

MAY 2023

# THE ACOAM CATCH

A MONTHLY NEWS LETTER BROUGHT TO YOU BY ACOAM

## LETTER FROM THE BOARD:



We have survived Spring and are almost to Summer! Like you, the ACOAM Board has been busy! We have still been receiving good feedback and attendance from our monthly roundtables, and we have been busy planning for our upcoming day of training and annual meeting. Both events will take place in the late fall. We will update our membership when we have the details finalized!

Our membership is growing and we want you to grow with us! ACOAM is your organization and we are here to support you! Our membership unites us in our goal of advancing animal welfare in Massachusetts.

We encourage you to get active and join in the regional discussions along with sharing our communications with your colleagues in animal welfare that are not ACO's . That way, we as a profession we can strengthen all of the many different animal welfare partnerships across Massachusetts.

Be on the look out for the FY 2024 membership application in July.

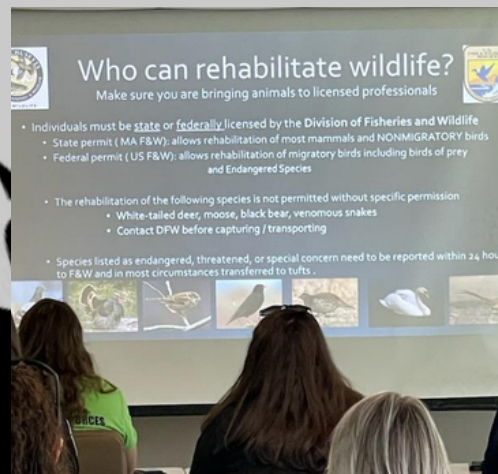
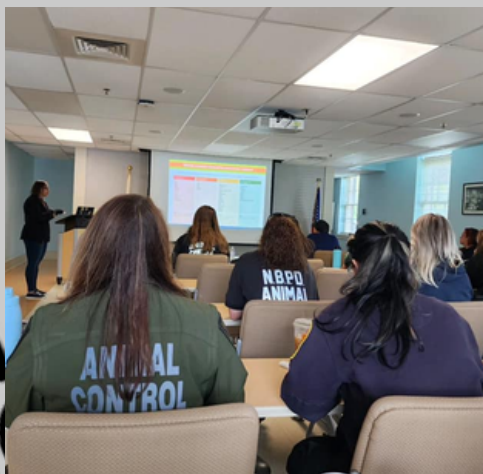
Happy "there is a dog in a vehicle" season!

# WILDLIFE TRAINING

On May 24th, ACOAM and Dennis Animal Control welcomed New England Wildlife Center and Cape Wildlife Center for a training focused on our native wildlife, the work of our local wildlife rehabilitators, and the role of animal control officers have in responding to calls for wildlife.

Thank you to Dr. Priya Patel and Zak Mertz for taking time out of their busy schedule to come present a very informative class!

Also thank you to the Dennis Police Department for providing the training space and local vendors The Cookie Caper and Snowy Owl Coffee Roasters for the delicious snacks!



# THE CATCH IS JUST THE BEGINNING!

"Spirit" is a very special girl with a mysterious past. After being notified she was roaming around town, Kingston Animal Control, along with a team of other Animal Professionals jumped into action and were finally able to safely capture her after almost 8 days on the run! Based on her physical condition, it has been estimated she was living out in the wild for quite some time. That was in February.

Once in the care & custody of Kingston Animal Control, she recommended a full medical and behavior evaluation. This sweet girl was infested with ticks, emaciated, and very frightened. She was wearing a prong collar, negative for a microchip, and was unclaimed after her stray hold.

Kingston ACO's are happy to report that after some much needed R & R, medical treatment, extra delicious meals, not to mention all the TLC she could handle from our wonderful staff and volunteers, she has made great progress!

"Spirit" is now up for adoption and waiting on her happy tail! She is working very hard and making great strides in her training but will require additional on-going sessions for her to reach her full potential, for that reason we are seeking a new owner(s) who is able to financially, emotionally, physically make that commitment to her.

For serious inquires, contact:  
Kingston Animal Control/Shelter @ 781-585-0529



# CONGRATULATIONS, RENEE ROBICHAUD!



ACO Robichaud began her journey in animal welfare at Thomas J. O'Connor Animal Control and Adoption Center more than a decade ago. First as a volunteer, she then left her engineering career to follow her passion becoming an Adoption Councilor, then an Animal Control Officer. ACO Robichaud is currently the Hampden County Representative for ACOAM, recently completed a degree in Criminal Justice, and was just promoted to the position of Animal Control Supervisor at TJO.



Congratulations ACO Robichaud on your promotion!

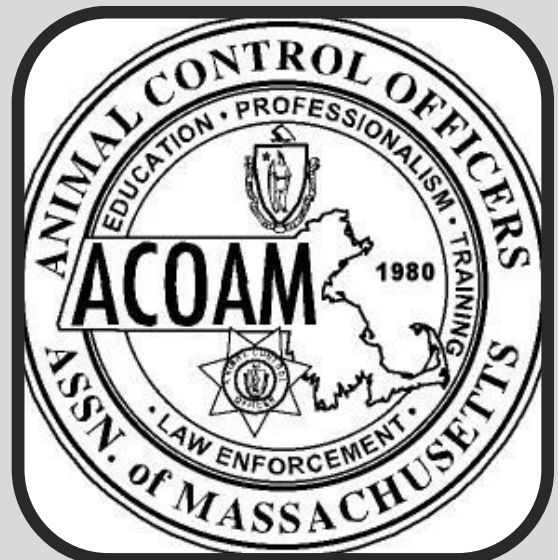
We know you'll do a great job serving your community in this new role!

# ACO SURVEY

In our last Catch, we mentioned that ACOAM has been seeing and hearing about similar complaints across the Commonwealth. We would like to try to address these issues through legislative channels as well as begin dialog with MDAR to work on solutions. We have created a survey that we are asking every currently appointed ACO in the State to take so that we may begin data collection. We would also like to hear from former ACO's too! That way we can pull together data and paint the picture as to why we have such a high overturn rate in the field.

Please take a few moments to take this survey and answer all of the questions as they pertain to you and your agency. Together we can make improvements to our laws and our collective work environments.

<https://forms.gle/r3TrUanG5V74cmA78>



## UPCOMING TRAININGS & EVENTS:

- 06/01: Western Regional Meeting
- 06/14: ACOAM Board Meeting
- TBD: Northeastern Regional Meeting
- TBD: 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](mailto:news@acoam.org)



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.

## JUNE IS MICROCHIPPING MONTH!

(CLICK THE PICTURE FOR MORE INFORMATION!)



"June is National Pet Microchipping Month! Is your pet microchipped? It's a great way to help you reunite with your beloved furry friend if they ever go missing."  
(information thanks to MVMA and AVMA.)



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

