

August 2025

The ACO Voice

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



ACCA Participates in National Law Enforcement Conference

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Notes from our CEO...

Greetings to all!

July was a busy month with August and the balance of 2025 looking to be just as busy. Among the trainings large and small, Senior Instructor JT Taylor and I took time to attend the Small and Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association (SRLEEA) Conference at the University of Kansas in conjunction with the Center for Public Safety Leadership.

We were vendor booth #1, joining more than 200 attendees from all over the United States. SRLEEA's membership focuses on agencies with 100 or fewer sworn personnel, 200 people or less per square mile, or any federally recognized tribal / Native American or indigenous people's organization including Alaska and US territorial groups. Many of these organizations face limited resources, funding challenges, and staffing issues that result in service delivery obstacles not experienced by larger jurisdictions. In recognition of those issues, SRLEEA was created to stand in the gap.

We shared space with law enforcement and public safety industry leaders for equipment, training, and software as well as Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies promoting interagency cooperation and education. Other animal-related vendors included the ASPCA and Humane World for Animals, along with the University of Columbia - Law Enforcement Training Institute, demonstrating SRLEEA's commitment to recognizing the importance of animal control in public safety.

ACCA provided three Adam Orebaugh "We'll Carry the Bags from Here" scholarships with tribal and police department winners drawn at the closing reception Monday evening.

We joined others for the closing presentation Tuesday on the BTK Serial Killer, Denis Rader, a former Codes Enforcement and animal control officer convicted of multiple murders over the course of decades. The presentation was a detailed, shocking and eye-opening experience with insights from the case investigator who brought him to justice.

As ACCA moves forward, we will be working on future partnerships and outreach to small jurisdictions whose need for animal control training is critical and most often neglected or overlooked.

We would like to extend a special THANK YOU to President (Sheriff) Eli Rivera, Vice President John Thompson, and Executive Director Mike Brown for their generous invitation and support!

Mark Kumpf, CAWA

CEO / Master Instructor ACCA

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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 and click on the "training catalog" tab. Please contact Mark Kumpf at 937-825-6709 or mkumpf@accacademy.net if you have questions.



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You may download the current edition of our e-magazine via this link:

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Please take a moment to review the rate card on the next page and let us know if we can assist with your advertising needs.

Sincerely,

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ACCA Participates in National Law Enforcement Conference

Saturday, July 26 through Tuesday, July 29 ACCA CEO Mark Kumpf and Senior Instructor JT Taylor attended the Small and Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association annual conference in Lawrence, Kansas. Participating as an event exhibitor, promoting Animal Control and Care Academy training, and attending classes, ACCA's leadership team was among the 250 registered attendees to SRLEEA's fifth annual conference.

The Small and Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association, SRLEEA (pronounced sir-LEE-ah for short) was the vision of John Thompson, SRLEEA vice president, who envisioned an organization that met the needs of the largest number of law enforcement organizations in the country. According to the current SRLEEA President, Sheriff Eli Rivera, SRLEEA represents 92 percent of the law enforcement agencies in the country. Federal Bureau of Investigations Assistant Director Gregory Heeb seconded Rivera's statement, saying that the majority of police and sheriff departments across the country are small departments in the more rural areas with limited manpower and resources available. Through SRLEEA's network, the goal is to make training and resources known

and available to its approximate 10,000 members.

Networking and resource availability is key for many members of the association as they became aware of ACCA's national and international training capabilities, the capabilities of the Draganfly drones in law enforcement, new and improved technologies in officer safety equipment, and a variety of services available to law enforcement, as well as animal control agencies across the country. Kumpf and Taylor attended training on Sovereign Citizens, and the services available from RISS, an organization that can assist animal control investigators with digital investigations in their illegal animal fighting investigations, ground penetrating radar for locating deceased animals in bloodsport or animal hoarding cases, and much more. All of the RISS resources are available at no charge to the investigating officers or their agencies.

JT Taylor said he planned to include RISS information in future training programs as a resource for animal control investigators involved in advanced investigations. Mark Kumpf speculated with representatives from Draganfly on the effectiveness of their drone's capabilities and its netting capabilities in capturing animals from



Networking and Educating Law Enforcement Professionals

With training brochures and information and animal handling equipment displayed at the ACCA Exhibitor Booth, demonstrating various chemical immobilization projectors was a hot topic of discussion.

the air. Kumpf also demonstrated to representatives of Gray Matter Solutions (GMS) the animal control application of some of their body armor as a defensive tool against dog bites. Taylor participated in a round-table discussion with local and state police agencies and agents from the FBI on using forensic and advanced investigative techniques during animal cruelty investigations. Sharing resources to gain successful investigative outcomes was the focus.

ACCA gave out three scholarships for any three or four-day certification training program between August 2025 and December 2026. Mark Bensen, chief of police of the Nez Perce Tribal Police, Sergeant Rubin Vela of the Dodge City, Kansas Police Department, and Chief Mark Hinkle of the Colwich Police Department were the scholarship recipients.

The conference concluded on Tuesday morning with a law enforcement only presentation and case study on Denis Rader, the BTK Killer, presented by the investigator who caught him. Rader, who was convicted of killing 10 people in the Park City and Wichita, Kansas area between 1974 and 1991, had worked as an animal control and code enforcement officer for Park City, Kansas in 1991. Kumpf said it was an excellent presentation and that he was saddened that "animal control had its own serial killer." Taylor concurred saying that when animal control officers are often referred to as serial killers hiding behind their badge for having to euthanize animals, having a human serial-killer, even from as long as two decades ago, does not help with the profession's image.

Both Kumpf and Taylor said the SRLEEA conference was an interesting experience, with a lot of networking opportunities. Discussions are underway for participation in other police and sheriff's association's conferences. Plans are underway for ACCA to also become exhibitors at state animal control association conferences, beginning with the Missouri Animal Control Association Annual Conference in September.



ACCA Training Scholarships were Presented to Three SRLEEA conference attendees

Dodge City, Kansas Police Sergeant Ruben Vila was one of three recipients to receive a certification training scholarship from Mark Kumpf during the Small-Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association conference.

Cover Photo: ACCA CEO/Master Instructor Mark Kumpf and Senior Instructor JT Taylor attended the Small-Rural Law Enforcement Executives Association Conference in Lawrence, Kansas, attending classes and working the Animal Control and Care Academy exhibitor's booth.



Round Table Discussions were part of Conference Lunch Breaks

More than 250 people registered for the SRLEEA conference to attend classes, network with local, state and federal agencies, and participate in a variety of discussions during breakfast, lunch and breaks.

Upcoming Training Opportunities

For a registration form, visit www.accacademy.net or call 937-825-6709.



Basic ACO Certification Course • Hosted by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office
September 15-17, 2025 • 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

Chemical Immobilization Certification • Hosted by Jefferson County Animal Control
September 18, 2025 • Kearneysville, West Virginia

Basic Animal Control Officer Certification • Hosted by Marana Animal Services
September 22-24, 2025 • Tucson, Arizona

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 & OCAT Certification • Hosted by Marana Animal Services
September 25, 2025 • Tucson, Arizona

Animal Shelter Technician Certification • Hosted by the Platte County Sheriff's Office
October 27-29, 2025 • Kansas City, 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

Advanced ACO Certification • Hosted by Cusseta-Chattahoochee County Animal Control
November 3-6, 2025 • Cusseta, Georgia

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 Cusseta-Chattahoochee County Animal Control
November 7, 2025 • Cusseta, Georgia



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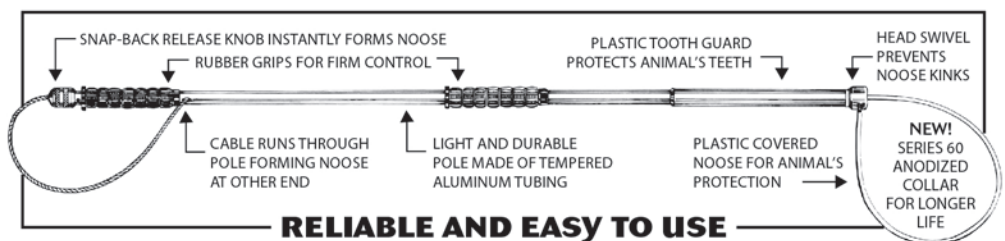
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Retracted, it is used as a longer heavy-duty restraining pole

“The ACO Voice”

2025 Advertising Rates

"The ACO Voice" is an electronic magazine that is published 12 times each year by the Animal Control & Care Academy to provide information of interest to Animal Control Officers. Advertising is provided on a space-available basis.

Publication Dates: The first week of each month.

Available ad sizes are: Full Page (7½" x 10") and Half Page (7½" x 5")

Advertising Rates			
	Three Times Full Color or B/W	Six Times Full Color or B/W	Twelve Times Full Color or B/W
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Half Page	\$125 x 3	\$100 x 6	\$75 x 12

Payments: Payments must be made in advance via check or credit card (PayPal).

Prohibited Ads: ACCA does not accept advertising from organizations that solicit funds (tax-exempt or otherwise) nor advertising by politicians or political parties. ACCA reserves the right to reject advertisements or any other matter objectionable in character or wording or for any other reason deemed unacceptable. Prohibited ads also include those from organizations that demonize the animal control profession and/or contradict the philosophies of ACCA.

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