

# MACA News **First Quarter Edition, 2020**

Volume 26, Number 1



**Stay  
healthy  
by  
wearing  
your  
proper  
PPE in  
the  
shelter  
and in  
the field**



## **Coronavirus 2019: Dispelling Some Myths and Legends**

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory virus which can be spread from person to person. While there is some confusion and misinformation going around social media, the idea that COVID-19 is related to coronavirus found in canines is a myth. Coronavirus in dogs is a highly contagious intestinal infection and while contagious among dogs, it is not a zoonotic disease. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which are common in both people and different species of animals to include camels, cattle, and bats. Given the variety of animals animal care and control professionals can come in contact with it is essential that precautions be taken to reduce the risk of contact with the COVID-19 virus.

The disease is thought to be spread from person-to-person contact, closer than six feet, and via contact with respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It is also likely that a person might contract the virus by touching a surface which has the virus on it, then touching their own eyes, nose or mouth.

Another myth is that the disease originates in animals and is spread to humans. The first outbreak of COVID-19 was in China, which is commonly known, and spread to pandemic proportions all around the world, being spread from human to human, not originating in animals and then spread to humans. The confusion in this lies in the fact that animals, not just dogs, can be a source of the spread of the disease in the form of cross contamination. According to Matt Rold, ACFA Coordinator for the Missouri Department of Agriculture, people overlook that fact that dogs, cats and other animals are fomites, or transporters of the virus.

Continued on page 6

## **MACA Recognizes Outstanding Performances Each Year**

Each year the Missouri Animal Control Association recognizes the outstanding performance of a member or animal welfare associated person or organization during the annual MACA Awards Ceremony and banquet. Held as part of the Annual Training Conference each year, the various MACA awards are presented to a nominee who was submitted to the association. There are six awards and the Awards Committee of the MACA Board of Directors begins accepting nominations immediately following the annual conference each year.

The John Rhodes Award is generally considered the most prestigious of all the MACA awards. It is intended to recognize the animal care, control or welfare professional who has consistently gone above and beyond the call of duty and has set the example for fellow Missouri animal care, control or welfare professionals. It recognizes those who exemplify the animal care and control profession through years of dedicated and professional service to both their community and the profession; or have made great changes or breakthroughs which impact animal control and animal welfare state-wide or beyond. Many past recipients of the John Rhodes Award earned the award after a lifetime of dedication and service to their community, to the Missouri Animal Control Association and to the animals of our state. Nominees for the John Rhodes Award must be MACA members in good standing at the time of their nomination although many nominees have been recognized for their efforts after they have retired from actively working in the animal care and control field.

The Animal Control or Humane Officer of the Year award is given to the Animal Control or Humane Officer who has exhibited dedication to his or her community and brings credit upon his or herself and to the profession during the previous year. This award can reflect a variety of actions on the part of the nominee ranging from implementing new programs or policies to providing outstanding pro-active customer service in field.

The Animal Care Specialist of the Year award is presented to the animal care provider or animal shelter worker who exhibits superior dedication to the animals in his or her care in the previous year. It can also recognize nominee's dedication to his or her animal care facility and the community he or she serves.

To be eligible for the officer of the year or specialist of the year award, the individual nominated must have been a member of the association in good standing for the previous year and must have been working in the animal care, control or welfare profession for more than one year.

The Missouri Outstanding Animal Welfare Agency award is presented to municipal, humane society, or other animal shelter that has improved the quality and quantity of life for the animals in their care and has exceeded industry minimum standard, either by implementing new programs, increasing adoption and live-release rates, reducing euthanasia rates, establishing spay/neuter programs, establishing public outreach

Continued on page 7

## Humane Day at the Capital Brings MACA to the State

With the Missouri legislature in session, a number of animal welfare related bills are once again up for debate. Each year, Humane Day at the Capital offers the opportunity for animal care and control, and animal welfare organizations and individuals to make their voices heard. This year Humane Day at the Capital will be April 21 and MACA will once again have a booth in the Capitol rotunda. Board of Directors member Dan St Lawrence, of Poplar Bluff Animal Control, is the Legislative Committee Chair who leads the association's stand on legislative matters.

In accordance with the MACA Constitution and Bylaws, the association was not established with the Secretary of States' office as a lobbying organization. While this precludes the association from actively lobbying for or against any given proposed legislation, it does not prevent MACA from educating state legislators on the Association's position on legislative matters.

MACA works closely with the Missouri Alliance for Animal Legislation, and MAAL's Executive Director, Bob Baker. According to Baker, MAAL is focusing on defeating House Bill 1752 and House Bill 2111. Baker says these bills will diminish animal welfare throughout the state should they be passed into law.

MAAL's position is that HB 1752 would prohibit municipal governments from preventing cruel animal events within their jurisdictions and would make it difficult for city or county governments to regulate working animal activities such as carriage rides and competition pulling. According to Baker, the bill has recently had language changed to define "working animal" as "any animal that performs a function." MAAL's position is that all animals perform a function, and this could effectively block city or county municipalities from regulating any animal activities.

Continued on page 8



**Bob Baker speaks on legislative matters to groups and elected officials alike.**

## **MACA to Present Two Spring Training Programs**

Blue Springs Animal Control and O'Fallon Animal Control will each host a one-day training program in May. Scheduled for Wednesday, May 13, in Blue Springs, and Friday, May 15, in O'Fallon, these training events will present two topics.

*Community Animal Control* will feature proactive approach options in animal control field services, which are designed to increase the public's perception of animal control programs and improve the quality of field services being provided to the community. *Allies or Enemies: Media Management* in the afternoon sessions will discuss working with various media outlets to improve public relations, promote animal adoptions and animal welfare in the community, release public service announcements and handle interview and press release situations. Social media management will also be discussed in this class.

Registration for either of the Spring Training Programs are \$70.00 for MACA members, \$110.00 for non-members, and registration can be made through the MACA website at [www.MACA1.net](http://www.MACA1.net).

## **Next Board Meeting**

**April 1 at 10:00 AM in  
Columbia. See the MACA  
website for address and  
agenda!**

## **Missouri Pet Breeders Association Annual Conference was Success**

The Missouri Pet Breeder's Association held its annual conference at the Cowan Civic Center in Lebanon on Friday and Saturday, March 13 and 14. With several hundred exhibitors present, and training presentations throughout both days of the event, the conference was open to the public free of charge.

In addition to training presentations by various dog breed organizations, the United States Department of Agriculture presented training on USDA and Animal Welfare Act regulations and updates. Matt Rold, ACFA Coordinator for the Missouri Department of Agriculture Animal Welfare Division also presented training on the Animal Care Facilities Act and the Canine Cruelty Prevention Act, and held a question and answer session which covered many specific points of interest for the attendees.

**MACA Annual Conference attendees enjoy good food and entertainment during the award banquet each year. Plan now to come!**



*From the Desk of the President*

Greetings All,

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to all of you working selflessly to help your communities in this time of need. As animal care professionals, we should all be doing our part to do our jobs safely and adhere to all CDC recommendations. I wanted to touch on a subject I have seen come up several times now and may be causing concern.

Can SARS-CoV-2 infect pets and can it be spread by pets to other animals, including people?

Here is a statement made by the American Veterinary Medical Association, “We do not have a clear answer as to whether SARS-CoV-2 can infect pets at this time. That said, currently, there is no evidence that pets become sick. Infectious disease experts, as well as the CDC, OIE, and WHO indicate there is also no evidence to suggest that pet dogs or cats can be a source of infection with SARS-CoV-2, including spreading COVID-19 to people. More investigation is underway and, as we learn more, we will update you. However, because animals can spread other diseases to people and people can also spread diseases to animals, it’s a good idea to always wash your hands before and after interacting with animals.”

We must practice good hygiene, wear proper PPE and avoid sick people to protect ourselves. By protecting ourselves, we will be able to assist the citizens we serve by providing animal control services and not potentially exposing the vulnerable to illness. Our communities are depending on us now, more than ever, to be the professionals of our field. I know we all will do our very best to ensure our communities are assisted. I am proud to call you all colleagues in this incredible field of animal care and control.

Stay safe!

Kyle Shafer  
MACA President

**Networking is in the Air During the MACA Annual Conference each year! Join us October 14-16 at Camden on the Lake!**



Continued from page 1

## **Coronavirus 2019 continued**

Fomites, which can be anything, are materials that will allow pathogens to be passed from one point to another. People infected with COVID-19 pets or otherwise handles animals leaving the virus behind on the animal's coat. The next person to come along and handle that animal can pick up the virus. Most animal care and control professionals working in an animal shelter environment know to try to avoid potential adopters, animal rescue workers, or other people visiting the animal shelter from touching animal after animal, but also understand that some people simply cannot resist touching pets.

ACO Melanie Barkalow said "If the animal is suspected to come from a home of sick people, let the shelter know so the animal can be de-toxed prior to mingling with the rest of the animal population."

In Barkalow's power point presentation *Coronavirus- Information for LEO Response*, it states that as first responders, we (police, fire, animal control, code enforcement, medical first responders, etc.) "are well positioned to unintentionally transport this disease and contribute to its spread."

Mike Schumacher, City Administrator in Lebanon, Missouri said the CDC and Department of Health and Senior Services is providing the most current and accurate information on COVID-19 and encourages people to not rely on social media outlets for education on the disease. He echoed the CDC and DHSS statements which state that people should avoid touching their face with unwashed hands, wash hand frequently for at least 20 seconds, and minimize physical contact with others whenever possible. As animal care and control professionals however, avoiding contact altogether is not possible.

"As public servants, it is not possible for us to simply avoid contact with our customers, but we can do it as safely as possible," Schumacher said.

The Missouri Animal Control Association wishes to ensure the health and safety of its members and guests, and to that end, some scheduled meetings and training programs may be cancelled or postponed. Members should monitor the MACA Facebook page and website of updates on scheduled MACA events and meetings.

***Serve Your Fellow Animal Control Professionals by serving on the MACA Board of Directors! Visit us on the website of nomination information today!***

## **MACA Awards continued**

programs or other forms of pro-active animal sheltering during the previous year. To be eligible for this award, nominees must be licensed through the Missouri Department of Agriculture, must have employees who are MACA members in good standing, and the agency must have been in operation for more than one year.

Unlike most of the awards, the Veterinarian of the Year and the Paws for Applause awards do not require the nominee be a member of the association or to have been in the profession for more than one year to be eligible for the award.

With most animal control and animal welfare facilities in the state not having full time veterinarians on staff, veterinary care is generally provided under contract or some other arrangement. The Veterinarian of the Year award is for a veterinarian who has provided exceptional service to an animal control or animal welfare program during the previous year. The Paws for Applause award is presented to a “friend of Animal Welfare in Missouri,” who has given of themselves as a volunteer, a donor or some similar activity, and has made a substantial improvement in animal control or animal welfare during the previous year.

Matt Allen, of North Kansas City Animal Control, was elected to the Board of Directors during the 2019 Annual Business Meeting and was assigned by President Kyle Shafer to chair the Awards Committee. He said he is looking forward to serving the membership and recognizing achievement in our profession.

“I am very excited to serve as the Awards chair and look forward to working diligently this year to honor achievements in our field” Allen said. “I have some ideas I’m looking forward to implementing into this year’s Awards Banquet.”

Allen also encourages everyone to nominate individuals for the awards they see fit, and to submit nominations for awards all year long. Nominations are accepted until August 1 each year. Nominations may be made under the Awards tab on the MACA website and must include the submitter’s name and contact information so that if the Awards Committee has any questions or needs additional information, he or she can contact the nominator. Nominators may remain anonymous, if so desired, except to the Awards Committee and the MACA Board of Directors.

Upon receipt of a nomination, the Awards Committee, will review the nomination against the specific award’s criteria to ensure the nominee is eligible for the award, then post the nominee under the appropriate award nomination on the MACA website. After the nomination deadline, the Awards Committee Chair will submit the eligible nominees to the Board of Directors, who will review the nominations and vote to determine who has earned the award. The awards are presented during the Annual Training Conference each year.



Continued from page 3

## **Humane Day continued**

HB 2111 is yet another attempt to eliminate the disposition hearing portion of the search warrant statute currently in chapter 578. Similar bills have been brought before the legislature in the past and been defeated. HB 2111 will be yet another attempt to undermine municipal court's ability to handle their own search warrant processes.

"I am sure that HB 1752 and 2111 will pass the House of Representatives," Baker said, "and we will have to defeat these bills in the Senate."

In addition to these bills, there are two identical House Bills which will eliminate Breed Specific Legislation in Missouri. Baker feels these bill will pass this year with advocates arguing that these laws, in conjunction with comprehensive dangerous dog ordinance are the best approach to increasing public safety. Baker said MAAL was working to have the word "control" added to the bills and thereby provide a deterrent to owner's allowing their dogs from running at large.

Further information on these and other pending legislation are available at [www.maal.org/2019-legislation2.html](http://www.maal.org/2019-legislation2.html) The MACA Board of Directors encourage all members to review pending legislation and reach out to their individual legislators to express their position on the various pending House and Senate bills.

## **Training Opportunities in the Near Future**

**April 6-9- Basic ACO Certification Training by ACCA in Marana, Idaho. Contact ACCA 913-515-0080**

**April 8-9- ACO Certification Training by MACA in Joplin. Contact Christine Kalish 314-951-1514**

**April 13-17- NACHO A by NACA in Longmont Colorado. Contact NACA 913-768-1319**

**April 14-19- Basic ACO Certification Training by ACCA in Newark, Ohio. Contact ACCA 913-515-0080**

**April 14- OCAT Certification Training by MaSA in Pevely. Contact Cheri Hill-Heaps**

**April 16- Chemical Immobilization Certification by ACCA in Elgin, Illinois. Contact ACCA 913-515-0080**

**April 20-23- Basic ACO Certification by ACCA in Cleveland, Georgia. Contact ACCA 913-515-0080**

**April 27-May 1- NACHO B by NACA in Leawood Kansas. Contact NACA 913-768-1319**

**May 4-8- NACHO A by NACA in Providence Rhode Island. Contact NACA 913-768-1319**

**May 11- ACFA and AVMA by MaSA and Dept of Ag in Lebanon MO. Contact JT Taylor 417-664-1203**

**May 12- Animal Welfare and the Law by MACA in St Louis. Contact Christine Kalish 314-951-1514**

**May 13- Mini-MACA by MACA in Blue Springs. Contact JT Taylor 417-664-1203**

**May 15- Mini-MACA by MACA in O'Fallon. Contact JT Taylor 417-664-1203**