



THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

Law Enforcement Training Center course menu

The Humane Society of the United States' Law Enforcement Training Center provides free trainings to thousands of law enforcement officers and prosecutors across the country each year. Trainers are current or former law enforcement and leading experts in the field of animal crimes.

[Animal cruelty and fighting investigations](#)

This training reviews illegal animal abuse, including investigatory techniques, applicable state and federal laws and tips for successful outcomes.

Topics to be covered:

- Considerations for assessing potential violations and different solutions/remedies
- The link between animal abuse and other violent crime
- Report writing and warrants
- Recognizing and collecting relevant evidence
- Interpreting and applying cruelty and fighting laws

[Equine investigations](#)

This course covers equine care and husbandry, relevant state and federal laws, investigative techniques, and prosecutions.

Topics to be covered:

- Standards of care and how to assess physical and living conditions
- Common conditions and potential causes
- Investigating reports, unique considerations
- Basic handling
- Preparing for and executing a seizure

[Farm animal investigations](#)

This course covers farm animal care and husbandry, relevant state and federal laws, investigative techniques, and prosecutions.

Topics to be covered:

- Standards of care and how to assess physical and living conditions
- Common conditions, potential causes, and basic disease information
- Interviews, warrants, and evidence collection
- Ongoing care, resources, and case management

[Police/dog encounters](#)

Dogs are likely to be present during many calls for service. With a focus on officer safety, this course reviews how agencies can prepare to avoid unnecessarily shooting a family pet.

Topics to be covered:

- How animal encounters impact an agency
- Contributing factors to negative interactions
- Reading body language and how to appropriately approach dogs
- Preparedness and relationship building

[Family violence and animal cruelty: how prosecuting animal abuse can save lives](#)

There is a significant correlation between intimate partner violence and violence against animals. Victims will often refuse to leave their abusers out of fear that their beloved pet would be harmed, and not having a safe place that will shelter them both. Largely because of this important link, The *National Sheriffs' Association* formed an animal cruelty committee, and acts of animal abuse are now tracked alongside felony crimes like arson, assault, and homicide in the *Federal Bureau of Investigation's* criminal database.

Topics to be covered:

- Animal abuse as an indicator for future violence
- Connection between intimate partner violence and animal crimes
- Interagency collaboration for safer communities

[Veterinary forensics in animal investigations](#)

Veterinary forensics can play an important role in both animal and human crimes. Topics for this course include recognizing critical evidence and applying human-forensics techniques.

Topics to be covered:

- Crime scene analysis and documentation
- Evidence recognition - animal vs. human cases
- Crime scene considerations for different types of cruelty

[Advanced animal fighting investigations](#)

This course includes the relationship between animal fighting and other violent criminal activity, relevant state and federal laws, a thorough review of key components and investigative techniques for both dog and cockfighting, warrants, evidence collection, and prosecution preparation.

Topics to be covered:

- Advanced review of dogfighting, cockfighting and their link to other violent crime
- Important terminology, paraphernalia, aspects of a fight
- Recognizing and documenting key evidence and preparing for prosecution

[Advanced animal cruelty investigations](#)

Building upon lessons learned in the daylong course, this training will provide an in-depth discussion of some of the more unique and challenging animal crimes. The course will also review advanced techniques for evidence collection, including writing effective warrants and utilizing social media.

Topics to be covered:

- Specialized cases to include: commercial breeders, rituals/sacrifice, horse tripping, horse soring, wildlife cruelty, animal sexual abuse
- Advanced evidence collection: warrants/reports, photo documentation, internet research, 4th amendment issues.

[Large-scale neglect investigations](#)

This webinar will review the most common types of large-scale cases and tips for successful investigations. We will review unique considerations including the need to plan ahead, evidence collection, handling, transport and ongoing care.

Topics to be covered:

- Evidence collection/documentation of a significant number of animals
- Handling, transport and sheltering live evidence
- Case management challenges
- Relevant laws

[Large-scale seizures](#)

Large-scale animal seizures can be overwhelming operations for any agency but planning can mitigate many of the on-scene challenges that arise. This course will review unique considerations for seizures involving significant numbers of animals, focusing on the day of removal and subsequent animal care.

Topics to be covered:

- The importance of collaboration and preparedness, mapping, photography, veterinary triage onsite
- Logistical challenges of large-scale investigations and seizures
- The importance of MOUs/MAAs
- Custody, continued care, and placement

[Commercial breeding facility investigations](#)

Violations of animal cruelty law are often found at large-scale commercial breeding facilities, commonly referred to as “puppy mills.” The sheer number of animals involved—often in the hundreds and sometimes thousands—and their unique circumstances create special investigation and case management challenges.

Topics to be covered:

- Specialized considerations
- Different enforcement/regulatory agencies and their oversight
- Collaboration and preparedness

[Animal crimes investigations and the 4th amendment](#)

“Fruit of the poisonous tree” is a legal metaphor for a concept with significant implications for animal services and enforcement officers.

Topics to be covered:

- Critical evidence identification for animal cruelty cases (including best practices for writing reports)
- How to document that evidence in accordance with the 4th amendment
- Tips for assessing exigency and urgency
- Considerations for deciding the best course of action for a successful case outcome

[Testifying about animal crimes](#)

Testifying about animal crimes cases present a unique set of challenges for law enforcement officers. Approaching these cases from both the perspective of the prosecutor and the officer, this workshop will review tips for preparing for trials involving animal victims.

Topics to be covered:

- Special considerations for cases related to intimate partner violence
- How to effectively work with witnesses and utilizing experts
- Effectively navigating cross-examination

[Community policing and animal protection](#)

Animals can play a critical role in fostering trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Building upon fundamental concepts of a community oriented policing model, this course will review relevant applications in animal protection, including tips for positive interactions, creative community partnerships and dynamic problem solving in the field.

Topics to be covered:

- Fundamentals for a successful community-centric program
- Tips for funding and resource acquisition
- Ways to establish or expand existing programs

[Community engagement and de-escalation](#)

Animal service professionals are often the first to arrive at emergencies and have regular contact with the public. De-escalation is not a new concept in policing, but the movement towards proactive community engagement has revealed important lessons for enhancing interactions with our constituencies. Practicing de-escalation is not only a powerful tactical tool but importantly, it is an investment in the communities we serve.

Topics to be covered:

- Shifting from a “warrior” to a “guardian” mindset
- Mindfulness around verbal and non-verbal cues
- Tips for incorporating cultural competency into our daily interactions.

[Community disaster preparedness and planning](#)

Disasters require communities to work together in new and unique ways. This workshop offers techniques for working with local agencies to incorporate pets into the disaster preparedness & planning process. This course takes you through each step of the process, from mitigation through recovery.

Topics to be covered:

- Pre-planning and staff preparation for disaster response, creating a disaster plan
- Collaboration and cooperation between agencies; the incident command structure
- Obtaining resources to coordinate lifesaving efforts

[Helping animals during disasters: legal considerations and coordinated response](#)

This intermediate level course examines legal considerations for a coordinated disaster response, including utilizing Incident Command System (ICS), evacuation, and operating an emergency shelter.

Topics to be covered:

- Standardized on-scene emergency management structure for a coordinated disaster response
- Disaster hierarchy; guidelines for personnel responding to a disaster
- Legal considerations for emergency animal shelters and field response

[Community cats and animal control officers](#)

What is the role of animal care and control agencies in managing community cats? This course will describe how officers in the field can engage in trap-neuter-return, mitigate conflicts, and ensure the safety and welfare of both the animals and the public.

Topics to be covered:

- Background on community cats and role of animal services
- Responding to community cat complaints
- Creating laws and policies that support your community cat program
- Community engagement and mitigating complaints

[Not here, kitty kitty](#)

Removing cats to solve a neighbor complaint is not the most effective resolution to the problem. A variety of tools are available to encourage cats to stay away from where they are not wanted. Approaching the issue from the cat’s perspective can ensure the safety and welfare of both the animals and the public.

Topics to be covered:

- Community cat behaviors
- TNR programs focused on colony depopulation
- How/when to use cat deterrent
- Diffusing neighbor disputes about cat feeding

[In it for the long haul: combatting compassion fatigue and enhancing resiliency](#)

The animal protection field is both incredibly rewarding and challenging. This course will discuss the causes and symptoms of compassion fatigue and provide a suite of skills for building and maintaining a healthy and intentional culture of skillful communication, openness, and personal responsibility.

Topics to be covered:

- A shared language and understanding of the causes and symptoms of compassion fatigue
- Skills that can be used to build and maintain a healthy and intentional culture
- Communication, openness, and personal responsibility related to compassion fatigue

To schedule one of these trainings, please email: LETC@humanesociety.org