

§169.61. Purpose. The purpose of these sections is to set standards for the training of animal shelter and animal control personnel.

§169.62. Definitions. The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

(1) Animal Control Officer (ACO) course - An appropriate training session administered by the department. There are three types of training: basic, advanced, and administrative.

(2) Department--The Texas Department of Health.

(3) Satisfactory completion--In order to satisfactorily complete an ACO course, an individual must attend all sessions and attain a passing score as set by the department on all post-course tests and/or practical exercises.

§169.63. Courses.

(a) The ACO basic course gives introductory instruction in the topics listed in §169.65 of this title (relating to Course Content).

(b) The ACO advanced course covers the same topics as the basic course, but at a higher level and with emphasis on verbal communication skills.

(c) The ACO administrative course includes instruction in supervisory and management skills needed to implement and direct application of the concepts taught in the basic and advanced courses.

§169.64. Prerequisites for Course Attendance.

(a) Basic, advanced, or administrative. A person must apply for attendance with the Regional Zoonosis Control Program conducting the ACO course. Course enrollment will be based on space availability policies set by the region hosting the course.

(b) Basic, advanced, or administrative. A fee will be charged for each person attending an ACO course. The fee will not exceed the amount equal to the cost of conducting the ACO course divided by the expected number of participants; this fee will not exceed \$225.

(c) Advanced. A person must have:

(1) satisfactorily completed an ACO basic course and, subsequently, worked or volunteered in animal shelter/animal control activities at least 2,000 hours; and

(2) provided a recommendation from the individual's supervisor, including a statement that the person meets prerequisites for course attendance.

(d) Administrative. A person must provide a recommendation from the individual's supervisor, including a statement that the person meets one of the following prerequisites for course attendance:

(1) satisfactory completion of an ACO advanced course;

(2) experience in an administrative position for two years; or

(3) completion of 60 hours of college credit.

§169.65. Course Content. The basic and advanced courses will include technical coverage of topics deemed pertinent to animal shelter/animal control personnel by the department's Zoonosis Control Division (ZCD) including, but not limited to, animal health and disease control, humane care and treatment of animals, control of animals in an animal shelter, and the transportation of animals. The administrative course will include instruction in supervisory and management skills needed to implement and support the concepts taught in the basic and advanced courses.