

Texas Department of State Health Services Animal Control Officer Training Basic Course Description

The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Zoonosis Control (ZC) offers a Basic Animal Control Officer (ACO) Training Courses. The cost of attending a course is **\$75.00** per student. There is a revised (January 2008) training manual that supports the basic training. This manual can be ordered directly from a Regional ZC Office at a cost of **\$40.00**.

The ACO training course and manual are designed to assist the animal control profession and to advance the knowledge, techniques, ethics, and attitudes of its members.

Chapters covered in the revised 2008 manual include:

- History and Philosophy
- Animal Identification
- Capture and Handling
- Animal Transportation
- Animal Impoundment
- Disposition of Animals
- Controlled Substances
- Shelter Safety
- Sanitation
- Animal Health
- Rabies
- Records
- Communication Skills
- Court Conduct
- Animal Cruelty Investigations
- Laws

Please read this entire document to be fully aware of the course fees associated with the manual and course attendance before registering for a course.

BASIC TRAINING COURSE

The ACO Basic Training Course consists of lectures, presentations, and demonstrations of selected topics by ZC personnel and guest speakers. A presentation on head removal and rabies specimen submission is a part of all basic courses. Basic course students are responsible for material covered in the presentations, demonstrations, and the manual's basic chapters and laws.

Basic Course Prerequisites - Enrollment will be based on space availability.

Basic course testing consists of two written multiple-choice tests containing general and legal questions. In order to satisfactorily complete the basic course, students must achieve a grade of 70 or greater on each of the written tests, plus attend the complete course.

ACO TRAINING MANUAL

It is strongly recommended that students thoroughly study the *ACO Training Manual* **prior** to attending a basic course. A student will have difficulty passing the course tests without studying the manual.

Cost of the manual is \$40.00. Order forms, plus information on obtaining a manual, are

available through the ZC Regional Offices or at
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis/education/training/aco/manual/>.

APPLICATION FORM

Information pertaining to upcoming courses and an Application Form are available directly through the ZC Regional Offices. Please keep a form on file so that application to a course can be made at any time. **Cost of attending a course is \$75.00 per student.** Information on how to submit payment will be provided by the ZC Regional Office in the acceptance letter if you are approved to attend the course.

Do **not** submit payment with the Application Form.

A course schedule is available at
<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/health/zoonosis/education/training/aco/courses/>.

By registering for a course, you are acknowledging that you are aware of the course attendance fee.

TCLEOSE CREDITS

The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education (TCLEOSE) has approved DSHS ACO Training Courses for 12 hours of accredited training.