

ACOAM NEWS

December 2015

Special points of interest:

- 2016 Academy
- President's Letter
- ACOAM Academy
- Annual Meeting and Banquet

2015 Annual Meeting and Banquet

A fantastic time was had by all at the Annual Meeting and Banquet this year. A lot of new faces and familiar faces spending the evening together reminiscing about all the follies in our profession.

Many of the board members have decided to shift their positions on the board to bring new ideas and energy towards the betterment of ACOAM and for the members.

On behalf of all of the ACOAM board, let the new year ahead be prosperous for you, your family and all the animals you impact on a day to day basis. We have set aside the last few pages of the newsletter for a full photo array of this past banquet.

It was a pleasure seeing you there.
ACOAM

Inside this issue:

President's Message	2
ACOAM Board	3
2016 Academy & Rabies Report	4
ACOAM Banquet	5
ACOAM CONTACTS	8



Letter From The President: Joseph M. Chague

Greetings

On October 16, 2015 at this year's ACOAM banquet I was honored to be elected as ACOAM's 14th president. For those of you that don't know me I thought I would start by giving you some back ground on me.

I was born and raised in the city of Pittsfield, lived here all my life; I have been married to my wife Beth for twenty seven years and have two grown sons, Allen and Michael. We have three dogs and four cats (no not a hoarder yet) I have been the Animal Control Officer for the city of Pittsfield for twenty six years and work under the Pittsfield Police Department with Michael Wynn as our Chief.

I graduated from the ACOAM academy in the spring of 1994 and have been a member of ACOAM ever sense, but it was not till 2007 that I became more involved with ACOAM and its board, thanks to then Western Vice President Ken Frazier of Westfield. At that time I told Ken that I thought I would like to become more involved in ACOAM, he suggested that I attend some of the board meetings and so with the support of my department I did, and well the rest is history. In 2008 I was elected ACOAM's Sergeant at Arms, 2011 I elected as Western Vice President, also in 2008 I started helping with ACOAM'S academy and in 2013 I was named Director by the ACOAM board. I found the academy to be a real passion with me, I find teaching and helping other ACO'S very fulfilling.

For thirty years ACOAM has run its academy and the academy staff has always promoted a new level of professionalism, education and training for the Animal Control Officer.

As President and with the support of the ACOAM board my goals are simple.

1. To continue with and expand ACOAMS academy as much as we can, I want all ACOS to receive the education and training that they so desperately need, whether they are an ACOAM member or not.
2. Create a continuing education program.
3. Work with other animal care professionals and state agencies to try and bring us all on the same page and work together, I have always said that in my opinion, it does not matter what color your uniform is, we all are working for the same reasons and the same goals.
4. To upgrade and maintain ACOAMS website so all members can receive updates, information, and news and to stay connected.

Wishing you all a wonderful and joyous holiday season.

Respectfully,

Joseph M Chague



Eastern Vice President—Hilary Cohen. Thank you all for attending a wonderful banquet where old and new friendships grow. It was a fabulous night and a wonderful way to recognize so many of you who are bettering the animal community as a whole. I look forward to working with Kathy and Joe in this year's academy, and helping any and all of you in any capacity necessary.

Hilary Cohen, Norfolk, MA ACO/SPO

Western Vice President—Wendy LeSage: "I am honored to have been elected Western Vice president of ACOAM. I have been a member ACOAM for more than a decade and involved with the board and the training academy throughout that time. ACOAM is your organization and I look forward to serving you. I have been an Animal Control Officer/ animal inspector for sixteen years. I work for the towns of Palmer, Monson, Holland and Wales. Recently Palmer regionalized for sheltering services and we are in the beginning stages of planning a new shelter. I am a graduate of the Animal Control Officers' Association of Massachusetts training academy. I am certified as an "Expert Cruelty Investigator", via the University of Missouri Law Enforcement Training Institute's Animal Cruelty Training Program. My voluntary yearly continuing education training consists of multiple trainings in animal control issues relative to animal cruelty, animal fighting, search and seizures, and animal first aid. I currently attend the Intermittent Part-time Police Academy in Boylston, MA. I urge our current members to talk to neighboring ACO's, ask them to join. We have a wealth of knowledge between us, we need to share it. We are looking for new ideas and faces to help us to move forward in a positive way. I look forward to hearing from animal control officers in the western part of the state. Please feel free to contact me with questions and concerns. w.lesage@palmerpolice.org or cell 413.289.4706

Membership Secretary and Events Coordinator— Brenda Hamelin: As of now we have 125 current members (120 ACO's representing 111 towns and cities and 5 members from other agencies, MAC, IFAW, ARL, MSPCA). Newsletters and AC Alerts (training classes, important announcements, etc.) are sent through me to our membership, stay "in the loop" don't let your membership expire. Renewal begins in July, if you know of an ACO that is not a member let me know I will contact them.

Brenda Hamelin, Millis/Medway ACO

Secretary: My name is Kelly Flynn and I have had the pleasure to serve as the ACOAM Secretary for the last two years. I have been involved in the animal industry for many years, working as the Director of the Worcester County Sheriff's Department Mounted Unit as well as owning a riding stable/ dog boarding kennel with my husband, Dave. I live in Charlton with my family and I work in Oxford as the Animal Control Officer. I strongly believe in the work that ACOAM does on the behalf of all the Animal Control Officers in Massachusetts and I am grateful to be able to assist.

2016 ACOAM Certification Academy Enrollment

On March 11th, 2016, ACOAM will be holding it's 31st certification class and training academy. The academy will be held at the Boylston Regional Police Training Academy in Boylston, MA and will run every Friday through May 29th with one make-up date (for snow) scheduled on June 5th 2015. There will also be a one Saturday commitment for large animal handling day. Total curriculum hours is 104.

Applications for this certification and training are available by contacting either Katherine Mackenzie by clicking [HERE](#) or Hilary Cohen by clicking [HERE](#). Enrolment for this certification and training will be on a first come first serve basis to active or employed ACO's. Tuition price is \$495.00 and includes the NACA (National Animal Control Association) training guide, numerous informative handouts for future reference, a one year membership into ACOAM and NACA and one polo type shirt to be worn during class. ACOAM also offers scholarships for this academy and criteria for scholarships may be found within the application paperwork.

Topics included in this year's class will include (but not limited to): equipment handling, defensive tactics, 4th amendment, canine behavior, chapter 140 Updates, report writing, pets in disasters, officer field safety, wildlife issues, large animal handling, pet first aid, animal inspector duties, investigations of animal cruelty, courtroom procedures, "The Link" between interpersonal violence and animal violence, and much more.

This course is provided by the Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts, Inc. with the support of the Municipal Police Training Committee, the Animal rescue League of Boston, and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and numerous individual police officials, police officers, ACO's, and assistant district attorneys who volunteer their resources, time and expertise to this program.

Respectfully Submitted,

Katherine MacKenzie
Academy Director

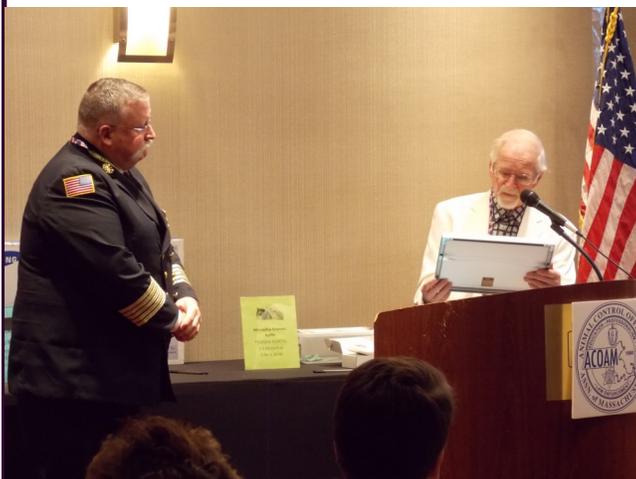
Hilary Cohen
Assistant Academy Director



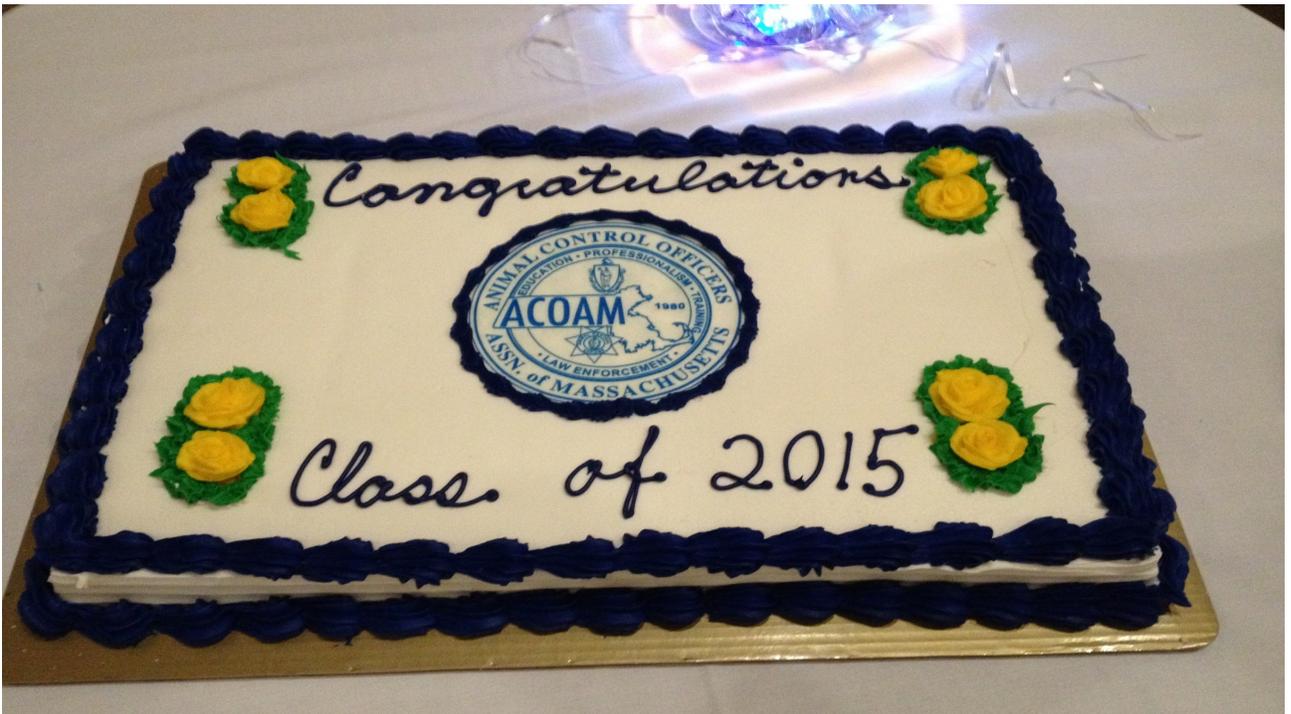
Quarterly Rabies Report—September 1st through November 30th 2015

Total # of Animals Tested:	408	Counties Affected:
Total # of Animals Confirmed:	29	Middlesex
Raccoons	10	Norfolk
Skunks	18	Suffolk
Cats	1	Essex
Total # of Bats Tested:	59	Bristol
Total # of Bats Confirmed:	8	Worcester
		Hamden
		Barnstable
		Berkshire
		Franklin
		Hampshire

ANNUAL MEETING AND BANQUET 2015







ACOAM

P.O. Box 455
Framingham
Massachusetts
01704

www.acoam.net

Board Members 2015 Elected

President:: Joseph Chague jchague@pittsfieldpd.org

Eastern Vice President: Hilary Cohen norfolk9@aol.com

Western Vice President:: Wendy Le Sage w.lesage@palmerpolice.org

Treasurer: Manny Maciel Emanuel.Maciel@newbedfordpd.com

Membership Secretary: Brenda Hamelin bhamelin@townofmedway.org

Secretary: Kelly Flynn Talpinefarm@aol.com

Sergeant At Arms: Katherine MacKenzie KJM@framinghamma.gov

Do you have news stories, events,
or announcements that you'd like
to share in ACOAM NEWS? Please
send submissions to Hilary Cohen
at Norfolk9@aol.com