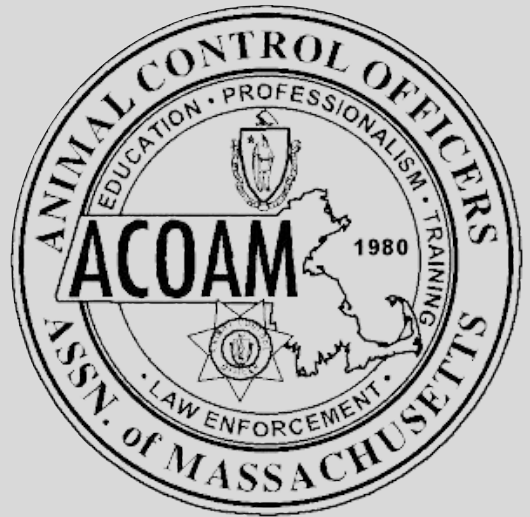


JANUARY 2023

THE ACOAM CATCH

A MONTHLY NEWS LETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY ACOAM

LETTER FROM THE BOARD:



Welcome to the first edition of ACOAM’s “Monthly Catch,” our new monthly bulletin designed to keep our membership informed on everything that your ACOAM Board is working on. We hope to shine a light on all that ACOAM works to achieve for our membership and ACOs across the state, outside of what is accomplished through the academy.

Beyond ACOAM’s Animal Control Certification Academy and Annual Day of Training, your board members are working diligently behind the scenes. We work on legislative efforts that improve the quality of life for our animal friends and improve working conditions within the animal welfare field. In 2023 we are working hard to add more in-person training throughout the state, create better networking opportunities, and work on legislation that will hopefully re-classify ACO's into a better retirement system.

We look forward to working for you and welcome any feedback that you have!

MEET THE 2023 ACOAM BOARD:

President:

- Matthew Lipinski

Northeastern Vice President:

- Nick Vidmar

South Eastern Vice President:

- Joanna Golden

Western Vice President:

- Jesse Gower

Central Vice President & Membership Secretary:

- Aimee Contois

Treasurer:

- Emanuel Maciel

Secretary:

- Kathleen "Kelly" Flynn

Sergeant At-Arms & Academy Director:

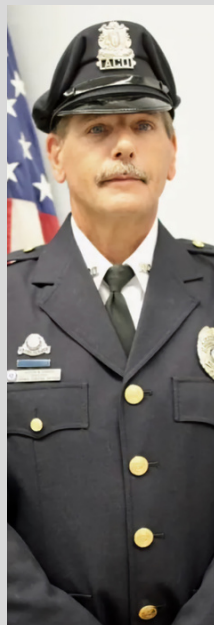
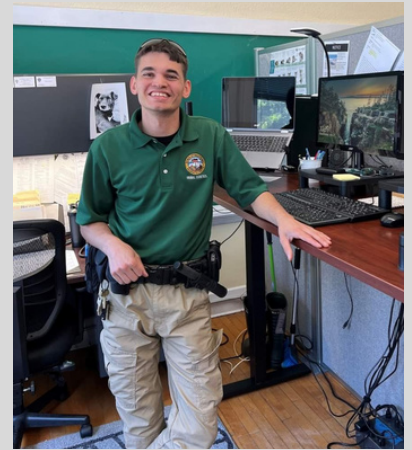
- Katelyn Jewell

Director At-Large:

- Melinda MacKendrick
- Ed Hart
- Jules Sanborn

Active Past Presidents:

- Sue Webb
- Paul Murphy
- Joseph Chague



2023 ACOAM SCHOLARSHIPS!

(CLICK LINKS FOR MORE INFO)

ACADEMY:

- DICK STEIN SCHOLARSHIP

UP TO \$600 AWARDED TOWARDS ACOAM TUITION

- CAPTAIN THOMAS WHITE SCHOLARSHIP

UP TO \$600 AWARDED TOWARDS ACOAM TUITION



CONTINUING EDUCATION:

- BENJAMIN HARVEY SCHOLARSHIP -

\$500 ANNUALLY AWARDED TO CHILDREN OF ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS OR OTHER YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO CONTINUE THEIR EDUCATION IN AN ANIMAL RELATED FIELD

WESTERN MASS REGIONAL UPDATE:

"The Western Mass Team has started hosting a predictable, monthly round table style meeting for our region. The gatherings will be at 11am on the 1st Thursday of the month in Western MA. These meetings are open to all animal welfare professionals and will move throughout the region.

Twelve professionals joined us in Westfield for the first meeting. It was great to have such a diverse group gather and share ideas, frustrations, solutions, and knowledge with one another.

Some of the topics that we discussed were:

- State shelter regulations and how they may impact us and our neighbors
- New outreach programs being created in the Berkshires
- Resources for Cat in Tree calls that have been recently successful
- Being refused at ER's and navigating the veterinarian shortage
- Necropsies resources now that Tufts is no longer doing them"

~ Your Western Mass Regional Team ~

GREAT CATCH ACO JONES!



UNLIKELY FRIENDS:

"Starting in September 2022, a young female moose started making an appearance in Sterling. By October, she was frequenting a farm that had a single horse named Eugene. She was getting into his paddock to visit with him and eventually showed him how to get out. On two separate occasions, they met up and roamed around the neighborhood for a while. While we weren't concerned about the budding relationship, we were concerned about the two causing an accident or injury to themselves, or residents trying to catch a glimpse of the pair. We addressed the issue of the horse getting loose with the owner; the cause was identified as an opening in the fence that was then repaired. While returning to the horse home, it was suspected that the elderly owners, both in their mid-80's, were possibly struggling to maintain care of the horse at their age and without help. I had a difficult conversation with the owner about allowing me to find him a new home and he agreed that it was time. While it was sad to see the unlikely friends separated, we knew it was for the best and moved Eugene to an Equine Rescue Farm in New Hampshire where he now has lots of horse friends and plenty of folks to help care for him. "

~ACO Kelly Jones, Sterling Animal Control~



UPCOMING TRAININGS & EVENTS:

- 02/01: Southeastern Regional Meeting
- 02/02: Western Regional Meeting
- 02/07: Wingmasters - New England Birds of Prey
- 02/08: Board Meeting
- 02/23 Central Regional Meeting
- 03/08: Board Meeting
- 03/30: Rainforest Reptiles

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL PET DENTAL MONTH!

"One of the most common maladies seen by AAH staff is dental disease. In 2014, our team performed nearly 850 dental procedures on dogs and cats, ranging from simple cleaning and extractions to treatment for advanced periodontal disease."



(Information courtesy of the ASPCA. Scan/click link for more information.)



2023 ACOAM ANIMAL CONTROL CERTIFICATION ACADEMY

OPEN FOR REGISTRATION
ACADEMY START DATE: MARCH 10, 2023

JOIN US

BENEFITS TO THE ACADEMY

- ✓ MOST EXTENSIVE ACO TRAINING COURSE IN MASSACHUSETTS
- ✓ 96 HOURS OF EDUCATION & TRAINING
- ✓ NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES

ACOAM.ORG | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/ACOAM-1

QUICK LINKS:

- <https://www.acoam.org/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/ACOAM1/>



A.C.O.A.M.'s mission is to promote and improve through education and training, skills, professionalism, knowledge of applicable laws, personal safety and security of animal control officers employed by the cities, towns, counties or other municipalities located within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.