

January 2023

# The ACO Voice

A Monthly Magazine from the Animal Control & Care Academy  
The Only National Monthly Magazine Dedicated to Animal Control

## *Parasitic Infestations*



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# Parasitic Infestations Place Staff at Risk

By J.T. Taylor, ACCA

Among the realities of animal care and control operations is that animal care and control professionals are often exposed to zoonotic diseases or conditions. Sadly, many animals which are picked up running at large or are stray animals are already sick or infected with some medical condition. Parasitic infections, such as ticks and worms, can be transferred to humans by a variety of means. ACOs in the field must take precautions when capturing, handling and transporting animals, just as shelter technicians must when handling animals in the animal shelter environment.

There are two types of parasites. Endoparasites are internal parasites, such as worms, while ectoparasites are external parasites such as ticks. Most endoparasites have a fecal/oral mode of transmission, while ectoparasites are usually transmitted through a bite.

Endoparasites include roundworm, whip worm, pin worm, and hook worms. Ringworm is often confused as an endoparasite however ringworm is actually a fungal infection rather than an endoparasite. Endoparasites also include trichinella and giardia.

Ectoparasites are likely the more often encountered by animal care and control professionals on a daily basis. Ectoparasites include ticks, fleas and mites. All live off the blood of the host, making them true vampires! Ectoparasites however are not to be taken lightly. Tick bites can transmit illnesses like Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Lyme Disease, Tularemia, or Ehrlichiosis. Fleas can transmit any number of blood-borne diseases through their bite, and mites cause intense itchy, scratchy skin infections.

Mites are crab-like parasites that lives on and/or in the skin. Types that infest dogs and cats can be transmit-

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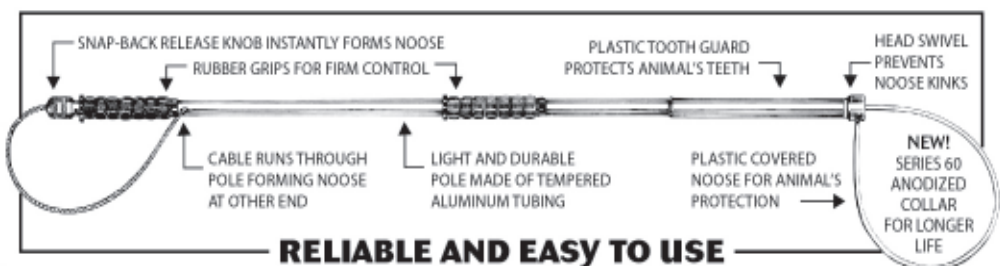
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# Euthanasia Training

## ***EBI in Animal Shelters***

Illinois Federation of Humane Societies  
(DBA Illinois Animal Welfare Federation)

Euthanasia means a humane and stress-free end of life for the animals in shelter care. The Illinois Federation of Humane Societies intends to provide those workers who must euthanize the proper training in a supportive and compassionate environment for the benefit of the animals. The Federation's workshop provides information and instruction on best practices in euthanasia as well as the technical knowledge necessary to perform the procedure humanely and safely.

The Illinois Federation of Humane Societies offers *EBI in Animal Shelters* training for animal shelter and animal control workers. In this 2-day workshop, students learn about anesthetics and sedatives, anatomy, safe and effective restraint, injection techniques, equipment, worker safety, legal requirements, and verification of death. A wet lab provides students with direct experience. Students receive a comprehensive manual, materials, and upon passing the workshop exam, a certificate verifying the successful completion of training.

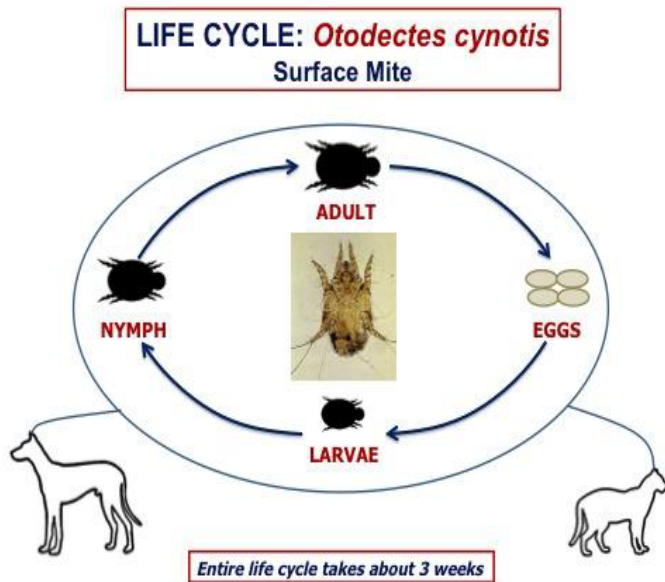
The instructor is a Certified Euthanasia Technician in the State of Illinois with years of experience. This curriculum has been approved by the States of Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wisconsin. It may also be used in Iowa, Indiana, and Kansas. **Registration is limited to those working in companion animal welfare and control.**

For information on scheduling an EBI in Animal Shelters workshop in your area, or the schedule of upcoming workshops, go to [www.iawf.net](http://www.iawf.net) or contact [training@iawf.net](mailto:training@iawf.net). If you have questions, contact [training@iawf.net](mailto:training@iawf.net).



ted to humans by direct contact. They cause intense itching and scratching, which leads to secondary infection.

There are four types of mite: *Sarcoptes scabiei* (burrowing mites), *Demodex canis* (demodex mites), *Cheyletiella yasguri* (surface mites) and *Otodectes cynosis* (ear mites). The two primarily found types of mites in shelter animals come in the form of sarcoptic or demodectic mange.



It is essential to officer safety to wear gloves when picking up animals in the field. Often, animal care and control professionals pick up an animal, holding it in their bare hands or allowing it to ride on their lap or loose in the cab of the vehicle, where parasites like ticks, fleas and mites can leave the host animal and get on the officer. Caution must be used to reduce or mitigate such cross contamination. For an animal that simply must be handled up close, the best recourse is to wrap the animal in a blanket, large towel or other similar material to provide a protective barrier between the potentially infested animal and its handler.

Any encounter with animals suffering from any form of parasitic infection or infestation exposes the animal care and control professional the moment the animal is picked up. Not only can these conditions be transmitted to the animal handler, but they are also exposed to the animal control vehicle and subsequently the animal shelter. While no action can completely eliminate the threat of exposure, the risk is reduced by wearing proper personal protective equipment and thoroughly cleaning and sanitizing after contact.

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# **General Guidelines for Dogs and Cats - Companion Animal Parasite Council (CAPC)**

**Last updated: September 16, 2022**

## **Parasite Testing and Protection Guided by Veterinarians**

- \* Conduct preventive physical examinations at least every 6 to 12 months.
- \* Conduct annual heartworm testing in dogs; test cats prior to placing on heartworm preventive and thereafter as indicated.
- \* Test annually for tick-transmitted pathogens, especially in regions where pathogens are endemic or emerging.
- \* Conduct microscopic fecal examinations by centrifugation at least four times during the first year of life, and at least two times per year in adults, depending on patient health and lifestyle factors.
- \* Based on sample size, clinical signs, suspected parasites and skill and experience of the clinic or laboratory, alternative diagnostics and screening with advanced technologies, such as fecal antigen, PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) and AI (Artificial Intelligence), may be preferred.
- \* Prescribe control programs to local parasite prevalence and individual pet lifestyle factors.
- \* Adapt prevention recommendations to address emerging parasite threats.
- \* In areas where Lyme disease is considered endemic or emerging, vaccinate dogs against *Borrelia burgdorferi*.
- \* Confirm pets have been both recently tested for parasite infection and are current on broad-spectrum internal and external parasite control prior to boarding or visiting shared space animal facilities

## **Every Pet, All Year Long**

- \* Administer year-round broad-spectrum parasite control with efficacy against heartworm, intestinal parasites, fleas, and ticks. Control of parasites with zoonotic potential is essential.
- \* Administer anthelmintic treatment to puppies and kittens starting at 2 weeks of age and repeating every 2 weeks until regular broad-spectrum parasite control begins.
- \* Maintain pregnant and nursing dams on broad-spectrum control products.

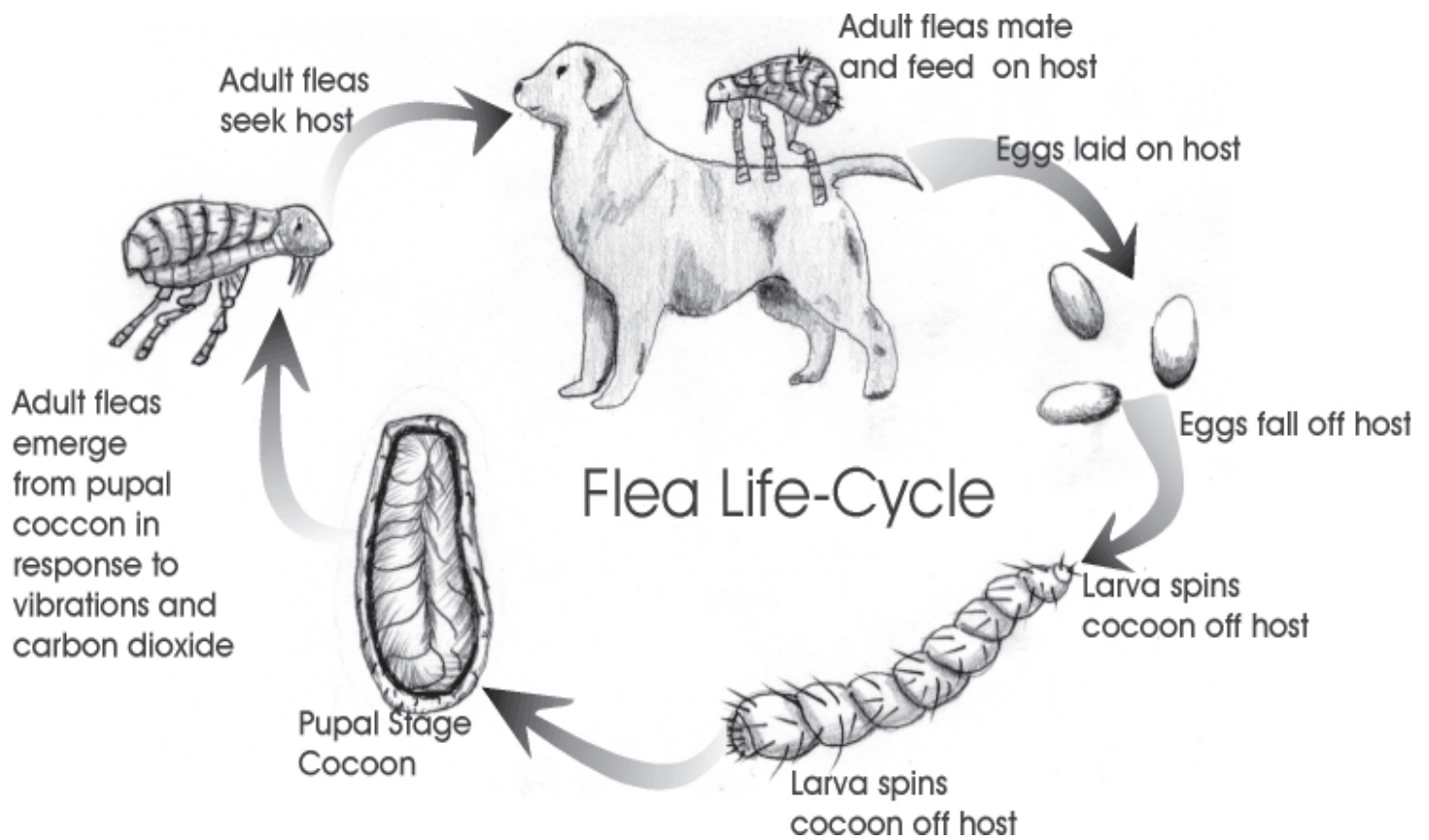
## **Healthy Lifestyle, Healthy Pets, Healthy People**

- \* Feed pets commercial or cooked food (not raw diets) and provide fresh water.
- \* Cover sandboxes when not in use, and protect garden areas from fecal contamination.
- \* Pick up feces immediately when walking a dog in a public area and from the yard on a daily basis.
- \* To prevent roaming and limit predation, keep dogs on a leash or behind a fence and keep cats indoors.
- \* Permanently identify dogs and cats through microchip implantation.
- \* Do not handle animal feces or urine with bare hands, and wash hands immediately after incidental contact. This recommendation is particularly important for children and individuals at increased risk.
- \* Properly dispose of animal waste according to local municipal regulations.
- \* Spay or neuter all pets not intended for breeding.

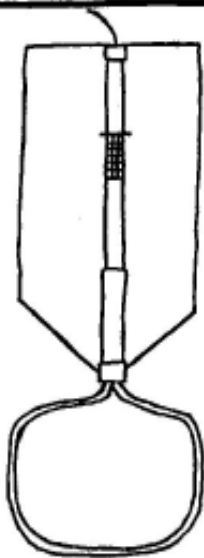
## **If Year-Round Broad-Spectrum Parasite Control Cannot Be Maintained**

- \* For puppies and kittens, administer anthelmintics starting at 2 weeks of age, repeating every 2 weeks until 2 months of age, monthly until 6 months of age, and quarterly thereafter.
- \* Treat all adult pets four times a year with a broad-spectrum anthelmintic with efficacy against intestinal parasites.
- \* Appropriate fecal diagnostics performed at least 2-4 times a year.
- \* Encourage annual testing for heartworm and other vector-borne infections in dogs and routine, year-round use of heartworm preventive, monthly intestinal parasite control, and flea and tick control in all pets.

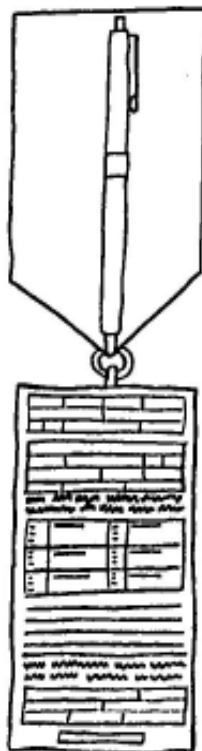
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## ANIMAL CONTROL AWARDS



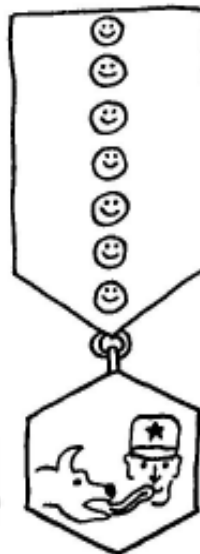
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# **ACCA Training Schedule**

**For a registration form, visit [www.accacademy.net](http://www.accacademy.net) or call 913-515-0080**

## **Basic Animal Control Officer Certification**

**Hosted by the Grass Valley Police Department**

**January 23-26, 2023 - Grass Valley, California**

Schedule of Training: Laws and Enforcement Procedures; Interpersonal Communication; Officer Safety and Protection; Basic Animal Control Officer Investigations; Evidence Law and Collection; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Canine Behavior and Aggressive Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment

## **Basic Animal Control Officer Certification**

**Hosted by the Troup County Marshal's Office**

**January 30 - February 2, 2023 - LaGrange, Georgia**

Schedule of Training: Laws and Enforcement Procedures; Interpersonal Communication; Officer Safety and Protection; Basic Animal Control Officer Investigations; Evidence Law and Collection; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Canine Behavior and Aggressive Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment

## **Chemical Immobilization Certification**

**Hosted by the Troup County Marshal's Office**

**February 3, 2023 - LaGrange, Georgia**

## **Basic Animal Control Officer Certification**

**Hosted by Jefferson County Animal Control**

**March 27-30, 2023 - Kearneysville, West Virginia**

Schedule of Training: Laws and Enforcement Procedures; Interpersonal Communication; Officer Safety and Protection; Basic Animal Control Officer Investigations; Evidence Law and Collection; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Canine Behavior and Aggressive Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment

## **Basic Animal Control Officer Certification**

**Hosted by the Schuyler County Sheriff's Office**

**April 3-6, 2023 - Watkins Glen, New York**

Schedule of Training: Laws and Enforcement Procedures; Interpersonal Communication; Officer Safety and Protection; Basic Animal Control Officer Investigations; Evidence Law and Collection; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Canine Behavior and Aggressive Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment

# ACCA Training Schedule

**For a registration form, visit [www.accacademy.net](http://www.accacademy.net) or call 913-515-0080**

## **Comprehensive Animal Management Certification**

**Hosted by Jefferson County Animal Control**

**April 10-12, 2023 - Kearneysville, West Virginia**

Schedule of Training: Advanced Case Supervision; Basic Budget Planning; Disciplinary Investigations; Equipment, Vehicles and Operational Needs; Evaluating Staff; Interviewing and Selection; Managing Generational Employees; Meetings: Individual, Specific Groups, Entire Staff; Policy and Procedures: Review and Development; Pushing Paperwork: Reports, Memos and Correspondence; Supervising Daily Operations; Training and Staff Development; Transition from Staff to Supervisor; Workplace Harassment and Violence

## **Chemical Immobilization Certification**

**Hosted by the Polk County Sheriff's Office**

**April 17, 2023 - Columbus, North Carolina**

## **Basic Animal Control Officer Certification**

**Hosted by the Mt. Juliet Police Department**

**April 24-27, 2023 - Mt. Juliet, Tennessee**

Schedule of Training: Laws and Enforcement Procedures; Interpersonal Communication; Officer Safety and Protection; Basic Animal Control Officer Investigations; Evidence Law and Collection; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Canine Behavior and Aggressive Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment

## **Shelter Technician Certification**

**Hosted by Jefferson County Animal Control**

**May 3-5, 2023 - Kearneysville, West Virginia**

Schedule of Training: Animal Care in a Sheltering Environment; Animal Disposition Options; Animal Identification: Breed and Description; Animal Shelter Design and Operations; Animal Shelter Record-Keeping; Canine and Feline Behaviors and Assessments; Disease Exposures in a Sheltering Environment; Emergency Animal Sheltering; Proactive Animal Sheltering

## **Hosting ACCA Training**

Want to host some ACCA training? ACCA 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.accacademy.net](http://www.accacademy.net) and click on the "training catalog" tab. Please contact John Mays at [jmays@accacademy.net](mailto:jmays@accacademy.net) if you have any questions.