

MAINE C.A.R.E.S:

An Animal Cruelty Investigations and Response Workshop

*Comprehensive Animal Cruelty Response,
Education and Support*



Day 1 Agenda: May 20

(Law Enforcement/ACOs/Prosecutors - All Other Attendees Optional)

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Maine Animal Related Laws and Search and Seizure	Attendees will learn about relevant state animal cruelty and neglect statutes, why knowledge of the elements of such is relevant when conducting investigations and the importance of understanding and complying with the Fourth Amendment.
Animal Disposition and Legal Holds	Attendees will learn about the statutes that govern animal cost of care and disposition following seizure as well as what can and cannot be done with and to animals while they are on legal hold status.
Scenario and Property Visit	Attendees will conduct a virtual property visit, using observation skills to gather intelligence for a suspected hoarding case and begin developing an investigative theory and case strategy.
Investigative Tips and Documentation	Attendees will apply investigative skills to establish probable cause for a search warrant and discuss best practices for documenting observations of neglect.
Interview Skills and Surrender Discussions	Participants will conduct a mock interview with a suspected neglect offender to gather facts for establishing probable cause, while also attempting to persuade the owner to consent to a search and ultimately surrender the animals.
Testimony Workshop	Attendees will learn general testimony tips and practices and engage in a mock cross examination based upon the scenario set forth throughout the course of the training.

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Day 2 Agenda: May 21 (All Attendees)

AGENDA ITEM	DESCRIPTION
Operational Planning for Hoarding Cases	Attendees will examine the unique complexities in planning large scale hoarding cases and explore the necessary safety precautions that need to be taken into account during the planning process for field operations.
Transportation of Animals in Large Scale Cases	Attendees will learn how to choose the proper vehicle to safely transport this population of animals from the scene to a vet/shelter. Additionally, they will learn how to properly outfit a vehicle with supplies that will make handling and transport of this population safe for staff and comfortable for the animals themselves.
Leveraging Cases for Change	Attendees will discuss how best to message animal related cases to advocate for resources, policy and legal changes and create community awareness to identify and prevent cruelty before it begins.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Crime Scene Documentation and Live Animal Documentation	Law enforcement attendees will learn essential techniques for documenting scenes and identifying evidence as well as best practices related to the proper labeling and documentation of living animals on scenes involving animal cruelty investigations.
Veterinarians Role in Cruelty Cases	Veterinarians will participate in hands-on learning about a veterinarian's role in animal cruelty and criminal investigations, practicing how to conduct a forensic examination and produce appropriate photographic and written documentation. Attendees will also learn about state veterinary reporting of animal abuse requirements and protections.
Intake and Sheltering Best Practices for Large Scale Cases	Shelter and rescue professionals will learn how to create an intake plan and apply an integrated care approach to sheltering animals from a variety of cruelty and neglect cases.
Pathway Planning and Placement for Large Scale Cases	Shelter and rescue professionals will gain a thorough understanding of the importance of pathway planning for every animal within their shelter system, learning to assess and adapt their processes to address the unique challenges of large-scale intake. They will learn to identify and eliminate process bottlenecks that hinder efficient outcomes. Additionally, attendees will also experience the advantages of a collaborative, cross-functional approach to pathway planning and its role in reducing length of stay in the shelter environment. The session will also explore holistic strategies for ensuring successful animal placement.