

Animal Control Basic Training

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Professional training for regulatory and enforcement officers

In an increasingly complex legal and social environment, this program aims to advance the knowledge, ethics, and techniques of those who work in the animal control profession. Created with input from your industry, the curriculum provides a strong practical and theoretical foundation for:

- understanding the physical and behavioural aspects of companion animals;
- controlling, restraint, and apprehension of animals;
- recognizing animal distress;
- overview of legislation with respect to animals;
- tips and techniques for dealing with and avoiding aggression;
- fundamentals of effective interaction with animal owners, and more.

Taught by instructors and guest speakers with relevant industry experience, this program includes 40 in-class hours, plus additional home study. Limited class sizes. More details and application at: www.langara.ca/pets

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM INCLUDES:

1. Animal Control Industry Perspective
2. Animal Identification
3. Companion Animal Behaviour
4. Humane Care and Treatment of Animals
5. Investigative Process & Techniques
6. Animal Specific Legislation
7. Safety Skills and Procedures
8. Field Activities and Practices
9. Community Engagement (on-line course completed after in-class portion)

PREREQUISITES:

Application to the Animal Control Basic Training Program, 19 years of age or older; Fluency in written and spoken English¹, **and**

OPTION ONE:

- Current or past employment (1 year experience minimum) as an Animal Control Officer, Bylaw Officer, or equivalent law or enforcement official and
- Employer authorization (see application)

OR

OPTION TWO (required pre-requisites - must have all three to apply)

- The Langara one-day course "[Introduction to Animal Control](#)", **and**
- A minimum of 2 documented Animal Control officer and/or a SPCA Officer ride-alongs (shadowing) within the last 6 months (or equivalent experience); **and**
- Successful completion of [JIBC Bylaw Level 1](#) (or equivalent).

¹ Grade 12 English recommended or equivalent language skills: LET with a minimum level 3; LPI with a minimum 26 on the essay and 5 in English usage, 5 in sentence structure, or 10 in reading comprehension or equivalent.

ADMISSION PROCESS

Before registering for this program, please read the full application form and instructions. Documents may be found on the website www.langara.ca/pets, and as part of this package. Students must meet the required prerequisites and obtain employer approval (if required), as outlined on the application form. The application form must be completed in its entirety, and submitted prior to the identified deadline. Submit your completed application, documentation, application fee and program fees (if applicable) to Langara College Continuing Studies via mail, fax or email – attention Karen Ramsden. Details on the application form. Program may fill in advance of application deadline. You are encouraged to complete your application as early as possible. Seats are limited and assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

PROGRAM LOCATION, DATES, AND TIMES

Typically offered in the Spring and the Fall. Email kramsdn@langara.ca to inquire about dates that are not yet posted.

Current Intake:

- Location: Langara College Main Campus
- Dates: October 16-21, 2017
- Days: Mon-Sat (see note below)
- Times: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Note: Exam may be taken in-class on the Saturday upon course completion, or proctored at your agency location within one week of completion of in-class sessions. Additional on-line course to be completed within 6 weeks of in-class program. Dates and assignment information to be provided in class.

Location:

Langara College, 100 West 49th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

The college campus is situated approximately mid-way between the Vancouver International Airport and downtown Vancouver, just off of Cambie Street and is easily accessible via public transportation and the Canada Line.

FEES

APPLICATION FEE: \$40

- Program fee: \$1,449 (Includes: manual, handouts, morning beverages, and on-line course). A 10% discount available if paid in full by August 1, 2017
- Additional costs: Students are expected to cover all transportation, meals, and hotel costs.
- Cancellation/refund policy may be found on the website

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCOMMODATIONS

There are many hotels in the Vancouver/Richmond area that are easily accessible to the College, the airport and the highways. The Canada line is part of the rapid transit system in Vancouver that runs directly past both Langara College Vancouver campuses and is the recommended form of transportation to the College. Government rates are typically offered at most hotels, and may be the best rate available for you to inquire about when booking your accommodations.

EVALUATION AND CERTIFICATION

To earn the Animal Control Basic Training Certificate, students must complete a total of 60 hours; 40 in-class instructional hours, plus approximately 20 hours of reading and/or online studies. Students must attend the complete program, achieve a combined pass-grade of 70% or greater on the final written exam (containing both multiple choice and open ended questions) and the in-class assignments, and successfully complete and a pass on the on-line course (Community Engagement)

INSTRUCTORS

Information will be kept current on the website www.langara.ca/pets

CURRICULUM

This program provides the additional training and professional development for those currently working, or interested in working in a field that may have interactions with animals as part of their employment. Receive the theoretical background, applied skills, and specialized knowledge to become a better- equipped enforcement officer. To earn the Animal Control Basic Training Certificate, students must complete a total of 60 hours; 40 in-class instructional hours, plus approximately 20 hours of reading and/or online studies.

Animal Control: An Industry Perspective

This course provides an introduction to the role of an animal control enforcement official, including a historical perspective, the current role and responsibilities of an Animal Control Officer, and what is required to effectively execute this role.

Animal Identification

Students will become familiar with significant animal identifiers to assist in descriptive writing for reports, record keeping, and impoundment. This course will cover the implication of providing incorrect information of animal designations, including those thought to be a dangerous breeds. Learn about the various methods of animal identification currently in use, the pros and cons of each, and how to use these systems to determine pet ownership and to assist you in your work.

Investigative Process & Techniques

This course will cover the requirements of an officer to prepare for and present information as evidence in public hearings or court trials. Content is woven throughout the program with daily practical work and case studies incorporated into the curriculum. Reinforcement of the skills needed including basic the interview; how to collect, document, catalogue, and analyze evidence; make appropriate case recommendations, decisions, or referrals; record management; the requirement for follow-up; and possible enforcement options. Examples will be provided with reference to common complaints of noisy and dangerous dogs, animal welfare, animal bites, and animals at large.

Companion Animal Behaviour

This course provides an introduction to understanding and interpreting animal behaviour. Students will learn about typical, difficult and aggressive behaviours demonstrated by both dogs and cats. Topics will cover an examination of animal signals and actions; behavioural identifiers; common stressors; environmental influences; the human/pet relationship; and the assumptions of behaviour based on breed perceptions, living situations, and pet ownership.

Basic Care and Humane Treatment of Animals

This course will review effective animal management not only for public health and safety, but also for the welfare of the animals themselves. Students will hear of the "The Five Freedoms"; what role the SPCA plays in communities and municipalities; and the importance for collaboration. Topics will include the care and welfare of animals during capture, transport, impoundment, and euthanasia; identifying animal abuse and distress and the ability of community enforcement to intervene; and providing guidance on responsible pet care.

Field Activities and Practices

This practical course will provide procedures and tactics for capturing, handling, and restraining stray and aggressive domestic and feral animals. Students will learn how to apply the theories taught in previous units covering animal behaviour and personal safety, to the capture and restraint of animals. Learn when to seek assistance from other law enforcement groups, and what each group's scope of authority covers.

Animal Specific Legislation

This course will involve an analysis of legislation that govern animals and animal control in BC. You will interpret legislation and discuss associated issues and evidence.

Emphasis will be placed on animal complaints such as 'noisy and dangerous dogs', and 'animal abuse' and the options you have to enforce within the legal system. Also covered are laws which may impact your dealings with the public including understanding of rights, conducting investigations, entering private property, clarity of law enforcement powers, burden of proof, and dangerous dog legislation.

Safety Skills and Procedures

Animal control enforcement officials face daily challenges and dangers related to this profession including dealing with aggressive and dangerous animals to assertive and hostile people. This course covers the types of activities that may occur and techniques to mitigate these hazards including personal, public, and animal safety.

Animal Control Basic Training – Review and Exam

Students enrolled in the Animal Control Basic Training certificate program must write and successfully complete a two hour exam based on both the in-class training, and the required pre-class preparation. Students must receive a minimum passing grade of 70%.

An optional 2 hour study block is included in this course. Students may write the exam in-class, or arrange for an invigilator at their place of employment.

Community Engagement

Officers have a strong presence in the community creating an environment of cooperation and education about responsible pet ownership. This course provides guidance on how to balance your role of enforcement with that of positive public engagement. Students will explore conflict avoidance, and crisis management as well as ethics and public opinion. This course is an online course, to be completed after the in-class component, and will be graded based on a project submission. Students have approximately 6 weeks after in-class program completion to submit.

INTRODUCTION TO ANIMAL CONTROL

This one-day intensive workshop is designed for those planning to pursue a career in animal control and/or bylaw, and for those with a general interest in animals. On the surface, you may think that Animal Control Officers (ACO) deal mainly with barking dogs or loose animals, but there is so much more to their role. Learn about the training, recommended certification, job skills and experience required for starting a career in animal control. Hear from experts in the field about 'a day in the life of an ACO', what qualities are needed to be successful, and what you need to know to secure a job in this industry. NOTE: Students who successfully pass this course may apply this as required pre-requisites for entry into the Animal Control Basic Training Program. Email kramsdn@langara.ca for date, location, and additional entry requirements.

STUDENTS' RESPONSIBILITY

The program must be taken in its entirety; modules may not be taken separately. Students are responsible for their participation and completion of all in-class material, practical exercises, pre-reading, writing of tests, and the on-line course. Students should be aware of their rights and responsibilities as well as the College's expectation in terms of student conduct. Details may be found at www.langara.ca/student-services.

LEARN MORE.

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www.langara.ca/pets