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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

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DIRECTOR

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

SUGGESTIONS FOR A MINIMUM OF 100 HOURS OF TRAINING
IN COMPLIANCE WITH ACT 399, P.A. 1919, SEC. 29b
(FORMULATED IN 1976. UPDATED MAY 9, 2014)

Method of Training	# of Hours
1. Two days studying the state laws and regulations along with local ordinances dealing with animal control. (MANDATORY)	16
2. One half day spent with the local authority, county commissioner, or city manager discussing local policies and procedures.	4
3. One day spent with a Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Animal Industry Division Field Inspector discussing state laws and regulations under the jurisdiction of MDARD to learn MDARD's role in the State of Michigan, as well as how MDARD interfaces with animal control/local law Enforcement. Inspections of licensed facilities and/or observations of animal disease testing should occur as part of this training.	8
4. Two days spent with an animal control officer of a neighboring county that has an active animal control program, including an animal control shelter. The ride with the animal control officer should include inspecting kennels and surveying the shelter operations, including record keeping.	16
5. One day spent in a large city humane society shelter learning shelter operations, including record keeping and methods of euthanasia.	8
6. One day spent with the sheriff or police chief discussing laws, enforcement policies, how to issue a summons, serving of warrants, and public relations.	8
7. One day spent with a prosecuting attorney discussing preparing and writing complaint and other types of cases, preparing and giving testimony, court protocol, and public relations.	8
8. One day spent with a licensed veterinarian learning methods of animal restraint and euthanasia. This training is required pursuant to the Public Health Code 333.7333(c) in order to use sodium pentobarbital for euthanasia.	8
9. One day of emergency responder training (ICS 100, 700, 10, 11, and 111 are strongly advised and can be found at http://training.fema.gov/IS/ .)	8
10. Two days spent with a licensed veterinarian learning methods of tranquilizing animals pursuant to Public Health Code 333.7333 and the associated rules. This training program must be MDARD-approved if seeking a permit to use Tranquilizers with the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.	16

Please note that you cannot work as an animal control officer until officially approved. As a reminder, a person must meet one of the following to work as animal control officer:

- Have at least 100 hrs. of training approved by MDARD
- Be a certified police officer
- Have worked in animal control for at least 3 years prior to 1973

Please also note that training is advised to have occurred within the past 2 years prior to submission date unless otherwise approved by the department. The individual may perform certain duties under the direct supervision of ACO, but he/she may not act as an ACO.

The above 100 hours are only suggestions made by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. Other training may be substituted and the time schedules certainly can be adjusted without changing the intent of giving the new animal control officer some experience in all phases of animal control.

There are also formal training courses offered in some of the community colleges that may be taken in lieu of the above.

When other training courses become available, please submit to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for approval prior to enrollment.