

# Animal Control Training

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

### Professional training for enforcement professionals

Earn a recognized certificate in the field of Animal Control.

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Langara College is the first public post-secondary institution in BC to offer training in this area. Designed to assist the enforcement profession by advancing the knowledge, techniques, ethics, and attitudes of those who work in this field and who encounter animals as part of their employment.

The top priority of all officers who work in this field is their personal safety and the safety of those, and the animals around them. To act safely, to handle complex animal related complaints in their communities, to identify opportunities for pro-active relationship building, and to be able to contribute to the development of effective programs and regulations specific to the needs of their individual community.

This program provides practical and theoretical academic competency skills and knowledge training including:

#### Enforcement Measures

- Legislation and regulations for bylaw and animal control officers as it relates to animal control: Understanding the application of the law as it pertains to your role, key issues and challenges, legislation, legal authority, powers, duties, individual rights, local government regulatory context, enforcement options including in and out of court, regulatory landscape including the role of partners such as the BC SPCA, personal safety

#### Investigative Skills for ACO

- Evidence collection and documentation, note-taking, rules of collection including admissibility,

#### Specific Animal Control Activities

- Identification of different species and breeds, discussion on relevance of breed specific legislation and examples of applicability, avenues of bylaw construction to encourage responsible pet ownership, introduction of animal behaviour, resources for and implications of identifying aggression, modification research and discussion, tools and techniques for capture and restraint of dogs and cats, officer safety

#### Communication skills

- Emotional intelligence, cultural barriers, communicating in conflict, de-escalation; awareness and support of interactions with diverse communities including cultural, mental health, homelessness; understanding the impact of social media and the public's desire for transparency; trends and issues in the bylaw field of practice, professionalism and ethics, collaborating with community agencies, managing personal safety and the safety of others, and greater awareness of community issues.

This program continues to evolve with consultation from experts in bylaw enforcement and animal control. Modules in the program reflect current practices and trends in this profession and focuses on supporting the officer with access to a variety of tools that will assist them in their role.

Facilitated by practitioners in this field, training continues to meet the needs of BC's many diverse municipalities while providing emphasis on provincial, federal and municipal legislation. Intended for all levels of enforcement, as an introduction and a refresher, animal control information is current, relevant and up-to-date.

The program curriculum will continue to evolve, with current industry input ensuring that the knowledge you receive is relevant to your job. Students receive a strong practical and theoretical foundation for understanding the physical and behavioural aspects of companion animals; the controlling and apprehension of animals, restraint techniques for animals including dealing with and avoiding aggression; animal welfare and abuse; a practical overview of legislation with respect to animals; and the fundamentals of effective interaction with animal owners. Each module is taught by Langara instructors and guest speakers who are currently working in the industry, or have relevant industry knowledge. Modules covered in the Animal Control Basic Training (ACBT) include:

- Industry Perspective
- Animal Identification
- Companion Animal Behaviour
- Humane Care and Treatment of Animals
- Investigative Process & Techniques
- Animal Specific Legislation
- Officer Safety: Skills and Procedures
- Field Activities and Practices
- Community Engagement

### PREREQUISITES:

Program is open to Animal Control Officers, Bylaw Officers and equivalent law enforcement officials. Other options available<sup>1</sup>.

- Application to the Animal Control Basic Training Program, and
- 19 years of age or older; Fluency in written and spoken English<sup>2</sup>, and
- Current or past employment as an Animal Control Officer, Bylaw Officer, or equivalent law enforcement official

<sup>1</sup> See website for details. Limited registrations based on application and available seats.

<sup>2</sup> Grade 12 English recommended or equivalent language skills (see website)

### PROGRAM LOCATION, DATES, AND TIMES

Program will be at the Langara College main campus (100 W. 49<sup>th</sup> Avenue), unless notified otherwise. Campus is located approximately mid-way between the Vancouver International Airport and downtown Vancouver, just off Cambie Street. Transportation to both campuses is easily accessible via public transportation and the Canada Line.

**Current Intake:** Location: Langara Main Campus

- Dates: April 29-May 4, 2019 (Sat, May 4 is optional - see note below)
- Days: Mon-Sat (see note below)
- Times: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

Note: Exam may be taken in-class May 4, 2019, or proctored at your agency location within one week of completion of in-class sessions. Additional on-line module to be completed within 4 weeks of in-class program.

### FEES

- Application fee: \$40
- Program fee: \$1,471 (Includes: manual, handouts, morning beverages, and on-line module).
- 10% discount available if paid in full by Feb 15, 2019
- 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. Some options are presented on the website.

## CERTIFICATION

To earn the Animal Control Basic Training Certificate, students must successfully 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 pass-grade of 70% or greater on each of two written tests (containing both multiple choice and open ended questions), obtain a satisfactory grade on the practical components based on defined outcomes, plus successfully complete and pass the on-line module (Community Engagement).

## PROGRAM ADMISSION

Applicants 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 to Langara College Continuing Studies via mail, fax or email – attention Karen Ramsden. Details on the application form. Registration is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Before registering for this program, please read the full application form and instructions. Documents may be found on the website [www.langara.ca/pets](http://www.langara.ca/pets). Program may fill in advance of application deadline. You are encouraged to complete your application as early as possible. Seats are assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.

## EVALUATION

To earn the 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 pass-grade of 70% or greater each of two written tests (containing both multiple choice and open ended questions), obtain a satisfactory grade on the practical components based on defined outcomes, plus successfully complete and pass the on-line module (Community Engagement).

## 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 module. 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](http://www.langara.ca/student-services).

## PREPARATORY MATERIALS

Students will be provided pre-reading or access to online materials, no later than two weeks prior to the program start date. It is strongly recommended that students thoroughly study all reading and online material prior to attending the program. A student may have difficulty passing the tests without having studied the material sent upon registration. Estimated prep time between 8 and 15 hours.

## INSTRUCTORS

Information will be kept current on the website [www.langara.ca/pets](http://www.langara.ca/pets)

## FUTURE CLASSES

This program occurs every April/May. Additional offerings may be available if applications indicate sufficient interest.

## 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.

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### Animal Control: An Industry Prospective

This module 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. Students will become familiar with the titles and roles of similar enforcement positions that may deal with animals.

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### Animal Identification

Students will become familiar with the identification of specific animal breeds to assist in descriptive writing for reports, record keeping, and impoundment. This module will cover the implication of providing incorrect information of animal designations, including those thought to be a dangerous breed. 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.

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### Companion Animal Behaviour

This module 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. A brief examination of wild animal behaviours will also be included.

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### Basic Care and Humane Treatment of Animals

Laws and society are evolving to what we instinctively know to be ethically and morally right in the treatment of animals. This module will review effective animal management not only for public health and safety, but also for the welfare of the animals themselves. Students will discuss the BC Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act and the humane and ethical guidelines animal control officers should be aware of. Topics will include the care and welfare of animals during capture, transport, impoundment, and euthanasia; identifying animal abuse and distress; and providing guidance on responsible pet care.

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### Investigative Process & Techniques

This module will cover the requirements of an officer to prepare for and present information as evidence in public hearings or court trials. You will examine of the basic elements of an investigative file including 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, and animal welfare, animal bites, and animals at large. Content is woven throughout the program with daily practical work and case studies incorporated into the curriculum.

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### Animal Specific Legislation

This module will involve an analysis of legislation that governs 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’, ‘animal abuse’ and other related issues. Content will be based on BC laws that relate to animals:

- Animal control laws that protect people by making sure animals do not interfere with public health and safety.
- Animal protection laws that protect animals from mistreatment by their owners/ guardians.
- Criminal laws that protect animals from anyone who deliberately causes them harm or threatens to harm them.

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### 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 module covers the types of activities that may occur and techniques to mitigate these hazards including:

- Transportation of animals: vehicle safety, loading and unloading of animals,
- Sanitation and disease: rabies quarantine, handling and disposing of carcasses, and how to recognize and avoid disease
- Personal safety: situation awareness, injury prevention, and dealing with difficult people.

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### **Field Activities and Practices**

This practical module 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. Tactics and tools to protect the individual including the use of protective equipment, self-defence techniques, conflict control, disengagement, and defensive tactics will be incorporated into this training. You will learn about when to seek assistance from other law enforcement groups, and what each group's scope of authority covers.

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### **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 the both the in-class training, and the required pre-class preparation. An optional 2 hour study block is included in this module. Students may write the exam in-class, or arrange for an invigilator at their place of employment. 2 hours in-class review (optional); 2 hour exam (in-class or takeaway)

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### **Community Engagement**

#### **Online module -post in class completion**

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

### **LEARN MORE.**

Karen Ramsden, Program Coordinator  
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[www.langara.ca/pets](http://www.langara.ca/pets)