



Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE STANDARDS AND TRAINING COMMISSION **TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM 2024-16**

DATE: November 22, 2024

TO: Criminal Justice Agency Administrators
Criminal Justice Training Center Directors
Criminal Justice Selection Center Directors

FROM: Director Chad Brown 
Criminal Justice Professionalism Division

SUBJECT: Approval of Advanced Course, #3022, Investigating Crimes Against Animals, and
Specialized Course, #3023, Recognizing Crimes Against Animals

The Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission (CJSTC) directed Commission staff to develop additional training for law enforcement officers on how to recognize and respond to crimes against animals.

Commission staff held several virtual and in-person workshops with subject matter experts (SMEs) from various law enforcement agencies, animal service centers, and non-profit organizations around the state to develop the following courses to address the needs of investigators and responding officers:

40-hour Advanced Course, #3022, Investigating Crimes Against Animals

This course is for investigators with limited experience in this field or patrol officers who wish to become animal crime investigators. The training covers various animal-related crimes, their underlying causes, and the laws associated with them.

The training also teaches law enforcement officers the methods and best practices for processing the scene, collecting evidence, interviewing witnesses and suspects, and working with members of the community and animal service professionals to successfully prosecute the case.

16-hour Specialized Course, #3023, Recognizing Crimes Against Animals

This course is for patrol officers with limited experience or knowledge responding to calls for service regarding animals. The training covers various animal-related crimes, their underlying causes, and the laws associated with them.

The training also addresses how to recognize and respond to these crimes at the scene, as well as best follow-up practices.

Both courses contain lesson activities designed to encourage students to think critically about the types of calls for service regarding animals they may be asked to investigate or respond to. They also come with photo banks for instructors to download and use in their own presentations.

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On October 31, 2024, the CJSTC approved both courses. Officers who complete the 40-hour advanced course are eligible to receive salary incentive or mandatory retraining credit, and those who complete the 16-hour specialized course are only eligible to receive mandatory retraining credit.

Instructors may access the courses through the curriculum materials website:

<https://www.fdle.state.fl.us/ATMS/Home.aspx>

If you have questions about the approval of these courses, please contact Training and Research Manager Rob Bates at RobertBates@fdle.state.fl.us or (850) 410-8672.

cc: Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission