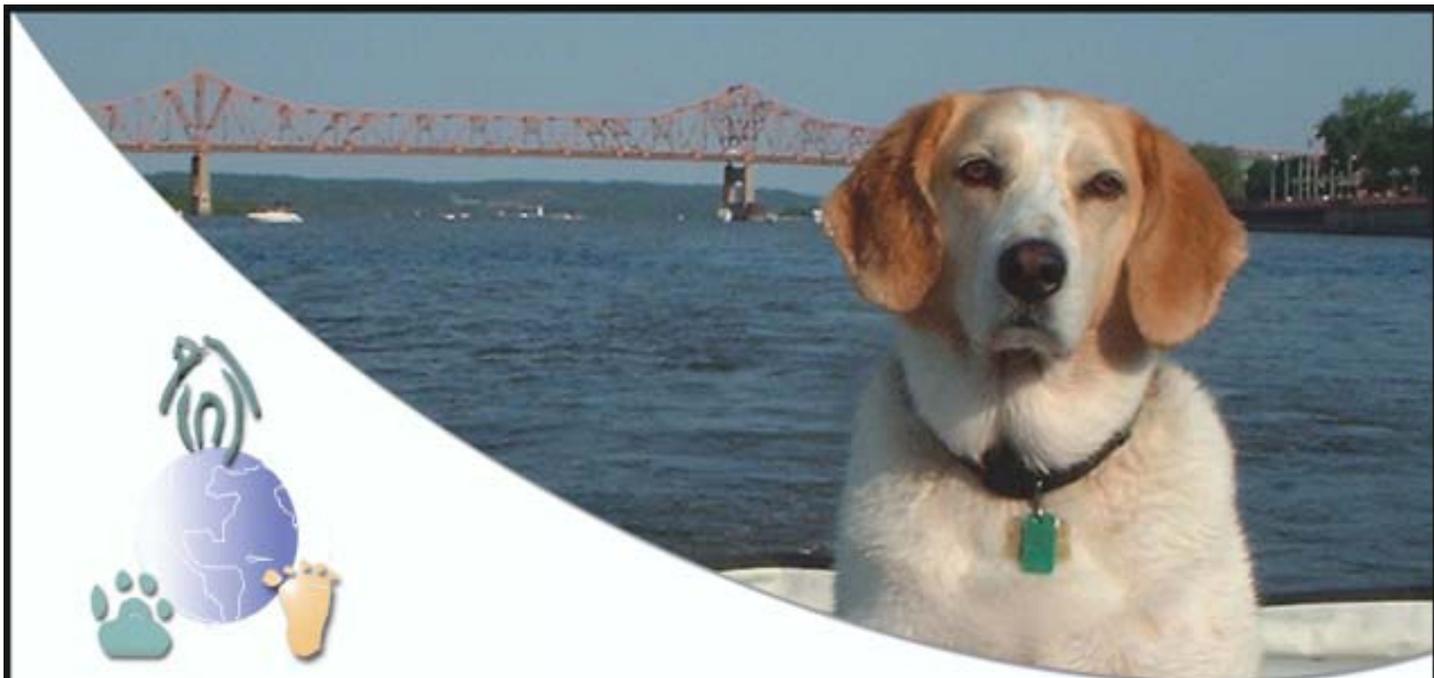
Mike Cassidy, Director

Mike oversees the operations of Jessamine County Environmental Services and Jessamine County Animal Care and Control. He began his career with the Fiscal Court in January of 2000 as an Animal Control Officer. Mike is a nationally certified ACO. He was previously elected as Vice President for two terms, and the President for one term, for



the Kentucky Animal Care and Control Association and is still an active member. Recently he was appointed by Governor Beshear to serve a four year term on the Kentucky Animal Control Advisory Board. Mike has also been a member of the Jessamine County Fire District for thirteen years. He is a lifelong resident of Jessamine County and has been married to his wife for 10 years and they have two children and two dogs.

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Frank Ruggiero, Deputy Director

Frank began his employment with the Fiscal Court in November of 2008 as an Animal Control Officer. As the Deputy Director, he oversees the day-to-day operations of the Animal Shelter. Frank was instrumental in creating Jessamine County's Animal Disaster Response Team. He worked hand-in-hand with



Emergency Management to write Jessamine County's disaster response plan for animals. He is a nationally certified ACO. Frank is originally from Manhasset, Long Island, New York. He began travelling to Kentucky in 1973 when he was transporting race horses for a living and he fell in love with the area. In 1991 he and his family moved to Jessamine County and they have lived there ever since. Frank has four children and four grandchildren.

Sherman Jett, Animal Control Supervisor

Sherman began his employment with the Fiscal Court in December of 2002 as an Animal Control Officer. As the Animal Control Supervisor, he oversees the day-to-day operations of the Animal Control Officers. Sherman has been happily married to his wife for 10 years and they reside in Jessamine County with their dog, Lucky. He has also been a member of the Jessamine County Fire District



for sixteen years. In his free time he enjoys fishing, hiking and vacations to Gatlinburg.

Kacy Carter, Animal Control Officer

Kacy began her career with the Fiscal Court in December of 2012 as an Animal Control Officer. As an Animal Control Officer, she is responsible for the law enforcement duties of the department. She is a nationally certified ACO. Kacy lives in Jessamine County with her husband and her son. She loves animals and has 2 dogs, 2 cats and three goats that are all part of her family.



Taylor Bourne, Animal Control Officer

Taylor began his career with the Fiscal Court in October of 2011 as an Animal Control Officer. As an Animal Control Officer, he is responsible for the law enforcement duties of the department. Taylor is also a very skilled carpenter and he handles all maintenance issues at the shelter. For his most recent project, he remodeled one of the offices into our new cat colony room. He is a nationally certified ACO. He is a lifelong resident of Jessamine County and is married with three children.



For further information about Jessamine County Animal Care and Control, contact:

Mike Cassidy, Director

Jessamine County Animal Care and Control

120 Fairground Way

Nicholasville, Kentucky 40356

Phone: (859) 885-4836 and (859) 881-0821

E-mail: mcassidy@jessamineco.com

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ACO Line of Duty Deaths

By Jeff Christner

The following list of Animal Control Officer (ACO) and other Animal Control related Line of Duty Deaths (LODD) in the United States is something I've been compiling and researching since 2002. Please be sure to visit my website, located at: <http://www.acolodd.com/>

March 1886, Newark, NJ - Poundkeeper dies of hydrophobia, was bitten on the hand in January, however, the autopsy was not 100% conclusive as to the cause.

January 1888, Albuquerque, NM - Dog Catcher dies of rabies, however, a coroner's inquest disagreed.

December 1888, St. Louis, MO - Police Officer dies of rabies, was originally bitten in September.

February 1894, Sumter County, AL - Deputy shot and killed by a 14 year old boy while impounding a cow, the boy was hung and shot by a mob of citizens shortly after the shooting.

October 1897, Atlantic City, NJ - Poundkeeper dies of hydrophobia, was confined in the city jail.

November 1900, Oakland, CA - Poundmaster dies in hospital days after being shot in the hip during an altercation.

April 1906, Sandusky, OH - Police Officer dies of rabies after being bitten by stray dog he captured and brought to the station.

September 1906, Cincinnati, OH - Dog Catcher dies of rabies, was bitten on hand by stray dog months earlier.

September 1907, Harrisburg, PA - Patrolman dies in hospital three days after being knocked down by a loose cow.

September 1908, Wildwood, FL - Constable shot and killed during a dispute over a local Doctor's dog, the Doctor was arrested, but not charged.

June 1909, Memphis, TN - Humane Officer shot and killed by foreman at a construction site while investigating overworked animals.

December 1909, Guthrie, OK - Dog Catcher accidentally shot and killed when his revolver discharged.

July 1911, Butler, PA - Dog Catcher beaten to death with a baseball bat after impounding a dog.

January 1913, Bluefield, WV - Police Officer shot and killed by the owner of a cow after it was rounded up and taken to the pound.

October 1913, Washington, D.C. - Police Officer dies as a result of experimental rabies treatment after being bitten trying to shoot a stray dog.

January 1915, Indianapolis, IN - Patrolman

accidentally shot and killed by his partner while they were dealing with a vicious dog.

January 1916, Wood River, IL - Police Officer dies of rabies after being bitten while trying to shoot a stray dog.

December 1916, New Castle, PA - Dog Catcher dies of hydrophobia, was locked up in jail cell awaiting transport to hospital.

June 1917, Hamilton, OH - Dog Catcher shot and killed trying to impound three dogs that bit a person.

July 1922, Outside of Houston, TX - Dog Catcher shot and killed by 14 year old boy during a dispute over a dog.

December 1922, Quincy, MA - Patrolman dies of rabies after being bitten while shooting and killing a stray dog that was about to attack a child.

March 1923, Chicago, IL - Police Officer dies of rabies one month after being bitten by a stray dog.

April 1926, Columbus, OH - Dog Catcher accidentally shot and killed when his revolver fell to the ground and discharged.

March 1927, New York City, NY - Patrolman dies of rabies after being bitten by an injured stray dog he tried to help two months earlier.

September 1927, Miami, FL - Police Officer accidentally shot and killed while taking his friend's gun away after the friend missed when trying to shoot his sick dog.

April 1928, Fayette County, GA - Dog Catcher dies of hydrophobia, captured a stray dog and was bitten on the hand.

April 1936, Gainesville, FL - Police Officer dies of rabies after being bitten rounding up unlicensed dogs.

December 1937, Gaffney, SC - Police Officer shot and killed after a fight that started over a dispute about a dog at a local cafe, other Police Officers shot and killed the suspect.

January 1939, New Brunswick, NJ - Dog Catcher dies of rabies in the hospital, was originally bitten in November.

October 1944, Wheaton, IL - Poundmaster dies in hospital several days after his vehicle left the road and crashed into a tree near the dog pound.

October 1944, Titusville, PA - Dog Catcher accidentally shot and killed by stray round fired by a policeman trying to shoot an aggressive dog.

May 1946, St. Paul, MN - Dog Catcher dies after

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being struck in the head by a board after impounding a dog.

July 1947, Kirksville, MO - Dog Catcher accidentally shot and killed by his own shotgun while removing it from his truck.

January 1948, Everett, WA - Poundmaster dies after being exposed to cyanide gas while preparing to euthanize dogs.

January 1957, Trumbull, CT - ACO struck and killed by a passing vehicle while tending to an injured dog.

December 1959, Delaware County, IN - Patrolman dies in motor vehicle accident responding to a call where a child had been bitten by a dog.

November 1960, Tulsa, OK - Police Officer dies six months after being shot at the city animal shelter after a dispute over a dog.

January 1964, Winona, MN - Dog Catcher dies in motor vehicle accident while responding to a call, was hit head-on by another vehicle.

February 1968, Lodi, CA - Poundmaster dies from a medical condition, unsure if work related or not.

July 1972, Los Angeles, CA - Highway Patrolman dies after being struck by a ricocheted round fired by a Sheriff's Deputy attempting to euthanize an injured horse.

August 1972, Welch, WV - Dog Warden shot and killed after his weapon was taken away from him while serving a warrant.

August 1978, Pasco County, FL - ACO dies in motor vehicle accident, had only been on the job a year.

August, 1980, Lexington, KY - ACO struck by a car while tending to an injured dog and dies the next day, the dog also died.

September 1985, Rapid City, SD - Patrolman struck and killed by a vehicle while removing a dead dog from the road.

February 1986, Denison, TX - ACO and a Police Officer were shot by an escaping prisoner in the police department parking garage in January, ACO later died from his wounds.

November 1987, Outside of Chicago, IL - Off duty ACO struck and killed by a vehicle while tending to an injured dog.

August 1988, Indianapolis, IN - Patrolman dies nine days after being shot in the back while on a complaint about suspect's dog running loose.

October 1988, Sioux City, IA - ACO struck and killed by a passing vehicle while removing a dead animal from the highway.

May 1990, McConnellsburg, PA - Three firefighters die from the exhaust of a portable gas powered pump during

the removal of a dead animal from a well.

November 1990, Homer, NE - Firefighter dies during cat rescue, was shocked by electrical lines then fell sustaining fatal injuries.

May 1992, Scottsdale, AZ - ACO collapses at work from an unknown medical condition, dies a few days later.

February 1993, Nassau Village, FL - Firefighter dies of a heart attack after rescuing an animal from a cliff.

July 1993, Irving, TX - Police Officer struck and killed by a drunk driver while setting out flares around a dead cow in the road.

August 1993, San Mateo, CA - Humane Officer dies of heart aneurysm while on duty.

December 1993, Oakland, CA - Police Officer and two others killed in a shoot-out while trying to impound a dog.

August 1996, Addison, VT - Firefighter suffers heart attack after his barn catches fire, he evacuated his horses then collapsed and died after the first engine arrived on scene.

August 1999, Prairie Village, KS - ACO falls out of tree and dies during parrot rescue.

October 1999, Gulfport, MS - ACO dies of cancer and was given burial w/full honors, unsure if cancer was work related.

March 2000, Chattanooga, TN - ACO dies after being exposed to carbon monoxide in euthanasia room.

July 2000, Crandon, WI - Police Officer shot and killed responding to a neighborhood dispute over a dog.

March 2001, Biloxi, MS - ACO struck and killed by a train while chasing a dog.

August, 2001, Pierce City, MO - Police Officer accidentally shot and killed removing his shotgun from its case while on a call for a loose dog.

July 2002, Hazel Park, MI - Police Officer shot and killed while on a call for a loose dog, she was able to shoot suspect before dying (First LODD after I became an ACO and her death became the impetus for my research ~ Jeff Christner).

November, 2002, Wayne County, NC - Sheriff's Deputy dies after being struck by a vehicle while moving an injured deer he had dispatched out of the road.

July 2004, San Jose, CA - 12 year old boy dies after the vehicle he was in was struck by a drunk driver, his parents had pulled over to try to capture a loose dog on the highway.

March 2005, Portland, ME - ACO dies of heart attack after catching a dog he chased for three hours.

July 2005, Philadelphia, PA - Shelter worker killed in traffic accident after dropping off animals at an event, other vehicle went over center divide and crashed head-on into

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the animal control truck she was driving.

January 2006, Foster, CA - Director of nonprofit animal rescue group and the two dogs she was transporting are killed when their vehicle is struck head-on by a tractor trailer.

January 2006, Alton, IL - ACO collapses and dies from a medical condition shortly after arriving for work.

June 2006, Seattle, WA - ACO has heart attack and dies while on duty.

November 2006, Outside of Philadelphia, PA - Police Officer struck and killed by a vehicle while moving a dead deer out of the road.

June 2007, Bellmead, TX - ACO shot in the back and killed while at the shelter, suspects thought ACO saw them looking at an ammonia tank they wanted to steal.

February 2009, South Boston, VA - ACO killed when his vehicle left the road and struck a tree.

August 2009, Greene County, VA - Sheriff's Investigator, who was a former ACO, killed in a motor vehicle accident (Included here since he is on the ACO Memorial Wall ~ Jeff Christner).

October 2009, Plainfield, CT - ACO dies after being hospitalized since late September when she fell or was knocked to the ground while dealing with an aggressive dog.

October 2009, Chicago, IL - ACO dies from a prior medical condition while dealing with a stray cat.

June 2010, Harris County, TX - Sheriff's Deputy drowns trying to save a dog in a canal.

December 2010, Durham County, NC - ACO fell off truck in April and was badly injured, upon arrival at hospital was found to have stage four cancer from which he later died.

January 2011, Clark County, OH - Sheriff's Deputy shot and killed while responding to a neighborhood dispute that started out over dog defecation, suspect later killed in a shoot-out with other responders.

March 2011, Bullard, TX - Sheriff's Deputy dies in hospital four days after being attacked by a loose cow.

August 2011, Cedar Bluff, AL - ACO dies from a medical condition while loading a dog into his vehicle.

May 2012, Gainesville, FL - Shelter worker killed in motor vehicle accident in front of the shelter after returning

from a county meeting.

November 2012, Galt, CA - ACO Roy Marcum (see photo) shot and killed after going to a house to remove animals the day after an eviction notice was posted.

January 2014, Lancaster, NY - ACO found deceased at his desk after driving to the shelter to check on the animals during a blizzard.

January 2014, Hardeman County, TN - ACO killed when his vehicle left the road and overturned while on the way to a call.

April 2015, Swansea, IL - Wildlife rescuer struck and killed by a commuter train while trying to save an injured opossum near some elevated train tracks.

I know this list is incomplete. There are additional Animal Control related LODD that people have been too upset to talk about or share with me, however, the only way

to make Animal Control work safer in the long run, is to share this information. I have heard of Animal Control agencies run by managers who have never been in the field and don't think what their Animal Control Officers do is dangerous. I feel the only way to improve working conditions for all Animal Control Officers is to share this type of information. So if you know of any other Animal Control related LODD, please email me the

information for possible inclusion on my website.

I found many animal related deaths where people died trying to save an animal, for example going into the ocean to save a drowning dog or someone who ran into a burning building to save their cats. I have not included these types of incidents since they are not considered normal Animal Control duties. Note: As of October of 2013 after months of ongoing research, due to the large amount of citizens I found that were killed helping animals, I have elected to only include those that were unusual in nature on my website.

Note from ACTS: Special thanks to Jeff Christner for allowing ACTS to reprint the list of on duty deaths. If you have any additional information related to ACO LODD's, please email Jeff at acolodd@gmail.com. Also, please be sure to visit Jeff's website, located at: <http://www.acolodd.com/>



ACTS Training Schedule

For a registration form, visit www.aco-acts.com or call 913-515-0080

Training Course for Animal Control Professionals

May 6-8, 2015 - LaGrange, Georgia

Schedule of Training: Field Training Officer Certification; Illegal Animal Fighting

Animal Control Protective Equipment Certification

May 11-14, 2015 - North Kansas City, Missouri

Schedule of Training: Baton/Bitestick Certification; Pepper Spray Certification; Handcuffs - Arrest and Control Certification; Taser Certification; Chemical Immobilization Certification

Officer Safety for Animal Control Professionals

May 18-19, 2015 - Marion, Illinois

Schedule of Training: Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Pepper Spray Certification; Baton/Bitestick Certification

Officer Safety and Investigations for Animal Control Professionals

June 1-5, 2015 - Valley View, Ohio

Schedule of Training: Basic ACO Investigations; Citations, Dangerous and Vicious Declarations; Tactical/Interpersonal Communications; Baton/Bitestick Certification; Pepper Spray Certification; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment; Chemical Immobilization Certification

Prairie States 2015 Animal Welfare Conference

June 9, 2015 - Bloomington, Illinois

Presented by ACTS: Interview and Investigation Techniques

Officer Safety for Animal Control Professionals

June 15-17, 2015 - Shelbyville, Tennessee

Schedule of Training: Baton/Bitestick Certification; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Pepper Spray Certification; ACO Firearms Training/Field Euthanasia

Animal Control Protective Equipment Training

June 18, 2015 - Westminster, California

Schedule of Training: Baton/Bitestick Certification

Officer Safety and Investigations for Animal Control Professionals

June 22-25 2015 - Valley View, Ohio

Schedule of Training: Basic ACO Investigations; Citations, Dangerous and Vicious Declarations; Tactical/Interpersonal Communications; Chemical Immobilization Certification; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment; Understanding the ADA & Service Animals for ACO's

ACTS Training Schedule

For a registration form, visit www.aco-acts.com or call 913-515-0080

Training Course for Animal Control Professionals

July 8-9, 2015 - Puunene, Hawaii

Schedule of Training: Officer Safety/Self Defense; Safe Animal Handling - Capture/Restraint Equipment; Basic ACO Investigations; Field Reports and Evidence Collection; Identification of Injuries - Emergency Care for Animals

Field Training Officer Certification for Animal Control Professionals

July 15-16, 2015 - North Kansas City, Missouri

Schedule of Training: Field Training Officer Certification

Officer Safety for Animal Control Professionals

July 30-31, 2015 - Wausau, Wisconsin

Schedule of Training: Tactical/Interpersonal Communication; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs

Animal Control Protective Equipment Certification

August 13-14, 2015 - Yreka, California

Schedule of Training: Taser Certification; Pepper Spray Certification

Officer Safety for Animal Control Professionals

August 17-21, 2015 - Turlock, California

Schedule of Training: Tactical Communication; Officer Safety and Self Defense; Baton/Bitestick Certification; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Pepper Spray Certification; Chemical Immobilization Certification

Officer Safety for Animal Control Professionals

September 14-17, 2015 - North Kansas City, Missouri

Schedule of Training: Tactical/Interpersonal Communication; Officer Safety and Self Defense; Pepper Spray Certification; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Baton/Bitestick Certification

Officer Safety for Animal Control Professionals

September 21-22, 2015 - Beloit, Wisconsin

Schedule of Training: Tactical/Interpersonal Communication; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs

Training Course for Animal Control Professionals

October 12-15, 2015 - Battle Mountain, Nevada

Schedule of Training: Evidence Law and Collection; Animals as Evidence; Investigative Techniques for Cruelty and Neglect Complaints; Chemical Immobilization Certification; Citations, Dangerous and Vicious Declarations; Courtroom Preparation and Testimony

Animal Control Officer Specialized Training Course

November 2-4, 2015 - North Kansas City, Missouri

Schedule of Training: Multiculturalism in Animal Control; Citations, Dangerous and Vicious Declarations; Interview and Investigation Techniques; Investigative Techniques for Cruelty and Neglect Complaints