

About the Program

The ACCA Advanced ACO Certification Course is designed for Animal Control Officers at the federal, state, and local levels, Police Officers, and Sheriff's Deputies responsible for animal control and all of its many facets. Successful completion of the Advanced ACO Certification Course shall include a minimum passing score of 80% on written examinations and mandatory attendance during all training.

The course is comprised of nine separate blocks of instruction to include: Animal Attack Investigation and Reporting; Animal Crime Scene Photography, Videography and Sketching; Animal Hoarding Investigations; Illegal Animal Fighting; Livestock and Exotics Cases; Obtaining and Executing Search Warrants; Officer Safety in the Field; Proactive Animal Control; Using Forensics in Animal Cruelty Investigations.

The ACCA Advanced ACO Certification Course has been carefully researched and offers the most current animal control-related information available.

The ACCA Advanced ACO Certification Course costs just \$595 per student for the complete course. 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.accacademy.net

Questions? Contact ACCA via phone at 937-825-6709 or email: mkumpf@accacademy.net

Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation letter via e-mail.

Class location: Jefferson County Commission Fleet and Facilities Management, Conference Room, 128 Industrial Blvd., Kearneysville, West Virginia 25430. Need directions? Please call Jess Ebersole at 304-433-1935.



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Advanced ACO Certification Course (Compressed)

Sept 21-23, 2026

Kearneysville, WV



Advanced ACO Certification Course

The course is comprised of the following blocks of instruction:

Animal Attack Investigation and Reporting - In this class, we will address the differences between an animal attack and an animal bite, the necessity of conducting thorough animal attack and animal bite investigations, the basic steps in conducting an animal attack and animal bite investigation, the basic forensics involved in determining whether injuries are bites or scratches, and common rabies quarantining. We will also discuss common procedures of reporting rabies exposures to the state department of health and some general options in declaring that attacking animal a potentially dangerous or dangerous animal.

Animal Crime Scene Photography, Videography & Sketching - Because animal laws are becoming more complex and courts and lawyers are demanding more evidence, animal crime scene investigation is becoming more important. This is a basic course designed to provide an understanding of the equipment, basic techniques and basic principles involved in conducting crime scene photography, videography, and sketching of animal crime scenes.

Animal Hoarding Investigations - During this course, we will address the typical types of animal hoarders, mental health concerns associated with animal hoarders, physical health concerns for humans and animals in a hoarder environment, and service agencies that might be available to assist hoarders. We will also discuss the primary methods of intercedence, challenges associated with hoarder cases such as the volume of animals and the costs associated with mass animal impoundment of hoarder animals. We will discuss the psychology of animal hoarding, investigating hoarding allegations, MASS Animal impounds, and methods of reducing recidivism.

Illegal Animal Fighting - During this section, we will focus on various types of Blood Sports and investigations. We will discuss the Federal Animal Welfare Act, the federal Animal Fighting Prohibition Enforcement Act, and various state statutes, which prohibit dog fighting, cock fighting, bull or bear baiting, and more. We will discuss the types of animal fighters, equipment and medical supplies frequently used during Blood-Sport activities, and various collateral crimes and activities often associated with dogfighting, cockfighting, Siamese fighting fish (also known as Betta) and Finch fighting.

Livestock and Exotics Cases - During this block of instruction we will focus on strategies for the capture, restraint, and handling of large animals such as cattle and horses as well as exotic animals, such as snakes and other reptiles. We will discuss the Use of Force Continuum as it applies to capture, restraint, and handling of animals, large animal equipment and preparation planning and animal and officer safety. Lastly, we will discuss investigative techniques commonly used in livestock/exotic animal neglect or abuse investigations and livestock or exotic animal exhibit inspections.

Obtaining and Executing Search Warrants - In this block of instruction we will discuss the history and legal basis for search warrants, search warrant applications, the warrant itself, and the warrant return. We will discuss the common property legal descriptions, curtilage and areas to be searched. In addition, we will discuss the basic steps in executing a search warrant and provide examples of search warrants used in several states.

Officer Safety in the Field - All animal care and control professionals should strive to survive the day and go home happy, healthy, and whole. Employers also want their employees to be safe and injury free. During this course, we will discuss general safety issues such as how to avoid slip, trip, and fall injuries, proper lifting techniques and body mechanics, stress management, and compassion fatigue. We will discuss basics of vehicle and emergency driving safety, confrontation communication, and some basic self-defense tactics.

Proactive Animal Control - In this class, we will discuss public perception versus reality of animal control, methods of improving public relations, and the public's view on animal control. This course will offer a basic understanding of common animal control programs designed to provide improved customer service in the field to the human and animal residents of a community, to include complaint responses, alternative options, and solutions. It will also cover handling pets from emergency medical situations, domestic violence situations, or the death of the owner.

Using Forensics in Animal Cruelty Investigations - During this class we will discuss the history of forensic sciences for use in solving human-on-human crimes as well as the modern application of the various forensic sciences in animal neglect, abuse, and cruelty investigations. We will discuss the use of forensic botany, chemistry, dactyloscopy, entomology, and geology in animal cases and how geomorphology, odontology and podiatry, serology, and toxicology can be applied to animal related investigations.