

**Edition:**

**Spring 2022**

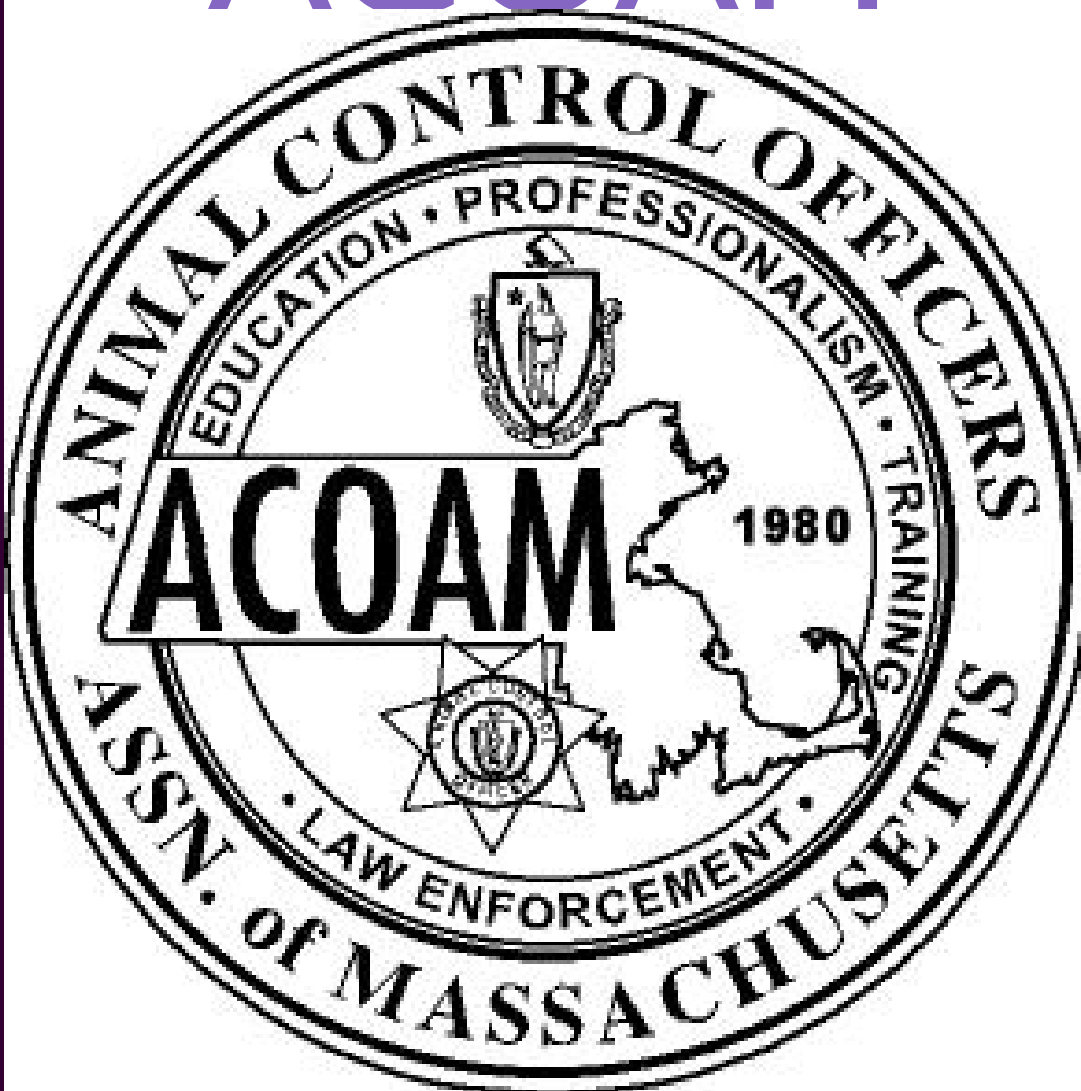
**Inside This Edition:**

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**Spring 2022**

Letter from the President	2
ACOAM Board and Bio's	3
Message from the Western VP	7
35th ACOAM Academy Class	8
Leadership through Integrity	9
Pet Food Task Force	10
Memorial Page	11
Illegal and Dangerous Traps	12
Rabies Statistics	13
2021 ACO of the Year	14
Benjamin Harvey Scholarship	15
2021 Annual Meeting	16
MSPCA Announcement	17
ACOAM Academy 2022	18
Annual Meeting and Banquet 2022	19
ACOAM Membership Form	20
Board Contact Information	21

**ACOAM**



**NEWS**

## Message from the President



Greetings Everyone,

I hope this message finds everyone healthy and well. These past few years have undoubtedly been a trying time for us all. The COVID-19 pandemic has redefined how we go about accomplishing our day-to-day duties, both in the field as well as accomplishing our personal agendas. As a board member and a fellow ACO I have seen each and every ACO in the Commonwealth rise to face this challenge and come out on top. Despite the hard work of many, we remain faced with this insistent pandemic, however with the continued support of friends, family and colleagues we can truly rise above all obstacles and persevere, together.

This past year, with modifications to ensure the safety of all, we resumed our 2021 ACOAM Academy, our 35<sup>th</sup> academy class, seeing 29 ACO's successfully complete the program. This program was held this past fall and met twice per week for 6 weeks; 96 hours of class time at the Boylston Regional Training Academy in Boylston, MA. Topics included in this years class included of equipment handling, self defense tactics, 4<sup>th</sup> amendment, compassion fatigue, animal behavior, review of MGL Chapter 140, large animal handling, report writing, wildlife, bite prevention and officer field safety among others. As always

I want to thank ACOAM Board Members, Academy Staff and most of all our instructors and guest speakers who without their involvement the academy would not be successful. Special thanks to Past President Joe Chague and Western Vice President/Academy Director Jules Sanborn for their strong work and dedication put forward to ensure the success of this program.

I would be remiss if I did not mention outgoing ACOAM President Joe Chague of Pittsfield, MA. I want to take a moment to acknowledge all of the time, hard work, selflessness and dedication ACO Chague has given to ACOAM, ACO's across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the citizens of his home town of Pittsfield, MA over his long and illustrious career of 34 years; the last 7 of which he has served with the utmost professionalism as the President of ACOAM. ACO Chague will be retiring in July 2022; I on behalf of ACOAM want to take this moment to wish him a happy, healthy and well-deserved retirement!

As we move forward into 2022 and beyond I look forward to the opportunity to serve you as the 15th President in ACOAM's illustrious history. I have served as an ACO for 11 years, the last 8 years of which I have been serving the residents of Beverly, MA in Essex County. I have served on the ACOAM board for the past 2 years in various roles, the last of which was North Eastern Vice President. As President, I am preceded by many amazing and hardworking ACO's that have served in the role of President as well as board members throughout the history of ACOAM and I look forward to working with the current ACOAM Board to continue to accomplish goals and represent every ACO in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to the best of my ability. Together we will continue to reach common goals and accomplish greatness.

My colleagues, I leave you with this; continue to lean on each other for guidance and assistance as we continue to navigate this pandemic. Remember, you are never alone, as together we will continue to accomplish great things. This pandemic is just an obstacle, and together with the help of each other as colleagues and friends, we will hurdle this obstacle and meet at the finish line. Continue to stand tall and remain healthy and safe.

Respectfully, Matthew J. Lipinski; ACOAM President & Beverly ACO

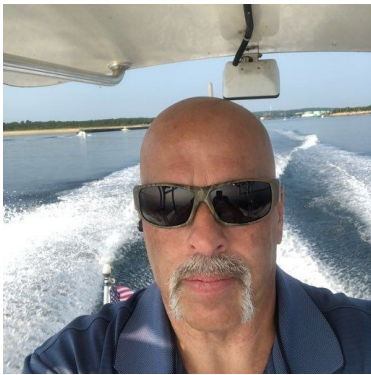
## Meet Your Elected Board Members

Western Vice President: Jules Sandborn - TJO



Currently a full time ACO for TJO in Springfield Massachusetts. I have been on the Team for 5 years. I have a special interest in Domestic Violence, Hoarding, and TNR programs. In addition, I have been an Emergency Vet Tech for over 25 years. I am the proud mother of 2 teenage boys. I reside in Springfield with 3 dogs, 6 cats and a bearded dragon.

South Eastern Vice President: John Pimental - Town of Sandwich



John Pimental works for the Town of Sandwich Department of Natural Resources. He is in his 20th year working for the Town of Sandwich and has spent the last 10 years as their Animal Control Officer.

Central Vice President: Aimee Contois - Town of Auburn



Aimee Contois has served as the Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspector for the Town of Auburn since 2015. From an early age, she knew her life's passion was to be an advocate for the welfare of animals. She earned her bachelor's degree in Animal Science with a minor in Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She previously worked for the Animal Rescue League of Boston as an Animal Care and Adoption Agent, which sparked her interest in the field of animal care and control. Additionally, she has many years of experience working within the horse industry. She graduated from the Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts' Animal Control Certification Academy in 2015. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time with her family, hiking, horseback riding, and spending time with her two cats (Reuben and Finley), and her rabbit (Milkdud).

## Meet Your Elected Board Members Cont.

**Treasurer/Past President:** Emanuel “Manny” Maciel - City of New Bedford



Manny has been serving the animal care field for 31 years. He has been working for New Bedford Animal Control for 23 years. Manny also works with animal disaster teams such as IFAW, HSUS, AHA, and ASPCA. Manny has served many roles throughout ACOAM's history. He has previously held the president's seat for 10 years, from 2002 - 2012. In 2014, Manny was appointed to the NACA board where he served for 5 years. Manny currently serves on the board for MVMA Charities. For details on MVMA Charities please see page 14 of this newsletter!

**Clerk Secretary:** Kelly Flynn - Town of Oxford



Hello from Kathleen “Kelly” Flynn, Oxford ACO, Charlton Assistant ACO and ACOAM Secretary. I live on a peaceful horse farm in Charlton with my husband and daughter. I have spent my entire career caring for animals and I was fortunate enough to become the Oxford ACO about six years ago. Shortly after graduating from the ACOAM Academy I attended an ACOAM meeting and stepped into the newly vacated Secretaries position, where I have been ever since. I am passionate about ACOAM's mission, which is to promote education and training to improve the skills and professionalism of ACO's throughout the state. I believe that ACOAM is a tremendous asset to Massachusetts ACO's and I am grateful to be a part of this ACOAM Board.

**Sergeant At Arms:**

**Katelyn Spencer - Town of Southbridge**

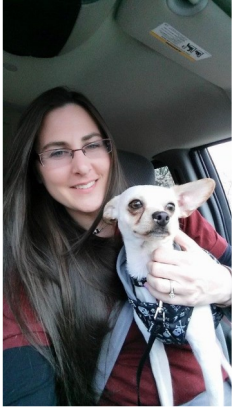


For the past 20 plus years Katelyn has dedicated herself to animal welfare, her first job was working at a local reptile shop where her interest in caring for animals started. After the reptile shop, she started to work at a veterinary hospital and stayed in veterinary medicine for 16 years before retiring her medical scrubs to take on the ACO position in 2017. In her short ACO career, she has made huge improvements in the Town's animal control program. She was able to update the Town's By-laws, started community programs for pet owners in need, and helped the Town start a rebuilding process for a new animal shelter. In 2018, she attended and graduated ACOAM academy, 2020 she was awarded Animal Control Officer of the year, and in 2021 she became an ACOAM board member. Outside of work she enjoys being creative with her art, spending time outside in the wilderness and most of all, spending time raising her young child.



## Meet Your Elected Board Members Cont.

Board Member At-Large:     Jessecah Gower - Town of West Springfield



Jessecah Gower recently moved to Southwick with her two sons, three dogs, two guinea pigs, and a cat. While she has always had a love for animals she began her working career as an event florist. She began volunteering in the cat room at Thomas J O'Connor Animal Control & Adoption Center in Springfield Ma back in 2008. When the floral wholesaler she was working for folded, Jessecah jumped at an opportunity to work at TJO and in 2010 Jessecah became the Volunteer and Special Project Coordinator at TJO. Working at TJO afford Jessecah a unique ability to work within many aspects animal welfare and ultimately changed her career aspirations. In the spring of 2016 she graduated from the A.C.O.A.M Animal Control Academy and in October of the same year, she joined

Board Member At-Large:     Melinda MacKendrick - Town of Westborough



I started as the assistant dog control officer in February 1990 for the Town of Westborough and added assistant dog control officer in Northboro in June of 1990. I became the full time Dog Officer in Westborough about a year later and took the ACOAM class in 1992. In 1993 I left Westborough and kept the assistant job in Northborough until the full time officer retired in September 2011, the town decided to outsource the position to a private contractor and removed the positions at the 2012 town meet-ing. I left the field to work as a home health aid/personal caregiver for elderly and/or disabled persons. I returned to Westborough in the October of 2016 as a part time Animal Control Officer/Animal Inspector after their full time Animal Control Officer/Inspector retired effective July 1. In January of 2017 the hours increased, and increased again in October 2017. July 1 of 2018 the Town of Grafton joined with Westborough creating a full time position between them. I have been an ACOAM member for many years 1991-2011 and rejoined in 2016 when I returned to the animal control field.

Past President:                 Joseph Chague - City of Pittsfield



I have been the ACO for the City of Pittsfield for 34 years. I started my career as an Animal Control Officer and Animal Inspector for the City of Pittsfield in 1988. I graduated from the ACOAM academy in 1993 and have been a member of ACOAM ever sense. In 2008 I was appointed by the ACOAM Board as assistant academy director and have been either Director or Co Director to date. In 2010 I was appointed as Sergeant at Arms by the ACOAM Board. In 2010 I was elected as ACOAMS Western Vice President and In 2015 I was honored by being elected as ACOAMS President and held that title until 2021. I look forward to staying involved with ACOAMS board of directors.

## Meet Your Elected Board Members Cont.

Past President: Sue Webb - Town of Wellesley



Sue Webb has served as the Town of Wellesley Animal Control Officer for 44 years. Sue is also a past president of ACOAM, serving from 1987-1988. Sue is also one of the last founding members of ACOAM to remain involved on the board of directors.

Past President/Merchandise Manager: Paul Murphy - Town of Cohasset



Paul "Murph" Murphy began his career with the Town of Hingham as their Animal Control Officer and served there for 15 years from 1976 - 1991. He then served the Town of Cohasset and the Town of Norwell in the role of Animal Control Officer for 21 years, from 1998 - 2019. Paul is also a past president of ACOAM, serving from 1988 - 1989. Paul is also one of the last founding members of ACOAM to remain involved on the board of directors.

**ANNUAL ELECTIONS:** Every year before our annual banquet we hold our annual meeting and elections. If anyone has any interest in running for an elected board position on the ACOAM board or a non-elected position on the ACOAM board, please contact membership secretary Aimee Contois at [acontois@town.auburn.ma.us](mailto:acontois@town.auburn.ma.us). We are always looking for volunteers!!!

## Message from the Western Vice President

My fellow ACO's of Western Massachusetts:

I just wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am a proud member of the ACOAM Board and currently serve as the Western Massachusetts Vice President. I am employed by Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center (TJO) in Springfield as an Animal Control Officer. We are the largest municipality in this area and our department is comprised of 5 full time officers.

I am involved with the ACOAM Academy and will be working closely with ACOAM President, Matt Lipinski, as Academy Director. Every person on the ACOAM board plays a vital role in the success of our 96 hour training academy.

I have a special interest in Cruelty Investigations and Domestic Violence as it relates to the animal victims and Hoarding Disorder.

On a personal note, I am the proud mother to 2 teenage boys that I adopted when they were infants. I have 3 dogs, 6 cats and a bearded dragon named Dante.

I also want to take a moment to let everyone know that the Board Representative for Hampden County is Officer Jessecah Gower, who works for the West Springfield Police Department. I encourage you all to reach out to her with any questions or suggestions you may have. Our plan is to provide trainings to ACO's in this area. I am also making myself available for questions and suggestions you may have as well.

I want all of you to know that you are not alone out there. Our job is tough on the soul. We see things that haunt us and we need to take care of each other.

Please reach out if you have a question about a case, need to talk or just need a friend to listen. It is my pleasure to serve my community as Western Vice President.

Thank you for your service, be safe out there.

Officer Jules Sanborn

[jsanborn@tjoconnoradoptioncenter.com](mailto:jsanborn@tjoconnoradoptioncenter.com)





## 35th Graduating Academy Class



Braydon Barrett - Dennis	Kayle Bellarosa - Marlboro
Jessica Blake - Seekonk	Michelle Carlos - Stoughton
Jessica Carrington - Westfield	Julie Charest - Fall River
Paul Cowden - East Brookfield	Courtney Ellis - Marshfield
Amanda Feighery - Halifax	Carly Foster - Watertown
Joanna Golden - Dennis	Michael Grossi - Cambridge
Patrick Kelleher - Bellingham / Franklin	Haley LaMonica - Somerville
Jason Lewenczuk - Devens	William Maloney - Norwood / Walpole
Alana Meserve - Gardner	Jacquelin Michalowski - Norwood / Walpole
Colleen Morse - Taunton	Lyndsey Nolan - Milford
John Plourde - Lynn	Tracy Rondinelli - TJO
Emily Sears - Charlton	Patricia Sheets - Cambridge
Jennifer Smith - Wellesley	Cassandra Tompkins - Winchendon
Nicholas Vidmar - Westport	Thomas Walsh - Holden
Alexizz Xavier - East Bridgewater	



## Leadership through Integrity



It is bittersweet that I announce the Retirement of Pam Peebles, the Executive Director at Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center.

Pam began her career at the MSPCA in Springfield on September 27, 1981 as a Temporary Employee. She was brought in while the Shelter Director went to assist a Bahamian Shelter. That temporary assignment lasted until March 31, 2009, when the MSPCA in Springfield closed its doors. She was there for 27 years.

She was at the right place at the right time, when the TJO Director relocated to South Carolina. In July 2009, Pam became the Executive Director of TJO.

Pam has led our Facility down a path of compassion, leadership and integrity. She has assembled a Team of qualified and quality human beings. Pam would never ask of anyone, a task that she herself would not tackle. I have watched her scoop kennels, clean out the morgue, walk dogs and even do laundry.

Her job has been difficult at times, but her approach to people is based on harm reduction, and a sincere understanding that everyone brings something different to the table. Treat people how you want to be treated.

Her open door policy and compassionate approach is something we will miss. Her laugh could always be heard echoing through the halls and that is something that will be missed as well.

Pam has a special place for toy breed dogs that are white and black, and is a hardfast and true Jeep lover.

I have been honored with a 40 year friendship with Pam. She is a mentor, a leader and a wonderful friend.

Pam's last day at TJO was December 31, 2021 but she is currently filling in on a consulting basis, until a new Executive Director is identified.

Thank you Pam, for your selfless dedication, long hours, and your sweat and tears that have put TJO on the Western Massachusetts map. You will be missed.

Officer Jules Sanborn

Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center

Western Massachusetts VP

ACOAM Academy Director



## Pet Food Task Force

The Pet Food Task Force –now- PAWSitive Pantry MA was started by Laura Hagen who tapped HSUS volunteers and Stacey Lebaron. Key players joined to work on a crew app to organize

- where food pantry's were
- which ones needed what and
- assigned people to be contact to each one,
- organized people to pick up supplies from stores and wholesalers and
- places to store the food until it was disseminated

Starting as The Pet Food Task Force in March 2020, PAWSitive Pantry MA is a statewide organization and network that identifies areas within the Commonwealth where residents need pet food and works to provide pet food to those communities.

The project began in March 2020 at the onset of the pandemic when economic hardship created unprecedented demand for food assistance. As the pandemic progressed and the need increased, it became clear that many low-income clients of various social service agencies like food pantries were experiencing pet food insecurity, and in certain cases relevant services were not conveniently located for easy access to residents.

In response to this problem, organizations joined together to ensure that pet food is available across Massachusetts. Shelters and rescues provide pet food and litter, volunteers work with retailers to identify overstock resources of food, and shelter staff and volunteers transport the food and supplies to local food pantries for community distribution

So far, PAWSitive Pantry MA has partnered with more than 130 food pantries and over 130 retailers to secure and distribute pet food.

The goal continues to be to ensure pet food security, keep families and their pets together despite financial difficulty, and in the process, prevent and/or reduce strain on shelters. This contributes to animal welfare by ensuring pets are not surrendered or abandoned and that they have enough to eat and can stay with their loving families.

For more information go to [www.pawsitivepantry.org](http://www.pawsitivepantry.org), email [stacy@pawsitivepantry.org](mailto:stacy@pawsitivepantry.org) or call 978-239-2090 to donate or volunteer.

Some of the people food pantries do not have much space to include pet food. Pop-Up Pet Food Pantrys are staffed by volunteers. I work with two local towns to set up outside during their regular open hours. The fourth Tuesday of the month you can find me with volunteers set up in Natick during the morning and at the Wellesley Pantry in the afternoon. I have seen the numbers of people showing up increase over the year. People are so thankful for the help so they can feed their pet instead of having to surrender it to a shelter.

Sue Webb (Wellesley ACO –retired)



## Memorial Page

**Lets take a moment to remember a few of those we have recently lost**

### Robert “Bob” Hammond - Whitman / Abington



Robert Hammond, 79, of Whitman, beloved husband, father and grampy, died on April 25th at the South Shore Hospital. He was born in Brockton and was a graduate of Whitman High School in 1960. He first worked for the Whitman public schools, then as a Whitman Auxiliary Police officer, as well as an auto mechanic and was the Whitman, Abington animal control officer.

“I personally helped Bob since I was 14 as a Animal lover I would often find loose dogs or injured wildlife and one day when I was about 25 I found a dog put it in my car to wait for Bob or find the owner and it would not let me back in my car . Bob came and called the dog by name saying let's go and brought him home . I learned a valuable lesson that day. Bob was loved by all within his community and left behind him an everlasting legacy”

- Laura Howe - Whitman ACO

### Barbara Prada - Martha's Vineyard



Barbara Prada of Edgartown died unexpectedly Dec. 23 after a short illness. She was 65, and had been the Edgartown Animal Control Officer for 37 years, from 1980 to 2017. As she grew up, Barbara's outstanding connection with animals became apparent to all. The Prada house always had cats and dogs. After high school, Barbara worked as Sonny Jackson's assistant at Shady Oak Kennels. She enjoyed her work, helping him with grooming dogs and maintaining kennels. She applied to be the Edgartown animal control officer when Jesse Morgan decided to retire and got the job. Over the many years of her career, Edgartown residents came to recognize her incredible skills with people and with organizing, as well as her affinity with animals. She carried out her responsibilities as a law enforcement officer, but was nonjudgmental toward pet owners, even repeat offenders. A born-and-bred Edgartown person, she knew all kinds of people on the Island and accorded everyone with respect. In 1994 Barbara was named the Animal Control Officer of the Year by the MSPCA.

“Barbara was a remarkable human being and an inspiration to all. Barbara always had a large presence in the Animal Care and Control community and always had a large presence at ACOAM meetings and annual events. Barbara will be surely be missed not only in the communities of Edgartown and Martha's Vineyard but also by ACO's throughout the State.”

- Paul “Murph” Murphy - Cohasset ACO (retired)

### Mark Vogel - Animal Rescue League of Boston



Mark Edward Vogel, 52, of Millis, died Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at the Milford Regional Medical Center after a brief illness. Mark was a resident of Millis for the past year and formerly resided in Bellingham for 10 years. It is well known that Mark spent most of this time helping animals, which was his true passion. Most of his career, Mark spent as a senior animal rescue technician at the Animal Rescue League of Boston. He was also a contract agent for the International Fund for Animal Welfare.

“Mark was a great friend, he was like a brother to me in so many ways. Mark traveled the world helping Animals and their owners. He was always there to help anyone and everyone he came across. Mark's passing is a Devastation to the Animal Community world wide.”

- Manny Maciel - New Bedford ACO

## Illegal and Dangerous Traps

On Sunday, September 26th, 2021, I was contacted by dispatch saying that they received a report of a skunk that appeared to be injured. The animal was in a yard on Olde Parish Lane in Sterling. The residents could smell the animal spraying the night before and saw the animal in the yard that morning. They didn't want to get close enough to see what was going on with it, understandably. They knew something was wrong when their dog should have scared it off, but it didn't move very much.

As I arrived at the residence, I was approached by the owners. They updated me, saying since first calling in, the animal had become slightly more mobile and moved up into the wooded area on the side of their yard. They saw that there was something metal stuck around its head and neck. The skunk was walking backwards, as if trying to pull itself out of whatever it was stuck in.

With mustered courage and reluctant acceptance that I would inevitably be sprayed, I entered the wooded area and located the skunk right away. As I inched closer, I saw that the metal object was some kind of trap. Once I got close enough to place a trash bag and thick towel over the "danger end" of the little guy, I got down next to him and confirmed that it was a trap that was squeezing on his neck. How this animal was still alive was beyond me.

I tried to release the trap but there was too much force or pressure squeezing it shut. I called dispatch and placed the much-dreaded request for a Police Officer to assist me, as I was the only ACO and I knew I couldn't get this thing off without help. Luckily for me, the Officer that responded was our unofficial department handyman and an animal person, so I got some renewed hope. Together, we determined what we need to do; where we needed to apply counter-pressure to release the tension on the animal's neck and did just that with a great deal of effort. Once the trap was off the animal, we both feared that the sudden

release of pressure on the animal's blood vessels would result fatal internal bleeding. We both stepped back to get out of the "spray-zone" and observed the animal for a bit. It was difficult to see if it was still breathing with the trash bag and towel covering its body from the neck down, so I pulled then down a bit to exposure more of the skunk's body before stepping back away again. We did see some very shallow, irregular breaths that slowly became deeper, more regular breaths, followed by some head movement. At this point, we both exited the wooded area to give the animal more space to recover. We didn't know if it would recover or succumb to its internal injuries, but for now it was alive and the trap was off.

When I returned to the office, I researched the trap online and identified it as a I10 Duke Trap, there were no tags or owner labels on it. The trap can best be described as two metal squares that snap together in a scissor motion to grab the body of the target animal. It is designed to be a 'kill' trap, doing so by crushing the animal's body or neck with approximately 90 pounds of pressure.

This trap is illegal in Massachusetts, as it is dangerous and poses a risk to wildlife, domestic animals, and people. The Massachusetts Environmental Police were contacted and notified about the discovery of this trap. A photo of the exact trap is attached. Shout out to Officer Johnson for stepping up and assisting me with this call.

I did go back to the area a few days later to retrieve the towel and trash bag and was surprised but relieved to see no signs of the skunk. I'd like to think that by some miracle, the little guy made a full recovery and went on his way.



Kelly Jones  
Animal Control Officer  
Sterling Police Department



## Rabies Statistics

### RABIES STATISTICS - CALENDAR YEAR 2019, 2020 & 2021

Animal Species	Total Specimen 2019	Total Positive 2019	Total Specimen 2020	Total Positive 2020	Total Specimen 2021	Total Positive 2021
BAT	908	33	894	28	838	40
CAT	615	4	500	4	470	2
COYOTE	3	1	3	0	3	0
DOG	515	0	493	0	472	0
FOX	30	4	36	8	34	6
OTHER*	108	1	82	1	95	0
RACCOON	143	51	174	77	175	64
SKUNK	86	21	121	28	110	33
WOODCHUCK	91	6	90	4	99	3

\*INCLUDES ALPACAS, BEARS, CHIPMUNKS, COWS, GOATS, HORSES, MICE, MUSKRATS, OPOSSUMS, PIGS, RABBITS, RATS, SQUIRRELS, DEER, DONKEYS, FISHERS, OTTERS AND WEASELS

### RABIES STATISTICS - CALENDAR YEAR 2019, 2020 & 2021

County	Total Specimen 2019	Total Positive 2019	Total Specimen 2020	Total Positive 2020	Total Specimen 2021	Total Positive 2021
BARNSTABLE	90	1	76	2	99	1
BERKSHIRE	47	2	46	5	49	7
BRISTOL	196	15	228	12	186	8
DUKES	19	2	8	0	3	1
ESSEX	266	14	227	20	259	14
FRANKLIN	36	2	48	4	36	4
HAMPDEN	120	9	130	11	104	9
HAMPSHIRE	81	3	47	2	76	6
MIDDLESEX	506	24	480	27	483	34
NANTUCKET	2	0	2	0	1	0
NORFOLK	291	14	315	15	289	22
PLYMOUTH	217	10	192	15	173	11
SUFFOLK	205	4	173	6	171	4
WORCESTER	422	21	405	31	355	27

## 2021 ACO of the Year

We are pleased to announce that Animal Control Officer (ACO) Lori Miranda of Dennis, MA has been chosen as the Massachusetts ACO of the year for 2021 by the MSPCA & Animal Rescue League of Boston.

Officer Miranda's nominations for ACO of the Year included a number of accolades, heralding her dedication to animals and community, professionalism, and compassion. Officer Miranda has been the ACO for the Town of Dennis since 2010, and has consistently demonstrated dedication and compassion for both wild and domestic animals in distress throughout the community. With the Cape Cod population swelling to over 50,000 people each year, she sees a significantly increased workload and always addresses situations with compassion and care. In addition to enforcing the local bylaws, she engages in animal safety campaigns and finds homes for animals in need. She speaks to civic groups, is a member of the Cape Cod Hoarding Task Force, and maintains the local dog park.

Congratulations to ACO Miranda and thank you for your outstanding service to your community!!!!



### Message from ACO Miranda

I would like to take this time to thank the Dennis Police Department for nominating me for this amazing award. In my 14 years with the Town of Dennis, the Police Department has been so supportive of me and my staff and I am extremely grateful for that. I would also like to thank ACOAM for always acknowledging accomplishments like this.

This field, although rewarding, can also be very challenging at times; especially over the last few years! In my 34 years of being in this field, starting with animal sheltering and rescue work with the Animal Rescue League of New Bedford and the MSPCA Shelter in Centerville, to becoming a Humane Law Enforcement Officer for that organization before becoming the Dennis ACO, I've seen and done it all! We in the field can all relate to the stories, the highs and the lows, BUT, at the end of the day we wouldn't have it any other way because it truly is the most rewarding job out there!

Lastly, I would like to personally thank all of YOU reading this for choosing this path that not only helps and saves so many animals, but also allows us as Animal Control Officers to enrich and educate those in our communities to be better, caring, and responsible pet owners.

Stay Safe, Stay Dedicated, and be Proud to call yourself an Animal Control Officer!

Lori Miranda  
Dennis Animal Control Officer

## Benjamin Harvey Scholarship



The Benjamin Harvey Scholarship was established to honor six year old Benjamin, son of Sue Webb (Wellesley Animal Control Officer and past ACOAM President), who was tragically killed at the hands of his father. Benjamin loved being with his mom and helping with the stray animals and learning about wildlife. As part of the healing process, officers decided to establish this scholarship to assist other children of animal control officers or other young people who wanted to continue their education in an animal related field. Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts awards this scholarship annually in the amount of \$500.00. Any high school or college age student who has made it their mission to follow their education in the animal field is encouraged to apply.

ACOAM encourages its members with college age children to apply. Also if an ACO has a volunteer or supporter about to go to college they should encourage them also to apply.

Application: <https://www.acoam.org/benjamin-harvey-scholarship/>

This years Benjamin Harvey Scholarship recipient is Shannon Flynn-Richards!!

See below for a message from Shannon:

Dear ACOAM,

Thank you so much for giving me your scholarship this year. I am attending Cazenovia College in New York for Equine Business. It is a beautiful school and I am so grateful for the \$500.00 that ACOAM awarded me.

I needed a computer for school because a lot of our homework and communication from our teachers is online. I was able to get a HP Razen 3 with the Benjamin Harvey Scholarship and I use it every day. Thank you again.

- Shannon Flynn-Richards



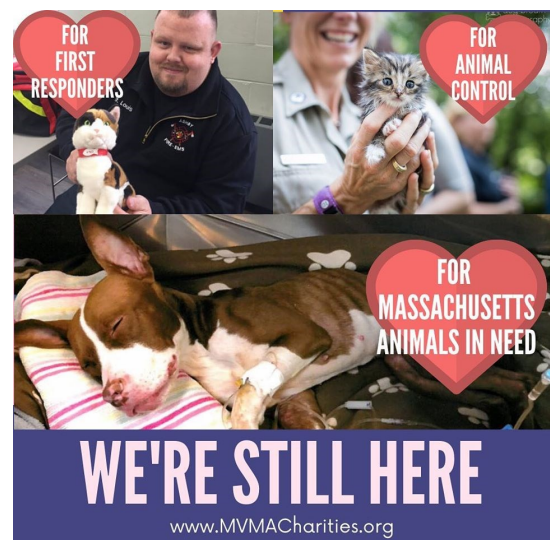
## MVMA Charities Stray Animal Program

Did you know that each year, your city/town is eligible for funds through the MVMA Charities Stray Animal Program? Did you know that you are already enrolled and eligible to request funds? **NO NEED TO REAPPLY!**

Across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, municipal officials, non-profit animal welfare organizations and the general public are grappling with the health and safety hazards of unwanted and uncontrolled animals. By partnering with Animal Control Officers (ACOs), the MVMA Charities Stray Animal Program seeks to provide financial assistance for the urgent and emergent care of non-owned animals or unclaimed strays. The ultimate goal of the Stray Animal Program is to help facilitate the rehabilitation of these animals and their adoption into suitable homes.

Refresh your memory about the program guidelines and request funds when you encounter a stray in need by visiting <https://www.mvmacharities.org/stray-animal-program.html>. You can also find and follow the program on Facebook at @MVMACharities.

**These funds expire at the end of the year so apply by December 31, 2022 so you don't lose this money!**





## MSPCA ANNOUNCEMENT

### Lynsey Legier joins the MSPCA's Animal Protection Division as Staff Attorney

In November 2021, the MSPCA welcomed their first Staff Attorney, Lynsey Legier, to the Animal Protection Division (APD). Lynsey is a former Assistant District Attorney, who for over ten years specialized in the prosecution of animal cruelty cases.

As Staff Attorney, Lynsey supports the MSPCA's Animal Protection Division by addressing legal issues with animal cruelty cases and with the holding of seized or abandoned animals. She also provides guidance in other types of civil actions that could help animals at risk achieve better outcomes, as well as assisting with legislative drafting and other advocacy matters.

In collaboration with MSPCA's law enforcement department, Lynsey is developing relationships with and will offer training to law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, animal control agencies, veterinarians, and animal welfare professionals.

Additionally, she is available to assist animal control officers and law enforcement and will be developing resources for municipalities, law enforcement, and other animal-related entities with guidance on a variety of animal law issues, including helping to identify and understand the challenges and best practices for humane law enforcement cases.

Lynsey joins the MSPCA with a wealth of experience and passion. As part of the prosecution of these very important cases that highlight the link between violence perpetrated against humans and violence perpetrated against animals, Lynsey vigorously advocated for harsher penalties on behalf of voiceless animal victims who had been harmed by the humans they trusted to keep them safe. She became a resource for law enforcement, animal control officers, other Assistant District Attorneys, Judges and other stakeholders in the criminal justice system by offering trainings in conjunction with other animal protection professionals and experts.

One of Lynsey's greatest successes as an ADA was her role as the trial attorney on the case of *Commonwealth v. Duncan*, 467 Mass. 746 (2014), a case that changed the state of the law for the better for animals in the Commonwealth. In the *Duncan* case, the Supreme Judicial Court held that the police were permitted to enter the property of a dog owner without a warrant in order to render aid to one live emaciated and freezing pit bull dog and to seize as evidence, the bodies of two others, who had frozen to death on a cold January day. Because the police had undertaken this action in order to render emergency assistance to the animals, the SJC found their actions objectively reasonable and held that their ruling would extend to future law enforcement action, but only under certain narrow exceptions. Prior to this case, the law required police to obtain a warrant whenever animals were in need of emergency aid, despite the fact that they could assist humans without necessitating a warrant.

Lynsey's love of animals and passion for zealously arguing on their behalf began when she rescued Tyson in 2006, an abandoned pit bull whom her friends and family joked was more like a 4-leg child, than a dog. In addition to easing the stress of law school for her, he became her motivation to pursue an interest in advocating on behalf of pit bull-type dogs, who are often times, stereotyped as dangerous. Lynsey began focusing her studies on criminal law at Suffolk University School of Law, where she participated in a directed study focusing on the ineffectiveness of breed-specific legislation. She also interned with the Advocacy Department at MSPCA (bringing her career full-circle) and became co-president of the student organization section of the Animal Legal Defense Fund.

The MSPCA looks forward to continuing to work with animal control officers across the state, and hopes that Lynsey's new role will be helpful in our shared goals of protecting animals and preventing cruelty.

Lynsey can be reached at [LLegier@mspca.org](mailto:LLegier@mspca.org).



## ACOAM Academy 2022

ACOAM will resume its annual, extensive training academy in September 2022.

This academy is provided by the Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts (ACOAM) with the support of the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC); the Animal Rescue League of Boston; The Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; the Humane Society of the United States, individual ACOs and others who give their resources, time, and expertise to this course. This academy incorporates 96 hours of curriculum over 7 weeks.

The ACOAM Certification Academy has grown since 1987 into the most thorough, well-rounded program of its kind available in the state. It is one of the finest animal control educational programs in the country.

This is an intensive program designed to pack as much vital information as possible into a limited time. Subjects taught in this academy include: equipment handling, animal capture techniques and strategies, livestock and exotic animal handling, wildlife issues, dog bite prevention, animal health inspector duties, rabies protocol, local bylaws and ordinances, conducting Selectmen hearings, record keeping and report writing, courtroom procedures, crime scene investigation, 4<sup>th</sup> amendment rights and exceptions to warrant, cruelty statutes and investigating cruelty complaints, self-defense, O.C. spray certification and more.

**ENROLLMENT:** ACOAM will accept any animal control officer who is currently employed by a municipality in Massachusetts. Due to new regulations, priority will be given to all current ACOs who have not graduated this academy first. If there are available seats enrollment will open for others hopeful to be in the field and those who are part of Animal Rescue League of Boston or the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

For more information, contact ACOAM Academy Director, Jules Sanborn at [jsanborn@gmail.com](mailto:jsanborn@gmail.com). You can also visit [www.acoam.org](http://www.acoam.org) for more information including but not limited to application and tuition.

~~~~SAVE THE DATE~~~~

**ACOAM Annual Meeting and Awards Banquet**

**WHEN:** Friday October 28, 2022

**WHERE:** Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center  
181 Boston Post Rd. W  
Marlborough, MA 01752

**TIMES:** Registration and Cocktails 6:00 pm

Annual Meeting: 6:45 pm  
Dinner: 7:00 pm—awards to follow

Raffle prizes and cash bar

**PLEASE SEND RSVP AND PAYMENT PRIOR TO:  
\*\*\*October 1st, 2022\*\*\***

**Detach RSVP coupon below and Mail to:  
ACOAM  
PO Box 455  
Framingham, MA 01704**



**RSVP FOR ANNUAL BANQUET AND MEETING**

**\$ 45.00 per person ACOAM members \$ 50.00 per person for non members and guests**

Name\*\*\* \_\_\_\_\_ Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Guests name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Total sent \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for # \_\_\_\_\_ of people attending.

**Please note payment in full has to be received at time of RSVP; we cannot hold a place for payment the night of the event.**

**\*\*\*Current year ACOAM Graduates are free-Guests of those graduates will have to pay to attend-Thank you**

To ensure you keep getting AC Alerts and ACOAM NEWS please make sure your membership is kept current.

# INVOICE



## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Please fill out completely and sent this along with your payment

\_\_\_ \$ 25.00 Supporting Membership- (this is for a non-ACO's, people in the animal field but not currently employed as an ACO-no voting privileges but will receive newsletter and email AC Alerts.)

\_\_\_ \$ 35.00 Limited Individual Membership (currently employed ACO's-voting privileges-will receive newsletter, email AC alerts-but will not be a member of NACA or receive NACA magazine)

\_\_\_ \$ 50.00 Full Individual Membership (currently employed ACO's-voting privileges- will receive newsletters, email AC alerts and will be a member of NACA and receive NACA Magazine)

\_\_\_ \$ 100.00 Full Organization Membership (currently employed ACO's--voting privileges- will receive newsletters, email AC alerts and will be a member of NACA and receive NACA Magazine as a group or town).\*\*\*see below

Our membership year runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Individual/Organizational Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

(All mailings will be sent to the above address. This information may be published or shared with other related agencies.)

Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Please list all persons included in the Organizational membership: \_\_\_\_\_

I/ we also cover the following towns (please list all towns you cover include full and part time):

\_\_\_ I want to receive my information via email \_\_\_ I want to receive my information via snail mail

Make dues payable to "ACOAM"

Mail to:

Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts

(ACOAM)

P O Box 455

Framingham, MA 01704

ACOAM Membership Secretary, Aimee Contois, can be reached at [acontois@town.auburn.ma.us](mailto:acontois@town.auburn.ma.us)

Please keep a copy of the completed form for your receipt---- Tax ID: 042881827



## Elected Board Members 2022

President: Matthew Lipinski - [mlipinski@beverlyma.gov](mailto:mlipinski@beverlyma.gov)

South Eastern Vice President: John Pimental - [jpimental@townofsandwich.net](mailto:jpimental@townofsandwich.net)

Western Vice President:: Jules Sanborn - [jsanborn@gmail.com](mailto:jsanborn@gmail.com)

Central Vice President: Aimee Contois - [acontois@town.auburn.ma.us](mailto:acontois@town.auburn.ma.us)

Treasurer: Emanuel Maciel - [Emanuel.Maciel@newbedfordpd.com](mailto:Emanuel.Maciel@newbedfordpd.com)

Membership Secretary: Aimee Contois - [acontois@town.auburn.ma.us](mailto:acontois@town.auburn.ma.us)

Secretary: Kelly Flynn - [Tallpinefarm@aol.com](mailto:Tallpinefarm@aol.com)

Sergeant At Arms: Katleyn Spencer—[kspencer@southbridgemass.org](mailto:kspencer@southbridgemass.org)

Board Member At-Large: Melinda MacKendrick - [mmackendrick@town.westborough.ma.us](mailto:mmackendrick@town.westborough.ma.us)

Board Member At-Large: Jessecah Gower - [jgower@westspringfieldpolice.org](mailto:jgower@westspringfieldpolice.org)

Merchandise Manager: Paul Murphy - [olddogmurph1@gmail.com](mailto:olddogmurph1@gmail.com)

Do you have news stories, events, or announcements  
that you'd like to share in ACOAM NEWS?  
Please send submissions to Matt Lipinski @  
[mlipinski@beverlyma.gov](mailto:mlipinski@beverlyma.gov)

# ACOAM

**P.O. Box 455  
Framingham,  
MA  
01704**

[www.acoam.org](http://www.acoam.org)