

Professional Development Course

Hosted by Williamson County Animal Control

July 15-17, 2025

Marion, Illinois



July 15 - \$350.00 per student for Day 1 and 2/ \$700.00 for all 3 days

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Officer Safety and Protection: This course will offer an understanding of the principles of officer safety, to include: personal protective equipment recommendations; health risks associated with animal control work; challenges associated with driving animal control service delivery vehicles; vehicular traffic risks; injury prevention related to the loading/unloading of animals on the vehicle; evaluating risks while on private property; contact considerations with citizens/violators; understanding the Safety Zone, to include proper distance, proper stance, and having an escape route; developing a survival mindset; and evaluating behavioral indicators of assaults.

Basic Animal Control Investigations: This course will detail the role of the Animal Control Officer in performing investigations and to identify the common types of investigations and variations between them. Participants will become familiar with scene assessment and the common tools and resources used in investigation procedures and case development. Complaint procedures, interview techniques and the types of forms and reports used for documentation will also be explained.

July 16 -

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

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.

Safe Handling, Capture And Restraint: Every day is a different day for an ACO. One of the most unique aspects of the ACO position is that of working with the wide variety of animal species and situations. Safe animal capture and handling is extremely important in order to protect the safety of the officer, the public and the animal. ACCA offers a 4-hour block of instruction that covers the skills and equipment that are necessary when dealing with domestic animals, wildlife, exotics and livestock. This practical course focuses on the animal species commonly handled by ACO's, injury prevention, dangers and risks, capture and restraint methods, equipment, safe loading and transportation.

July 17 - \$400.00 per student, covers both certifications

8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Baton/Bitestick Certification – The Baton/Bitestick Certification program is a hands-on program regarding the use of the tactical baton (bite stick) as a defensive tool to provide an Animal Control Officer with non-lethal force for dealing with aggressive animals and humans. The course will familiarize the Animal Control Officer with the practical use of the friction-lock and lever-lock baton. The training and instruction will cover the following topics: Safety; Legal Concepts; Use of Force Options; Documentation; Portation (mode of carry); and Practical Use and Retention of the ASP™ baton. The course includes both classroom and practical training.

Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol Training Certification – This program will certify students to utilize the Oleoresin Capsicum Aerosol (OC) as a defensive tool to provide an Animal Control Officer with non-lethal force for dealing with aggressive animals and humans. The course provides instruction and training in the following areas: To present principles, skills and techniques of understanding and using OC; Control violent and aggressive behavior of humans and dogs; Reduce personal injury to officers, individuals and the public; Increase an officer's confidence in physically threatening situations; Reduce the exposure of civil liability of the officer and the employer for unnecessary or improper force. Note: Student exposure to O.C. is not required.

Class Location – Williamson County Administration Building, 2nd Floor Board Room 407 N Monroe St Marion IL 62959. Need directions? Please call Kevin Harris at 618-993-6075.

The Training Course for Animal Control Professionals costs just \$700.00 for all three days (single day registration fees are listed above). To register, please complete and submit the attached registration form or visit www.accacademy.net (click on the "course calendar" link). Questions? Contact ACCA at 937-825-6709 or via e-mail at mkumpf@accacademy.net. Upon registration, you will receive a confirmation letter via e-mail.