

Table of Contents

Basic Course Chapters

Animal control officers (ACOs) taking the exam for the basic training course are responsible for knowing the information in all basic course chapters and the laws. To satisfactorily complete the course, a passing score must be achieved on Part I (General) and on Part II (Legal) of the exam.

Introduction

- History of Animal Control
- Objectives of Animal Control
- Philosophy of Professionalism
- Training Requirement

Animal Identification

- Introduction
- Identification of Canines
- Identification of Felines
- Identification of Wildlife

Animal Capture and Handling

- Introduction
- Equipment*
- Muzzling
- Pursuit
- Territory
- Behavior
- Wildlife

Animal Transportation

- Vehicle Standards
- Equipment
- Loading Procedures
- Unloading Procedures

Animal Impoundment

- Shelter Facilities
- Laws Regulating Animal Shelters
- Shelter Standards for Care and Control
- Shelter Operations and Administration
- Humane Care and Treatment
- Rabies Quarantine

* Includes principles and procedures pertaining to bite sticks

Table of Contents

Disposition of Animals

- Introduction
- Reclamation
- Adoption and Sterilization
- Euthanasia
- Carcass Disposal

Controlled Substances

- State and Federal Laws Relating to Controlled Substances and Other Medications
- Drugs Used in Animal Shelters
- Acquiring Controlled Substances
- Record Keeping of Controlled Substances
- Storage and Security of Controlled Substances

Shelter Safety

- Working Safely with Chemicals and Pesticides
- How to Avoid Disease and Injury
- First Aid
- Physical Fitness and Stress Reduction

Sanitation

- Introduction
- Personal Hygiene
- Cleaning and Disease Control
- Disinfectants
- Deodorizers
- Equipment and Vehicles
- Summary

Animal Health

- Sanitation and Hygiene
- Disease Transmission and Prevention
- Animal Disease Recognition
- Animal Injuries and First Aid
- Animal Reproduction

Rabies

- Introduction
- Animals That Contract Rabies
- Clinical Signs of Rabies
- Rabies Prevention
- Rabies Seasons and Cycles
- Animal Bites
- Rabies Quarantine

Table of Contents

Records

- Introduction
- Different Kinds of Records
- Examples of Records

Communication Skills

- Public Relations
- Citizen Contact
- Personnel Relations
- Related Agencies
- Texas Animal Health Commission – Emergency Management Planning

Court Conduct

- Citations
- Professional Behavior
- Courtroom Procedures

Animal Cruelty Investigations

- Introduction
- Classifications and Types of Cruelty
- Dealing With Violators
- Basic Investigation Techniques
- Evidence and Documentation
- Seizure of Animals
- Safety During Raids

The *ACO Training Manual* and its updates are available online at:
<http://www.dshs.texas.gov/idcu/health/zoonosis/education/training/aco/manual/onLine/>

Training Manual - Animal Control Officer Training Materials | Texas DSHS

Table of Contents

Texas Laws

Direct inquiries about law updates to your Regional Texas Department of State Health Services' Zoonosis Control Program to confirm that you have the current version of each law.

Laws included in this manual are formatted for training purposes. Text for these codes is available online; **refer to the sites listed below for an official copy of a state law for use in a court case.**

Statutes are located at <https://statutes.capitol.texas.gov/>.

Texas Administrative Codes are located at <https://www.sos.texas.gov/tac/index.shtml>.

Texas Health and Safety Codes and Texas Administrative Codes (TAC) (Rules)

Chapter 821 TAC	Treatment and Disposition of Animals Chapter 169 Standards for Allowable Methods of Euthanasia for Animals in the Custody of an Animal Shelter
Chapter 822 TAC	Regulation of Animals Chapter 169 Caging Requirements and Standards for Dangerous Wild Animals
Chapter 823	Animal Shelters
Chapter 826 TAC	Rabies Control Act Chapter 169 Rabies Control and Eradication
Chapter 828 TAC TAC	Dog and Cat Sterilization Chapter 169 Dog and Cat Sterilization Chapter 573 Sterilization of Animals From Releasing Agencies (TBVME Rules) (includes microchips/tattoos)
Chapter 829	Animal Control Officer Training

Penal Codes

Chapter 42	Disorderly Conduct and Related Offenses
42.09	Cruelty to Livestock Animals
42.091	Attack on Assistance Animal
42.092	Cruelty to Nonlivestock Animals
42.10	Dog Fighting
42.105	Cockfighting
42.107	Possession of Animal by Person Convicted of Animal Cruelty

Table of Contents

Miscellaneous Texas Laws Pertaining to Animal Control

Family Code	Section 54.0407 Cruelty to Animals: Counseling Required
Occupations Code	Section 801.3585 Liability for Reporting Animal Cruelty; Immunity
Occupations Code	Section 1702.283 Cruelty to Animals
Penal Code	Section 21.09 Bestiality
Family Code	Section 85.021 Requirements of Order Applying to any Party Section 85.022 Requirements of Order Applying to Person Who Committed Family Violence
Government Code	Section 29.003 Jurisdiction
Code of Criminal Procedure	Article 4.14 Jurisdiction of Municipal Court
Penal Code	Section 46.15 Nonapplicability (Weapons)
Health and Safety Code	Section 481.111 Texas Controlled Substances Act, Exemptions
Transportation Code	Section 285.001 Regulation of Roadside Vendor and Solicitor
Transportation Code	Section 545.157 Operation and Movement of Vehicles
TAC	Section 228.172 Dogs in Outdoor Dining Areas of a Food Establishment
Civil Practice and Remedies Code	Section 92.001-004 Limitation of Liability for Person Assisting Certain Animals
Government Code	Section 418.043 Other Powers and Duties (Emergency Management)
Penal Code	Section 38.15 Interference With Public Duties Section 38.151 Interference With Police Service Animals

Table of Contents

Human Resources Code	Sections 121.002-006 Definitions; Discrimination Prohibited, Penalties for and Damages Resulting From Discrimination; Procedures for Certain Actions; Opportunity to Cure; Responsibilities of Persons With Disabilities; Improper Use of Assistance Animals
Health and Safety Code	Section 437.023 Service Animals
Health and Safety Code	Chapter 824 Kennels
Parks and Wildlife Code	Section 1.101 Definitions
	Chapter 63 Game and Nongame Animals
TAC	Subchapter Q Statewide Fur-bearing Animal Proclamation
Parks and Wildlife Code	Sections 43.851-856 Nonindigenous Snake Permit
Health and Safety Code	Sections 81.351-353 Animal-borne Diseases
TAC	Chapter 169 Reptile-Associated Salmonellosis
Agriculture Code	Chapter 142 Estrays

Vernon's Codes Annotated reprinted with permission: West Publishing Company, St. Paul, Minnesota

Occupations Code, Chapter 802, Dog or Cat Breeders, was added during the 82nd legislative session (HB 1451) and was effective as of June 17, 2011. This statute, which contains information about licensure of dog or cat breeders as defined in Chapter 802 and designation of third-party inspectors, and its associated rule (Texas Administrative Code, Title 16, Part 4, Chapter 91, Dog or Cat Breeders Program) can be accessed at the sites listed above or <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/bre/laws-rules.htm> or by contacting the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation at <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/> (click on "Regulated Industries" and then "Licensed Breeders").

Side note: during the 78th (2003) legislative session, House Bill 2292 amended Chapter 531 of the Government Code to include a name change of the Texas Department of Health (and its various terminology) to the Department of State Health Services (and its various terminology). Texas laws went through an extended transition period; amendments to reflect any remaining changes that needed to be incorporated were integrated via SB 219 during the 84th (2015) legislative session.

Glossary

All underlined terms throughout the text of the "Basic Course Chapters" are defined in the glossary.