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Basic Course Chapters

Animal control officers (ACOs) taking the exam for the basic training course are responsible for knowing the information in all basic course chapters and the laws.

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- History of Animal Control
- Objectives of Animal Control
- Philosophy of Professionalism
- Training Requirement

Animal Identification

- Introduction
- Identification of Canines
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Animal Capture and Handling

- Introduction
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- Pursuit
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- Laws Regulating Animal Shelters
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- Shelter Operations and Administration
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- Drugs Used in Animal Shelters
- Acquiring Controlled Substances
- Record Keeping of Controlled Substances
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- Working Safely with Chemicals and Pesticides
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- Physical Fitness and Stress Reduction

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- Clinical Signs of Rabies
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- Rabies Seasons and Cycles
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- Introduction
- Different Kinds of Records
- Examples of Records

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- Citizen Contact
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- Introduction
- Classifications and Types of Cruelty
- Dealing With Violators
- Basic Investigation Techniques
- Evidence and Documentation
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Texas Laws*

Direct inquiries about law updates to your Regional Texas Department of State Health Services' Zoonosis Control Program to confirm that you have the current version of each law.

Texas Health and Safety Codes and Texas Administrative Codes (TAC) (Rules)

Chapter 821 TAC	Treatment and Disposition of Animals Chapter 169 Standards for Allowable Methods of Euthanasia for Animals in the Custody of an Animal Shelter
Chapter 822 TAC	Regulation of Animals Chapter 169 Caging Requirements and Standards for Dangerous Wild Animals
Chapter 823	Animal Shelters
Chapter 826 TAC	Rabies Control Act Chapter 169 Rabies Control and Eradication
Chapter 828 TAC TAC	Dog and Cat Sterilization Chapter 169 Dog and Cat Sterilization Chapter 573 Sterilization of Animals from Releasing Agencies (TBVME Rules) (includes microchips/tattoos)
Chapter 829	Animal Control Officer Training

Penal Codes

Chapter 42	Disorderly Conduct and Related Offenses 42.09 Cruelty to Livestock Animals 42.091 Attack on Assistance Animal 42.092 Cruelty to Nonlivestock Animals 42.10 Dog Fighting
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Miscellaneous Texas Laws Pertaining to Animal Control

Family Code	Section 54.0407 Cruelty to Animals: Counseling Required
Occupations Code	Section 801.3585 Liability for Reporting Animal Cruelty; Immunity

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Occupations Code	Section 1702.283 Cruelty to Animals
Transportation Code	Section 285.001 Regulation of Roadside Vendor and Solicitor
Government Code	Section 418.043 Other Powers and Duties
Penal Code	Section 38.15 Interference with Public Duties Section 38.151 Interference with Police Service Animals
Parks and Wildlife Code	Section 1.101 Definitions Chapter 63 Game and Nongame Animals Sections 43.851-856 Nonindigenous Snake Permit
Health and Safety Code TAC	Sections 81.351-353 Animal-borne Diseases Chapter 169 Reptile-Associated Salmonellosis
Agriculture Code	Chapter 142 Estrays

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* Please note that during the 78th (2003) legislative session, House Bill 2292 amended Chapter 531 of the Government Code to include a name change of the Texas Department of Health to the Department of State Health Services. Texas laws are undergoing a transition period; therefore, some laws still refer to terminology used under the purview of the Texas Department of Health.

Text for the codes included in this manual and for additional codes, such as **Occupations Code Chapter 2152**, Regulation of Circuses, Carnivals, and Zoos, and **Texas Administrative Code 169.41-48**, Care of Animals by Circuses, Carnivals, and Zoos, is available online.

Statutes are located at <http://tlo2.tlc.state.tx.us/statutes/statutes.html>.
Texas Administrative Codes are located at <http://www.sos.state.tx.us/tac/>.

Glossary

All underlined terms throughout the text are defined in the glossary.