Beyond the Dogcatcher
A Modern Look at Animal Care & Control

Rob Leinberger
HSUS EXPO 2019
Washington, D.C., 1924. "Dog catchers."
National Photo Co


Rob Leinberger
Chesterfield County (1992)
Dogcatcher

- A public official who is responsible for catching dogs that do not have homes.
  - First Known Use of **DOGcatchER** – 1835

*Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*
Animal Control

- An office or department responsible for enforcing ordinances relating to the control, impoundment, and disposition of animals.
  - First Known Use of ANIMAL CONTROL - 1957

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary
DOGS. What people THINK animal control officers do all day

Cats,
Rabbits,
Hamsters,
Chickens,
Parakeets, Parrots,
Mice, Raccoons,
Snakes, Opossums
Deer, Squirrels,
Horses, Cows,
Goats, Sheep, Llamas,
Tigers, Cobras, and anything else somebody decided to get rid of by setting loose.
And, of course, !@#$! Humans.

What animal control officers actually DO all day

(c) California Animal Control Association/wk

Photo courtesy of Winnie Kelly
Professionalism & Ethics

- Be impartial
- Keep emotions under control
- Keep prejudice out
- Do not let personal feelings or friendships influence
- Do not accept gratuities
- Never use office for personal gain
- Respect confidentiality
- Avoid excessive force
- Report only the truth
- Testify to only the truth
- Never compromise integrity
Guiding principles

- Serve citizens and animals
- Protect citizens and animals
- Treat people and animals with respect
- Be professional on and off duty
- Obey the laws the ACO enforces
- Prevent cruelty
Embrace Technology
Technology

Panasonic Toughbook CF-31

Samsung Galaxy S9

Panasonic LUMIX DMC-FZ70

Olympus DM-420 Professional Digital Voice Recorder
Technology

Microchip Scanners

DATAMARS Compact MAX Microchip Scanner

Temperature Readers

Taylor Digital Indoor/Outdoor Thermometer
HDE Non-Contact Infrared IR Temperature Gun Digital Thermometer
Technology

Nightstick Rechargeable LED Area Light w/ Magnetic Base, Tripod & Carrying Case
Technology

The Internet...

- Virginia Animal Control Association
  - www.vacaonline.net

- National Animal Care & Control Association
  - www.nacanet.org

- ASPCA Pro
  - www.ASPCApro.org

- Humane Society of the United States
  - www.hsus.org

- Social Media
Education & Training

- Seek training
- Become educated
- Develop into an expert
- Be involved
- Explore options
- Be a force for good
Do you know the law?

- State Laws
- City ordinances
- County ordinances
If you’re not rabid... thank your local Animal Control Officer!
Partnerships & Networking
ACO

Veterinarians

Rescues
Humane Groups
Fosters
SPCA

Community

Businesses
Cooperation is not a dirty word

• An endless supply of patience
• Dedication and perseverance
• Polite, professional and respectable with any and all correspondence
• Creativity mixed with legality
• Awareness of animal law as well as understanding of it
• Improve relationships with local fosters/rescues/humane organizations
• Distance yourself from those that would advocate violating the law
• Advocate for improvements in animal law locally and at the state level
KEEP CALM AND USE A CATCH-POLE
THINK POSITIVE

...AND OUTSIDE OF THE BOX
Teamwork makes the dream work...

Friday, August 4th & Saturday, August 5th VESC is sponsoring the first 10 adoptions at Chesterfield, Hanover, Henrico, Richmond & Petersburg Animal Control Shelters

$25 adoption fee at all localities after the first 10

Save a life at your local municipal shelter:)

#teamworkmakesthegedreamwork
Can I come to Thanksgiving dinner at your house? Please?

No one should spend Thanksgiving alone—including our shelter animals!
RACC is looking for foster families that are not traveling and willing to pick up a dog or cat 11/18-21 and foster until the 28th or find a forever home with your holiday guests (or you)! We will provide food/crate anything you need— you provide the love (and maybe a ham biscuit from dinner)! Please share this post with anyone you think may be able to foster. We are most in need of people with no other pets:) Email Christie.Peters@Richmondgov.com if you are able to help. Thank you!
Modern Tactics

If you do what you’ve always done, you’ll get what you’ve always gotten
Tactics

Evolution of a more compassionate and professional animal control...

- Open to new ideas and ways of doing things
Tactics

• Innovational tactics as a solution
  ◦ Nuisance animal problems
    - Barking dog complaints
    - Free roaming cats
  - Wildlife issues
Tactics

• Innovational tactics as a solution
  ◦ Investigations and Enforcement

Utilizing effective tools

Tapping in to available resources

Creativity in approach and resolution
Tactics

- Work smarter, not harder
  - Contacts with people that have the resources
  - Developing relationships
  - Right attitude
  - Maximize efficiency
  - Tap the VACA & NACA resource, local and state
SOMETIMES...
It is all about you
- Purpose

- You love it
- You are passionate
- You are great at it
- You are paid for it
- Mission
- Vocation
- Profession
- The world needs it
12 Steps for Self Care

1. If it feels wrong, don’t do it.
2. Say “exactly” what you mean.
3. Don’t be a people pleaser.
4. Trust your instincts.
5. Never speak bad about yourself.
6. Never give up on your dreams.
7. Don’t be afraid to say “No”.
8. Don’t be afraid to say “Yes”.
9. Be KIND to yourself.
10. Let go of what you can’t control.
11. Stay away from drama & negativity.
12. LOVE

Facebook.com/ChangeYourThoughtsToday
Recognition

- Recognition of the individual and the profession
  - Simple, yet powerful

- NOT dog catchers—Animal Care & Control Professionals

- Recognition within the organization and outside, too

- National Animal Care & Control Association
  - State organizations and associations

- Understanding
KEEP CALM AND COMPASSION ON
What questions do you?

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