

ACOAM News



A Quarterly Newsletter published by the Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts

March 2013



Massachusetts ranks second in HSUS' annual ranking of state animal protection laws

At the beginning of this year, the Humane Society of the United States, which is the nation's largest animal protection organization, released its annual "Humane State Ranking Report". This report is a complete analysis of the country's animal protection laws.

Massachusetts ranked second, recognized for passing laws that allows pets to be included in domestic violence protection orders, and for banning gas chambers for euthanasia practices.

The rankings were based on an assortment of different animal protection issues in ten major animal protection categories including: animal fighting; animal cruelty; wildlife abuse; exotic pets; companion animals; use of animals in research; farm animals; fur and trapping; puppy mills, and equine protection.

Congratulations MA animal professionals for a job well done!



Help animals when you file your taxes

By Kara Holmquist, MSPCA

Filing taxes is never much fun, but at least now it can be helpful to animals in Massachusetts. All one has to do is check box 32f on the state income tax form to make a donation to the Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund.

The Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund was created when the animal control bill, sponsored by Senator Jehlen, was passed into law with funding language originally filed by Senator Montigny.

Contributions to this Fund will provide training to municipal animal control officers so that they can safely and effectively protect animals and people in their communities.

Finding Nemo!

The Blizzard of 2013

By Kim Stewart, Scituate ACO

Following the National Weather Advisory's confirmation that a serious blizzard (to be named "Nemo") was forecasted to visit New England, bringing with it a lot of snow, heavy winds and major coastal flooding, the town of Scituate began to implement its emergency sheltering procedure. The plan - to set up a shelter for people and pets, inside Scituate High School.

As a part of that effort, the Animal Control Department began the task of gathering supplies to adequately house a

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It's amazing how the little things can change your day

By Kyle Meservey

While I stopping to get my usual Sunday Paper, Coffee and Donuts at a local store, I run into a fellow ACO from another town. We talk shop for about 5 minutes then he proceeds off to his full time job and I am waiting my turn to gather my donuts. As I stand in line, I feel something tug on my coat, I turn and look down and find myself looking at a little boy who I would guess is around 4 years old. Naturally, I get down to his level and ask him what's going on. He very straight forwardly asks me "Are you the pound man?" Taken totally off guard it takes me a minute to figure out what he is talking about as I am not in uniform or wearing anything identifying on me as an Animal Control Officer.

Now their mother comes running up all worried that they where bothering me, and the little boy tells her that I am the "Pound Man" and now the mother looks just as puzzled as I'm sure I did at first, till the sister explains everything to her just as she explain it to me. At this point, the mother looks totally embarrassed and starts to try and apologize for her kids.

I tell her that it is not problem and that they are partly correct as I am an Animal Control Officer. I then ask the kids what he thinks a pound man is, I receive the expected answer of: "Someone who takes away peoples dogs". I then explain to him that I am there to help dogs

and other animals who get lost by keeping them safe and helping them find their way back home to the people who love them.



At this point, the boy says, so you won't take our dog. I then explain to him that I only take dogs from the people who don't love their dogs and help them find a home with someone that does. (It is at this point that the true subject of this conversation comes out). At this point, the little girl says "like our puppy?" And then proceeds to tell me about how they are getting a puppy for Christmas and that they were picking up food and toys today for it. (Meanwhile the boy is smiling; all I can assume is that he is thinking about the puppy now).



The girl goes on to tell about how they had a guinea pig, that they had taken so well care of and how it was now in a heaven,

and that now they were getting a puppy from pound, because they did not have a mommy or a home for Christmas like all the other puppies.

We go back and forth talking about puppies and my job for a few more minutes. Then the mom asks where I am an ACO, I tell her and find out they live in my coverage area.

Armed with this information, I pull out 2 of ACO cards for the town they live in and hand them to the kids; I tell them that if their puppy ever gets lost they can call me. The little boy looks like I just handed him the keys to a chocolate factory.

At this time, their mom thanks me, and informed me that Charlie had gotten Daniel all worried that his puppy would be taken away. She then informs her kids that they had to go get the toys, surprisingly both the kids hug me and say thank you and then follow their mother, as their walking away, I hear the little boy ask him mom, "Can I be a Pound Man like him when I grow up?"



My Christmas is made! However, I would like to meet this "Charlie Person".....

ACOAM board members help with Vested Interest in K9s at Helping Paws for the Holiday's event

By the Editor

Each year, Vested Interest in K9s, holds its Helping Paws event, raising money for bullet proof vests for Massachusetts police K9s.



Cora, a 12-week old Rotweiler was the youngest of those photographed with Santa and the Grinch.

This past season, ACOAM board members, 'Santa' Manny Maciel (New Bedford ACO) and 'Grinch' Deni Goldman (Marshfield ACO) participated in the event, after Vested Interest in K9s Sandy Marcal asked the two, thinking that ACOAM would be a great link to this program.

The program consisted of holiday pet photo shoots with both Santa and the Grinch.

Along with Santa and the Grinch, there were over forty volunteers who helped in the success of this event.

The Helping Paws for the Holidays event took place over a five day period in early December, held at Especially for Pets, Medway, Especially for Pets, Canton, and Pet Food Shoppe, Lakeville.

At the close of the event, nearly 150 pets had their pictures taken with the dynamic duo of the Grinch and St. Nick. The two characters normally not remembered in Christmas legends for being amicable, much less friends, came together for a this great cause which raised over \$5,000 and vested 5 dogs in Massachusetts police departments.

Groupon Campaign to outfit police K9s with protective vests in 18 states

By Sandy Marcal, Vested Interest in K9s

A two week nationwide campaign through Groupon has raised over \$55,000 to outfit police K9s with bullet and stab protective vests throughout the country. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is the non profit organization and charity partner selected by Groupon Grassroots as the beneficiary.

The proceeds of \$55,475 will allow the organization to outfit 53 police K9s in 18 states. K's who will benefit from the donations are located in Alabama, California, Illinois, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Colorado, Washington, Missouri, Indiana, North Carolina, New Hampshire,

Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Minnesota, Oregon, Alaska and Hawaii.

Featured in the Groupon campaign were: K9 Raimo and Officer Dwane Foisy, Pittsfield Police Dept., K9 Diezel, UMass,



K9 Raimo and Pittsfield Police Officer Dwane Foisy

Amherst, a dutch shepherd handled by Officer Liana Varosky, and K9's Molly and Adam, Worcester County Sheriff's Dept., handled by Deputy Peter Campo.

Another Groupon event is scheduled to begin March 14th.



Earlier this year, VI in K9s made a donation in the name of Lee Ozelius, a former manager at Great Scott Kennels, Stoughton MA, who recently passed away after a long battle with cancer. Lee was a big supporter of vesting police dogs as well as a friend and advocate of ACOAM and of all animal welfare. ACOAM's thoughts and prayers go out to Lee's family, friends and co-workers.

Cats versus bird feeders versus wildlife

By the Editor

Earlier this year, the Boston Globe featured a story about a Massachusetts woman who was sick and tired of people's free-roaming cats chasing off and killing birds that frequented her assortment of back-yard bird feeders. The woman is reportedly now trying to get local regulations in her town that would prohibit cats from 'trespassing'.



While most ACOs are in agreement that a great many of our day to day issues would be resolved if cats were mandated to stay indoors, or at the very least, to remain within the boundaries of their own properties, those ACOs also know that local and state laws governing cat licensing alone, let alone mandatory confinement, is at best, few and far between – with just one or two towns even having imposed such licensing bylaws.

Most ACOs are regularly educating cat owners on the dangers of wildlife and traffic, risks of disease and injury, recommending and encouraging

such owners to keep their cats indoors; however, the majority of cat owners simply don't want to endure the challenges of maintaining an indoor cat (which really isn't that complicated if they attempted at such)...nor do they feel they want to "force" their cats to "miss out on the freedom and excitement of the great outdoors".



On the flip side of this cat vs bird controversy, many ACOs are also in the habit of discouraging residents (such as this particular woman) from hanging an array of bird feeders in backyards to begin with, simply because bird feeds ultimately invite other types of wildlife into the backyard. While bird feeders are lovely additions to any yard, birds are rarely the only animals that use those feeders.



The great outdoors is satiated with hungry critters as evidenced by the number of strategies and techniques bird watchers use to

keep raccoons and other critters out of their bird feeders, and away from the ground where the bird seed has fallen.

And while everyday we are educating people on how to coexist with wildlife in our communities, until we cease from providing food sources for wildlife, we are not going to keep them from wandering particularly close to our front doors.

Nuisance behaviors from cats far exceed the assaults on pretty birds that sample seed from neighborly bird feeders. Such cats are also destroying gardens and screen doors, defecating, leaving paw prints on cars, marking their territory with urination, rifling through trash and creating physical conflicts with other animals and humans.

Training & Events



2013 New England Federation of Humane Societies Conference, April 13-15, Newport, RI.

To register or for more info:
www.newenglandfed.org/conference.html

2013 HSUS Animal Care Expo, May 8-11, Nashville, TN.

To register or for more info:
<http://www.animalsheltering.org/training-events/expo>

2013 NACA Conference, Sept 5-6, Atlanta, GA.

To register or for more info:
www.nacanet.org/annualconference

Legislative Update



Animal legislation for the 2013-1014 session

By the Editor

Several new animal bills were filed in the MA State Legislature earlier this year. It will be interesting to see how these unfold, and which will be supported/not supported as they progress through the legislative process. These new bills include:



Animal Cruelty Law Clarifications; Poaching Penalties; Confinement of Certain Farm Animals; Disaster Preparedness for People with Animals; Animal Cruelty Enforcement; Protecting Puppies and Kittens; Strengthening the Enforcement of Certain Dog Laws; Reporting the Management of Problem Wildlife; Treatment of Elephants; Sale of Puppies; Dogs and Homeowners Insurance; Protecting Property

Owners; and Regulating Doggie Day Care Facilities.

At the same time, new Breed-Discriminatory Legislation was filed that would repeal the recently-enacted Animal Control Law that eliminated breed discrimination bylaws and ordinances.



Details and docket numbers on these bills, can be found on the MSPCA website www.mspca.org. The website illustrates the position that they (MSPCA) has taken on these bills. ACOAM has not taken formal positions on any new legislation but will be reviewing all of the bills in the short-term future.

April 25, 2013 is the next scheduled MSPCA-sponsored Lobby Day at the MA Statehouse. Prior to Lobby Day, the MSPCA will be hosting several sessions that are designed to help individuals who are interested in learning more about the process of lobbying for bills. These sessions are scheduled as follows: March 5th 6:30pm - 8pm MSPCA-Angell, Jamaica Plain; March 14th 6:30pm - 8pm Café Evolution, Northampton; March 20th 6pm - 7:30pm Woods Memorial Library, Barre ; March 28th 6pm - 7:30pm Berkshire Humane Society, Pittsfield; April 2nd 6:30pm - 8pm MSPCA-Nevins Farm, Methuen.

To register a session, <http://www.mspca.org/about-us/press-room/2013/mspca-angell-to-citizen.html>

...Taxes..continued from page 1

The tax check off will also help animals by reducing the number of homeless cats and dogs by spaying, neutering and vaccinating animals in shelters and animal control facilities and assisting families who would not otherwise be able to afford these services for their pets.

Now, something to smile about during tax time!



Fill out line 32f this year's income tax form to donate to the Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund.

Contributions to this fund will:

Help reduce the number of homeless cats and dogs by spaying, neutering and vaccinating animals in shelters and animal control facilities

Assist families who would not otherwise be able to afford these services for their pets

Provide training to municipal animal control officers so that they can safely and effectively protect animals and people in their communities

In case you're worried about where your donations will go, don't be. The state will craft regulations regarding the details of disbursement with the help of an advisory committee (which will include an animal control officer). This committee will be comprised of representatives of the same organizations that supported the initial legislation and fought for its passage for many years.

If you want to help us spread the word about this opportunity, you can help distribute these gorgeous postcards. Thanks to a creative volunteer, we have several different versions, so if you would like some, contact masshomelessanimalfund@gmail.com. For more information about the Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund, log on to <http://masshomelessanimalfund.com>.

Chicken almost falls victim to February Blizzard

By April Terrio-Manning,
Somerville ACO

On the evening of February 12, Somerville Dispatch received report of a 'live chicken stuck in a snow bank on Elm Street'. Because there were no ACOs on duty, the area car was sent to investigate the call.

When Officer DiFava arrived, he observed a white chicken sitting calmly in a snow bank. He picked it up and transported it to the kennel in his cruiser.



As soon as I heard the location where the chicken was found the following day, I instantly knew to whom she belonged. Just as I began to contact the owner, a news crew arrived at my kennel to interview me regarding the chicken. That's when I realized that the hen had laid an egg!

The owner of the hen is 12-year old, Aiden. When he and his

mom arrived at the shelter to claim the hen, his mother offered the egg as bail!

The egg is now in my refrigerator waiting to be cooked for our Sunday breakfast!



Lost & Found Birds Worldwide helps to reunite pet birds

By Pam Waldron

Lost & Found Birds Worldwide is an informal group of volunteers that works to reunite lost and found pet birds. The group maintains a database of lost & found bird listings on its Yahoo Groups database that never expires and communicates using Facebook.

LFBW is happy to post any and all listings of lost and found birds as well as try to help in any way with any birds still outstanding in the past still trying to find their way home.

Please do not hesitate to contact Pam Waldron at 781-526-5470 paw0214@hotmail.com.



For more info: <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/lostfoundbirds/> and on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LostandFoundBirds/>.



687 SABERAlerts have been issued to date, and in the past few months, we have seen more cases closed than usual. Of course, there are still a great many missing dogs who's whereabouts are still unknown - but fortunately we have increased our SABERAlert distribution to allow us more eyes and ears looking out for our missing friends. Thanks to the MVMA, veterinary hospitals are checking more and more pets for microchips - and hopefully we will have more pets that have been 'taken' rather than reported 'lost' reunited with their true owners. Keep up all the good efforts, everyone involved!

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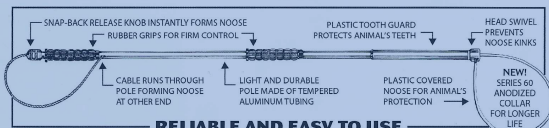
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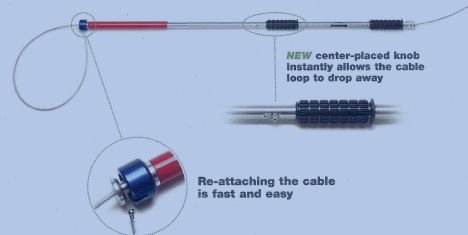
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Eddie's Wheels gives pets the gift of mobility



For the past 20 years, Ed and Leslie Grinnell have been caring for seven disabled dogs - all of which were born with no front legs. These dogs have been the basis for the Grinnell's research and development at Eddie's Wheels, their privately-owned business dedicated to giving the gift of mobility to pets in need.



Located in Shelbourne Falls, MA, Eddie's Wheels provides owners of disabled pets with state of the art mobility products for their pets. Since its inception, the Grinnell's have continued to grow this business - receiving national media attention from CNN, WBZ, and the NBC Today Show, and more. Thank you Ed and Leslie for everything you do! - ACOAM

Retired Wellesley cop gives abandoned pit bull a second chance

By Nancy Rabinowitz, Wellesley



Frank Urbani Sr. hasn't let retirement slow him down. But you might think he's gone to the dogs. The 68-year-old retired Wellesley police officer is keeping busy as he gives back to the community he served for 31 years.

In 2009, Urbani saw a news report about a pit bull named Button who was available for adoption. The dog had been left starving in a crate in a Mattapan apartment.

Urbani, who had just lost his dog of 15 years, and felt a void in his life, adopted the dog.

Animal Health



ZDAC Update

By Sue Webb, Wellesley ACO

On Jan. 22, I attended the ZDAC meeting at Tufts, Grafton. We addressed reports on rabies issues, the baiting program on the Cape, the rabid bobcat, as well as the Cormorant die-off and New Castle Disease.



We had a demonstration of the HANN system for sending alerts. Work continues on Incident Command Communication Plan. There are some disease of interest as they are zoonotic and other diseases as they can affect livestock and our food supply. Some are reportable to a state agency but are of interest to other agencies due to cross over to other species. Example: wildlife diseases that could affect livestock or vis versa.

Work continues on submission categories from Routinely of interest, Possibility of interest and Not of interest.

Right now I use a general rule of: 3 of the same species dead at same time (24 hour period) on same property. Then I call the responsible agency for that species to see if they are interested in a follow-up.

...Nemo..continued from page 1

small to moderate number of pets and their owners. Crates, food, blankets, forms and other necessary items were collected and ready for use by 6pm. The ACO was the single staff person dedicated to intaking and caring for the animals on site.

On or about 1am Saturday February 9, 2013 residents began to arrive at the shelter with their pets. This continued for a number of hours (really days!) and as time went on it became apparent that there were many more animals than for which had been prepared.



Arrangements were made to transport some pets to the Scituate Animal Shelter and others to a different boarding kennel to alleviate the situation.

Animals were housed in cages appropriate for each animal. Crates/cages were placed next to their owner's cots. Owners were asked to tend to their own animals and to abide by the rules while they remained at the shelter. Rules included: not leaving their pets unattended, caging pets during sleeping hours and providing bathroom breaks for the dogs.



As it became necessary to open another section of the school, more specifically, the library, to house more evacuees, we began to make that the animal free section. At that point, animals were housed just outside the library in cages. They were all still being cared for by their owners who were not far away. Each animal was seen at intake by the ACO and documented.

All together from Saturday Feb. 9th to Tuesday Feb. 12th the shelter housed: 51 dogs, 12 cats, a guinea pig and a bearded dragon named Fred.

This was a long duration event, the likes of which we have not seen here in Scituate since 1978. 100% of the town of Scituate was without power, leaving hundreds of folks, young and old, in the dark and cold for days. Scituate has a very vulnerable coastline, leaving the need to evacuate close to 200 people to the shelter. Many others pursued other arrangements.

I am thankful to so many people for their help over those 5 days, mostly members of the Scituate Police and Fire Departments and

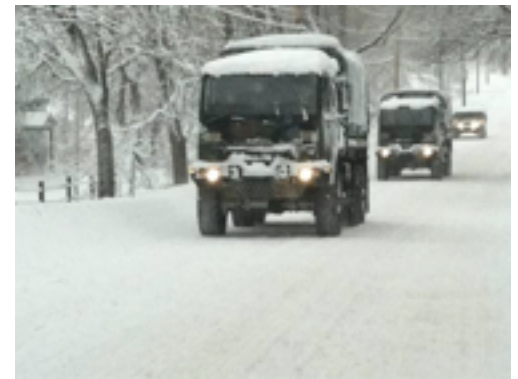
the staff at the Scituate High School. The residents of Scituate are lucky to have such dedicated town employees.



In Marshfield, evacuation and emergency sheltering was similar to that of Scituate, in that pets and their owners were able to stay in the same shelter throughout the storm, and the days to follow - since the last of the power was not restored to the town until Friday, Feb. 15th.

Marshfield Emergency Management opened its emergency shelter in the Council on Aging (COA), on Friday, just as storm NEMO arrived with its bang!

By Saturday afternoon, as the storm worsened, the shelter became so full that its location had to be moved to the middle school in order to accommodate the magnitude of evacuees. The Army National Guard was called in to assist with evacuations.



National guardsmen and police officers shuttled evacuees from the COA to the school via police cruisers, humvees and military trucks - people were piled into vehicles as if they were soldiers heading off on deployment.

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Academy Update



The 2013 ACOAM Academy is scheduled to commence on March 21, 2013 at the Boylston Police Academy, Boylston MA.

The ACOAM Academy, which is now mandated for Animal Control Officers employed by municipalities in MA, is commanded by the Animal Control Officers' Association of Massachusetts with the support of the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC), the Animal Rescue League of Boston, the Massachusetts Society For The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, the Humane Society of the United States, and numerous individual ACOs and others who give their resources, time and expertise to this Academy.

The ACOAM Academy has been in place since 1987. It's recent embedment into MGL is only the most recent accolade to what has already become one of the most thorough, well - rounded animal control academies of its kind available in this region, and one of the finest in the country.

ACOAM's Academy is an intensive course designed to provide ACOs with vital information, hands-on education and certified training.

The Academy covers Equipment Handling, Animal Capture Techniques and Strategies,

Livestock and Exotic Animal Handling, Wildlife Issues, Dog Bite Prevention, Animal Health Inspector Duties, Rabies Protocol, Local Bylaws and Ordinances, Conducting Selectmen's Hearings, Record Keeping and Report Writing, Courtroom Procedures, Crime Scene Investigations, 4th Amendment & Exceptions to the Warrant, Cruelty Statutes and Investigating Cruelty Complaints, and Self Defense.



The ACOAM Academy totals 88 hours over ten weeks. Academy classes are held on Thursday of each week from 8:00AM to 4:00PM with one Saturday from 9-5.

In order to adhere to MGL as effective October 31, 2012, applicants who are currently employed by a Massachusetts Municipality will continue to be given priority acceptance into the ACOAM Academy. Other candidates will be considered once all MA ACOs have been matriculated.

For more information, please contact ACOAM President/Academy Director, Cheryl Rudolph or log on to www.acoam.com.

...Nemo..continued from page 1

Once all of the people were relocated, the guardsmen returned and safely transported all of the pets. Once the pets arrived and were settled into their new location, their owners were reunited with them.



Also similar to Scituate, the Marshfield ACO was the sole provider for the animals, housing 34 dogs and cats 2 Geckos and a bird.



Both Scituate and Marshfield reported that as bad as the storm was, and despite how many animals and people were displaced, there were no injuries!

** Nemo photo from page 1 source unknown*

Door to door spay/neuter assistance for animal control officers and their community

By Second Chance Animal Shelter

As an animal control officer, we often find ourselves in need of low cost spay/neuter assistance for pets in our care or for residents in our towns. One of our biggest issues is the time to get this done and to help get it done in the community at a cost that residents can afford. Second Chance Animal Shelter has launched a program that helps animal control to get their pets fixed as well as help in the community – and without driving everywhere.

Second Chance has a program allowing its transport vehicle to go to various MA animal control facilities and pick up animals for spays/neuters. As well, many ACOs have taken advantage of this program to help in their communities as well. This helps to reduce pet overpopulation in their area – and keep pets healthy in the community.

It is easy to get involved in this program. Simply send an email to Second Chance at info@secondchanceanimals.org to get all the details, or contact the Wellness Center at 508-637-1333. Second Chance offers special rates for animal control in addition to their low cost spay/neuter program for the public. The transport van travels to many parts of Massachusetts as well as northern Connecticut.

In addition, the shelter offers other medical services to animal control to help as well. Please email to get the full details.



This is the best way to help end pet overpopulation in your community and get your pets fixed with the door to door service that will save precious lives, and time as well.

Additional services that are offered by Second Chance include: printable information and resources, links to breed rescues and shelters, and most importantly - Second Chance accepts pets from animal control for adoption!

April is Rabies Awareness Month

By the Editor

Each year, the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR), Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH), Division Animal Health encourages all ACOs to remind their communities about the importance of vaccinating their pets against rabies, and about means to reduce the risk of animal bites and other potential rabies exposures.

It is important for animal control agencies, veterinary and public health organizations, to coordinate rabies vaccination clinics this Spring in communities across the Commonwealth. Vaccination costs may vary from town to

town, but all clinics should strive to be affordable.



This Spring, many cities and towns will be holding events that feature more than just the rabies vaccines. It is usually not required that you be a resident of the hosting town, but a quick call to that city/town can surely authenticate that. Some of these events prove to be lots of fun for the whole family!

“Come one come all... to our rabies/microchip spree day on April 27th in Lowell!”

There is going to be a K9 demo, vendor tables, an exotic pet demo and of course, food and fun for the kids! “

Darleen Wood, Auburn/Lowell ACO

Just for laughs



So, the rumours are true! You have been friendly with the Postman! My own soul Shone on you!



Dear Readers,

It is the mission of the Animal Control Officer's Association of Massachusetts to promote and improve through education, and training, the skills, professionalism, knowledge of applicable laws, personal safety and job security of animal control officers employed by cities, town, counties or other municipalities located within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; to inform and educate the general public of Massachusetts on the responsibilities of animal ownership, and to assist State and local government bodies in enacting, improving and enforcing animal control laws that are reasonable and equitable. - ACOAM

ACOAM Products



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T-shirt	\$16
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Cat Collar	\$1
Chapter 140 Book	\$10
NACA Training Manual	\$35
Dog Law Book	\$24
Hang Tags (500 count)	\$45

Prices subject to change.

To place an order, please contact the Merchandise Manager.

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