

1. **Dangerous and Vicious Dog Investigations**

Dangerous and vicious dog cases and investigations are a part of an animal control officer's duties throughout the nation. A good investigation and outcome lead to a better, safer community. This class will look at investigative techniques and tools, such as interviewing witnesses, taking pictures, and collecting evidence. A brief review of local and state law will be included as it pertains to dangerous dogs. The National Animal Care & Control Association's guideline on "Dangerous/Vicious Animals" will be utilized. Case examples will be a part of this class. (75 minutes)

2. **Beyond the Dogcatcher: A Modern Look at Animal Care & Control**

This presentation looks briefly at where we've been and then provides a detailed look at the world of the modern animal care & control officer. Discussion involving the group is a key component of this presentation. Topics include:

- We've come a long way – The first known use of the word dogcatcher was in 1835. Just simply "catching dogs" is a thing of the past. The modern animal care & control officer must be a diverse, open-minded working individual.
- Professionalism & Ethics – Professionalism is a core attribute of all those in the world of modern animal care & control. Impartiality and integrity are critical. Service to the community is vital and your personal standards must be high. Treating people and pets with dignity and respect is a daily requirement. Keeping personal feelings out is tough but a must!
- Embrace Technology – It's here to stay. Such things as smart phones, computers and social media can be used efficiently and effectively. Let's make the most use of it to help people and pets.
- Education & Training – There's always room for improvement. Continuing education and career development will help you gain the work skills you need to stay at the top of your game. Learn, learn, and learn!
- Partnerships & Networking – Make the most of your partnerships with humane groups, SPCAs, local veterinarians, community and businesses. Good communication leads to positive cooperation. An endless supply of patience gets you a long way.
- Think Positive...And outside of the box – Innovative ways of doing things in the community that help people and pets. Let's keep the pets where they belong.... with their owners!
- Modern Tactics – Evolution of a more compassionate and professional animal control. Embrace new and innovative ideas that produce good results. "This is the way we've always done it" just doesn't make the cut anymore.
- Sometimes...It IS all about you – Taking care of yourself is the way of the modern ACO. Self-care leads to a better animal care & control professional. (90 minutes)

3. **Case Preparation & Reports**

Discussion includes, but not limited to, the following topics: Case preparation during the initial call for service, on-scene preparation, field notes, report writing, court preparation and demeanor. (2 hours)

4. **Care of Companion Animals – A Detailed Look**

Ever wonder what the law in Virginia requires for taking care of companion animals? This workshop will discuss in detail Virginia state code section 3.2-6503 and what it means to adequately care for pets in Virginia. We'll also discuss what to do if you see a neglectful or cruelty situation and how best to work with the local animal care and control department. Open and involved discussion is a big part of this workshop! (2 hours)

5. **Care of Agricultural Animals by Owner**

This class is an introductory look at Virginia state code section 3.2-6503.1 and the legal care requirements for agricultural animals. (75 minutes)

ACO In-Service Training – Tazewell County: June 15, 2026

Serving in the field of animal care & control in Virginia for more than three decades, Rob started as a veterinary assistant during high school. He became an Animal Control Officer for Chesterfield County in December of 1991.

Rob achieved an associate degree in Police Science and a bachelor's degree in human resource management. In 2011, he completed a master's degree in human resource management at the University of Richmond.

Rob served on the board of directors for the Virginia Animal Control Association from 2009 – 2024. Additionally, Rob served on the board of directors for the National Animal Care & Control Association from 2012 – 2019. During his tenure, he held the positions of President, Vice President, and member at large for both organizations.

He teaches an animal control basic course for new animal control officers and police officers in the region and at the State level academy. His vast knowledge of animal care & control allows him to offer one-on-one support and mentoring. He is certified in Mental Health First Aid from the National Council for Mental Wellbeing.

Rob has two children, a tarantula, a red-footed tortoise and an amazing girlfriend. Rob joined the City of Richmond Animal Care & Control in January 2016 and was the Deputy Director when he departed in June 2025. In July 2025, he started his new role as manager of Prince George County Animal Services. He spends his spare time scouting out donut shops.

For more information about these classes contact:

Robert C. Leinberger, Jr., MHRM • RCL905JR@AOL.COM • 804-919-4284