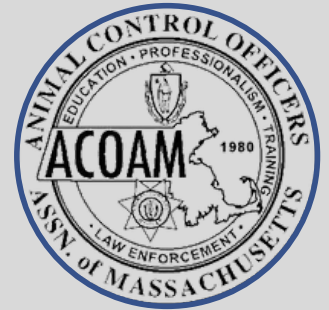


APRIL 2023

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.

Spring has sprung and that means calls for service are climbing! The ACOAM Board has been hearing from members across the state about increasing hoarding cases, sheltering numbers, lack of sheltering space, and the various challenges that is creating. This is why networking, training, and legislative initiatives are so important to our field.

As ACO's our most valuable resource is our membership! We encourage you to get active and join in on your regional discussions so as a profession we can strengthen animal welfare partnerships across Massachusetts.

ACOAM is looking ahead to the next legislative session. Some of the topics we will be looking further into is the state retirement classification for Animal Control Officers, making amendments to some of the existing laws to close loop holes (such as those in the eviction laws), and updating the definition of an Animal Control Officer. Members interested in being involved in our legislation efforts can inquire with our legislation committee members listed on our website.

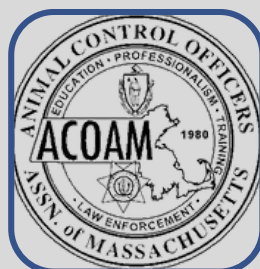
Happy "there is a raccoon in my garage" season!

CENTRAL MASS RECAP

ELECTRONIC RECORD KEEPING & ROUNDTABLE

On March 30th, ACOAM hosted Sheri Gustafson of the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) for a free training on electronic keeping. This session included an overview of reporting requirements and information regarding MDAR's goal of paperless record keeping for state required documents. An interactive demonstration was performed as a walk-through guide to unveil new tools available on the state website and how ACOs can utilize them.

This training was followed by a Central Mass roundtable session where great discussions were had regarding areas of interest and concern for our ACOs of Worcester & Norfolk counties.



RAINFOREST REPTILE TRAINING:

On March 30th, ACOAM and the Franklin County Sheriffs Department welcomed Rainforest Reptiles at the Shelburne Police Station for an exciting day of hands on learning! The course highlighted species local to Massachusetts as well as other exotics that may be encounter during an ACO's career. Some of the topics discussed was animal identification of exotic specials, proper safe handling techniques, and laws surrounding care and possession of these unique animals. We would like to thank Mike Ralbovsky and Joaney Gallagher for an excellent engaging program and for sharing their knowledge with Massachusetts ACO's!



STURBRIDGE RABIES POSITIVE FOX

On Wednesday April 19th, Sturbridge ACO Connors was informed that there was a Fox that was roaming a neighborhood, approaching people, biting at mail boxes, and was now inside a resident's garage. When Connors and a responding Police Officer looked through the garage window, the Fox ran right up to the door and started leaping at the window. "That is not normal," ACO Connors thought. They then went into an enclosed mud room that is off the garage. As they slowly opened the door, the Fox came running up the stairs at them. A quick swipe of a catch pole sent him back into the garage. The Fox sat under the stairs in the garage charging and snapping at anything that came near it. He grabbed her catch pole, net, and the trash can cover. The police officer had his taser out as ACO Connors squared off with her nemesis. She channeled her inner calm and slid the loop over his head. Once in place, she was able to tighten the loop and yelled out "Got him!" PHEW! However, during the response ACO Connors learned that the Fox had been acting irradiate for at least three days. To make matters worse, he had bitten two people and a dog. None of the exposures had been reported (ALWAYS SEEK MEDICAL ATTENTION-RABIES IS NO JOKE!) and medical intervention was not sought.

After securing the Fox in her vehicle, it was taken to Tufts for humane euthanasia and rabies prep. The results came back and the Fox was indeed Positive for rabies! Had ACO Connor not responded to this wildlife call, or had simply opened the door of the garage to let the Fox leave on its own, the bite victims may have never been treated with post exposure treatments, and would have died as a result.



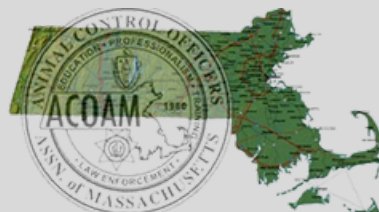
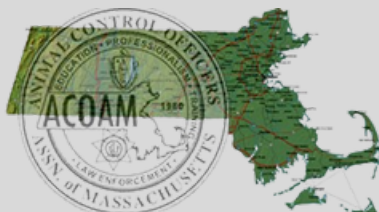
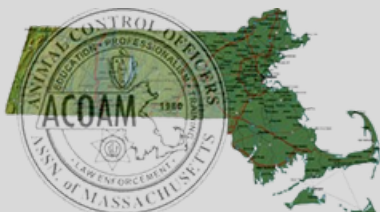
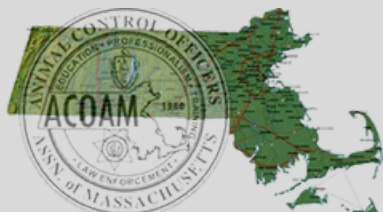
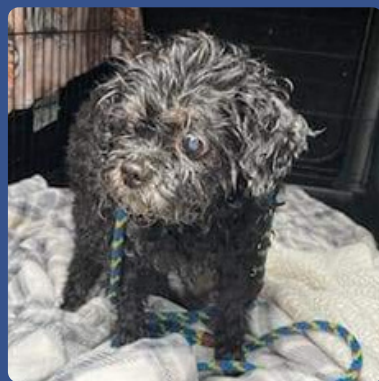
HOUSE FIRE HOLBROOK

On Tuesday March 21 at 10:30AM, there was a large housefire in Holbrook MA. The fire housed 10 families and required a multi-agency response, including ACO Movsessian of Holbrook Animal Control. One of the residents, a woman named Erin, was trying to get her brown tabby “Cleo” out from under the bed when Police Officers entered her unit and told her she had to leave immediately. The fire was moving very fast and she reluctantly evacuated but was very concerned about “Cleo”. Emergency personnel was able to get all the humans safely out of the building. Once the fire was under control, ACO Movsessian was able to enter the apartment and successfully located and capture “Cleo”! Owner Erin was overjoyed to be reunited with her beloved pet.



COLLABORATION RESULTS IN QUICK REUNION IN CHICOPEE

On April 1st, ACO Simpson received a call from a very worried pet parent. Her 13 year old small dog “Zoey” was lost in Zsot park in Chicopee. “Zoey” was spotted by a Chicopee Police Officer as she ran into marshy area. In fight or flight mode “Zoey” chose flight. It wasn’t long before the panicked dog was stuck in the muddy area. Chicopee police, fire, and animal control all worked together to free her and she was swiftly reunited with her Mom!



UPCOMING TRAININGS & EVENTS:

- 05/04: Western Regional Meeting
- 05/17: ACOAM Board Meeting
- 05/18: Northeastern Regional Meeting
- 05/24: Wildlife Training/ Southeastern Regional Meeting
- TBD: Central Regional Meeting

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

TOO HOT FOR SPOT!

(CLICK THE PICTURE FOR MORE INFORMATION!)



Too Hot for Spot®
When the temperature rises, leave your pet at home.

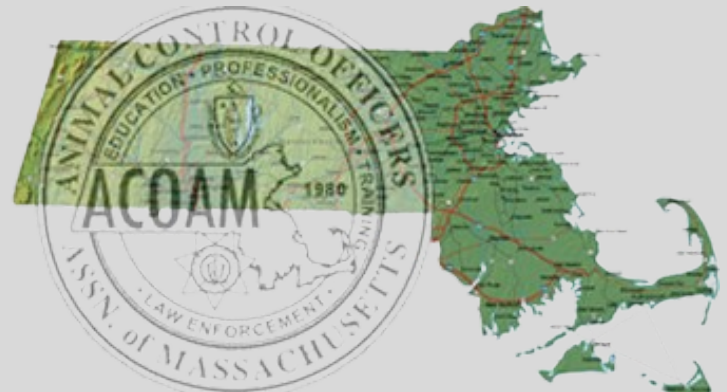
Vehicle Temperature	
Outside	Inside
94°	145°
81°	138°
75°	118°

ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON

"As of November 2016, Massachusetts General Law, chapter 140, section 174F, prohibits the confinement of any animal in a motor vehicle when extreme heat or cold could reasonably be expected to threaten the health of the animal."



Click here to join our pack!
Like and Follow ACOAM on social media



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.