

ANIMAL

CARE & CONTROL TODAY

A Publication of the National Animal Care and Control Association



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National Animal Care & Control Association Executive Director: Jerrica Owen

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From Our NACA President

Dear Fellow Animal Care & Control Family,

It is the heat of the summer, and wow is it hot! We are hearing from many members of our profession that they are extremely busy with intake being up, staffing levels being down, and large dogs or cats overrunning their facilities.

The first thing I want to say to everyone is that YOU ARE NOT ALONE! This is a national issue, and one that we are going to have to come together with our communities to solve. So many of us are in situations where for as far back as we can remember we have taken in anything and everything that we possibly could. Add the increased programming that many of us were able to start over the past two years while intake was down and adoption was up, and you have a recipe for stress and a feeling of being overextended for many of our team members who only know animal welfare during a global pandemic.

As we face these challenges, it is important to remember that we CANNOT be all things to all people. We are animal services agencies, and by virtue of the types of people who take up this noble profession, we are fixers, problem solvers, out-of-the-box thinkers, and givers to the extreme. Our agencies are often made up of people who are going to do whatever is put in front of them, even if it causes them to be overextended themselves. One thing that we must remember is that if we do not take care of ourselves and our coworkers, eventually we will hit a wall, and then who will be there to help the pets and people in our communities? Yes, I know “we are all replaceable,” but especially now in the time of the Great Resignation replacing any position is taking a significantly greater amount of time and leaving many agencies short staffed in the interim.

I had a very good conversation with one of the extremely high functioning and efficient members on our team and she was expressing frustration with staff who weren’t getting everything done that she wanted to complete each day. As the conversation went on, it became clear to me that it wasn’t that the staff were being lazy or intentionally not getting to things; it was simply that as a high functioning and extremely efficient person who tackled anything that was put in front of her, her staff just couldn’t keep up.

Often those of us who have been doing this for some time, especially pre-COVID, are used to the chaos find much of our job to be “old hat” and it is just part of what we do each day. For newer or less experience staff however, something that takes you five minutes may take them 30 minutes to an hour as they learn how to complete it.

All of the above to say:

1. Take care of yourself.
2. Take care of your teammates.
3. Have grace for those members of your team courageous enough to join our profession.
4. Remember your WHY for doing this amazing life-saving work.

Thank you for all you do, and stay safe out there!



Dr. Josh Fisher
NACA President



From Our Executive Director



Dear Animal Care & Control Colleagues,

Summer is here! For many of our friends and family, it's a time for fun, adventure, and rest. For us in the animal welfare world, it is just the opposite. This year is especially challenging with staffing shortages, endless streams of animals entering the shelters, supply shortages, increasing costs of everything, and to top it off, overwhelming caseloads.

While there is little we can do today about the rising number of animals, the cost of gas, or the extreme temperature exacerbating the situation, what we can focus on and control is how we treat each other, our communities, and ourselves. We often find ourselves so tightly interwoven in the chaos that is our work, we have a hard time balancing life at the same time. As animal care and control professionals, our challenges may shift, but so does our ability to strengthen our resilience as individuals and as a profession. We must learn to accept what life throws at us and learn to adapt in the healthiest and most humane way possible.

NACA has spent the first half of the year regaining our own strength, revitalizing our purpose, and working diligently to ensure that as an organization we continue to do what we set out to do 44 years ago: serve animal care and control professionals across the country.

We are working to bring you some amazing things in the second half of the year, like additional opportunities to connect with other members, accessible training on subjects you have asked for like tools and safe handling, and even more exciting ... we have emerged beyond the challenge that is COVID, and you will find NACA back in person!

We look forward to meeting and connecting with officers around the country at various training and industry-related conferences throughout the rest of 2022. I realize this version of in-person training looks different than it has in the past, but so do we as an organization, as an industry, and as a world. NACA adapted to the changing landscape and some challenges of its own and we are looking forward to continuing to serve members in new and exciting ways.

NACA to me is about networking, advocating, connecting, and anticipating. Each of our members and colleagues who have taken pride in contributing to the continued success of NACA, we thank you. Your commitment and dedication are unmatched, and we couldn't do it without you. Stay safe this summer!

Jerrica Owen
NACA Executive Director





Adapting to Changing Times

By Sharon Kelly

In 2021, Hardin County Animal Care and Control, along with so many other animal care organizations, was required to make drastic changes to our normal operating procedures due to COVID-19. Potential adopters and volunteers not being able to enter the shelter and no off-site adoption events were just some of the obstacles we faced in getting dogs and cats out of the shelter. We switched to online-only viewing of pets and filling applications out. Adopters could make an appointment to adopt a pet with an approved application, but we were not able to let them meet and interact with the pets before the adoption. Thankfully our staff members could detail each animal's behavior enough to know if the applicant would be a good match and we had very few returns due to not being able to meet first. For the first time, we reached out to other

shelters and humane societies not in our jurisdiction and asked for help with animals that we knew would be good family pets but just were not getting attention here. New Albany Floyd County Animal Control stepped up, and with their help we were able to get 12 dogs out of our kennels and into forever homes.

We saw a decrease in adoptions during the shutdown but also had fewer animals for intake. A majority of pet owners were able to work from home, and that helped in pet retention and the decrease of stray dogs in the community.

Animal control officers were dispatched to about the same number of complaints as the previous year, but more of the calls were related to welfare checks. Each of our officers carries a Home Again chip scanner in their truck.

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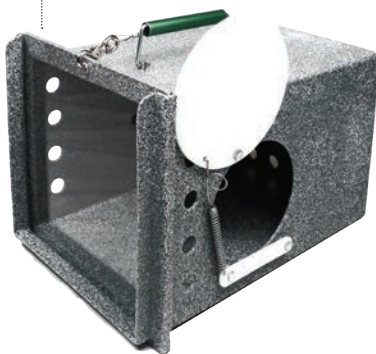
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(continued from page 5)

If the officer apprehended a dog and it had a microchip, they returned the dog to the owner in the field rather than bring it to the shelter. We averaged seven to eight monthly returns to owners with this process.

By mid-year we were able to allow volunteers back into the shelter. This meant the dogs could get out of their kennels for exercise and play during the day. Our volunteers helped to start our new program of taking dogs on field trips for the day. We had planned to launch the program to the community, but the COVID pandemic halted that idea. We have yet to start the program outside of the shelter volunteers, but we plan to in the near future.

Soon after reopening to volunteers, the public was allowed back inside to view the adoptable pets. We restarted our off-site adoption events and at our first one, a long-time resident, Oakley, was adopted. Oakley was turned in as stray August 28, 2021, and weighed 61 pounds on intake. He was microchipped, but there was no information for his owner to be found. Staff members and volunteers quickly fell in love with this boy's happy and playful personality. He greeted kennel workers each morning with a happy tail wag, anxious to be taken outside for his morning potty walk. As weeks went by, Oakley's happy personality started to dwindle and he began losing weight. He showed signs of being depressed. Even with the volunteers and staff taking him out of the kennel and outside, he continued to deteriorate. Extra attention was given to him and volunteers continued taking him on field trips. Around Christmastime he seemed to perk up some and began the journey back to happy-tail-wagging Oakley. Two weeks after Christmas we restarted our offsite-adoption events and Oakley was voted unanimously to go to the event. The sun shone down on him and his personality blossomed being out in public

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receiving all the attention. An employee from the store that hosted the event talked and played with Oakley while he was there and fell in love. He is now living in luxury with his new family. His story has a happy ending because staff and volunteers never gave up on him and persevered to get him physically and mentally healthy.

For the calendar year 2021, our live release rate was 95 percent. There were 991 adoptions, 240 reclaims, 161 dogs were released to rescues, and 691 cats came through the return to field program. In a year that saw many hardships, we are proud of these accomplishments and strive to continue with the lifesaving efforts for the animals who find themselves without a home and no one but us to help them.

Hardin County Animal Care and Control has 13 employees including three animal control officers, three full-time kennel techs, two part-time kennel techs, one staff assistant, one deputy director, one veterinary tech, one shelter veterinarian and our director. We have at least 20 steady volunteers and up to 10 who help with events outside the shelter. Sharon Kelly is deputy director at Hardin County Animal Care and Control ❖



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Upcoming Training Opportunities

August 2022

- 1 – 2 Tennessee Animal Care and Control Association Conference, Chattanooga TN
- 1 – 5 Louisiana Animal Control Association Conference, Alexandria LA
- 1 – 5 Level 2 Advanced Animal Cruelty Investigator, National Animal Cruelty Investigations School, Law Enforcement Training Institute University of Missouri Extension, Idaho Falls, ID
- 2 – 3 Chemical Immobilization and Anesthesia of Domestic and Wildlife Species, SDZWA Academy, Albuquerque, NM
- 28 Arkansas Animal Control Association Animal Rescue Safety for Volunteers, Bryant, AR



September 2022

- 14 – 16 Southeastern Animal Control Association Conference, Myrtle Beach, SC
- 21 – 23 Kentucky Animal Care and Control Association Annual Training Conference
- 27 – 29 Livestock Cruelty Investigations, Bloomington, IN, Code 3 Associates

October

- 4 – 5 Chemical Immobilization and Anesthesia of Domestic and Wildlife Species, SDZWA Academy Safe Capture, Oxford, NJ
- 5 – 7 Virginia Animal Control Association Conference, Virginia Beach
- 5 – 7 Oregon Animal Control Council Annual Training Conference, Oregon
- 6 Responding to Calls and Concerns about Bats, Justice Clearinghouse Webinar
- 6 – 8 The Gathering, CARE Conference Philadelphia
- 10 11 Sheltering Animal Foundations in Emergencies and Ropes and More, Cobb County GA
- 12 NACA Leading Conversations: In the Courtroom
- 14 – 17 Texas Unites Conference, Austin TX
- 15 – 16 Chemical Immobilization and Anesthesia of Domestic and Wildlife Species, SDZWA Academy Safe Capture, Stevens Point, WI
- 17 – 19 North Carolina Animal Rabies and Control Association Conference, Wrightsville Beach, NC
- 19 – 20 Chemical Immobilization and Anesthesia of Domestic and Wildlife Species, SDZWA Academy Safe Capture, Columbus, OH
- 21 – 22 Animal Protection and Wellness Expo Alpharetta, GA
- 29 NACA Annual Business and Membership Meeting

November

- 1 Online Reputation Management for Animal Shelters, Justice Clearinghouse Webinar
- 9 NACA Leading Conversations: Animal Control Officer Safety
- 13 – 16 Texas Animal Control Association Conference, San Marcos TX
- 17 The Top Ten Techniques for Dealing with Conflict, Justice Clearinghouse Webinar

December

- 14 NACA Leading Conversations: Compassion Stress

Resilience in Five Minutes a Day

Q & A with Wendy Hummell

Webinar presenter Wendy Hummell answered a number of your questions after her presentation, "Improving Resilience in 5 Minutes a Day." Here are a few of her responses....

Audience Question: Are there any apps that you can suggest with helping with making these resiliency changes?

Wendy Hummell: Well, there are a lot of apps. I'm most familiar with apps that have to do with yoga and meditation. But as far as tying all of these different topics together, I'm not familiar with one app that does that, but I can tell you that Pause First Academy has some really great meditation and mindfulness resources that are on YouTube if you're interested in meditation and mindfulness. There's always a paid version and a free version, but *Insight Timer*, *10% Happier*, and *Calm* are three of the apps that I would recommend when it comes to meditation. And then, you know, it, if you're interested in yoga or functional movement, I've got some suggestions there, but I don't know if that's exactly what she was asking.

Host: A couple of folks have submitted suggestions: mResilience.net Fabulous is a good app for building healthy habits. I also use that app. It's great for meditation and some amazing sleep stories. So, appreciate you suggesting that. Those who have Kaiser Permanente Medical insurance can get the paid version of Calm for free, so that's Kaiser. I'm not honestly sure how you do that; it's been like a year since I got access to that method, but I can confirm that they do have that available for their members.

Audience Question: Can you talk a little bit more about the relationship between eating habits and resiliency?

Wendy Hummell: Oh, yeah, absolutely. So, when we think about the link and the integration between all of our various systems that we have, a lot of times really making sure that what we're feeding our bodies how we're moving our bodies, that impacts the messages that are coming into ourselves, to our bodies constantly, and there's something called the Vagus

nerve that is the longest nerve in our bodies, and that connects the brain and the mind to the organ systems. So what we eat, how we treat our bodies, and how we move our bodies are directly connected to what goes upstairs as well. And, that two-way communication system is done via that biggest nerve. So a lot of times I think that we kind of miss the mark and we are only talking about mental and emotional health which is completely significant and important. But we can't ignore the link between how we care for our bodies as well

Audience Question: If we're up late at night after ten o'clock, but just watching TV or relaxing, without stress, does that still produce the cortisol?

Wendy Hummell: Unfortunately, my answer is yes. Going to bed after 10 o'clock. What happens a lot of times in night owls, and I failed to mention this is kind of like that second wind. If you're up past 10 there's a likelihood because you're up, and again that cortisol is being released regularly at this is a pattern. You get that kind of

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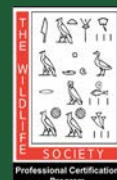
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spike which I mean a lot of my night owls may be able to relate. I know this happens to me when I go to bed too late. I kind of get a burst of energy. It may not be like jump out of your chair energy, but you have a little bit more of a psyche and so that can impact, you know, how late you go to bed. I mean, it's better too if you're going to stay up late. And again, it's that whole Kaizen approach to relaxation. Maybe not to watch something overly stimulating or activating the nervous system. But again, even moving the bedtime back, just a little bit closer to that 10 o'clock mark can really do wonders.

Audience Question: If you go to bed after 10 p.m., but still get a solid eight hours of sleep, are the health implications still valid? And I think especially with what you just said about that burst of energy, the answer to that is yes, the health implications are still valid.

Wendy Hummell: Yeah, it's great to get eight hours of

sleep and I'm not going to knock that at all. But again, thinking about the release of the hormones after a certain time and just kind of going back to that wisdom that we talked about in our physiology is that circadian rhythm. Our natural sleep and wake cycle, our natural cycle of when it's best to eat and digest all that. It's still after 10 p.m. roughly is too late.

Audience Question: Do you have any thoughts on intermittent fasting?

Wendy Hummell: I have a lot of thoughts on intermittent fasting, and I'm a big fan of it. I just didn't have time to go into it earlier, but when it comes to the spacing of your meals, giving your body that time to regenerate and get rid of the sugar and let everything reprocess out. Intermittent fasting can be another very beneficial way to help give your body that time to go back to balance. And so that's one of the reasons why if that's something that

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NACA Field Services Series: Using Tools and Equipment



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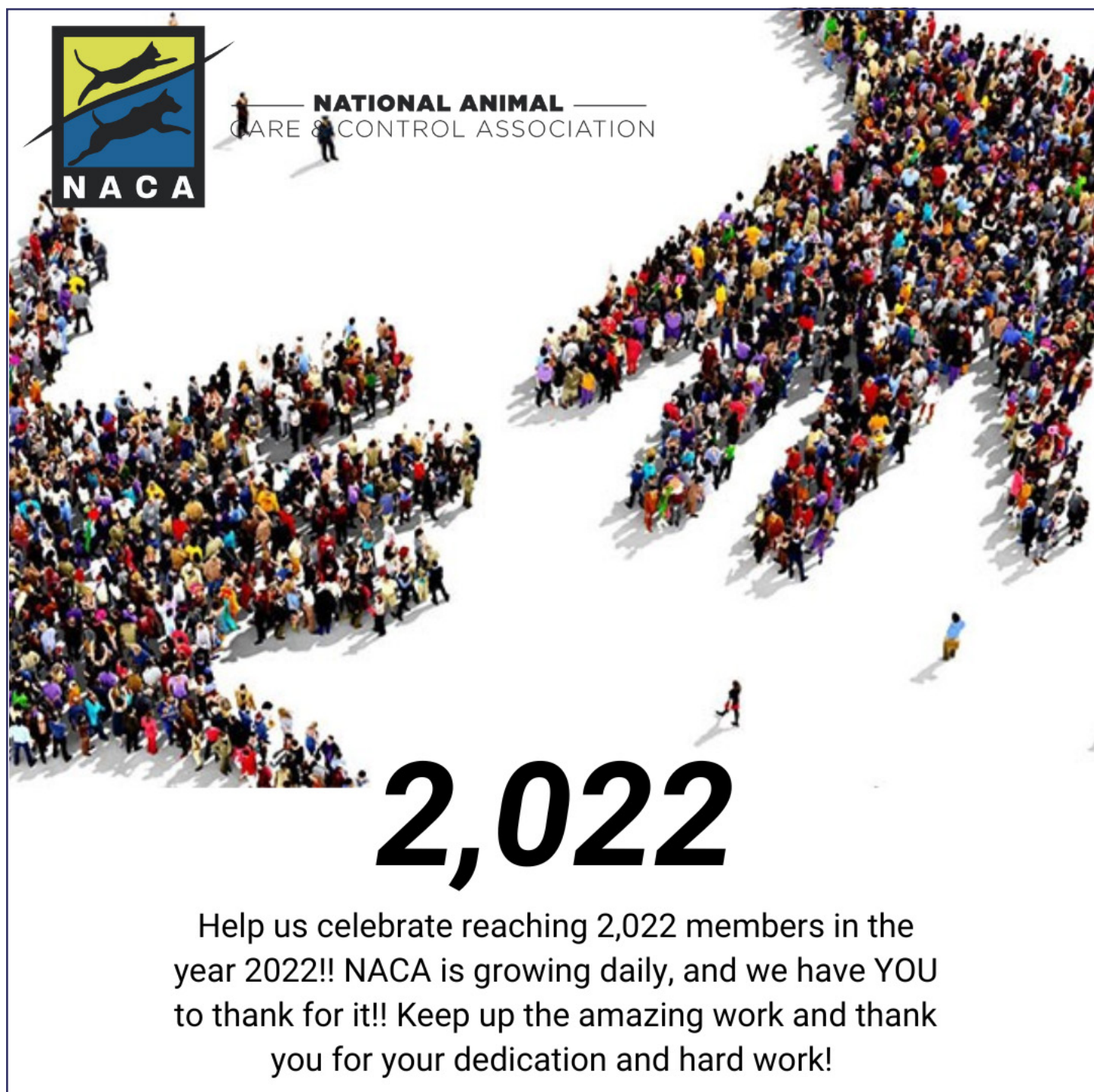
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you want to try, only eating three hours before bedtime really gives yourself a good 12 hours between your last meal and then breaking the fast at breakfast. And so, because if you think about intermittent fasting, there are so many ways to go about it or approach it. Sometimes people look at it as being deprived; they feel hungry and it's too stressful. And so if that is something that you've never tried and you're interested in trying, again. I would go about it in the same way and just maybe phase out the time between meals and between the longest spacing after your dinner and before breakfast. And if you

can even start with 12 hours, I usually try to go for 14 every day, just to give my body that time to kind of let everything reset. So, it can be very beneficial. That's the reason why it can be so beneficial as for the same reason that spacing our meals is that our body is burning fat.

Audience Question: Talking about strategies for sleeping for shift workers. Do you have some recommendations you can share?

Wendy Hummell: Yes. Because that's obviously something that I encounter a lot with the people who work at this agency. So, for instance, if you work the third



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shift, usually like 10:30 to 6:30 in the morning. It still is best to try to eat differently even though I know people are up adjusting so that your larger meal is some time before you would go to work. So just still really try to eat your largest meal at the point in the day, when your circadian rhythm and your digestion and your bile production are optimal. And then eat a smaller meal before you would start your shift. If it's necessary, depending on the person, eat something in the middle of your shift. But something just very light, just something very supplemental. So as far as intermittent fasting, that's something that anyone can do to adjust.

As far as sleeping again, those are the same recommendations that I had up there. It's even more important for people who work at night to make sure that they have a good sleep routine. Because of the sleep they do get, even though it's not at the optimal time, they're going against the circadian rhythm. Even if they sleep at a different time, make sure that the quality of their sleep is good.

And then a couple of other things I learned from Lois and Steven James actually, is that making sure that you see sunlight. A lot of times people who work at night, adopt that same routine even on their days off and they don't

see sunlight very frequently, especially in the winter months, which research shows can lead to depression. So just make sure you are doing some other things: adding in sunlight, adding in good quality sleep hygiene, things like that. And considering how you sleep on your days off. One thing I learned again from Dr. James was to try to sleep at night as much as you can when you're not at work.

Audience Question: Related to Dr. James' webinar, can you share any comments on napping?

Wendy Hummell: Yeah, she did, they talk a lot about what's called tactical napping, which I think is kind of fascinating. That is an honestly very counterculture concept that a lot of agencies probably hear that they go, "No, we can't do that." But there's, you know, there's a lot of reasons and benefits as to why that could be something very helpful. But if you're talking about napping on duty, they would be the best people to consult on that.

But just napping in general throughout your day, can be beneficial, I mean it doesn't take much to just rest in the middle of your day. It's almost kind of akin to the same benefit that you might get from just sitting in silence without distraction. So, it just kind of depends on exactly what you're talking about and when and what shift you work. ❖



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Moving Beyond “Dog Catchers” and “The Pound”

By Melissa D. Knicely

This month marks my fifteenth year working for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department’s Animal Care & Control (AC&C) as the communications manager.

When I was asked to write this blog, I was so excited about the opportunity, and immediately called to share the news with my mom. The next day I was on the phone with her once again, and she asked if I had decided what I was going to write about. I told her that I had not started brainstorming about it yet. She immediately launched into naming great stories that have happened over the years that she felt were blog-worthy: The “Carter” the monkey saga, “Charlotte” the little brown dog from Hurricane Matthew, reaching ninety percent live release rate in 2020...

I realized right away as I listened to her rattle off suggestions like she was reading a Netflix menu, that I could write thousands of blogs about amazing things I’ve seen take place at AC&C in the last 15 years! Seriously! Just cue

the Sarah McLachlan “Angel” song and I’ll have you crying happy tears in a mere paragraph or two.

The longer I thought about all my mom’s suggestions, the more I thought, wow, my mom knows so much about AC&C and what we do, but clearly that’s because she is my mom, right? It made me think about the greatest challenge I have had in my role all these years: expanding positive public perception of AC&C in our rapidly growing community by shedding the misnomers of old-school animal control.

When I say the words “dog catcher” and “the pound,” does that affect you? Does it make you cringe like the sound of nails on a chalkboard? Probably not, and you are likely thinking, what is she talking about? Well, I’m going to let you in on a little secret, when people use the terms “dog catcher” and “the pound” to describe animal shelters, it makes animal welfare staffers’ blood pressure skyrocket,

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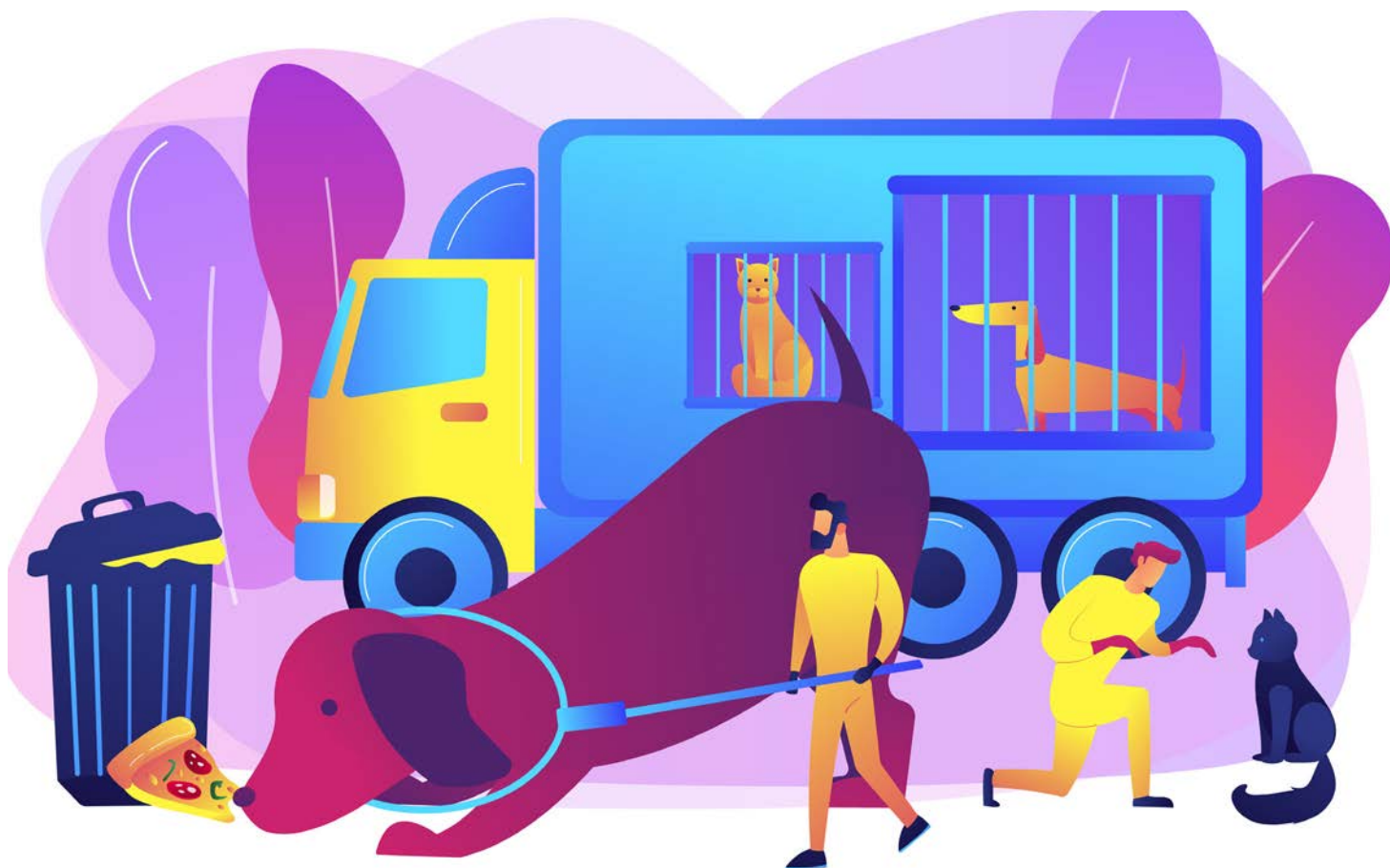
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especially those who work for municipal shelters like AC&C. To us, they are antiquated words that may have had a place nearly 30 years ago when the AC&C shelter was built, when over 20 thousand animals were entering the shelter annually and only a small percentage of them were leaving the shelter in a positive manner.

Today, however, we are well beyond “the pound” and “the dog catcher” days of impending doom. We are animal welfare professionals who work at an animal shelter and pet adoption center and work alongside a village of volunteers, local animal advocates, donors, national animal welfare organizations, granting organizations, local business partners, rescue groups, and incredible local animal welfare partners who continue to help us make huge strides in finding positive outcomes for nearly 90 percent of the animals that enter the shelter. These partners have worked hard to put amazing programs in place that are helping keep more animals out of the shelter and in their homes.

I’m so proud of the 80 coworkers I have the pleasure of working with. They are dedicated and passionate about the work they do, day in and day out to help better the lives of the animals in our care. I believe in 100 percent transparency, so I won’t sugar coat it. Our jobs are like many other jobs: they come with challenges, frustrations, and a copious amount of stress, but we also share big laughs. We often take a 10-minute break to cuddle a dog or snuggle a cat as a stress reliever. Pocket pets serve as

our in-office therapists, and even more often, we share tears.

Some are sad Sarah McLachlan-like tears, but most are happy tears, like when celebrating the adoption of a dog named “Storm,” who was the focus of an animal cruelty case that showed a video of him being submerged by his owner in a storage tub that was filled with bleach water. Luckily for Storm, he was rescued by AC&C officers and became an extended stay guest with us for 18 months while he awaited the outcome of his court case. He became our dog, and part of our family. He had his own care team that worked tirelessly to help him recover. They witnessed a metamorphosis with him; he blossomed from a scared, fearful, bite-risk dog to a happy, full of life, energetic ball of energy, kisses, and love. The end.

Just kidding, I can’t leave you hanging there without finishing his happily ever after. Storm won his case. We won our case. Wait, how was it a win, when we had to say goodbye to our dog? As you might have guessed there were a lot of happy tears shed by “Storm’s team” when they watched him walk out of the shelter doors to begin his new life with his new family. Saying goodbye to Storm was kind of like eating a sour patch kid, very bittersweet.

Thanks, mom, for inspiring me to tell our stories. Be like mom. Share our stories to support YOUR local animal care and control!

Melissa D. Knicely is communications manager/PIO at Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department Animal Care and Control. ❖



How to Avoid Unwanted Dog Behaviors Using Enrichment

By Kait Hembree

Each year an estimated 2 million dogs are adopted in the United States according to the ASPCA. As these dogs spend time in rescues and later move into their new homes, behavioral problems can emerge. One of the primary reasons for these issues is a lack of daily enrichment, broadly defined as any activity that provides mental or physical stimulation that satisfies a dog's normal needs. This includes interactive toys, games, exercise, and social activities. Without these activities, a dog can become bored, stressed, or anxious, often leading to unwanted and dangerous behaviors such as chewing, barking, digging, and destruction. To combat this, here are some simple ways to provide dogs with the enrichment they need, whether in a new home or in a rescue environment.

Create a Routine

The key to avoiding bad behaviors through enrichment is to create a routine. Specific enrichment activities should

be scheduled and repeated each day. This allows the dog to anticipate the upcoming activity, which in turn reduces the appeal of less desired behavior.

For example, many dogs benefit from having some or all their meals provided using a food toy, which requires the dog to think and work in order to get the food. Popular food toys include the Kong, the Busy Buddy, and the Nibble Kibble. Do-It-Yourself food toys can also easily be made. Consider hiding treats in squished up old towels or creating an 'Adventure Box' by placing novel items in an old laundry basket that need to be worked through to reach food or treats.

Explore Different Enrichment Activities

In some situations, food toys might not be readily available, or dogs may need additional enrichment beyond meal times. In these cases, explore other interactive toys and games such as flirt poles, snuffle mats, and tug-of-war. An easy DIY option is to set up a simple game of "Find It" with

food or treats hidden around the dog's environment. These activities require active engagement and help to tire dogs out, further reducing the likelihood for undesired behavior.

In addition to interactive toys, many dogs benefit from regular use of chew toys like marrow bones and antlers. These help dogs stay away from other items they might otherwise chew and can even help prevent the ingestion of dangerous materials.

Proactively Socialize

Another great way to provide enrichment is through proactive socialization and exposure, which prepares a dog for positive interactions with other animals, people, and places. When this happens before the dog is 14 weeks old, it is referred to as socialization. After 14 weeks, it is considered exposure.

Whether it is socialization or exposure, preparations should be made to ensure it is a positive experience. Start small and slowly work your way up, making sure to associate positive things with the activity. For example, when taking a dog out, begin in a known area with relatively low traffic. Keep some distance from animals, people, and other stimuli while giving lots of treats. Then, as the dog adjusts, slowly close the distance. For dogs living in a rescue, consider establishing a dog ambassador program that can help provide positive outside social exposure.

Keep in mind that if a dog has an unknown history or possible special behavioral needs, then a more structured plan created with a professional trainer should be considered.

Incorporate Exercise

Every dog needs physical exercise for enrichment. The typical dog should receive at least 30 minutes of exercise daily, with some requiring more and others less. The type of exercise is also important. Many dogs will require more rigorous activity (for example, a game of fetch) in addition to walking. As with the other types of enrichment, exercise has the biggest impact when it is done around the same time each day, helping to create structure in the dog's day. It can be done once a day or several times throughout the day.

Work on Cue Training

Lastly, a great way to incorporate enrichment is with a daily training session. Like everything else, this should be a consistent part of any daily routine. Training is not only a great way to bond with a dog while helping them expend energy, but it also teaches them life skills that can help prevent other behavioral concerns.

Training sessions don't have to be complicated. When treats are not readily available, individual morsels of kibble will suffice. Start by getting the session rolling with a basic

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NACA Field Services Series: Using Tools and Equipment

The National Animal Care and Control Association, with the generous support and exceptional expertise of Maddie's University is excited to share with you the release of a first of its kind online course created by officers, for officers. This course covers safe, effective, and humane use of standard-issue field services equipment. Videos present humane concepts and safe handling techniques. Use of tools and equipment is demonstrated by Animal Capture and Handling Instructor John Peaveler. This course aims to support officers, agencies, and other field service professionals by ensuring they have accessible, on demand, and free training. This training will help provide ensure officers have the skills necessary to keep safe when out in the field. Enroll today!



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(continued from page 19)

name game. Stand in front of the dog and say their name. As soon as they make eye contact, provide a treat. If they don't make eye contact, try moving closer to them and repeat. Dogs can also be shown that treats are available by holding out enclosed fists with the treats inside. Often they are more motivated to play once they realize there is something in it for them.

For dogs that may already know a few cues, have a simple review session. For example, ask for a sit, and then reward. Walk a few feet away, call their name, and repeat. Then ask another cue and repeat. Mix and match the cues. As you add more cues, the dog builds their base of skills that can be used in other contexts.

Whether in the rescue or at home, all dogs are at risk of developing a behavioral problem, but many can be prevented or curtailed with the help of daily enrichment. Create a routine for the dog that incorporates food and interactive toys, socialization, exercise, and training.

Need help creating an enrichment program for a dog? Download the GoodPup app, available on the iOS and Google Play App Stores or at GoodPup.com.

About GoodPup

GoodPup is a leading positive reinforcement dog training program that connects dog owners to top trainers for one-on-one training over video chat.

GoodPup has a free partnership program for animal shelters and rescue organizations and is currently working with more than 400 animal rescue organizations to provide accessible, affordable dog training and enrichment to their communities. To learn more, visit <https://goodpup.com/shelters> or email shelters@goodpup.com.

Kait Hembree and her team designed the GoodPup Training Program using the latest scientific research and positive reinforcement training techniques. Kait's career in animal behavior spans decades. She has extensive experience working with behavior modification, both inside and outside veterinary practices and animal shelters. She regularly consults as a dog behavior expert, and can be reached at kait@petcarenow.com. ❖



NACA

Investing in our Nation's Animal Care & Control Professionals

NACA has allocated the 2022 conference budget to supporting and funding state associations, officers, and agencies around the country **directly** in their own state. By ensuring they have the resources necessary to meet the needs of animal care and control professionals where it is needed the most.

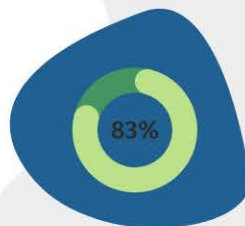
Data 1

In the first 6 months of 2022, NACA has committed to 23 Industry/State Association Conferences and Training Academies across the country and are still adding more!



Data 2

NACA board members are viewed as industry experts and have been requested to present at 55% of conferences attended with more currently in the works.



Direct Support

83% of the funds spent have gone **directly** to the State Associations and Agencies for support.



NACA's Reach

NACA's direct funds support officers and agencies where they are span 17 States from Coast to Coast.

NACA has a responsibility and commitment to supporting State Associations, Agencies, and officers giving their all in the field

In the first 6 months of 2022, NACA has provided scholarships, vital safety, and administrative equipment, and advocacy support. In addition, NACA has had a global reach including at least 13 countries this year alone impacted by the programs and services of NACA.



Equal Access to Training

NACA understands the challenges faced by underserved and rural areas in our country. By helping to support agencies and officers in their own states, through local, regional, or virtual training and conferences opportunities, we are helping to ensure equal access to education and reduce barriers associated with annual conference expenses.



NATIONAL ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL ASSOCIATION



Project Coyote and NACA Join Forces for Wildlife Coexistence

By Michelle L. Lute and Jerrica Owen

A new partnership provides resources to inform, educate, and empower animal control officers and the public about wildlife coexistence.

Larkspur, Calif. — Project Coyote and the National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA) announce a new partnership to help equip animal care officers (ACOs) across the country with the best science-based resources and training needed to foster peaceful coexistence between people and wildlife.

NACA works directly with ACOs across the country to provide standardized training and resources to equip them in providing a wide array of animal field services to their communities. Project Coyote is a national non-

profit organization that promotes coexistence between people and wildlife through education, science, and advocacy. Together these organizations have a shared interest in ensuring humane and nonlethal approaches to human and wildlife interactions.

“This is an exciting and crucial partnership because it meets a critical need for communities across the country,” said Camilla Fox, founder and executive director for Project Coyote. “Many wildlife species, from coyotes to raccoons, are good at living near humans. We often need help in returning the favor and that’s what these new resources provide: evidence-based information on

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What's Cooking, ACOs?

Animal control is a tough job. Sometimes finding the time to cook is even tougher. “ACO Michele” created a Facebook group in 2017 called “ACO Bites” that quickly grew to over 200 members with an average of 51 posts a month! The group is designed for ACOs and animal care professionals to share their favorite foods with other like-minded professionals! The emphasis is mostly on quick meals that can go from idea to table in under an hour because we all know coming home after a long, hard day and being able to prepare a good meal is important to staying healthy – and keeping one's sanity!

This issue we are proud to feature mushroom and chickpea bourguignon, submitted by MJ Barnett Macguire. We hope you will enjoy this! Keep watching this column for more recipes to come!

Mushroom & Chickpea Bourguignon

Ingredients:

8-12 oz. mushrooms - (portobello, shiitake)
1 or 2 large carrots, sliced 1 cm. thick
1 large white onion
4 cloves garlic, minced
10 small pearl onions, whole (optional)
1.25 c. red wine
1.33 c. veggie stock
2 tbsp. tomato paste
3 tsp. fresh thyme, finely chopped
2 bay leaves
3 tsp. dark soy sauce (can substitute with coconut aminos)
10 oz. can of chickpeas
1 tbsp. olive oil
1 tbsp. butter
1/2 tbsp. cornstarch + 1/2 tbsp. water (mixed well together) (optional)
salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
2 tbsp. of finely chopped fresh parsley (optional)



Directions

Mix all ingredients together in large bowl.

1. Heat 1 tbsp. olive oil in a pan and fry carrot and onion over medium heat for one minute, add half of the garlic and stir fry for 15 seconds, then add the tomato paste and stir fry for another 1-2 minutes or until it becomes a bit darker in color.
2. Add pearl onions, wine, veggie stock, thyme, bay leaves, soy sauce, salt, and pepper.
3. Mix well and bring to a boil.
4. Let boil for 4-5 minutes, then cover and let simmer on low heat for 20 minutes.
5. When 5 minutes of cooking time remains, heat 1 tbsp. olive oil and butter in a separate pan. Wait until the butter starts to bubble, then add mushrooms, and season with salt & pepper.
6. Fry mushrooms until slightly golden brown (5 minutes), then add to the stew along with the chickpeas.
7. Let simmer uncovered for 2-3 minutes.
8. If needed, stir in cornstarch slurry to thicken.

Served best with mashed potatoes!

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how to coexist with our wild neighbors.”

During the summer months, ACOs, animal shelters, and police departments across the country typically receive increased calls from community members regarding wildlife sightings in their backyards. Wildlife is actively raising young and working overtime to feed growing families, resulting in increased sightings and activity. This partnership provides the resources needed to equip ACOs to respond humanely and effectively to calls about wildlife.

Project Coyote and NACA have created science-based resources — including door hangers, brochures, and signage — that inform and educate on human-wildlife coexistence and can be directly distributed to communities, shelters, wildlife rehabilitation centers, and similar organizations. These co-branded materials, including a fact sheet about dogs and coyotes, a “Don’t Feed Wildlife” sign, “Be Coyote Aware” trail signs and flyers (in both English and Spanish), a hazing field guide and a coexistence tip card, are available on the new partnership webpage.

“NACA is honored to partner with Project Coyote to support animal control officers who encounter coyotes in their daily roles,” stated Jerrica Owen, executive director for the National Animal Care and Control Association. “We feel that our partnership will support officers across

the country by ensuring animal control officers have the resources and educational content to better support the coexistence between the two.”

Coyote sightings and interactions are one of the most common calls that ACOs will receive during these summer months. A typical call may describe an interaction such as coyotes exhibiting “escorting” behavior, which is normal this time of year, as coyotes will sometimes follow humans and their dogs near their dens to ensure they are not a threat to their puppies. Proper public education about wildlife behavior and how community members can properly respond is crucial for reducing conflicts and fostering peaceful coexistence with wildlife.

“My job as an ACO was all about helping folks live peacefully with their wild neighbors,” explained John Maguranis, Project Coyote’s Massachusetts representative and former animal control officer in Belmont, Massachusetts. “ACOs are important first responders when the public has questions about backyard wildlife and these informational resources will help equip ACOs in supporting their communities. As I like to say, knowledge conquers fear.”

Michelle L. Lute, PhD, is Project Coyote’s carnivore conservation director. Jerrica Owen is NACA’s executive director. ❖

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NACA POSITION STATEMENT

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POTENTIAL FOR EXPANSION OF
COURTROOM ANIMAL ADVOCATES
PROGRAM (CAAP) LAWS



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www.nacanet.org/news/



NACA Statement on the Potential for Expansion of Courtroom Animal Advocates Program (CAAP) Laws

Background

Courtroom Animal Advocate Program (CAAP) is described as “laws that allow legal practitioners - supervised law students or volunteer lawyers - to advocate for animal victims in criminal cruelty cases. Volunteers appear in court and assist the judge by drafting briefs, conducting research, gathering information from veterinarians, animal control officers, and law enforcement officials, and making recommendations on behalf of the animal victim’s interest.”

These laws are based on **Desmond’s Law**, passed in Connecticut in October 2016, which allows legal advocates to testify on behalf of animal victims in cruelty and neglect cases. The impacts of these laws have yet to be studied and there is no evidence to show the rates of animal crimes have dropped in Connecticut since the law was enacted in 2016.

There is a likelihood that several CAAP laws will be introduced in multiple states this coming year. These laws have the potential to negatively impact animal control agencies and officers.

Animal Control Officers have historically served as advocates for animals in cruelty and neglect cases and we are concerned these laws have a real potential to further marginalize and silence the voices and experiences of the animal control officers themselves. We believe that adding an external advocate to already-complex cases is likely to lead to a divergence of opinions on what is ‘best’ for the animal victim. It is not clear how the varying opinions of the investigating officer, the prosecutor, and the court-appointed advocate would be weighted.

NACA’s Recommendation

Given the potential negative consequences of CAAP bills, as well as the fact that there is no data to show that CAAP laws achieve their stated purpose, we recommend these laws are carefully studied to determine the impact on animal victims of cruelty and neglect and on the overall welfare of animals. We do not recommend the introduction or adoption of new CAAP legislation at this time, due to this lack of information.

Further, we recommend animal control officers throughout the U.S. are afforded ongoing opportunities to provide meaningful feedback on any bills that will impact animal cruelty and neglect cases in their state.

Animal Control Officers’ Expertise and Experience Should Drive Policy Change

Animal control agencies consistently identify several key challenges related to the successful investigation and prosecution of animal cruelty and neglect cases. These include:

- a critical lack of human and financial resources to adequately investigate and prosecute; and
- a disconnect between animal control officers and the rest of the justice system; and
- a lack of urgency that often results in months to years-long wait for animals in shelter kennels waiting for cases to be heard; and
- a confusing and outdated state and local law when it comes to animal cruelty and neglect.

We ask policymakers to engage with animal control professionals to better understand the issues they face and to create laws and policies to address them.



NACA Statement on Recognizing the Role of the Animal Control Officer

NACA recommends animal control officers receive compensation, training, resources, and equipment necessary to perform the critical services they provide to their communities.

More specifically, NACA advocates animal control officers be given appropriate humane handling equipment, vehicles in good condition, standardized uniforms, and personal safety equipment. Ideally, animal control officers should also have access to microchip scanners, laptop computers, leashes, collars, pet food, pet supplies, and other resources that enable them to effectively support pets and people in their communities. Finally, NACA recommends agencies review officer compensation to determine if existing salaries are sufficient to recruit and retain qualified and skilled animal control officers.

Animal control officers (ACOs) perform a vast number of services related to pets and people. They work long hours, in dangerous situations, in inclement weather, and oftentimes with inadequate resources, training, and equipment. Animal control officers in most areas are responsible for more than enforcing animal laws; they also assist law enforcement as the animal experts in their community, provide the services of social workers, risk their lives as emergency responders, mitigate community member conflicts, and much more.

They work closely with the justice system, including prosecutors and judges, local and state law enforcement agencies, elected and appointed officials, state veterinarian and health department, the local rabies authority, the fire department, code enforcement, and social services agencies. Although not traditionally classified as first responders, animal control officers perform essential work that ensures public safety for both humans and animals.

Here are just a few of the services provided by animal control officers across the U.S.:

- Overseeing rabies quarantines
- Rescuing pets in extreme cold and heat
- Investigating dangerous and vicious dog cases
- Investigating dog bites
- Preventing unnecessary shelter intake and helping to reunite lost pets with their people
- Inspecting pet stores and animal rescues
- Investigating animal neglect, cruelty, hoarding, and intentional acts of abuse
- Following up on veterinary and court-ordered inspections of homes
- Addressing noise and waste complaints
- Mitigating complaints about outdoor and free-roaming cats

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