

Animal Cruelty & Fighting Investigations

This course is being offered by the Humane Society University in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, the Humane Society of the United States, and Franklin County Planned Pethood. (Law enforcement in-service credit and crime prevention specialist credit will be awarded for this class.)

All 50 states have animal cruelty laws. 43 states have laws that make the most egregious types of cruelty a felony offense, and dog fighting is a felony in all 50 states. Often, these crimes are associated with other crimes such as gang activity, drug distribution and gambling and also lead to an increase in violence. Unfortunately, many cases each year go without convictions or receive disproportionately mild sentences. Animal cruelty and fighting cases are often at the low end of the totem pole for prosecutors, so it is up to investigators to ensure that every investigation be as solid as possible, in order to increase prosecutorial attention and achieve meaningful outcomes.

PLEASE NOTE: Because of the sensitive nature of the material presented in this class, participation is restricted to those directly involved in the investigation and prosecution of animal cruelty and animal fighting. It is recommended for law enforcement, animal control Veterinarian staff and prosecutors.

Course Objectives

Workshop participants will gain a practical knowledge of:

- Preparing for Court for animal cruelty and fighting cases
- Arrest warrants and preparing cases for prosecution
- Prosecutors and courtrooms – Pre-trial responsibilities and testifying in court
- Working with Virginia's laws
- Dealing with the media

Where: The Franklin Center
50 Claiborne Avenue
Rocky Mount, VA 24151

When: March 8, 2012
8:30am to 5:00pm
Check in begins at 8:00am

Cost: *There is **no cost** to attend due to the course being underwritten by the Humane Society of the United States. [Click here to register on line.](#)*

Available Lodging:

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS
395 OLD FRANKLIN TURNPIKE
ROCKY MOUNT , VIRGINIA 24151
Hotel Front Desk: 1-540-489-5001 Hotel Fax: 1-540-489-5001

COMFORT INN
1730 N. MAIN ST.
ROCKY MOUNT , VIRGINIA 24151
Phone: (540) 489-4000 Fax: (540) 489-1031

FROM ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

If you are traveling from Roanoke, VA take US 220 South to the first Rocky Mount exit. This exit puts you on North Main Street. Go 3-4 miles. You will come to a light that crosses old RR tracks and onto a bridge. Drive straight ahead (go past The Hub Restaurant), look for Claiborne Avenue on right beside the Rocky Mount United Methodist Church. Turn right onto Claiborne Avenue, go ½ mile to The Franklin Center on left.

FROM MARTINSVILLE, VIRGINIA

If you are traveling from Martinsville, VA take US 220 North to the first Rocky Mount Exit (just past 619 Minute Market). This exit puts you on South Main Street. Follow South Main for 2-3 miles. Once you pass the Courthouse (on the right) you need to look for Randolph Street (on the left). Turn left onto Randolph Street, go to bottom of hill, take right into The Franklin Center parking lot. The front doors of the Center face Claiborne Avenue.

FROM LYNCHBURG AND SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE, VIRGINIA

If you are traveling from Lynchburg/Smith Mountain Lake, take Route 122 South to Rocky Mount. Take Right at light and go through town. (You'll pass Lowes, Walmart, on left; Sheetz on right). Continue straight. (You'll pass McDonald's on left, Franklin County High School on left). Go straight through light at high school (you'll pass Hardees on left, DMV on right). Go to top of the hill, take Right onto North Main, then immediate left onto Claiborne Avenue (next to Rocky Mount UMC). Go ½ mile to The Franklin Center on left.

Contact for Course: Rick Arrington (804) 840-7784 richard.arrington@dcjs.virginia.gov