

Schedule of Training

Day 1

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

A Review of Cruelty and Neglect Laws

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Illegal Animal Fighting

Day 2

8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Investigative Techniques for Cruelty/Neglect Complaints

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Animal Hoarding Investigations

Day 3

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Interview and Investigation Techniques

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Evidence Law and Collection

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing

Each Day:

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Lunch — on your own

The ACTS Training Course costs just \$375 for the complete 3-day course or \$125 for any other single day attendance. You may pay for this training program either with an Agency Check, Personal Check, Purchase Order or Credit Card. To obtain a registration form for this course, please visit www.aco-acts.com. Questions? Contact ACTS at 913-515-0080 or via email at info@aco-acts.com. Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation letter via e-mail.

Class location: Chatham County Agriculture and Conference Center, 1192 U.S. 64 West, Business Suite 400, Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312. Need directions? Please call 919-545-8393.



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Training Course for Animal Control Professionals

May 2-4, 2018

Pittsboro, NC



Day 1

A Review of Cruelty and Neglect Laws - The course is designed to establish a working knowledge and understanding of the specific laws relating to animal cruelty and neglect. ACO's will be better prepared to interpret, apply and enforce the provisions of their department. The topics include crimes against animals, public nuisances, citations and arrest authority, crime classification and punishment, investigation procedures and techniques, and prohibited conduct. The course will help clarify and define the role and authority of an ACO within the course and scope of their employment.

Illegal Animal Fighting - The illegal animal fighting workshop addresses both dog fighting and cockfighting activity. The course covers officer safety considerations, the history of animal fighting, applicable state and federal laws, search warrants and warrantless entries, investigation techniques, evidence collection and impoundment of animals, agency and task force coordination for successful case prosecution.

Day 2

Investigative Techniques for Cruelty and Neglect Complaints - Students in this course will learn techniques to improve ability to investigate and prepare cases regarding cruelty and neglect situations encountered in the field. Students will learn how to determine a valid complaint, determining how situation fits elements of the law, how to identify a potential crime scene, how to secure it to avoid contamination, Tufts Animal Care and Condition (TACC)/Purina Assessment Scaling, identifying exigent circumstances, importance of narrative reports, veterinary examinations, scene documentation, and preparing case files and suggested possible charges for the prosecutor. Students will also learn how to differentiate between a situation that is correctable with education and when situations require enforcement action. Students will learn via lecture, classroom discussion and exercises.

Animal Hoarding Investigations - A compulsive hoarder may often accumulate a large number of animals, failing to provide minimal standards of nutrition, sanitation and vet care, and fails to act on the deteriorating condition of the animals, the environment, or the negative impact on their own health and wellbeing. Such behaviors may be part of an overall mental health issue. Students will develop an understand-

ing on how to document the scene for possible cruelty or neglect; evaluate possible intervention strategies including criminal, civil and regulatory and mental health; the need to prepare for a pre-hoarding event or large scale rescue sheltering plan; and how laws restricting the number of animals can be effective tools.

Day 3

Interview and Investigation Techniques - Whether an ACO is conducting an animal bite incident, animal abuse or neglect case, or a simple dog-at-large violation, gathering the proper information is critical for a successful investigation. This training module will provide knowledge in how to conduct interviews and investigations specific to Animal Control, and how to lawfully obtain admissions and confessions. The course focuses on rapport building, communication skills, Miranda rights, common human behaviors, deception and denial traits, verbal responses and body language.

Evidence Law and Collection - Animal Control Officers must know the criteria for lawfully obtaining, preserving and admitting evidence to ensure evidence is identified, collected and presented in a legal manner that will be accepted in court. This block of instruction focuses on identifying the lawful process and rules governing the admission and exclusion of evidence as it relates to Animal Control criminal trials. The course will cover in detail the definition and rules of evidence, admissible types of evidence, purpose and relevancy of evidence, constitutional rights and search and seizure considerations. ACO's will also learn the basic methods and equipment that are used in the field to collect and preserve Animal Control-related evidence.

Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing - When should court preparation start? What should be done on the day of court? This block of instruction will focus on courtroom preparation and testimony from the initial call until the court date, to include: When/Why you should seek out your prosecutor before court; Important things that should be done during your testimony; Recognizing defense tactics and how to avoid them; and courtroom professionalism and dress standards/appearance. This course also includes instruction on how to write fact-based, unbiased, clear, grammatical reports as a record of the event and a tool for prosecution.