



Animal Care Conference
March 11-13, 2018
Pre-Conference, March 10
Renaissance Hotel
Long Beach, California

Organized by the:
California Animal Control Directors Association (CACDA)
State Humane Association of California (SHAC)

Did You Crack The Case Or Did The Case Crack You?

Join us for a unique point of view with fellow law enforcement investigators!

The Field Services Track, of the Animal Care Conference (ACC), is hosting an exclusive Pre-Conference Workshop whose session tracks focus in-depth on complex criminal investigations. The Case Study Sessions are specifically designed for: Animal Cruelty Investigators, Humane Officers, Animal Control Officers, Prosecutors, Police/Sheriff Officers, Deputies and Detectives, as well as all Local, State, or Federal Agents/Officers responsible for investigating animal-related crimes.

PLEASE NOTE: Case-sensitive information will be discussed. Only active law enforcement personnel may attend and credentials will be required for entry. Exceptions may be made for administrative or medical staff who work for an agency and are directly responsible for submitting cases for criminal prosecution.

SATURDAY, MARCH 10 PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

Case Study #1: A Puzzle of Many Pieces

Speaker: Detective Jeremy Hoffman, Fairfax County Police Department

Between 2011 and 2015, Detective Hoffman targeted members of an online bestiality website for arrest and prosecution. While the overall investigation met with great success, one of the most prominent members of the website in Virginia eluded Hoffman at every turn. Hoffman returned to the case repeatedly until recognizing a fatal flaw that led to the identification and prosecution of Joseph Amley for the sexual abuse of multiple animals. This presentation will cover the large-scale investigation, investigative efforts that failed, and the ultimate success that not only led to the identification of Amley, but identified the loose network of people associated with him who were also abusing animals.

Case Study #2 & #3: Operation Bite Back

Speaker: Mark Barnhart, Special Agent, USDA

In a first-of-its-kind long-term, undercover investigation conducted across 2006-2007 that deeply infiltrated a highly organized dog-fighting enterprise, Special Agent Barnhart conclusively linked other crimes to dog fighting, including drug trafficking, interstate gambling, fraud, and firearms violations. The investigation resulted in 56 Federal and State indictments, the seizures of 62 fighting dogs, and the seizure of property. The case not only had a profound impact on dog fighting both across the United States and internationally, but was specifically cited in Congress during discussions that lead to the increase in criminal penalty from misdemeanor to felony for violations of Animal Welfare Act.

Case Study #4: Cockfighting Investigation Involving Public Corruption

Speaker: Angel Plaza, Special Agent, USDA

In this undercover operation conducted from 2006 to 2008, Special Agent Plaza infiltrated a Virginia cockfighting enterprise identifying conspiracy to travel in interstate commerce, and gambling to sponsor animal fighting. This investigation also identified a local law enforcement official who accepted a payoff from SA Plaza for protection of the cockfighting operation.



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SUNDAY, MARCH 11, CONFERENCE SESSION TRACKS

Field Services: *To Catch a Catnapper*

Speaker: Sharon Ostermann, DVM, MS, San Jose Animal Care & Services

With a master's degree in Veterinary Forensics, Dr. Ostermann, a veterinarian with the City of San Jose, is the primary on criminal cases. Her session will focus on the 2015 San Jose "Catnapper" case (People v. Robert Farmer), in which the defendant, a transient, stole, maimed and killed many feline victims. Ostermann's team at the San Jose Animal Care Center worked with the Santa Clara County Crime Laboratory as well as the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at UC Davis to obtain convictions on 21 counts of animal cruelty, despite only one deceased victim found directly associated with the defendant.

Field Services: *Val Verde Cockfighting Seizure*

Moderator: Captain Cesar Perea, Director of Animal Protection Services, spcaLA

Speakers:

- Deputy Charles Friedland, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department
- Dr. Amy Raines, DVM, MS, County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care & Control
- Deputy Director Danny Ubario, County of Los Angeles Department of Animal Care & Control

Capt. Perea will moderate a discussion with Deputy Friedland, Dr. Raines, and Deputy Director Ubario into what is considered to be the largest fighting fowl seizure in US history, involving more than 7,000 illegal birds. In a joint action, that resulted from a months-long investigation into the cockfighting ring by detectives specializing in animal blood sport crimes, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Los Angeles (spcaLA) collaborated with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Blood Sport Crime Team and Los Angeles County Department of Animal Care & Control in the May 2017 operation after a Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department investigation led to a raid at a remote canyon property in northern Los Angeles County.

Field Services & Shelter Medicine: *Whistler Sled Dog Cull*

Speakers:

- Eileen Drever, Senior Animal Protection Officer, British Columbia SPCA
- Melinda Merck, DMV, Veterinary Forensics Consulting, LLC
- Shawn Eccles, Senior Manager, Cruelty Investigations

Officer Drever, Dr. Merck, and Senior Manager Eccles will provide their insights into the infamous Whistler Sled Dog Cull case, which involved the killing of 56 sled dogs in Whistler, British Columbia, Canada, and prompted an investigation by the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) and Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The April 2010 mass killing was committed by Robert Fawcett, an employee of Howling Dog Tours Whistler, Inc., after he was allegedly told to euthanize the dogs because of a downturn in business after the 2010 Winter Olympic Games in Vancouver.

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MONDAY, MARCH 12, CONFERENCE SESSION TRACKS

Field Services: *When Dogs Attack*

Speaker: Jamie Simmons, Animal Control Officer, Fontana Police Department

With more than 21 years' experience in her field, Officer Simmons will disseminate a particularly taxing case she worked on that began when a group of five pit bull mix dogs escaped a residence, viciously and critically injuring three children, and ended when jurors delivered seven felony convictions at trial. Rather than the dogs involved being subjected to malicious abuse, instead they had endured years of neglect and isolation. To prove this Simmons' team utilized forensics, a property flyover, as well as bite radius examinations and comparisons. With detailed photos, forensic study reports, and step-by-step details Simmons will show how years of owner irresponsibility resulted in a pack of unsocialized dogs capable of extreme violence.

Field Services: *Out of Control*

Speaker: Chief Steve MacKinnon, Humane Law Enforcement, San Diego Humane Society

Chief MacKinnon will explore a recent residential hoarding investigation involving up to 30 Yorkies that will highlight working with law enforcement agencies and other groups; rescue/recovery challenges; investigative hurdles; shelter issues involving medical, housing, and grooming and media interest.

Field Services, Shelter Management & Shelter Medicine: *Animals and Disasters - What We Have Learned from the Napa and Sonoma Fires*

The scope of the devastating October 2017 wildfires in Northern California was unprecedented. With 44 people killed and more than 243,000 acres burned, the fires caused a reported \$9.4 billion in damage involving the destruction of at least 8,900 structures. Lesser known is the toll those fires took on the region's animal populations, and how thin animal services and resources were stretched in their attempts to provide assistance and care. In this panel discussion, shelter directors, managers and doctors will explore what they saw and learned first-hand.

Speakers Include

Shelter Directors

- John Skeel, Director, Sonoma County Animal Services
- Cindy Roach, Executive Director, Sonoma Humane Society
- Wendi Piscia, Executive Director, Napa Humane
- Erika Gamez, Shelter Manager, Napa County Animal Shelter
- Nancy McKenney, CEO, Marin Humane Society
- Pip Marquez de la Plata, Executive Director, Forgotten Felines of Sonoma County
- Jeff Charter, Executive Director, Petaluma Animal Services Foundation

Veterinarians

- Shari O'Neill, Chief Shelter Veterinarian, San Francisco Animal Control
- Dr. Natalie Zdimal, DVM IVCA, Veterinarian, Bayhill Equine, Inc.
- Claudia Sonder, DVM, President and Board Member, Napa Community Animal Response Team
- Brian Whipple, Operations Manager, Sonoma County Animal Services
- John Madigan, Founder, UC Davis Veterinary Emergency Response Team (VERT)

PLEASE USE ONE REGISTRATION FORM PER PERSON

Please check one: ACO ASO CPT DIR DVM FSO LT MGR OFC Hum. OFC RVT SGT Other:

Attendee Name (Dr. Mr. Mrs. Ms.): _____

Company/Agency: _____

Payment Contact: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

I plan on attending the following tracks: Behavior & Training Comm. Outreach Field Svcs. Shelter Mgmt. Shelter Med.

Pre-Conference Workshops

Saturday, March 10 Standard

- Fundamentals of Animal Sheltering \$150
- Field Services Case Studies \$150

Regular Registrations

Early Bird by Feb 16 Standard after Feb 16

- | | | |
|--|-------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CACDA | \$275 | \$325 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHAC | \$275 | \$325 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NON-MEMBER | \$325 | \$375 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FULL-TIME STUDENT | \$100 | \$150 |

One Day Registrations (circle one: Sun Mon Tues)

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> CACDA | \$150 | \$175 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHAC | \$150 | \$175 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NON-MEMBER | \$200 | \$225 |

**CACDA and SHAC MEMBERS: Please note, you are required to enter a membership code when registering. To obtain this code contact us via email or phone.*

Guests Registration

Guest badges allow access to the Exhibit Hall, Continental Breakfasts and Lunches (**NO ADMITTANCE TO SESSIONS**)

(circle one: Sun Mon)

Standard

- 1-day Guest Badge \$75
- 2-day Guest Badge \$150

Guest Name(s) Required: _____

Fees

Please enter the subtotals from each applicable section below:

Pre-Conference Workshops \$ _____
 Regular/One Day Registration \$ _____
 Guest Badges \$ _____
 TOTAL DUE \$ _____

Payment

Pay by Check

Make Checks Payable to: Animal Care Conference

Credit Card: VISA MC AMEX

 Credit Card Number

 Expiration Date

 CVV Code

 Cardholder Name

 Billing Address

 Signature

MAIL PAYMENT TO: Animal Care Conference, PO Box 13428, Sacramento, CA 95813
 Fax Registration form to: 916.880.3011

Reasonable Accommodation Requests: To request a reasonable accommodation (e.g., alternate formats, interpreters, etc.) to participate in this conference, please contact conference management at phone 916.880.3011, or email info@animalcareconference.org with your specific accommodation needs.

BY SUBMITTING THIS FORM AND CONFERENCE REGISTRATION, I ACKNOWLEDGE AND AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING: Consent to Use of Photographic Images: Registration and attendance at, or participation in, the Animal Care Conference and other activities constitutes an agreement by the registrant to the Animal Care Conference's use and distribution (both now and in the future) of the registrant or attendee's image or voice in photographs, videotapes, electronic reproductions and audiotapes of such events and activities.

Cancellation Notice: Notice of cancellation must be received in writing by the Animal Care Conference no later than February 23, 2018 to receive a full refund, less a 10% administrative fee. No refunds will be issued for cancellations made after February 23, 2018. Cancellations must be received in writing via mail, fax or email.

