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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 Treatment
  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

## 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/
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/](http://www.statutes.legis.texas.gov/).
- **Texas Administrative Codes** are located at [http://www.sos.texas.gov/tac/](http://www.sos.texas.gov/tac/).

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

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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

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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 by contacting the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation at http://www.license.state.tx.us/.

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.