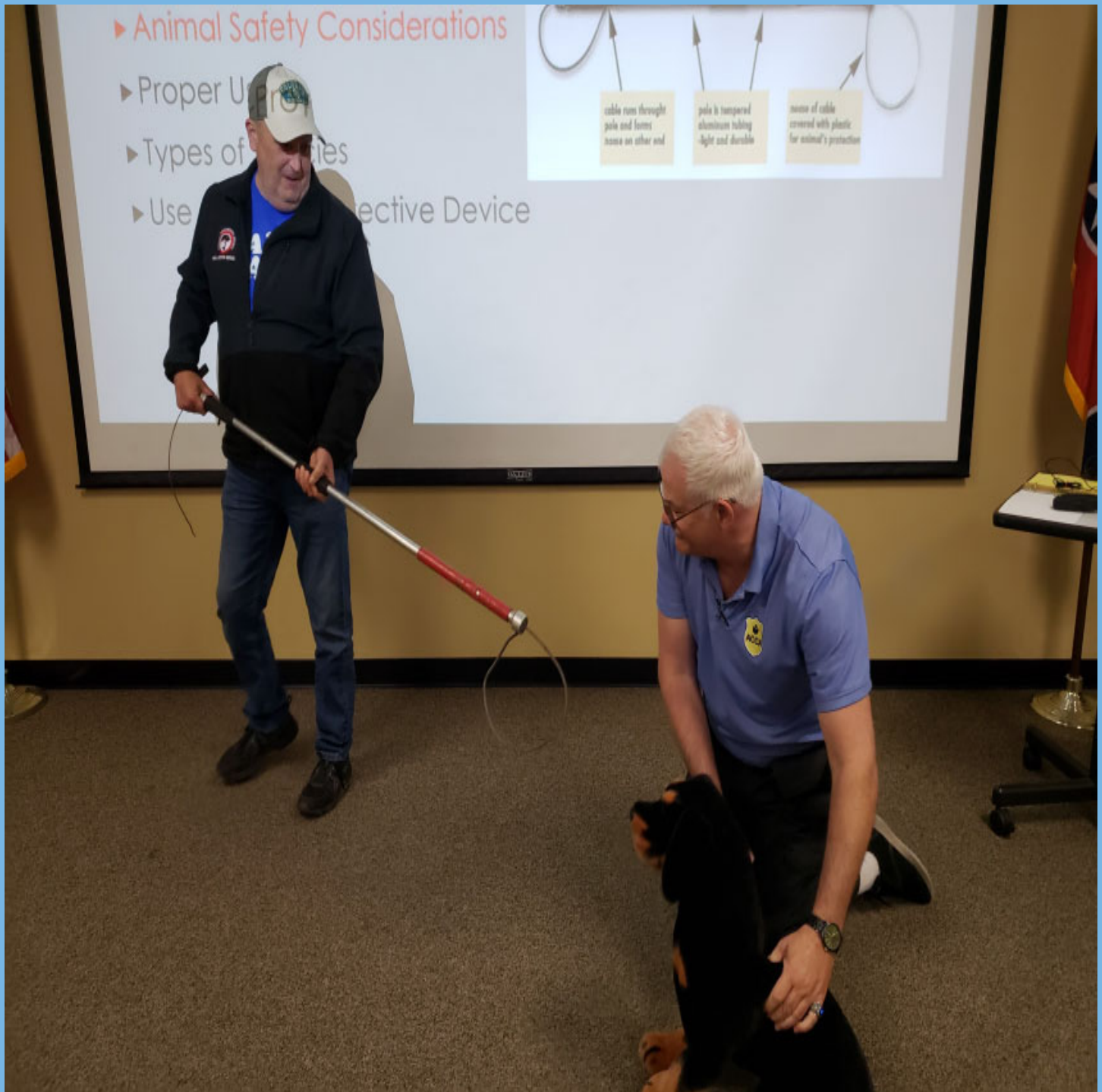


May 2023

# The ACO Voice

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

## *Origin Story & Program Genesis*



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# Looking Forward

By Mark Kumpf, ACCA

I want to say "thank you" to John Mays for his decades of service to the animal control profession as the April edition article highlighted. Literally tens of thousands of Animal Control Officers carry some knowledge or information that he trained them on, authored or curated in his many roles throughout the years. While John has officially retired from animal control, his wealth of knowledge and experience will continue as a legacy few will ever match. One such legacy is the Animal Control and Care Academy, a training institution which I am now privileged to be the one to take the torch and carry on. John continues to assist with the transition to insure that our successful training tradition continues uninterrupted. I want to personally thank John for his dedication and commitment to our field but as importantly, being both friend and mentor to me for over two decades.

ACCA has sustained training since its inception and

survived the COVID-19 pandemic which saw in-person events and opportunities curtailed. With the official lifting of the emergency, we are well ahead with course offerings planned through the balance of 2023 and already looking to 2024 and beyond. Many have asked for new courses and training and we have heard you. Look for expanded courses and new announcements in the coming months. These include more in-person offerings as well as select on-line sessions to provide additional ways to add knowledge, skills and abilities.

I am pleased to announce that J.T. Taylor, known to many who have attended our courses, is taking on a new role as Senior Instructor. In this capacity, he will be working on developing new content, refreshing existing programs and working with me to recruit additional talent for the instructor pool. ACCA is planning to offer an instructor training course later in 2023 for interested pro-

*Continued on Page 5*

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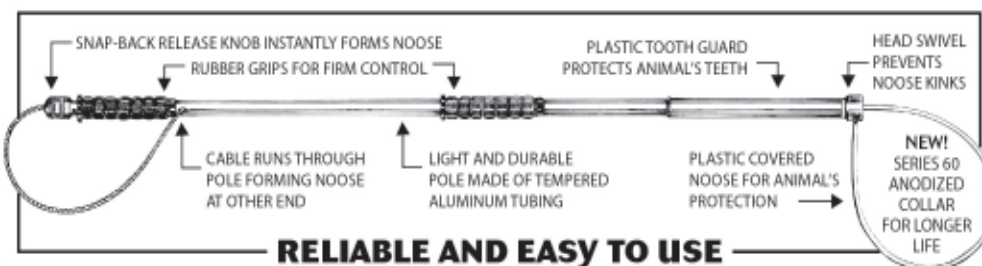
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# Euthanasia Training

## ***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).



professionals to prepare to be instructors for their agencies and potentially for ACCA moving forward. We look forward to helping prepare the next generation of teachers to continue the animal control training standard necessary to continuously improve our profession.

With that said, we are looking for more input and requests for training opportunities. These include those interested in hosting our existing courses found in the Training Catalog as well as the “wish list” for new and future topics. We have had requests for the instructor school, Euthanasia by Injection, animal behavior (hands on), volunteer programs, coalition building and many others. If there are others, please email us or let us know in person at training. This also is a call for those interested in joining the instructor pool. ACCA is committed to providing the best in-person training taught by the top animal control professionals.

The newsletter will be continuing and your input is also welcome. Each month, we send the E-publication to thousands and distribute via social media. This is the only monthly publication dedicated to the animal control profession so we want to hear from YOU! Please send articles and pictures by the 10th of each month for consideration and possible inclusion. We look to expand the newsletter and possibly add some recurring columns on best practices. We would love to see your name here.

Thank you to all who have not only attended ACCA's courses but have continued to provide professional services to the citizens and pets in your communities. ACCA is here to support you and we look forward to seeing you in a future class.



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# Origin Story and Program Genesis

By J.T. Taylor, ACCA

“For those who may not know me, I’m J.T. Taylor. I’m the executive director of Midwest Animal Services Academy since 2017 and am an instructor and part of the curriculum development team for the Animal Control and Care Academy;” this is how I have introduced myself to training program attendees since joining ACCA in January of 2018. My animal control origin story is probably a bit odd in that it wasn’t anything I’d thought about doing, but my background of military service, law enforcement and firefighting paved the way without my knowing it. I was working as a journalist for a newspaper, while being a volunteer firefighter, when my hometown’s City Administrator (Eldon, Missouri) recruited me work for the city. They were creating a new animal control program and thought my background and organizational skillset made me a strong candidate to research, develop and direct their new Animal Control division. And so... 23 years ago, I became an animal control guy!

In researching animal control programs to develop Eldon’s operations, I was fortunate enough to learn about the National Animal Control Association and John Mays. John, then NACA’s executive director, was one of two Godsenders in helping me. He and Missouri Animal Control Association’s President Rick Smith became the invaluable mentors I needed. Both told me not to reinvent the wheel and provided me, sometimes daily, advice, direction and information to create a city animal control program. Among the most important things they said was to get myself and my growing staff properly trained and certified.

In short order we were all state and nationally certified as animal control officers but there was little to nothing available in terms of shelter operations training. This was brought more directly to the forefront in 2003, when I was sitting in a courtroom awaiting my case to be called. Another case, animal abuse by failing to provide adequate food, water, and vet care for a dog, was going on and the defendant had an attorney. During the trial, a kennel attendant who had been taking care of the dog in the shelter, was brought to the stand to testify to the dog’s rehabilitation. Unlike the ACO who had testified in the case, the kennel attendant had no certifications or any formal training. The defense attorney discredited her easily by claiming she was not qualified and implied her on-the-job training only taught her the bad mistakes and improper animal care that her coworkers and supervi-

sors taught. Although the case was made and the defendant lost, the young kennel attendant was discredited in the eyes of the court and left the courtroom feeling horribly embarrassed and humiliated. It was an ah-ha moment for me.

Included in my background is having been graduated from the Air Force’s Technical Training Instructor School in 1985. I’ve used those skills in developing and presenting training programs in a variety of disciplines over the years. I was serving as an advisor for Midwest Animal Services and had provided them with some training programs on shelter and rescue operations. So I spoke with them about the shelter attendant’s lack of formal training. They agreed there was clearly a need and together we created MaSA’s first Animal Care Provider certification program. Fast forward to 2018 and John Mays agreeing that a similar program could provide beneficial training to shelter workers across the county, and thus I developed ACCA’s Animal Shelter Technician Certification program. This was followed by ACCA’s Advanced ACO Certification program and now moving toward developing a few new programs.

I have always felt certification training was essential. I have seen defense attorney’s discredit field officers and shelter staffers due to their lack of formal training. Even with formal training and certifications in a wide variety of animal care and control disciplines, I’ve had defense counsel attempt to discredit me on the stand. It’s what they do, what they are supposed to do. We counter that though, through certification training, training, and more training!



# 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 Springfield - Greene County Health Department**

**May 15-18, 2023 - Springfield, Missouri**

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

***NOTE: This course has been postponed per the hosting agency's request.***

***Please check our website for the rescheduled date.***

## **Shelter Technician Certification**

**Hosted by Joliet Township Animal Control**

**Joliet, Illinois**

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

## **Advanced ACO Certification Course**

**Hosted by the Springfield - Greene County Health Department**

**June 12-15, 2023 - Springfield, Missouri**

Schedule of Training: 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

## **Advanced ACO Certification Course**

**Hosted by Winchester Animal Control**

**July 10-13, 2023 - Winchester, Indiana**

Schedule of Training: 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



# **ACCA Training Schedule**

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

## **Training Course for Animal Control Professionals**

**Hosted by the Raymore Police Department**

**July 17-19, 2023 - Raymore, Missouri**

Schedule of Training: Chemical Immobilization Certification; Baton/Bitestick Certification; Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol Training Certification

## **Field Training Officer Certification**

**Hosted by the Springfield - Greene County Health Department**

**July 20-21, 2023 - Springfield, Missouri**

## **Basic Animal Control Officer Certification**

**Hosted by Montgomery County Animal Care & Control**

**July 24-27, 2023 - Clarksville, 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 Winchester Animal Control**

**August 9-11, 2023 - Winchester, Indiana**

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

## **Advanced ACO Certification Course**

**Hosted by Montgomery County Animal Care & Control**

**August 21-24, 2023 - Clarksville, Tennessee**

Schedule of Training: 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

## **Chemical Immobilization Certification**

**Hosted by Montgomery County Animal Care & Control**

**August 25, 2023 - Clarksville, Tennessee**

# ACCA Training Schedule

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

## **Shelter Technician Certification**

**Hosted by the Springfield - Greene County Health Department**

**August 28-30, 2023 - Springfield, Missouri**

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

## **Basic Animal Control Officer Certification**

**Hosted by Collierville Animal Services**

**September 11-14, 2023 - Collierville, 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

## **Training Course for Animal Control Professionals**

**Hosted by Montgomery County Animal Care & Control**

**October 23-26, 2023 - Clarksville, Tennessee**

Schedule of Training: Investigative Techniques for Cruelty/Neglect; Baton Bite/Stick Certification; Canine Behavior and Aggressive Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment; Community Cooperation – Education & Outreach; Courtroom Testimony and Report Writing; Diversion - Alternative Enforcement Programs; Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol Training (OCAT) Certification; Utilizing Thermometry for Animal Control

## **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 Mark Kumpf at [mkumpf@accacademy.net](mailto:mkumpf@accacademy.net) if you have any questions.