



Animal Control Testing Clarification

State (Colorado) Animal Control Officers

State test offered two times each year by the Animal Welfare Association of Colorado (AWAC) (previously offered by Colorado Association of Animal Control Officers (CAACO). Colorado State Animal Control Officer credentials are endorsed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture and AWAC.

- Renewal is required every two years
 - Proof of 30 hours of continuing education credits (completed over the two-year period)

National Animal Care and Control (NACA) Certification

Current certification is completed via online platform

NACA ACO 1 certification – 20-hour self-paced course

NACA ACO 2 certification – 20-hour self-paced course

Upon successful completion of both courses, officers receive National Animal Control Officer Certification. Certification is endorsed by NACA.

Prior to August 2020, certification was completed by attending in person two week-long, 40-hour courses. The courses were titled NACHO Modules A and B.

National Animal Control and Humane Officer (NACHO) Academy was a collaborative program between NACA and Code 3 Associates. Upon successful completion of NACHO Module A and NACHO Module B, students remain recognized as Nationally Certified Animal Control Officers. This certification is endorsed by NACA, Code 3, and Colorado State University.

Prior to the Collaboration of NACA and Code 3 Associates, NACA had in-house, week-long, 40-hour courses, NACA Module A and NACA Module B. Upon successful completion of NACA Module A and NACA Module B, students remain recognized as Nationally Certified Animal Control Officers. This certification is endorsed by NACA.

Continued Education Credit requirements and reporting to NACA will re-launch the recertification program. It will be launched early 2022, all existing certifications either previously in person under Code 3 Associates, or under the new online platform, will be honored 100 percent with needed CEUs with the new launch.

Code 3 Associates National Animal Control Certification

Code 3 Associates has had three different titles for its Animal Control Academy Certification over the years: Cruelty Investigation Academy, National Animal Control and Humane Officer Academy, and, the current Essential Animal Services Training Academy (EAST). Code 3 offers two levels of animal control certification.

The current academies are completed via in-person or virtual online platform (if available)

EAST Module A – 40-hour academy

EAST Module B – 40-hour academy



EAST Module C – 40-hour academy (virtual option is not available)

Upon completion of Modules A and B, students are recognized as Nationally Certified Animal Control Officers. Upon successful completion of Modules, A, B, and Module C, students are recognized as Nationally Certified Animal Cruelty Investigators.

This certification is endorsed by Code 3 and Colorado State University.

There is not currently a recertification, renewal, or CE requirements for this certification. The process is pending and will be released in 2022.

Animal Control and Care Academy Animal Control Officer Certification

Animal Control and Care Academy two types of animal control certification.

The current certification is completed via in-person platform

- Basic Animal Control Certification – 40-hour course

- Advanced Animal Control Certification – 40-hour course

Certification is endorsed by ACCA.

Currently, there is not a recertification, renewal, or CE requirements for this certification.

National Animal Cruelty Investigations School

National Animal Cruelty Investigations School offers three levels of animal cruelty investigations courses, professional, advanced, and expert animal cruelty investigator. The three components should be taken in order.

The courses are completed via in-person or online platform (if available)

- Professional Animal Cruelty Investigator – 40-hour course

- Advanced Animal Cruelty Investigator – 40-hour course

- Expert Animal Cruelty Investigator – 40-hour course

Participants with a grade of 70 percent or more on the written examination will receive a certificate of completion and 40 continuing education units.

Courses are endorsed by NACIS and the University of Missouri's Law Enforcement Training Institute