

October 2016

The ACO Voice

A Monthly Magazine from Animal Control Training Services
The Only National Monthly Magazine Dedicated to Animal Control

The SPCA for Monterey County



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What Makes an Effective Ordinance?

By Lauren Malmberg

Part Three of a Three-Part Series

Animal control has progressed far beyond the mere “dogcatcher,” and our ordinances must reflect those changes to better serve the public and protect the animals. In this third part of our discussion, we’ll take a look at innovative and creative ways to deal with animal hoarders, repeat offenders, irresponsible dog owners, and even urban farming.

Multiple Pets

One tool to use in dealing with animal hoarders is to limit the number of animals a pet owner may keep without a specific license. If you craft an ordinance that requires a license, and establishes the authorization to impound animals found in violation, you don’t have to prove cruelty to rescue animals from a hoarder’s home. You must only show that they do not have the proper license. Furthermore, your language can prohibit the hoarder from reclaiming the animals, transferring ownership to your organization and allowing for the disposition of the animals sooner. You can also provide for a stiff financial penalty.

Nuisance or Reckless Pet Owner

Designating a pet owner as “nuisance” or “reckless” gives even more means to address repeat offenders. Define owners (in one of these categories) as those who violate the animal control laws more than 3 times in 12 months or 24 months; you can then prohibit their ownership of dogs or pets in general within your community for a prescribed time period. For example, if a pet owner violates the ordinance three times within a year, they can be deemed a “reckless dog owner.” As such, they must forfeit the privilege of owning a dog within your jurisdiction for up to 36 months. You can require that they release their animals to your organization for placement, but you must provide an appeal process for this type of designation.

Barn Cat Caretaker – Feral Cat

Some ordinances allow for feral cat or community cat colonies within their jurisdiction. If your community supports that, ensure that local law requires the cats be sterilized, vaccinated against rabies at least once, and microchipped. Ensure that any group sponsoring or caretaking a colony be responsible for monitoring the cats, providing sustenance, removing new litters, sterilizing newcomers, and removing sick or injured cats.

Another option to alleviate the pressure placed on rural residents who have barn cats is to provide for a barn cat caretaker license. Under this license, an owner may have as many outdoor cats as they can provide for as long as each one is sterilized and vaccinated at least once for rabies. By purchasing an annual license for a nominal fee (\$10), the outdoor cats are exempt from registration requirements and running at large prohibitions.

Adoptions or Transfers

To protect the animals and people of your community, local ordinance should set parameters for adoptions or transfers from your facility. It should be required that all animals leaving be sterilized, vaccinated and registered and microchipped with the adoption fees spelled out in the law. Include language in this section that only animals determined acceptable for adoption by the Director or Administrator will be made available for adoption or transfer. And require that transfer organizations be licensed by your state and other locales if necessary.

Furthermore, you may want to include language that address rescue groups and transferring organizations to assign responsibility in the event an animal being transferred is found running at large or bites/attacks someone.

Other Considerations

Dependent upon the needs of your community, you may want to consider other additions to your animal control ordinance.

Some communities license boarding kennels, groomers, doggie daycares, shelters, breeders and pet shops. Although many states already regulate these businesses, requiring local licenses can be a source of revenue for your agency and allow for easier investigation and prosecution of complaints.

Some ordinances require citizens who find a lost animal to notify animal control and produce the animal for scanning to determine ownership. The animal can then remain with the finder rather than be impounded to the animal shelter.

Depending upon state laws, some cities and counties prohibit wild animals as pets or in private ownership. Wild animals held in private homes present a significant threat to the health and safety of the community. Include in any prohibition of wild animals the authority to impound such animal if found.

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Another emerging issue for animal control is urban farming ordinances that allow chickens, ducks, honey bees, etc. Again, your community should set the tone for any ordinance you pursue – prohibiting farm animals within municipal limits or allowing certain species in cities and villages with particular restrictions.

Revising and updating an animal control ordinance can be a daunting task; however, proactive and effective local laws provide a higher level of public safety and animal protection. Don't try to reinvent the wheel; check out other ordinances in your state and around the country. Use your colleagues and other resources to find language to adapt to your own needs (remember the Municipal Code Library at www.municode.com).



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(Please don't try this at home...)



The SPCA for Monterey County

By Stacie McGrady, Monterey, California

The SPCA for Monterey County was excited to host instructor Jeff Clemens of ACTS for a week of focused and fun training for Humane Investigators and Animal Control Officers, September 26-30, 2016. California was well-represented, with officers from as far north as Yuba County and as far south as El Segundo traveling to the beautiful Monterey Bay for this very popular training event.

The SPCA for Monterey County was established in 1905 in Pacific Grove and had a humble existence for our first few decades. In 1967, we received a substantial land grant, allowing for the construction of our shelter located on Highway 68 in Salinas, across from Mazda Raceway Laguna Seca. In 2011, we completed a significant remodel of our entire campus, which transformed our adopters' experience and greatly improved our ability to care for animals.

The SPCA's Humane Investigations Division is supervised by Captain Stacie McGrady. Stacie began her

career in animal welfare in 1987, when she worked at the SPCA as a "kennel attendant." In November of 1987, Stacie was hired by the Monterey County Sheriff's Department, where she served an exciting 20-year career. She retired as a Detective Sergeant, supervising the Coroner's Division. Prior assignments included team leader in the Hostage/Crisis Negotiator Team, Mounted SAR Unit, Detective, Patrol Sergeant and Field Training Officer Coordinator. This law enforcement career has brought a significant shift to the goals, tactics and daily operations of the Humane Investigations Division. In addition to her current position at the SPCA, Stacie also works as a permanent part-time mounted patrol officer at California Expo and State Fair Police in Sacramento. In her spare time she rides and shows horses, currently competing in Extreme Cowboy Races.

Humane Officers at the SPCA for Monterey County

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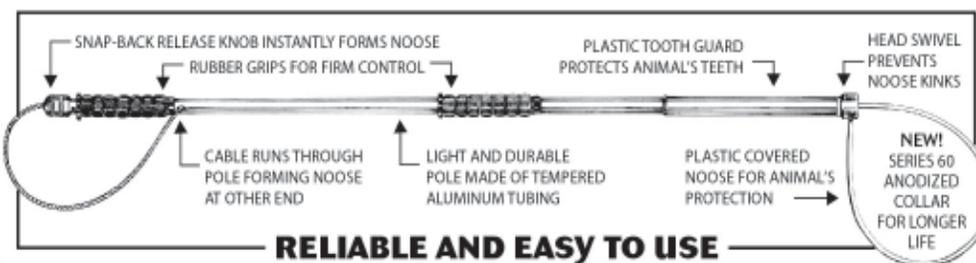
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organization. Cross-training and collaboration with our peer organizations have improved working relationships and overall animal welfare throughout Monterey County. We are excited to continue these positive efforts as we learn and grow in our chosen careers, dedicated to the care of animals and enforcement of local and state laws, the Constitution of the State of California, and the Constitution of the United States of America.

Hosting ACTS Training

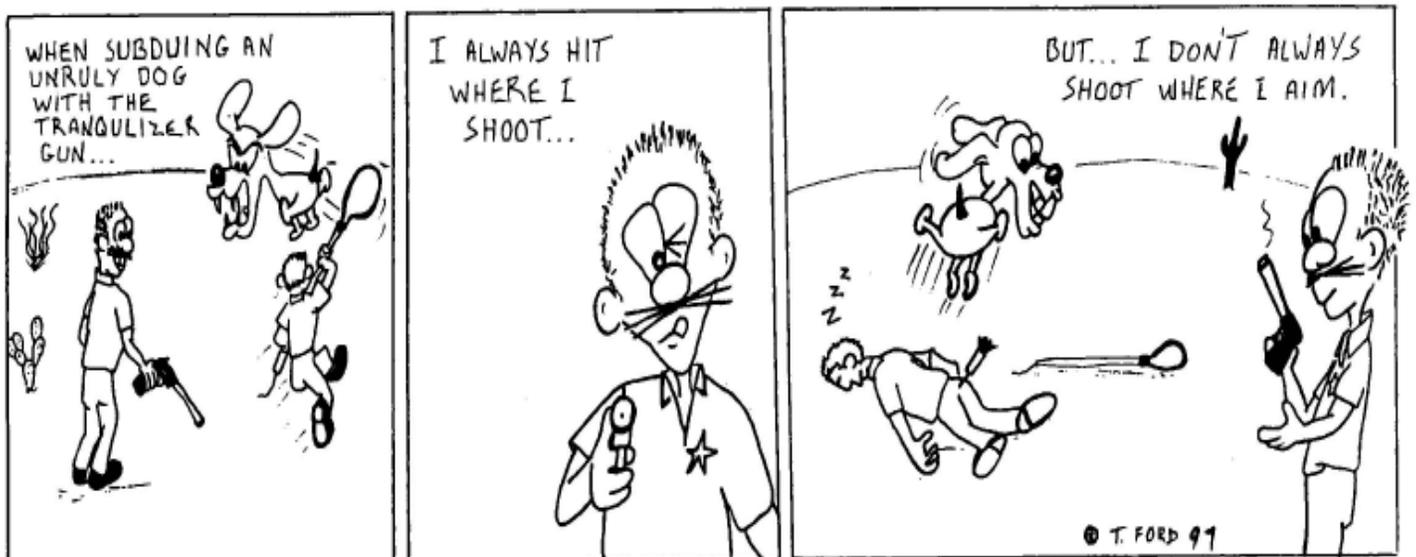
Want to host an ACTS training program? ACTS would be honored to offer training for your agency and area agencies. We can tailor the training to your local needs. If you haven't already done so, review our training catalog for a list of training topics. Visit www.aco-acts.com

and click on the "training" tab. respond to cruelty and neglect cases throughout the county. We work collaboratively with our local agencies: Monterey County Animal Services; Salinas Animal Control; Animal Control Officers with Seaside, Pacific Grove, Soledad, Greenfield, Gonzales and King City. Through these collaborative efforts, we share information, track defendant's contact history, and support our peers' efforts. Stacie and her team (three full-time investigators when fully staffed) investigate approximately 900 cases annually, write and serve search warrants, and regularly submit criminal cases to the District Attorney's Office. Last year, we collected nearly \$40,000 in restitution. High standards and training, especially standardized training recognized by the California Peace Officer Standards and Trainings (POST), has resulted in increased professionalism and reduced liability for our entire

organization. Cross-training and collaboration with our peer organizations have improved working relationships and overall animal welfare throughout Monterey County. We are excited to continue these positive efforts as we learn and grow in our chosen careers, dedicated to the care of animals and enforcement of local and state laws, the Constitution of the State of California, and the Constitution of the United States of America.

You can "build" a program based upon what you feel your group would most benefit from. Pick and choose the topics and the number of days for training. We are flexible in our offerings. As the hosting agency, your agency would receive 2 complimentary registrations for every 10 paid. ACTS can also promote the training to area agencies and provide registration forms. All we require from the hosting agency is a meeting room that has an LCD projector and a screen, along with speakers for sound. The meeting room should accommodate at least 20 students. There is no cost to the agency to host training, unless you choose to register your own employees for the training, outside of any comps that you might receive. ACTS welcomes the opportunity to assist with your training needs. Let us know how we can help.

W. CANIS LATRANS - WILD WEST DOG COP



Jeff's Corner

By Jeffrey Clemens, ACTS

Recipe for Disaster

A set of keys, a catch pole and a pair of leather gloves! In many cases, this is all that an ACO is provided in order to perform their work duties and to stay safe! Unfortunately, it is also a recipe for disaster. In this day and age it is amazing how many Animal Control departments do not provide their employees with the proper equipment to successfully do their job. In addition to the lack of personal protective equipment, there is also a lack of training provided to the ACO as well. These two components go hand in hand, in other words, you can't have one without the other. By themselves, they are both inadequate.

I recently met an ACO from Georgia and in her case, this was exactly the position she found herself in. While she was responding to an all-too-common leash law complaint, she was attacked by a pit bull. She contacted the animal owner and was explaining the nature of the complaint, and without warning, the dog aggressively attacked. The dog lunged forward, jumping up on her and biting her in the face! The bite resulted in a severe injury (a wound resulting in multiple sutures, muscle tears, lacerations or requiring cosmetic or reconstructive surgery). In her case it met every definition - her nose was literally severed from her face. What is most troubling about injuries and accidents sustained by ACO's are that they are predictable which in most cases, makes them preventable! It's hard to believe that ANY agency dealing with public safety would ever allow an employee to be subject to needless safety considerations.

In an effort to promote safety, there are laws on the books that protect employees from hazardous and dangerous situations. It should be the responsibility of the ACO and the agency to be familiar with these laws. California, for example, has a law under section 6401 of the labor code which states: "Every employer shall furnish and use safety devices and safeguards, and shall adopt and use practices, means, methods, operations, and processes which are reasonably adequate to render such employment and place of employment safe and healthful. Every employer shall do every other thing reasonably necessary to protect the life, safety, and health of employees." Notice that the word "shall" is used three times - this is a mandate, not a suggestion. Our goal at ACTS has always been to promote the safety and well being of ACO's and related personnel in the animal control industry. Never sacrifice your safety or the safety of the public due to the lack of training and equipment. It's not worth it!

Seasons Change - And so does A/C Activity!

September 22nd marks the first day of fall, followed by winter on December 21st/22nd. As fall and winter approach, they bring about all types of changes. As the days shorten and the temperatures begin to cool, the leaves turn color and begin falling to the ground. The dry summer gives way to cloudy skies and the start of the rainy season. Just as much as there is a natural change in the seasons, there is also a change in animal activity. This change presents different challenges for the ACO. Agencies that deal with wildlife issues find themselves responding to more calls regarding sick and injured wildlife. As deer get closer to the rutting season, they begin to migrate more and are vulnerable to being hit by cars. Fur-bearing mammals are more susceptible to disease, sickness and starvation. When the animals come to the attention of the general public, nine times out of ten, the local animal control department is called upon for service.

For the ACO's that work in the unincorporated areas of a county, especially agricultural settings, you can almost set your clock to the time of year when dogs begin to attack livestock. There is a biological reason, as well as a man-made component, for this activity. The hot, dog days of summer are replaced by cooler mornings and evenings which allow dogs to run at large without being affected by hotter temperatures. With the onset of rain, fresh, new smells stimulate the dogs olfactory senses. Add to it the man-made component of allowing the dogs to run at large and it spells disaster. Many dog owners no longer exercise their animals as they leave for work in the early morning hours and return home well after dark. Instead of taking the dog out for a walk, it may simply be "let out" to go to the bathroom. Once outside and out of the control of the owner, the dog will quickly begin to function in accordance with its behavior drives. The dog is overwhelmed by stimulus and can't help itself.

The average dog owner is completely unaware of the behavior and activity of their animal when it is not at home and running at large. When confronted with the information that their dog attacked or killed livestock, it is difficult for them to imagine. They are used to seeing their dog in a controlled/family environment. One thing for sure is that there is always something new each day for the ACO!

ACTS Training Schedule

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

Training Program for Animal Control Professionals - Hosted by the Ozark Police Department

October 6-7, 2016 - Ozark, Alabama

Schedule of Training: Basic Animal Control Officer Investigations; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment

Animal Control Protective Equipment Certification - Hosted by the Montgomery County ARC

October 17-20, 2016 - Dayton, Ohio

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

Training Program for Animal Control Professionals - Hosted by Maricopa County Animal Care and Control

October 25-27, 2016 - Phoenix, Arizona

Schedule of Training: Citations, Dangerous and Vicious Declarations; Evidence Law and Collection; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Officer Safety and Self-Defense; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment

Animal Control Officer Training - Hosted by the County Animal Controls of Illinois

November 2-3, 2016 - Effingham, Illinois

Schedule of Training: Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment; Officer Safety and Self-Defense

Animal Control Officer Specialized Training Course - Hosted by the North Kansas City Police Dept.

November 7-9, 2016 - 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

Training Program for Animal Control Professionals - Hosted by Bullhead City Animal Welfare

November 14-18, 2016 - Bullhead City, Arizona

Schedule of Training: Officer Safety and Self-Defense; Tactical/Interpersonal Communication; Pepper Spray Certification; Baton/Bitestick Certification; Investigative Techniques for Cruelty and Neglect Complaints; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Understanding the ADA and Service Animals for ACO's

Training Program for Animal Control Professionals - Hosted by McCracken County Government

November 16-17, 2016 - Paducah, Kentucky

Schedule of Training: Chemical Immobilization Certification; Investigative Techniques for Cruelty and Neglect Complaints

Field Training Officer Certification for A/C Professionals - Hosted by Westminster Animal Management

November 21-22, 2016 - Westminster, Colorado

Schedule of Training: Field Training Officer Certification

ACTS Training Schedule

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

Basic Animal Control Officer Certification - Hosted by Hutchinson Animal Services

December 5-9, 2016 - Hutchinson, Kansas

Schedule of Training: State Laws, County Ordinances and City Codes; Tactical/Interpersonal Communication; Officer Safety and Self Defense; Basic Animal Control Officer Investigations; Evidence Law and Collection; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment

Training Program for Animal Control Professionals - Hosted by the Los Alamos Police Department

December 12-14, 2016 - Los Alamos, New Mexico

Schedule of Training: Officer Safety and Self-Defense; Tactical/Interpersonal Communication; Evidence Law and Collection; Investigative Techniques for Cruelty and Neglect Complaints

Training Program for Animal Control Professionals - Hosted by Salem Animal Control

December 15, 2016 - Salem, Illinois

Schedule of Training: State Laws, County Ordinances and City Codes; Investigative Techniques for Cruelty and Neglect Complaints

Training Program for Animal Control Professionals - Hosted by White County Public Safety

January 9-12, 2017 - Helen, Georgia

Schedule of Training: Understanding the "Link" in Animal Abuse; Investigative Techniques for Cruelty and Neglect Complaints; Interview and Investigation Techniques; Pepper Spray Certification; Baton/Bitestick Certification

Basic Animal Control Officer Certification - Hosted by the Grass Valley Police Department

January 23-27, 2017 - Grass Valley, California

Schedule of Training: State Laws, County Ordinances and City Codes; Tactical/Interpersonal Communication; Officer Safety and Self Defense; Basic Animal Control Officer Investigations; Evidence Law and Collection; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment

Basic Animal Control Officer Certification - Hosted by the Palm Springs Police Department

February 13-17, 2017 - Palm Springs, California

Schedule of Training: State Laws, County Ordinances and City Codes; Tactical/Interpersonal Communication; Officer Safety and Self Defense; Basic Animal Control Officer Investigations; Evidence Law and Collection; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment

Basic Animal Control Officer Certification - Hosted by Hall County Animal Services

March 20-24, 2017 - Gainesville, Georgia

Schedule of Training: State Laws, County Ordinances and City Codes; Tactical/Interpersonal Communication; Officer Safety and Self-Defense; Basic Animal Control Officer Investigations; Evidence Law and Collection; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Safe Handling of Aggressive and Dangerous Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment