

# Animal Abuse and Cruelty; Canine Behavior and Police Response

Pursuant to P.A. 098-0311, the following information has been determined by ILETSB to be part of any course on “Animal Abuse and Cruelty; Canine Behavior and Police Response”. It was approved by the Board on December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

**Enacting statute:** P.A. 098-0311  
50 ILCS 705/10.14

**Estimated instruction time:** 2-4 hours

## **Suggested resources:**

“The Problem of Dog-Related Incidents and Encounters” (August 2011), U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, Washington (ISBN: 978-1-935676-31-7)

Center for Public Safety and Justice, Institute of Government and Public Affairs, University of Illinois (<http://ricp.uis.edu>)

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## **Illinois animal crime statutes:**

The attached list contains numerous laws pertaining to animal abuse and cruelty but is not meant to be inclusive of all statutes. Instructors should ensure current laws are reviewed and updated as necessary.

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## **Key Concepts/Performance Objectives:**

During this course, students will gain knowledge in:

- Components of animal abuse and cruelty
  - Signs of animal abuse and cruelty to include indicators of dog fighting
  - Illinois laws pertaining to animal abuse and cruelty
  - Networks of community stakeholders (local ordinances, animal control officers, ASPCA, etc.)
  
- Impact of animal abuse, cruelty, and police response
  - Community relations
  - Safety issues to civilians and officers
  - Potential liability issues
  
- Basic dog behavior
  - Types of aggression
  - Dog communications
    - Visual cues
    - Verbal cues
  
- Defining the threat
  - Plan ahead when appropriate
  - Clues of a dog's presence
  - Reading dog's intention
    - Stiff or loose body posture
  
- Officer response
  - Know your agency's Use of Force policy
  - Use appropriate Use of Force
    - Verbal commands and body posture
    - Less than lethal options
    - Use of lethal use of force
  - Documentation

END