

Vermont Law School
Investigating Animal Cruelty in Vermont

Saturday, April 3, 2010

10:00 – 12:00 Anatomy of a Cruelty Case: Elements of a Criminal Investigation

How does a cruelty investigation start, and how does it evolve through our criminal justice system? There are several elements critical to the success of an investigation that will be discussed, including interview and interrogation techniques, exigent circumstances, plain view doctrine, search warrant procedure and evidence collection.

12:00 – 1:00 LUNCH

1:00 - 2:00 Various Vermont Laws Dealing with Animals

We will provide an overview of local, state and federal laws and regulations that apply to animal cases. You'll also learn what is needed to make a winnable case.

2:00 – 2:45 Leveraging Resources to Improve Response

Learn what resources and agencies are available here in Vermont and beyond to assist with animal cruelty investigations. Included in the discussion will be an update on Vermont's state-wide Cruelty Response System (CRS), and an overview of the HSUS's First Strike campaign, which focuses on the link between animal cruelty and human violence.

2:45 – 3:00 BREAK

3:00 – 4:00 Animal CSI Role Play

Using common situations encountered when investigating animal cruelty complaints, we'll break into small groups to practice proper protocol, role assignments and communication between agencies.

The Speakers

Janet Carini, D.V.M., Owner, Rutland Veterinary Clinic at Castleton. Janet is a 1985 graduate of Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine and a 16-year board member and past president of the Rutland County Humane Society. She frequently works with local law enforcement on animal cruelty and neglect investigations and has a particular interest in veterinary forensics.

Joanne Bourbeau, Senior State Director, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Joanne has been with the HSUS, the nation's largest animal protection organization, for fifteen years. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Science from the University of New Hampshire, and a certificate in non-profit business management from Johns Hopkins University. She is a graduate of the National Cruelty Investigations School offered by the University of Missouri's Law Enforcement Training Institute School of Law, and heads the state-wide Vermont Animal Cruelty Task Force (VACTF) and Vermont Humane Federation (VHF). Joanne regularly counsels local & state law enforcement agencies, municipal officials and shelter personnel on the investigation of animal cruelty cases here in Vermont, and is a regular instructor on animal cruelty

investigations at the Vermont Police Academy.

Jessica Danyow, *Director of Operations*, Rutland County Humane Society. Jessica is a 2002 graduate of the Tufts University Center for Animals and Public Policy Masters of Science program and has been with the RCHS since 2003. In addition to managing shelter operations, she has developed a community wide Trap-Neuter-Return program to address feral cat populations and works with local law enforcement and veterinarians to address animal cruelty and neglect concerns.