

MARCH 2023

THE ACOAM CATCH

A MONTHLY NEWS LETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY ACOAM

LETTER FROM THE BOARD:



Welcome to ACOAM's "Monthly Catch," our new monthly bulletin designed to keep our membership informed on everything that your ACOAM Board is working on.

March was a busy month for the ACOAM Board! We began the month by welcoming Class 37 to the Academy. The students come from across the Commonwealth with a variety of animal welfare and law enforcement backgrounds. We are excited to teach them about Animal Control and are equally excited to learn more about each student as we assist them on this journey.

ACOAM VP's hosted 4 roundtables in which 61 animal welfare professional met and exchanged ideas, problem solve, and resources in different regions of the state. We have found these roundtables to be very informative and a wonderful way to network with other agencies across the state.

March was also a month of training opportunities! Two of the three trainings were offered at no charge, and all of the trainings were eligible for CE credits class. We hosted Marine Mammal Stranding for Animal Control Officers, Natural Resource Officers, and Harbormasters. Electronic Record Keeping w/ MDAR, and Rainforest Reptiles Co-Hosted with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department.

WELCOME!

WE WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME TO THE BOARD :

**DEPUTY KYLE DRAGON,
FRANKLIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Kyle began his career in Animal Control in 2009. Over the next 10 years he has served as a part-time Animal Control Officer for the towns of Plainfield, Goshen, Williamsburg, and Hadley. In 2019, he was hired full-time as the Animal Control Officer for the newly created Regional Animal Control Program developed by the Franklin County Sheriff's Office.

Kyle has been serving as the Franklin County ACOAM Representative and has been an amazing and instrumental member of our technology committee.

Outside of Animal Control work, Kyle can be found spending time with his family, his rescue cats and dogs. As well as doing home improvement projects.



THIS WAS NOT A "BIRD BRAIN" IDEA!

What do you do when you are the sole ACO in a hilltown of Western Mass and are called to rescue a large turkey, after he was left in a barn without food or water? You get creative! At the time of the rescue, there was over two feet of snow on the ground making carrying him impossible. This image of the Turkey riding on the sled is why ACO Donovan definitely gets the ingenuity award this month!

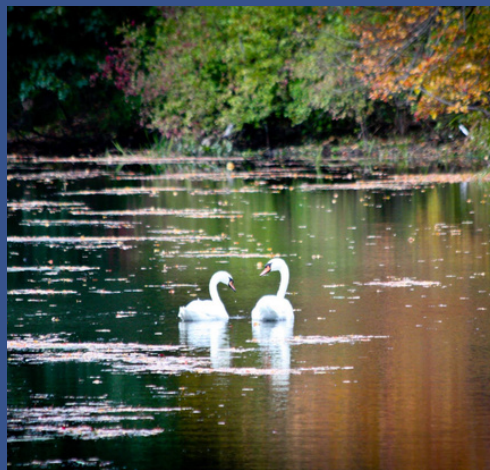


WESTFORD CATCH & RELEASE!

On August 10, 2022 Westford Animal Control captured an injured Cob (male Swan) from Nabnaset Lake with fishing line wrapped around his wings and an "ankle." He had also swallowed some of the line and the hook was lodged in his mouth. The Swan was transported to Tufts. An initial assessment determined that the line was wrapped so tightly that every time he moved his body, it would pull on the line he had swallowed causing even more damage. Thirteen days later, Westford was able to release the Swan back to the Lake where he reunited with his mate.

Click here to see the video of ACO Kirsten Hirschler in action!

<https://fb.watch/jCFtb0foeq/>



ALWAYS LEARNING

MAMMAL TRAINING ON MARCH 21ST:

ACOAM hosted Ainsley Smith of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), who presented a free training on Marine Mammal Stranding for Animal Control Officers, Natural Resource Officers, and Harbormasters.

Our Coastal Cities and Towns have the unique role and responsibilities for managing marine mammal calls for service and the complex set of circumstances they present. ACO's who are more inland also benefited from this training as Seals and exotic "pets" sometimes make their way into River channels. This often involves collaborations with multiple agencies, many of which were present in today's training.

Thank you to the Beverly Police Department for allowing us to use your space!



UPCOMING TRAININGS & EVENTS:

- 04/04: Northeastern Regional Meeting
- 04/05: Southeastern Regional Meeting
- 04/06: Western Regional Meeting
- 04/12: ACOAM Board Meeting

NATIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL APPRECIATION WEEK:

April 9th to April 15th



Thank You

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Have an interesting story? Want to share a great catch?

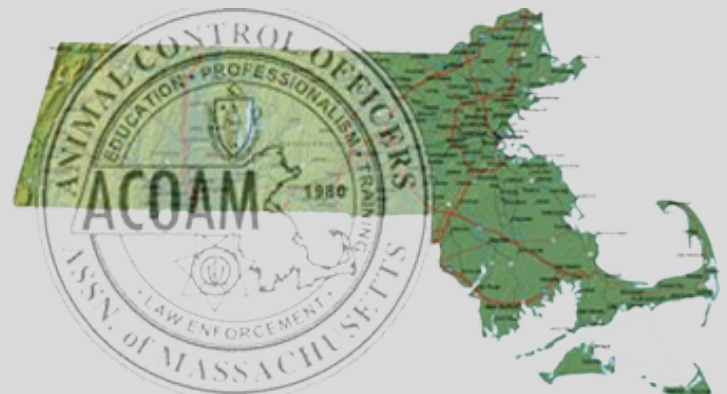
We want to hear from you!

Send us what you have to possibly be featured in an upcoming Catch or the Newsletter!

Email: news@acoam.org



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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.