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“PAWS FOR CHANGE”
LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

**SPECIAL ISSUE:
NACA DISPATCH
CERTIFICATION
RELEASED!**

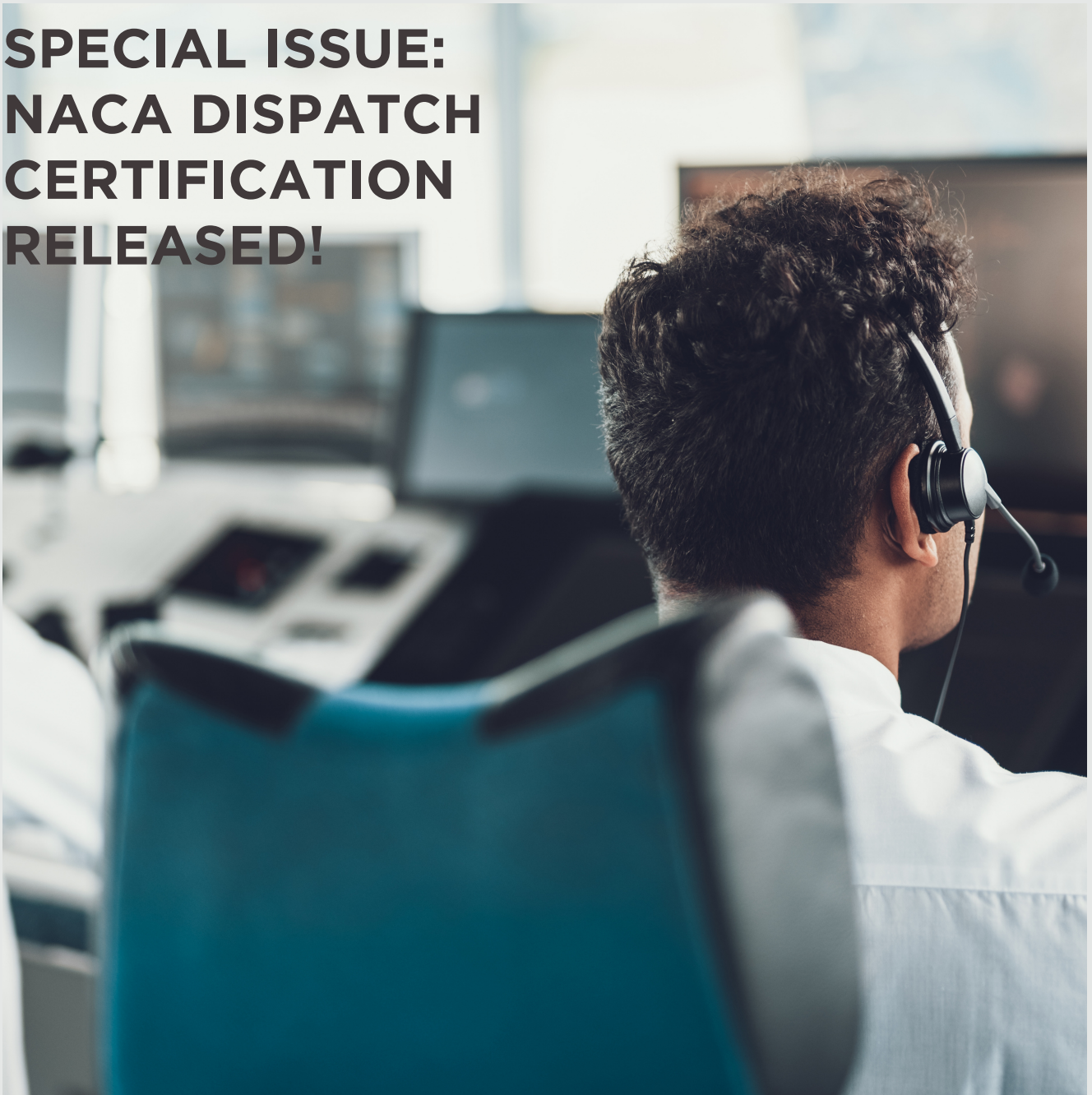
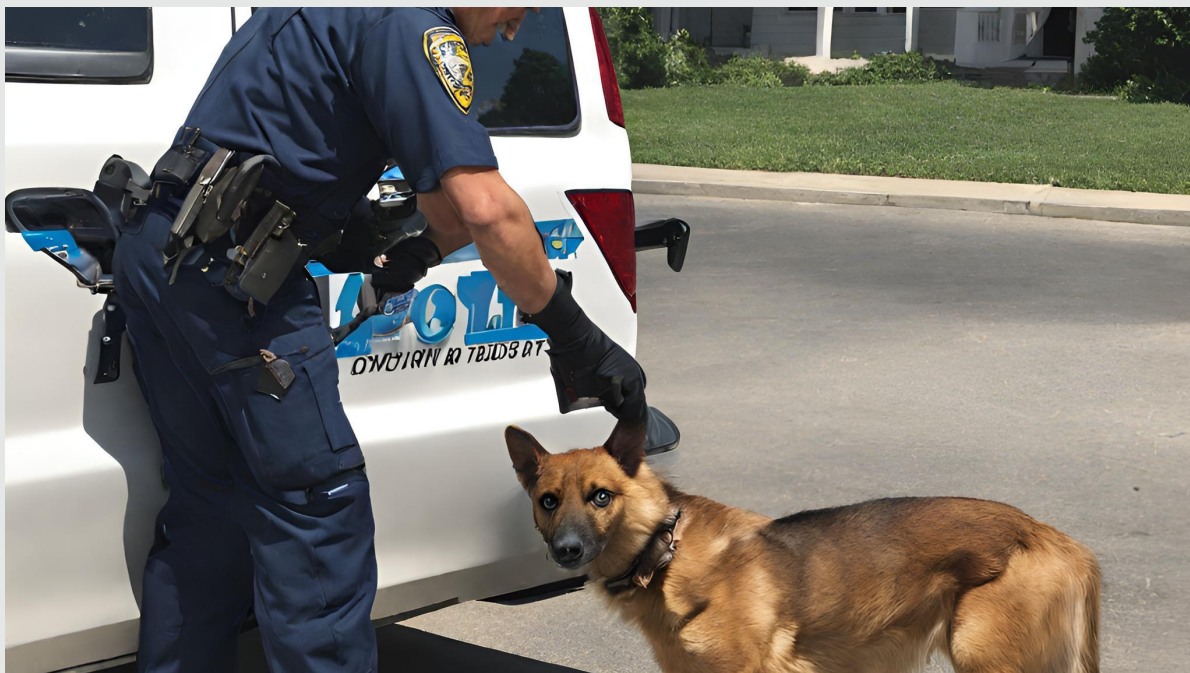


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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we usher in the vibrant season of renewal, I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to each of you in this Spring edition of our magazine. Spring is a time of growth, blossoming possibilities, and the emergence of new narratives. In the spirit of this season, our magazine unfolds with stories that illuminate the dedication and resilience of animal care and control professionals. From the fields to the shelters, our heroes navigate challenges with unwavering commitment, making a profound impact on the lives of both animals and communities.

In these pages, you will find narratives that celebrate the profound connections between officers and the communities they serve. Our focus on community engagement underscores the pivotal role it plays in fostering understanding, building trust, and creating environments where both humans and animals thrive.

As we explore the pages of this issue, let us be inspired by the stories within - tales of compassion, innovation, and the indomitable spirit of those committed to the welfare of animals. It is my hope that these narratives will not only resonate with you but also serve as a source of motivation for the important work that lies ahead.

Our gratitude extends to each contributor, supporter, and reader who makes our magazine a vibrant tapestry of shared experiences. Together, we amplify the voices that shape the narrative of animal care and control.

Wishing you a season filled with hope, growth, and the joy that comes with making a positive impact.



Jerrica Owen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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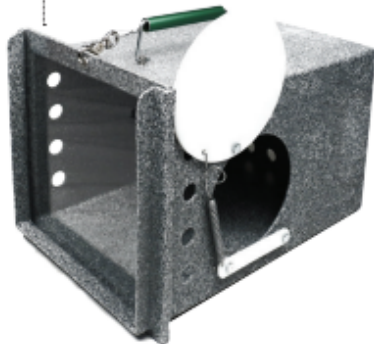
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COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS



Every Monday: Community Conversations, Maddie's Fund!

- March 21st-25th: Arizona Animal Control Association Conference
- April 4th: 7 Practices to Live and Work Better
- April 10th: Kitten 101 Webinar
- April 10th: Webinar AAWA Study Results: How Do Access to Veterinary Care Challenges Impact Animal Welfare Orgs?
- April 15th - 17th: Arkansas Animal Control Association Conference
- April 24th: Webinar AAWA The Healthy Animal-Healthy Community Initiative

- April 26th - 29th: Texas Unites Conference
- May 5th - 7th: Humane Canada
- May 7th: Tribal Law and Animal Law
- May 15th - 18th: HSUS Expo
- May 30th - 31st: Alaska Animal Control Association Conference

JUSTICE CLEARINGHOUSE



Maddie's Fund
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- June 2nd - 4th: Prairie States Conference
- June 27th: Recognizing and Understanding Bias for the ACO
- July 11 - 13th: Best Friends National Conference
- July 22nd - 26th: Louisiana Animal Control Association Conference

SPECIAL ISSUE:

NATIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE DISPATCH CERTIFICATION!



Elevate Your Dispatching Skills with the NACA Animal Welfare Dispatcher Certification!

WITH A CRUCIAL COMBINATION OF SKILLS, ANIMAL WELFARE DISPATCHERS ARE PART INVESTIGATOR, COMMUNICATOR, CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE, PUBLIC EDUCATOR, SAFETY ADVOCATE AND FIRST LINE BACK-UP TO OFFICERS IN THE FIELD.

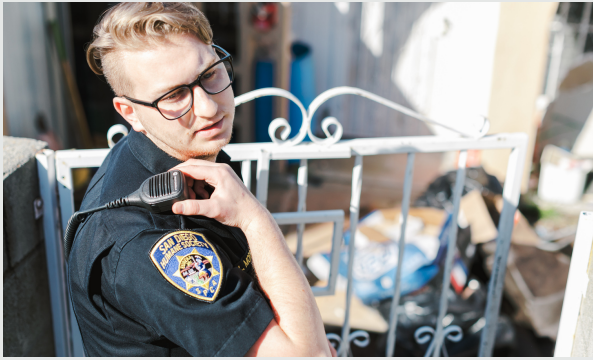
BY NACA

Are you a dispatcher who is passionate about ensuring the safety of your community's animals, the people who love them, and the animal control officers who serve them? Are you considering a career as an animal services or law enforcement dispatcher? If so, we have exciting news for you!

Introducing the groundbreaking Animal Welfare Dispatcher Certification from the National Animal Care & Control Association (NACA)! This certification program is the first of its kind, providing more than 5 hours of comprehensive training specifically tailored to the unique challenges and responsibilities of animal welfare dispatching.

What sets this certification apart is its exclusive focus on the intersection of animal welfare, emergency response, and community engagement. From handling reports of animal cruelty to coordinating the rescue and transport of injured animals, you'll dive into a wide range of topics relevant to animal welfare dispatching. You'll also receive training on communication techniques, conflict resolution strategies, and the importance of self-care for dispatchers.





At NACA, we believe that providing the best possible service to our communities starts with ensuring the safety and well-being of both animals and responders. That's why our certification program places a strong emphasis on officer safety, teaching you how to prioritize safety protocols and minimize risks in every situation.

By becoming a certified Animal Welfare Dispatcher with NACA, you'll not only enhance your skills and expertise but also make a meaningful difference in the lives of animals and the people who care for them. Whether you're a seasoned dispatcher looking to expand your knowledge or new to the field and eager to learn, this certification is your opportunity to take your career to the next level.

Join us in championing the welfare of animals and the safety of responders. Enroll in the NACA Animal Welfare Dispatcher Certification program today.

Dispatchers are uniquely positioned at the intersection of coordinating field operations, responding to emergencies, gathering information, maintaining positive customer communications, and ensuring the safety of both the public and agency employees in the field.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS: THE VITAL ROLE OF ENGAGEMENT FOR ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS



Welcome to the wild and wonderful world of animal control! Here, being a superhero isn't just about saving the day but also about building bridges with the community.

- **Building Trust:** Trust us, building trust is everything. By engaging with the community, ACOs can turn skeptics into supporters, clarify their role, and show everyone that they're more than just rule enforcers. This trust sets the stage for joint efforts to protect animals and make communities safer.
- **Education and Awareness:** Say goodbye to animal ignorance! Through workshops, campaigns, and outreach programs, ACOs can teach the community about responsible pet ownership, regulations, and the importance of spaying/neutering. Educating the public leads to a more responsible and caring community.
- **Proactive Problem Solving:** ACOs get to be the ultimate problem solvers by reaching out to the community. By learning about local issues, ACOs can find solutions that benefit both animals and community members. This approach fosters a safer and more harmonious environment.

- **Building Support:** In times of crisis, ACOs with strong community ties can rally the troops and mobilize resources more effectively. Building a network of support strengthens the bond between officers and residents, leading to a more coordinated response when it matters most.
- **Enhancing Officer Well-Being:** Engagement doesn't just benefit the community but also ACOs themselves. Feeling supported and appreciated makes ACOs feel good about the work they're doing. Plus, a sense of connection with the community is a powerful motivator.

The bottom line? Community engagement is the secret sauce that makes animal control work. When officers actively participate in community life, they create a culture of compassion, shared responsibility, and cooperation. So, let's all work together to create a brighter future for animals and the communities we love.

PAWS FOR A CHANGE

BY NACA

Arizona Bill Would Create Animal Cruelty Offender Registry

Arizona Senate Bill 1072 would establish an animal cruelty offender registry. The bill was referred to the Senate Rules Committee and the Senate Military Affairs, Public Safety and Border Security Committee.

West Virginia Bill Would Establish Animal Abuser Registry

West Virginia House Bill 4655 would establish an animal abuser registry and impose registration requirements on all adults in the state convicted of felony animal abuse in West Virginia or another state. The bill was referred to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and the House Judiciary Committee.

New Jersey Bill Would Prohibit Pet Stores from Selling Dogs, Cats, and Rabbits

New Jersey S297 would prohibit the retail sale of dogs, cats, and rabbits by pet stores. The bill is a carryover from the previous legislative session. The bill was referred to the Senate Economic Growth Committee.

Indiana Bill Would Impose Requirements on Dog Breeders, Brokers, and Pet Stores and Prohibit Local Bans on Pet Store Sales of Dogs.

Indiana House Bill 1412 would subject commercial dog breeders, brokers, and retail pet stores to random, unannounced inspections. The bill also would impose registration, recordkeeping, and other requirements on pet stores, animal rescues, and animal care facilities. It further would prevent the enforcement of any local ordinances prohibiting otherwise lawful retail sales of dogs. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development.

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NACA BELIEVES ANIMAL ADVOCACY IS A COMMITMENT TO SPEAK FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T AND CREATE A COMPASSIONATE WORLD WHERE EVERY LIVING BEING IS TREATED WITH RESPECT, ACKNOWLEDGING OUR INTERCONNECTEDNESS.

Rhode Island Bill Would Exempt Trap-Neuter-Release Activities from Abandonment Prohibitions

Rhode Island HB 7075 would exempt trap-neuter-release activities involving feral cats from the state's prohibitions on animal abandonment. The bill was referred to the House Judiciary Committee.

Florida Bill Would Restrict Sales of Rabbits

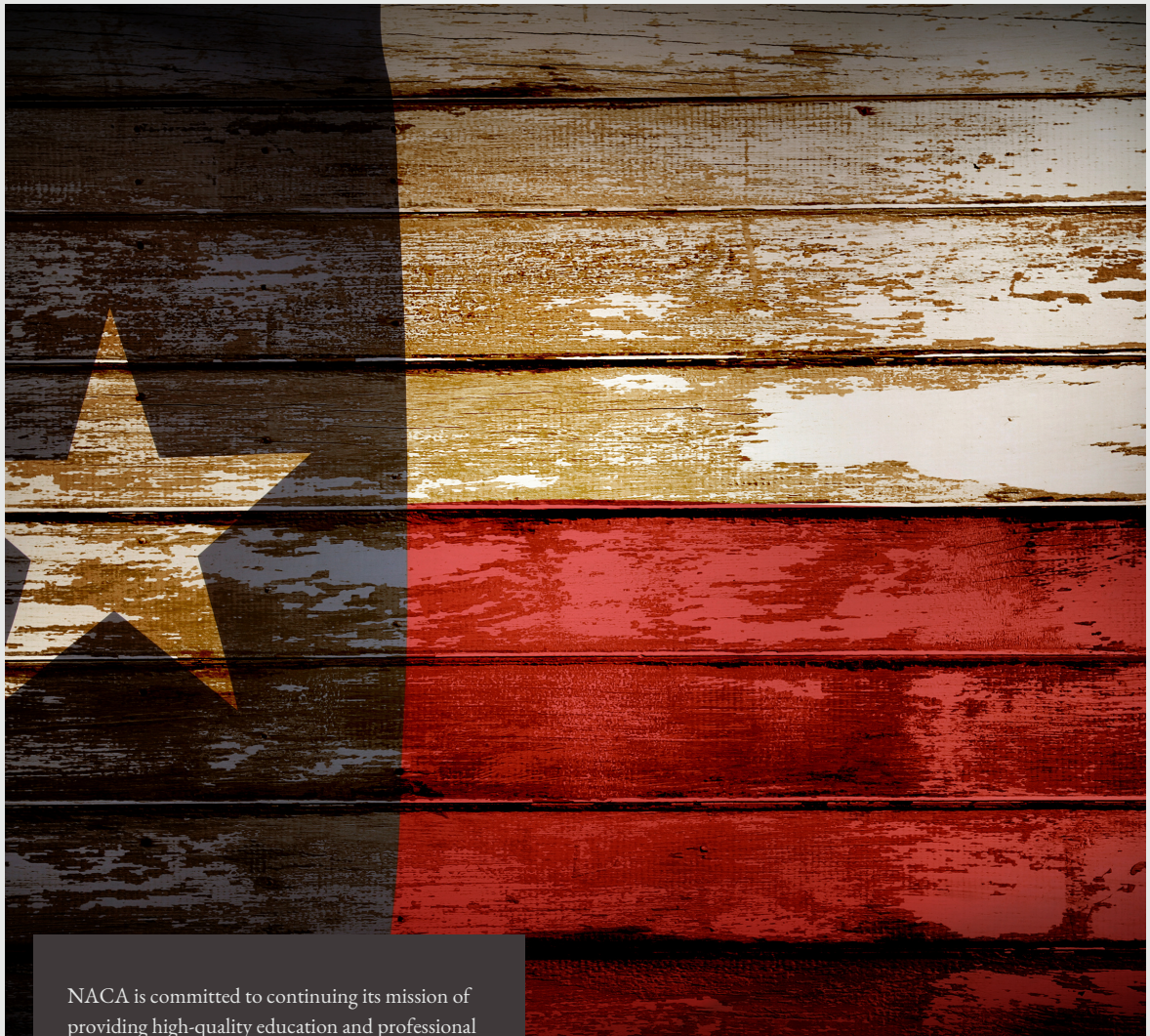
Florida Senate Bill 1426 would prohibit the sale of rabbits in public areas. It also would prohibit retail pet stores from selling rabbits in March and April or selling or giving away pet rabbits under the age of 2 months. The bill also would set standards for the lawful sale of rabbits by retail pet stores, including disclosure, recordkeeping, and minimum care requirements. The legislation is similar to House Bill 701. The bill was referred to the Senate Committees on Agriculture, Rules, and Commerce and Tourism.

California Bill Would Expand State Animal Cruelty Law

California Senate Bill 921 would expand the state penal code to criminalize the malicious and intentional mistreatment of "any animal" even if the mistreatment "does not cause physical injury." The bill also would expand the existing "counseling or treatment" requirement for misdemeanor animal cruelty violations. The bill was referred to the Senate Rules Committee for further assignment.



NACA IS RECOGNIZED IN TEXAS



NACA is committed to continuing its mission of providing high-quality education and professional development opportunities for animal care professionals across the nation.

In a significant milestone for the National Animal Care and Control Association (NACA), the organization's Animal Control Officer (ACO) training program has achieved official recognition as Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for officers in the state of Texas. This recognition not only validates the quality and relevance of NACA's training but also opens new avenues for professional development and excellence in the field of animal care and control.

Acknowledging Excellence: Texas officers now have the opportunity to elevate their skills and knowledge through NACA's comprehensive ACO training, knowing that the completed courses contribute towards their Continuing Education requirements. This acknowledgment underscores the commitment of NACA to provide top-tier education that aligns with industry standards and advances the capabilities of animal care professionals.

Benefits for Texas ACOs:

- **Professional Development:** NACA's ACO training offers a diverse range of topics, ensuring officers stay abreast of the latest advancements and best practices in the field.
- **Recognition and Accreditation:** The acceptance of NACA's training as CEUs in Texas enhances the credibility and professional standing of officers who undergo the program.
- **Accessible Learning:** ACOs in Texas can conveniently access NACA's training modules online, allowing flexibility in completing the courses while balancing their responsibilities.

The recognition of ACO training as CEUs in Texas is a testament to NACA's dedication to supporting officers in their pursuit of excellence. This recognition marks a pivotal moment for NACA and Texas ACOs alike, fostering a culture of continuous learning, excellence, and advancement in the vital field of animal care and control. As Texas officers embark on this educational journey, the entire community can anticipate a positive impact on the well-being of both animals and the communities they serve.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

On February 1st, 2024, a remarkable gathering took place in the heart of California's Central Valley. The event, hosted at the City of Fresno brought together 33 dedicated animal control professionals representing 20 agencies from across the region. With a shared commitment to animal welfare and community well-being, attendees convened to explore innovative solutions and forge lasting connections. The event is the result of a vision from NACA with grant-funded support from Maddie's Fund.

The primary focus of the event was on community-driven approaches to animal control. Throughout the day, attendees engaged in thought-provoking discussions and interactive sessions aimed at identifying and addressing the unique challenges faced by their communities. From urban centers to rural areas, participants shared insights, best practices, and success stories, laying the groundwork for collaborative action.

One of the many highlights of the event was the announcement of grant recipients from California for All Animals. Five deserving agencies were selected to receive thousands of dollars in funding to support their vital work in animal control and community outreach. These grants will enable these agencies to implement innovative programs and initiatives aimed at improving the lives of both animals and people in their communities.



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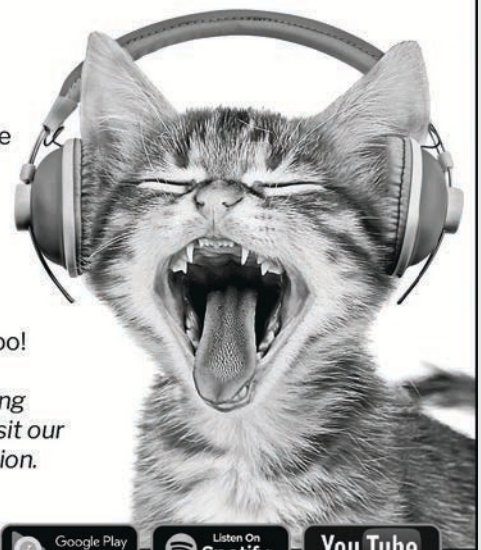






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STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES, CONT'D



Beyond the tangible benefits of grant funding, the event also provided a platform for networking and relationship-building. Attendees had the opportunity to connect with peers from diverse backgrounds, fostering new friendships and strengthening existing partnerships. These connections are invaluable in the field of animal control, where collaboration and cooperation are essential for success.

In addition to external initiatives, the event also included moments of self-reflection and personal growth for attendees. Through guided exercises and discussions, participants had the opportunity to reflect on their strengths and areas for development as animal control professionals. This process of self-assessment is crucial for maintaining resilience and effectiveness in a challenging and demanding field.

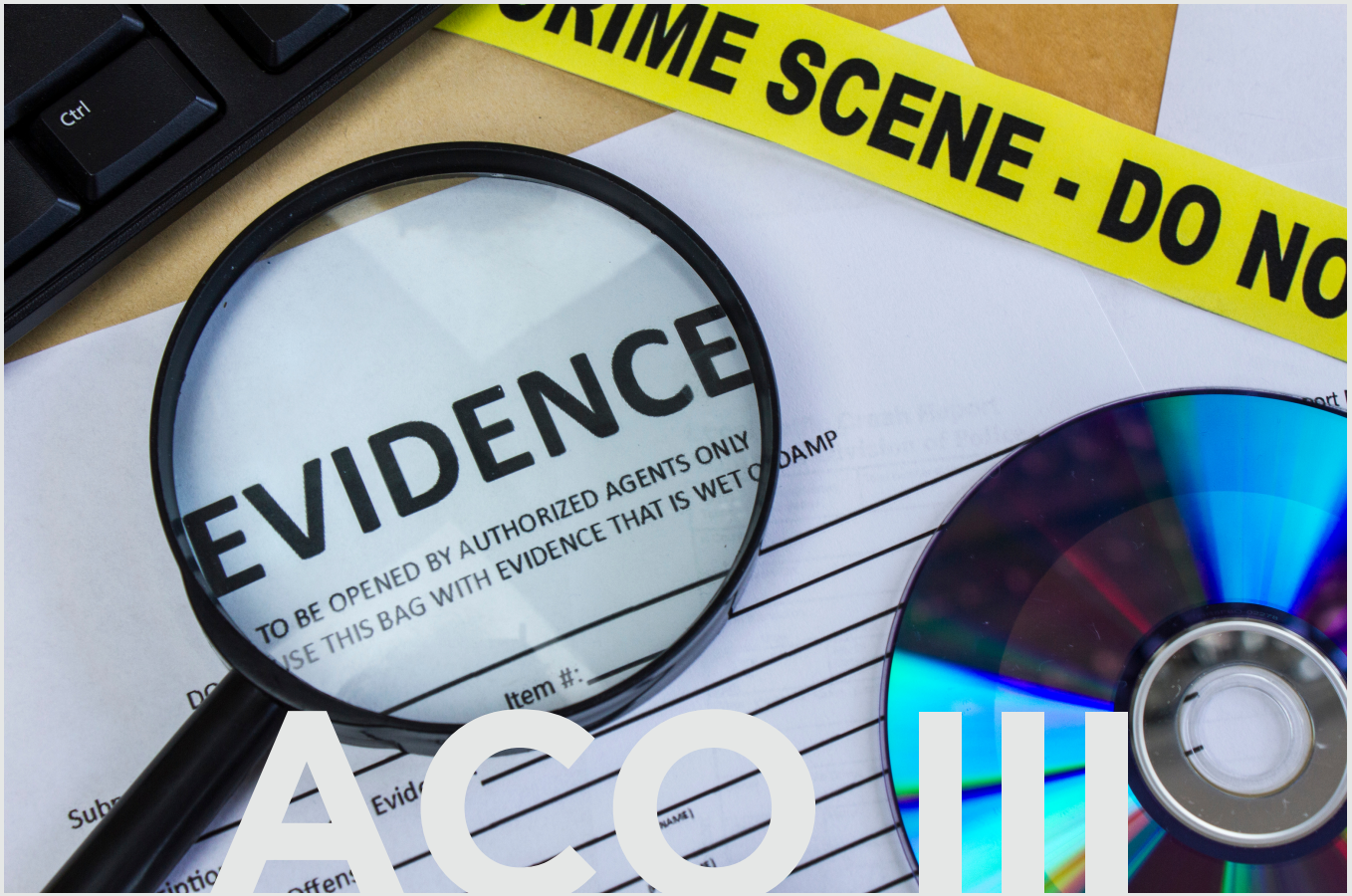
As the event drew to a close, attendees left feeling inspired, empowered, and reinvigorated in their commitment to their communities and the animals they serve.

#THANKSTOMADDIE

THE CONNECTIONS MADE AND KNOWLEDGE SHARED DURING THE EVENT WILL CONTINUE TO REVERBERATE THROUGHOUT THE CENTRAL VALLEY, CONTRIBUTING TO POSITIVE CHANGE AND PROGRESS IN THE FIELD OF ANIMAL CONTROL. LOOKING AHEAD, NACA REMAINS COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING AND EMPOWERING ANIMAL CONTROL PROFESSIONALS ACROSS THE NATION. THROUGH EVENTS LIKE THESE AND ONGOING INITIATIVES, WE WILL CONTINUE TO WORK TIRELESSLY TO STRENGTHEN OUR COMMUNITIES AND CREATE A BETTER FUTURE FOR ANIMALS AND PEOPLE ALIKE.

TOGETHER, WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.





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Excitement reverberates through the animal control community as we unveil the eagerly anticipated Animal Control Level 3 Certification! Anticipated to be launched later this year, with a target timeframe set for mid-summer 2024, this certification is poised to revolutionize professional development in the field. Partnering with the esteemed University of Florida at Gainesville, this certification promises to set a new standard in animal control training.

UNVEILING THE NEXT FRONTIER: ACO III

So, what sets the Animal Control Level 3 Certification apart from its predecessors? One word: innovation. Embracing the evolving landscape of education, this certification will adopt a hybrid approach, seamlessly blending online learning with in-person experiences. Participants will embark on a transformative journey, completing comprehensive online modules before immersing themselves in a few days of intensive in-person classes.

The excitement continues to build as we delve deeper into the in-person modules of the Animal Control Level 3 Certification, offering an unparalleled learning experience that will propel participants to new heights in their careers. From simulations of mock crime scenes to real-world scenarios, participants will gain invaluable experience that transcends traditional classroom learning. The emphasis on practical skills ensures that graduates are not only knowledgeable but also proficient in applying their expertise in the field.

Officer Safety - Self-Defense: Protecting animal control officers is our priority. This module offers tailored self-defense training, equipping participants with essential skills to handle field challenges confidently. Join us for hands-on instruction and simulated scenarios to enhance safety in the field.

Crime Scene Documentation: Learn essential techniques for thorough documentation and evidence processing. Join us to gain practical skills through hands-on exercises in a realistic setting.

Investigation of Complaints: Learn to handle complaints effectively through a blend of classroom instruction and hands-on training. Gain confidence and professionalism as you navigate real-life scenarios and master essential techniques.



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UNVEILING THE NEXT FRONTIER: ACO III



THESE HYBRID MODULES REPRESENT A CRUCIAL ASPECT OF THE ANIMAL CONTROL LEVEL 3 CERTIFICATION, OFFERING PARTICIPANTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO HONE THEIR SKILLS AND EXPERTISE IN A DYNAMIC AND ENGAGING ENVIRONMENT. WITH A FOCUS ON PRACTICAL APPLICATION AND REAL-WORLD SCENARIOS, THIS CERTIFICATION ENSURES THAT GRADUATES ARE NOT ONLY KNOWLEDGEABLE BUT ALSO PREPARED TO EXCEL IN THE CHALLENGING AND REWARDING FIELD OF ANIMAL CONTROL. DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE TO BE PART OF THIS TRANSFORMATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE TO TAKE YOUR CAREER TO THE NEXT LEVEL! BE ON THE LOOKOUT SOON FOR MORE INFORMATION AND YOUR CHANCE TO ENROLL. NACA MEMBERS WILL BE AMONG THE FIRST TO RECEIVE THE REGISTRATION NOTIFICATIONS, NOT A MEMBER? JOIN TODAY!



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- Join the NACA mailing list to learn more
- Interested in winning grants? Join Maddie's® Community Conversations



All of this and more can be found at:
<https://maddies.fund/nacatraining>



WHATS COOKING, ACOS

MUSHROOM RISOTTO



Ingredients:

- 6 cups chicken broth, or as needed
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1 pound portobello mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 1 pound white mushrooms, thinly sliced
- 2 medium shallots, diced
- 1 ½ cups Arborio rice
- ½ cup dry white wine
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons finely chopped chives
- ½ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Directions:

- Warm broth in saucepan
- Warm 2 tablespoons olive oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add portobello and white mushrooms; cook and stir until soft, about 3 minutes. Remove mushrooms and their liquid to a bowl; set aside.
- Add remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil to the saucepan. Stir in shallots and cook for 1 minute. Add rice; cook and stir until rice is coated with oil and pale, golden in color, about 2 minutes
- Pour in wine, stirring constantly until wine is fully absorbed. Add 1/2 cup warm broth to the rice, and stir until the broth is absorbed.
- Continue adding broth, 1/2 cup at a time, stirring constantly, until the liquid is absorbed and the rice is tender, yet firm to the bite, about 15 to 20 minutes.
- Remove from heat. Stir in reserved mushrooms and their liquid, butter, chives, and Parmesan cheese.
- Season with salt and pepper and serve immediately.

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Questions?

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Thank you for your dedication and tireless efforts in safeguarding our communities and advocating for animal welfare. Your commitment to protecting both humans and animals is truly commendable.

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Spring 2024



Maddie's Fund

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NACA ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL TODAY MAGAZINE

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