



## NEWS RELEASE

### Memphis Animal Services Officers Complete Animal Cruelty Investigations Training

**Memphis, Tenn., Sept 12, 2019** – Memphis Animal Services announced today the completion of the National Animal Cruelty Investigations School - Professional Investigator training by its field operations team.

MAS's field operations team is made up of Animal Services Officers who respond to calls for assistance from the public and police involving concerns of animal cruelty and neglect, as well as loose dogs, injured pets, bite cases, and aggressive dogs. Year to date, MAS officers have responded to 12,713 calls for service, including 1,365 calls to investigate cruelty, neglect, and abandonment. MAS has received 30 percent more cruelty calls year over year and has impounded 37 percent more pets year over year as a result of these calls.

“With our increased focus on rooting out animal cruelty in Memphis, it was important to our officers to be able to build cases that will be held up in court,” said Alexis Pugh, MAS director. “We scheduled this nationally recognized training over a year ago because that's how far they are booked out—the curriculum is just that good.”

In addition to 13 MAS officers attending the training, it was also attended by Field Supervisor Glenn Andrews, Veterinary Medical Director Mary Manspeaker, DVM, and Director Alexis Pugh. All MAS staff who attended the weeklong training passed the test and received their certificate of completion.

The National Animal Cruelty Investigations School -Professional Investigator Level I's curriculum includes training on animal law, constitutional law, basic nutrition, basic anatomy, officer safety and survival, basic photography, communications, report writing, courtroom preparation, biosecurity and zoonosis, animal handling and behavior, interviewing and investigation, breed identification, and veterinarians and animal cruelty.

If you have a concern of animal cruelty or neglect in the city of Memphis, you can call Memphis Animal Services for assistance at 901-636-1416 x1 or email [mas@memphistn.gov](mailto:mas@memphistn.gov) with the address of the animal(s) you're concerned about.

#### *About National Animal Cruelty Investigations School*

Founded in 1990, the National Animal Cruelty Investigations School was the first of its kind, offering a combination of specialized veterinary and law enforcement training. Students from a range of backgrounds — including federal, state and local animal cruelty officers, humane society investigators and board members, police officers and sheriffs' deputies, court



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personnel and other citizens — learn from experts about all aspects of animal welfare and safety. The school is a program of the University of Missouri Extension Law Enforcement Training Institute.

### About Memphis Animal Services

Memphis Animal Services is the only open-intake animal shelter in the city of Memphis. MAS works to help keep people and pets safe by enforcing animal care and control laws, caring for homeless pets, and achieving positive outcomes for the pets in their care. Having saved 88 percent of the nearly 9,000 pets in its care in 2018, MAS envisions a day when no healthy, adoptable pet dies in Memphis due to lack of space, every owned pet is well loved and cared for, and no citizen's safety is put at risk by irresponsible pet ownership. For more information, visit [www.memphisanimalservices.com](http://www.memphisanimalservices.com), call 901-636-1416, or visit the facility at 2350 Appling City Cove. To become a fan of Memphis Animal Services on Facebook go to: <https://www.facebook.com/memphisanimalservices/>. Follow Memphis Animal Services on Twitter & Instagram @AdoptMAS.