

# Ride Along

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## Prerequisite requirement for the Animal Control Basic Training Program

This prerequisite is included in the application process to insure that students not only understand the role of an Animal Control officer but also can acknowledge, describe and relate to the activities they are asked to do. In order for students to make an informed decision on their career choice, prior to entry into the program, we ask that students spend time with a working ACO.

As students will be taking this course alongside experienced enforcement officers, the need to have knowledge of the position and the tasks required of an officer is essential. The certificate program expects a certain level of understanding of the tasks, responsibilities, and expectations of this position.

## Equivalency Options

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Due to COVID, the opportunity to experience the role of Animal Control in real-time is not realistic.

For this reason, we are requesting that you arrange telephone interviews with two different district offices, preferably one in a local urban setting and the other in a more distant rural setting. From these informational interviews, please provide a one to two page typed, double-spaced (12pt font) submission that demonstrates your knowledge of the ACO position.

Topics for inclusion in this document should include, but not be limited to:

- 1) Law Enforcement Officers make numerous public contacts during their shifts, but Animal Control Officers make four (4) times as many contacts during the same time period. *Why is this, what types of extra contacts are typically not handled by other enforcement, and what examples can you describe from your conversation with each officer you interview.*
- 2) Well-trained animal control officers will display the proper image because they have learned what image is and can understand its necessity and usefulness. *What examples can your interviewee provide that describes situations they, or their colleagues have faced where image worked for, or against them*
- 3) AC Officers are required to do many task outside of their job-descriptions. *Speak with your interviewee about what traits are required to be successful, what are the pros and cons of an ACO position, and what are some examples of activities that they may have had to do that they truly disliked.*