

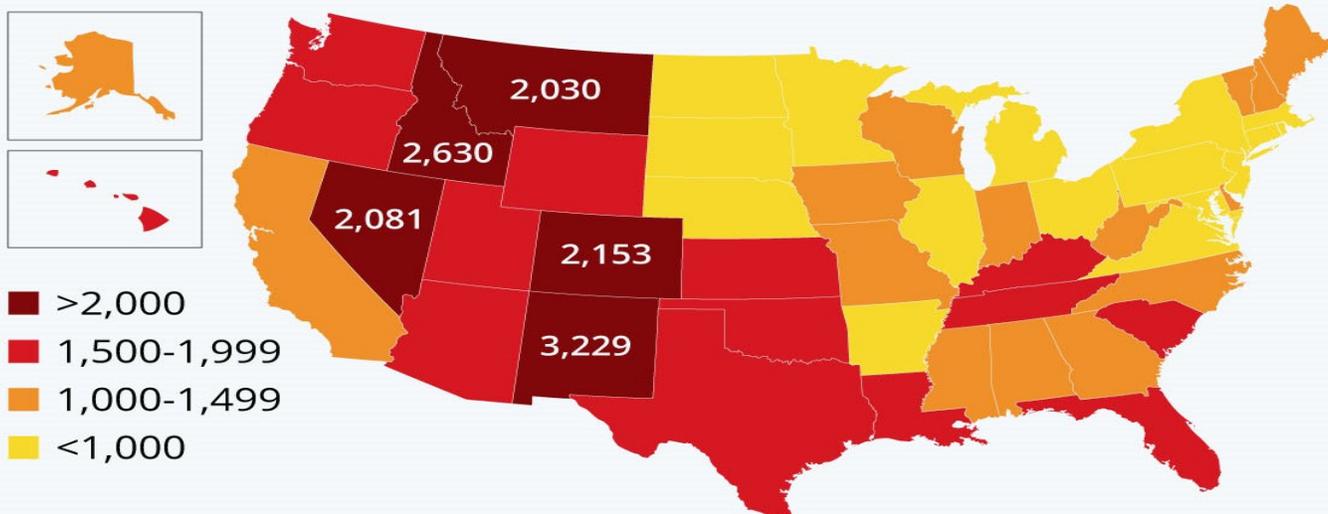
The ACO Voice

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

Euthanasia – It’s Not a Bad Word

Where Animals Are Most Likely to End up in Shelters

Animal taken in by shelters per 100,000 inhabitants in the U.S. in 2019



Number of animals entering shelters in the U.S.

■ All ● Euthanized



Note from Shelter Animals Count: The information contained herein was derived from data supplied by Shelter Animals Count. Shelter Animals Count specifically disclaims all responsibility for any analysis, interpretations, conclusions and opinions contained in the information presented.

Sources: Shelter Animals Count, ASPCA, U.S. Census

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Euthanasia – It’s Not a Bad Word

By Lauren Malmberg

According to the ASPCA, euthanasia of companion animals declined from about 15 million pets annually to about 920,000 animals euthanized in shelters in 2020. Low-cost and early sterilization programs, transfer and foster efforts, and a change in society’s attitudes toward homeless pets account for this dramatic reduction. And while reducing euthanasia of shelter animals remains a laudable goal, eliminating euthanasia entirely should not be our target nor can it be achieved.

Euthanasia will never be eliminated in animal welfare; nor should it. As those charged with protecting both the public and the animals, we must be able to provide a humane, compassionate death to those animals who cannot be responsibly placed into the community. Agencies need to be able to provide euthanasia to those animals that are aggressive, have serious behavioral issues, are extremely old, seriously injured or chronically ill. And

in those areas where the number of incoming animals far outweighs the resources and options for them to be rehomed, a humane death is sometimes the most caring thing we can do. Because animal welfare agencies are responsible for animals' well-being, providing the most humane death possible is an essential function.

Life-ending methods used for unwanted animals have evolved over the last century. Early means such as clubbing, drowning, shooting, cyanide, and strychnine gave way to electrocution and carbon monoxide or high altitude chambers. In the 1970's, sodium pentobarbital, a central nervous system depressant, came into much wider use. Euthanasia by Injection soon became “best practice” and is now considered the only humane method in animal welfare. Performed correctly, EBI ends an animal’s life in as stress-free and pain-free a manner as possible.

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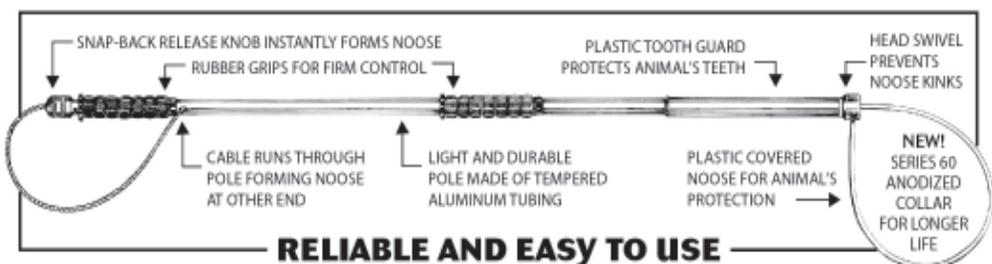
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Euthanasia Training

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 or contact training@iawf.net. If you have questions, contact training@iawf.net.



The act of euthanasia is actually neutral; it is merely a medical procedure -neither good nor bad. How we apply it in animal welfare can have positive or negative consequences, but the act itself is not “bad.” Although fewer companion animals get euthanized now, proper euthanasia by injection services must be maintained at animal shelters and animal control facilities to ensure that animals receive humane treatment.

Unfortunately, as euthanasia has been characterized as the “worst that could happen” to a companion animal, training proper techniques and processes in euthanasia has become quite difficult to find. Euthanasia by injection – the best practice in our field – is administering a humane and compassion death. But EBI is only humane when administered properly – that means using the correct drugs, equipment, supplies, and skilled technicians.

The animals in our care deserve a humane and stress-free end of life. Those workers who must euthanize need the proper training in a supportive and compassionate environment for the benefit of the animals and themselves. It is imperative that euthanasia technicians have training, information, and instruction on best practices in euthanasia as well as the technical knowledge necessary to perform the procedure humanely and safely.

While the need for euthanasia in animal welfare has dramatically declined in the last 20 years, it remains necessary in many situations. Euthanasia will always be an essential option in animal welfare, and agencies must have trained technicians, proper equipment and supplies, and appropriate policies to provide this vital service.



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Calling it a Day!

By John Mays

In our last issue, we ran an article entitled “When is it Time to Leave?” In everyone’s life, we reach a point in which we need to make some life-changing decisions. Whether it be financially driven, concerns about our physical well-being (or that of a family member), or the simple fact that we may have “run out of gas,” leaving a job that you love – or hate – can be a tough decision. Such choices may be forced, or we simply step-back and review our past, the current, and our future.

For me, I began teaching back in 1987, in my fourth year as an Animal Control Officer for Olathe Police Department, in Olathe, Kansas. It was during my tenure as an ACO that I began to “branch-out” into the profession; I served as Vice President of the Kansas Animal Control Association, President of the Humane Society of Olathe, and as a Board Member of the National Animal Control Association. These opportunities allowed me to jump-start a teaching career, in addition to my other duties as an ACO, director, or whatever else I may have going on at the moment. While I have always appreciated the op-

portunities to teach, the older I have become, I realize that the demand of travel has become too much.

In my life, I have flown over 4 million miles. While some frequent fliers brag about such accomplishments, for me, it simply defines a life spent at airports, in a plane, or in a hotel. Have you had the opportunity to fly recently? (Flight delays, pilot shortages, weather, maintenance, etc.) Have you ever slept at an airport? Airport services might provide you a cot, blanket and a pillow. Otherwise, you are sleeping on the floor, using whatever articles of clothing you might have available for a pillow and a blanket. Meal and lodging vouchers? If it is weather-related, forget it! If you have status with an airline, you might receive some special considerations, but do not set your hopes too high. With all of the challenges recently with flying, our instructors have been driving to a few programs, which can be grueling in its own right. Moreover, with the cost of fuel so ridiculously high, you sometimes feel like you are pumping liquid gold into your tank. Be careful not to spill!

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Physically speaking, whether traveling by plane, train or automobile, any mode of travel can be hard on one's body. So, the older I get, I am constantly wondering if all this travel is a "young person's game." Also, do not get me started about sleeping in hotels and Airbnb's. What sleep? Being away from home – your family and your dogs (mostly dogs ☺) is a hardship in itself. Eating out all the time is expensive and sometimes not healthy. At some point, you might choose to skip meals, which can also create issues. Damned either way...

On some days, your instructor may have to teach while fatigued (little to no sleep because of travel delays), or while ill. At our recent Bakersfield, California class, our great instructor J.T. Taylor had to endure two flight cancellations and rebooking's which resulted in him missing the first half-day of the training program. He spent the night "sleeping" at the airport, caught the first flight out of Dallas-Fort Worth the next morning to Bakersfield, landed, grabbed his luggage and rental car, drove to the training venue and started teaching. What a dedicated instructor! For myself, this time of year has been the season of "hell" for allergies, and I have had to suffer through, at times, teaching with my head ready to explode. Have you had to work with a severe head cold, allergies, etc.? Not easy, but as they say, the show must go on... While I know our students can sometimes suffer from these same afflictions, imagine having to stand up in front a room and talk for 8 hours if you are not feeling well? It isn't easy!

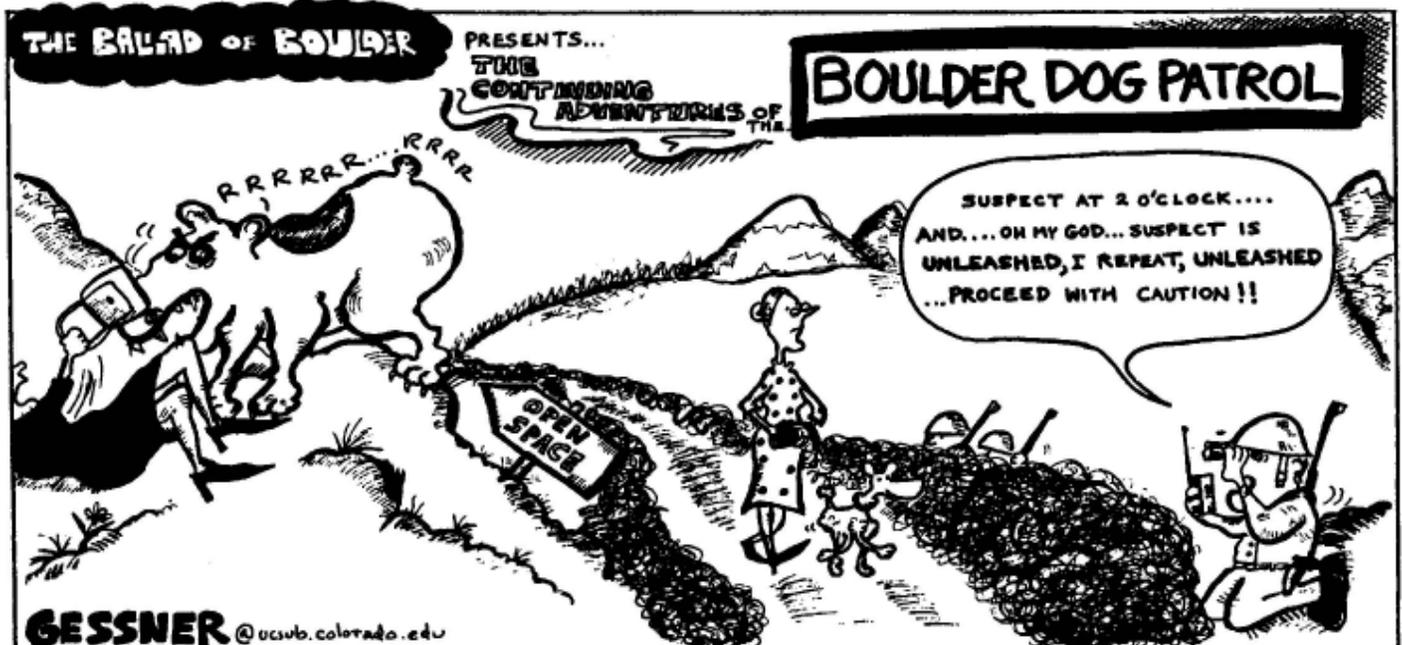
Teaching in today's world can also be challenging. As an instructor, we are tested by the use of cell phones in class and short attention spans that all of this technol-

ogy has created. The goal these days is to keep everyone engaged and focused, in hopes that we can all walk out of the room smarter than when we walked into the room (instructors included). In every class, I learn something from our students. Someone, somewhere, has the best technique ever created to capture a feral dog. Someday, we will discover that person!

So, why even consider teaching these days? For me, the reward has always been meeting folks just like you. I have met some wonderful people along my journeys, passionate and determined to help both people and animals. True public servants, sacrificing their time, money and at times, their life – in order to provide a better world so that humankind and critters can coexist.

I have had to make a difficult decision. I have decide to conclude my teaching career and instead focus on the administrative responsibilities of ACCA and assign the bulk of all instructor duties to Mark Kumpf and J.T. Taylor. Both of these guys are well known in our profession and they are exceptional instructors – and exceptional people. They have, and will continue, to serve our profession well. While I will not miss the grind of travel, lack of sleep, etc., I will miss the opportunities to interact with all of you face-to-face. I consider each one of you to be my friend. I have been truly blessed in my life, and you folks have provided me with that blessing. For that, I will be forever grateful to you.

ACCA will continue to grow stronger each day, and Mark and J.T. hope to see you at an upcoming course. If you need anything, drop me a line at jmays@accacademy.net.



ACCA Training Schedule

For a registration form, visit www.accacademy.net or call 913-515-0080

Shelter Technician Certification

Hosted by the Alabama Animal Control Association

September 26-28, 2022 - Robertsdale, Alabama

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

Chemical Immobilization Certification

Hosted by Christian County Animal Control

September 30, 2022 - Pana, Illinois

Advanced ACO/HLEO Certification Course

Hosted by Montgomery County Animal Care & Control

October 3-7, 2022 - Clarksville, Tennessee

Schedule of Training: Animal Control and the Criminal Justice System; Proactive Animal Control; Animal Attack Investigation and Reporting; Officer Safety in the Field; Animal Crime Scene Photography, Videography and Sketching; Animal Hoarding Investigations; Using Forensics in Animal Cruelty Investigations; Obtaining and Executing Search Warrants; Illegal Animal Fighting; Livestock and Exotic Animal Investigations

Field Training Officer Certification

Hosted by the Springfield - Greene County Health Department

October 3-4, 2022 - Springfield, Missouri

Training Course for Animal Control Professionals

Hosted by the Springfield - Greene County Health Department

October 5, 2022 - Springfield, Missouri

Schedule of Training: Baton/Bitestick Certification; Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol Training (OCAT) Certification

Advanced ACO/HLEO Certification Course

Hosted by the Collinsville Police Department

October 31 - November 3, 2022 - Collinsville, Oklahoma

Schedule of Training: Animal Control and the Criminal Justice System; Proactive Animal Control; Animal Attack Investigation and Reporting; Officer Safety in the Field; Animal Crime Scene Photography, Videography and Sketching; Animal Hoarding Investigations; Using Forensics in Animal Cruelty Investigations; Obtaining and Executing Search Warrants; Illegal Animal Fighting; Livestock and Exotic Animal Investigations

Training Course for Animal Control Professionals

Hosted by the Collinsville Police Department

November 4, 2022 - Collinsville, Oklahoma

Schedule of Training: Challenging Encounters in Animal Control; Community Cooperation: Education & Outreach; Diversion: Alternative Enforcement Programs; Sovereign Citizens; Canine Behavior and Aggressive Dogs

ACCA Training Schedule

For a registration form, visit www.accacademy.net or call 913-515-0080

Training Course for Animal Control Professionals

Hosted by the City of West Des Moines Neighborhood Services

November 14-16, 2022 - West Des Moines, Iowa

Schedule of Training: Interpersonal Communication; Officer Safety and Protection; Canine Behavior and Aggressive Dogs; Safe Animal Handling/Capture and Restraint Equipment; Utilizing Thermometry for Animal Control; Community Cooperation/Education & Outreach; Diversion/Alternative Enforcement Programs; Sovereign Citizens; Stress Management/Compassion Fatigue

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

Baton/Bitestick Certification

Hosted by the Grass Valley Police Department

January 27, 2023 - Grass Valley, California

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