From: Jennifer Christy
To: "Tim Carroll" (execsec@chilmarkma.gov)
Cc: Chris Murphy
Subject: FW: Reminder: ACO Training Form
Date: Tuesday, September 08, 2015 8:08:41 AM

Hi Tim,

Please see below.

Thank you,

Jennifer L. Christy
Town Clerk/Administrative Assistant: Planning Board & HRBC Chilmark Town Hall
401 Middle Road, Beetlebung Corner
Post Office Box 119
Chilmark, MA 02535-0119
P: (508) 645-2100 ext. 2107
F: (508) 645-2110
E: jchristy@chilmarkma.gov
Notary Public & Justice of the Peace
The Secretary of State's office has determined that most e-mails to and from municipal offices and officials are public records. Consequently, confidentiality should not be expected.

From: Barbara Murphy [mailto:88chilmark@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, September 06, 2015 6:55 PM
To: Jennifer Christy
Subject: Fwd: Reminder: ACO Training Form

Begin forwarded message:

From: Mass Animal Fund <lauren.gilfeather@state.ma.us>
Date: September 4, 2015 1:29:18 PM EDT
To: Chris <88chilmark@gmail.com>
Subject: Reminder: ACO Training Form
Reply-To: Mass Animal Fund <lauren.gilfeather@state.ma.us>

September 4, 2015

Greetings,

We have not yet heard from your municipality about a letter (below) and handbook that was mailed to your supervisor in early May. We recognize that some supervisors may have received the handbook and sent it directly to their staff without completing the required paperwork. **It is important that we receive back the** Supervisor Certification Form **from your supervisor by September 15.** If no one in your municipality has received the handbook, please contact us at lauren.gilfeather@state.ma.us and we will make arrangements for another to be sent.

Thank you,
Lauren

ORIGINAL REMINDER LETTER TO YOUR SUPERVISOR

Dear ACO Supervisor,

As you may know, in 2012 a law took effect that, in part, created the Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund (Massachusetts Animal Fund). The Fund is administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources with the assistance of an advisory committee. The purpose of the Fund is to support municipal animal control programs by offsetting the cost of spaying and neutering homeless animals and those animals owned by residents with financial need, as well as to provide professional training for animal control officers (ACOs).

Late last year we completed a survey of ACOs that helped us to assess their current level of training and identify gaps in knowledge. In response to the survey feedback, in conjunction with the Department's assessment of existing ACO training, we have created the Massachusetts Animal Fund Animal Control Officer Training Institute. As per Chapter 193 of the Acts of 2012, Section 51, and Massachusetts General Law Chapter 140, Section 151C, we will offer this mandatory training free of charge to Massachusetts ACOs now that we have generated enough revenue to properly fund such instruction.

The training, which we anticipate beginning in fall/winter of this year, will be comprised of a mandatory 12 credit hour course, which can be taken over the course of two days or three evenings. We will be offering this training in six locations across the Commonwealth prior to the end of 2015. ACOs will be required to complete any combination of instructor-led (8 credits) or online (2 credits) courses to complete a total of 30 credits. Those ACOs who have taken an approved

comprehensive training during their career—such as courses offered by the Animal Control Officer Association of Massachusetts, the National Animal Care & Control Association, or the New England Animal Control/Humane Academy—will be exempt from acquiring the additional 18 credits necessary to complete the state mandated training requirement during the first year. After initial training, all ACOs will be required to complete continuing education, either through the Massachusetts Animal Fund Animal Control Officer Training Institute (free of charge) or another approved provider (not reimbursable).

The first step in this training is for all ACOs to receive a copy of the Animal Control Core Competencies Handbook, which was sent to your attention in May 2015. Please fill out the Supervisor Certification Form to certify that you have distributed this handbook to the animal control officers under your supervision. This form should be submitted no later than August 25, 2015 via email to lauren.gilfeather@state.ma.us or to the following address:

Lauren Gilfeather
Massachusetts Animal Fund
251 Causeway Street, Suite 500
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Lauren L. Gilfeather
Mass Animal Fund Coordinator
lauren.gilfeather@state.ma.us
617-626-1790

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You are a Massachusetts Animal Control Officer.

Our mailing address is:
Massachusetts Homeless Animal Prevention and Care Fund
251 Causeway Street, Boston, MA, United States
Boston, MA 02114

Add us to your address book

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