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## 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

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## **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

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## **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](#)

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### 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 <http://www.statutes.legis.texas.gov/>.

**Texas Administrative Codes** are located at <http://www.sos.texas.gov/tac/>.

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

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

### Penal Codes

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

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### Miscellaneous Texas Laws Pertaining to Animal Control

<b>Family Code</b>	<b>Section 54.0407</b> Cruelty to Animals: Counseling Required
<b>Occupations Code</b>	<b>Section 801.3585</b> Liability for Reporting Animal Cruelty; Immunity
<b>Occupations Code</b>	<b>Section 1702.283</b> Cruelty to Animals
<b>Penal Code</b>	<b>Section 21.09</b> Bestiality
<b>Family Code</b>	<b>Section 85.021</b> Requirements of Order Applying to any Party <b>Section 85.022</b> Requirements of Order Applying to Person Who Committed Family Violence
<b>Government Code</b>	<b>Section 29.003</b> Jurisdiction
<b>Code of Criminal Procedure</b>	<b>Article 4.14</b> Jurisdiction of Municipal Court
<b>Penal Code</b>	<b>Section 46.15</b> Nonapplicability (Weapons)
<b>Health and Safety Code</b>	<b>Section 481.111</b> Texas Controlled Substances Act, Exemptions
<b>Transportation Code</b>	<b>Section 285.001</b> Regulation of Roadside Vendor and Solicitor
<b>TAC</b>	<b>Section 228.172</b> Dogs in Outdoor Dining Areas of a Food Establishment
<b>Civil Practice and Remedies Code</b>	<b>Section 92.001-004</b> Limitation of Liability for Person Assisting Certain Animals
<b>Government Code</b>	<b>Section 418.043</b> Other Powers and Duties (Emergency Management)
<b>Penal Code</b>	<b>Section 38.15</b> Interference With Public Duties <b>Section 38.151</b> Interference With Police Service Animals
<b>Human Resources Code</b>	<b>Sections 121.002-006</b> Definitions; Discrimination Prohibited, Penalties for and Damages Resulting From Discrimination; Procedures for Certain Actions; Opportunity to Cure; Responsibilities of Persons With Disabilities; Penalties for Improper Use of Assistance Animals

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<b>Health and Safety Code</b>	<b>Section 437.023</b>	Service Animals
<b>Health and Safety Code</b>	<b>Chapter 824</b>	Kennels
<b>Parks and Wildlife Code</b>	<b>Section 1.101</b>	Definitions
	<b>Chapter 63</b>	Game and Nongame Animals
<b>TAC</b>	<b>Subchapter Q</b>	Statewide Fur-bearing Animal Proclamation
<b>Parks and Wildlife Code</b>	<b>Sections 43.851-856</b>	Nonindigenous Snake Permit
<b>Health and Safety Code</b>	<b>Sections 81.351-353</b>	Animal-borne Diseases
<b>TAC</b>	<b>Chapter 169</b>	Reptile-Associated Salmonellosis
<b>Agriculture Code</b>	<b>Chapter 142</b>	Estrays

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**Occupations Code, Chapter 802, Dog or Cat Breeders**, was added during the 82<sup>nd</sup> 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 by contacting the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation at <https://www.tdlr.texas.gov/>.

Side note: during the 78<sup>th</sup> (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 84<sup>th</sup> (2015) legislative session.

## Glossary

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