Beyond the Dogcatcher
A Modern Look at Animal Care & Control

Rob Leinberger
Tennessee Animal Care & Animal Control Conference - 2016
WE’VE COME A LONG WAY...
Dogcatcher

- A public official who is responsible for catching dogs that do not have homes.
  - First Known Use of DOGCATCHER – 1835

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary
Washington, D.C., 1924. "Dog catchers."
National Photo Co


Rob Leinberger
Chesterfield County (1992)
Animal Control

- An office or department responsible for enforcing ordinances relating to the control, impoundment, and disposition of animals.
  - First Known Use of ANIMAL CONTROL - 1957

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary
DOGS.

What people THINK animal control officers do all day

Cats,
Rabbits,
Hamsters,
Chickens,
Parakeets, Parrots,
Mice, Raccoons,
Snakes, Opossums
Deer, Squirrels,
Horses, Cows,
Goats, Sheep, Llamas,
Tigers, Cobras, and anything else somebody decided to get rid of by setting loose.
And, of course, !@#$! Humans.

(c) California Animal Control Association/wk

What animal control officers actually DO all day

Photo courtesy of Winnie Kelly
PROFESSIONALISM & ETHICAL BEHAVIOR
Professionalism & Ethics

- Be impartial
- Keep emotions under control
- Keep prejudice out
- Do not let personal feelings or friendships influence
- Do not accept gratuities
- Never use office for personal gain
- Respect confidentiality
- Avoid excessive force
- Report only the truth
- Testify to only the truth
- Never compromise integrity
Yea, though ACOs walk through the valley of the shadow of dog bites, they will fear no rabies: for dog treats are in their pockets; thy catch-pole and thy leash they comfort them.
Guiding principles

- Serve citizens and animals
- Protect citizens and animals
- Treat people and animals with respect
- Be professional on and off duty
- Obey the laws the ACO enforces
- Prevent cruelty
Passion is often what drives the animal care and control world. Compassion is what helps us steer it in the right direction.

~ Rob Leinberger
EMBRACE TECHNOLOGY
Embrace Technology
Lights, Camera, Catchpole!

(photo courtesy of Jacqueline Sutherland)
Technology

Panasonic Toughbook CF-31

Samsung Galaxy S7

Olympus DM-420
Professional Digital
Voice Recorder

Panasonic LUMIX DMC-FZ70
Technology

Microchip Scanners

DATAMARS Compact MAX Microchip Scanner

Temperature Readers

Taylor Digital Indoor/Outdoor Thermometer
Technology

HDE Non-Contact Infrared IR Temperature Gun Digital Thermometer
Technology

Pneu-Dart Model 389 Cartridge Fired Projector
Technology

The Internet…

- National Animal Care & Control Association
  - www.nacanet.org

- Animal Care & Control Association of Tennessee
  - www.accat.wildapricot.org

- Virginia Animal Control Association
  - www.vacaonline.net

- ASPCA Pro
  - www.ASPCApro.org

- Humane Society of the United States
  - www.hsus.org
EDUCATION & TRAINING
Education

- Seek training
- Become educated
- Develop into an expert
- Be involved
- Explore options
- Be a force for good
Do you know the law?
State Training
If you’re not rabid… thank your local Animal Control Officer!
"I've been an animal control officer a long time. I'm often asked what's the scariest animal I've ever dealt with. That's easy....humans."

~ Rob Leinberger
PARTNERSHIPS & NETWORKING
Building partnerships
Cooperation is not a dirty word

• An endless supply of patience
• Dedication and perseverance
• Polite, professional and respectable with any and all correspondence
• Creativity mixed with legality
• Awareness of animal law as well as understanding of it
• Improve relationships with local fosters/rescues/humane organizations
• Distance yourself from those that would advocate violating the law
• Advocate for improvements in animal law locally and at the state level
KEEP CALM AND USE A CATCH-POLE
THINK POSITIVE
...AND OUTSIDE OF THE BOX
Montgomery County Animal Resource Center

Thank you for supporting the Montgomery County Animal Resource Center!

A portion of the proceeds from your purchase benefits the ARC’s Tiny Tim Fund which provides veterinary care and support for needy pets in our community.

Montgomery County Animal Resource Center
www.mcohio.org/animalshelter
www.facebook.com/MontgomeryCountyARC
Santa Cruz County
National Animal Control Officer Appreciation Week
April 10-16, 2016

Honoring Those Who Serve & Protect All Life

Photo courtesy of Winnie Kelly
MODERN TACTICS
"If you do what you’ve always done, you’ll get what you’ve always gotten"
Tactics

Evolution of a more compassionate and professional animal control...

- Open to new ideas and ways of doing things
Tactics

- Innovational tactics as a solution
  - Nuisance animal problems
    - Barking dog complaints
    - Free roaming cats
    - Wildlife issues
Tactics

- Innovational tactics as a solution
  - Investigations and Enforcement

Utilizing effective tools

Tapping in to available resources

Creativity in approach and resolution
Tactics

- Work smarter, not harder
  - Contacts with people that have the resources
  - Developing relationships
  - Right attitude
  - Maximize efficiency
  - Tap the ACCAT and NACA resource
SOMETIMES...
It is all about you
I'M WILLING TO SHARE MY FEELINGS

I'M WILLING TO SHARE MY POPCORN

ALREADY ATE IT

GREAT! NOW I HAVE TO SHARE MY FEELINGS!

NOT WITH ME, PAL

COPYRIGHT 2015 UNIVERSAL UCLICK.
YOU LOVE IT
PASSION
YOU ARE GREAT AT IT
PROFESSION
YOU ARE PAID FOR IT
VOCATION
MISSION
THE WORLD NEEDS IT

-PURPOSE
12 Steps for Self Care

1. If it feels wrong, don’t do it.
2. Say “exactly” what you mean.
3. Don’t be a people pleaser.
4. Trust your instincts.
5. Never speak bad about yourself.
6. Never give up on your dreams.
7. Don’t be afraid to say “No”.
8. Don’t be afraid to say “Yes”.
9. Be KIND to yourself.
10. Let go of what you can’t control.
11. Stay away from drama & negativity.
12. LOVE
Recognition

- Recognition of the individual and the profession
  - Simple, yet powerful

- NOT dog catchers—Animal Care & Control Professionals

- Recognition within the organization and outside, too

- National Animal Care & Control Association
  - State organizations and associations

- Understanding
KEEP CALM AND COMPASSION ON
Questions?
Rob Leinberger
Animal Control Supervisor
Richmond Animal Care & Control
1600 Chamberlayne Ave
Richmond, VA 23222
804-646-5577
Robert.Leinberger@richmondgov.com