



## **32/40 HOUR PEACE OFFICER ANIMAL FIELD SAFETY CERTIFICATION**

### **Fort Saskatchewan/ Canmore**

Location: Municipal Enforcement Office 200 Town Crest Road Fort Saskatchewan AB

Date: Winter 2024 March 18, 19, 20, 21, & 26 in Canmore 09:00 to 17:00 hrs.

<b>TIMES</b>	<b>March 18 MONDAY Classroom Day</b>	<b>March 19 TUESDAY Practical</b>	<b>March 20 WEDNESDAY Classroom</b>	<b>March 21 THURSDAY Practical</b>	<b>March 26 TUESDAY Canmore Practical &amp; Classroom</b>
<b>09:00 13:00</b>	<b>UNDERSTANDING DOG BEHAVIOR</b>	<b>PRACTICAL DOG HANDLING</b>	<b>AGGRESSION CLASSIFICATION</b>	<b>ANIMAL THREAT PATTERN RECOGNITION</b>	<b>THE CAT CLASS &amp; PRACTICAL</b>
<b>One Hour</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Movie &amp; Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>14:00 16:00</b>	<b>UNDERSTANDING APPLIED DOG BEHAVIOR</b>	<b>ADVANCED DOG HANDLING</b>	<b>AGGRESSION INVESTIGATION</b>	<b>ANIMAL THREAT PATTERN RECOGNITION</b>	<b>ANIMALS IN DISTRESS</b>
<b>16:00 17:00</b>	<b>INTRO to DOG HANDLING TECHNIQUES</b>	<b>CAPTURE &amp; CONTROL PRACTICAL</b>	<b>COURT PROCEEDURES</b>	<b>WRITTEN &amp; PRACTICAL EXAMS MARKING &amp; REVIEW</b>	<b>REVIEW</b>



## **Animal Field Safety Certification Course Description**

This is a 32/40 - hour animal field safety & investigations course designed specifically for officers identified as first responders to aggressive animal incidents, and who are responsible for enforcing animal legislation within the community. This course will provide an advanced skill set in interpreting & responding appropriately to animal behavior and utilizing appropriate dog handling techniques with officer safety as priority. This course is designed to train skills specific to appropriate interaction with animals in a building block sequence, and thus is identified as "behavior based" training.

A major focus of the course will be on training officers to work through emergency response incidents as first responders involving aggressive dogs in the community and on private property.

This is an interactive practical course which requires students to be in good physical condition and be willing to take on physical and mental challenges to overcome and de-escalate threatening/dangerous situations specific to aggressive dogs.

The course is knowledge and skill assessed and is evaluated with one written exam and three practical exams.

For students to successfully obtain certification, 85% or higher must be obtained on the written exam in addition to a dual (two) instructor PASS for the final practical exam. Employers will be provided with a letter of completion for each student.

A registered Certificate of Completion will be provided to each student upon successful completion of the class – valid for 3 years.

## **Course Goals**

Upon successful completion of this course, officers will be able to:

1. Understand how animals (domestic companion dogs) communicate
2. Identify and interpret animal behavior sequences
3. Interact & respond appropriately/safely to animal behaviors they observe in the field
4. Demonstrate the ability to operate capture & control equipment correctly
5. Handle animals safely/appropriately
6. Apply an incident response process to emergency situations involving aggressive dogs, and animals in distress
7. Calculate risk assessment specific to animal behavior, and the surrounding environment
8. Implement aggression classification within an animal investigation.

## **Prerequisite**

- Students must be appointed Peace Officer (Alberta Solicitor General, Municipal Government Act or equivalent in neighboring provinces/states).
- Hold valid Set Can, PPCT, Threat Pattern Recognition, Officer Safety Certification, or equivalent. (Must include baton)
- Be in good physical and mental condition.
- Ground fighting & edged weapons certification is desirable, but not required.



## INSTRUCTORS:

**Canine Aggression Specialist, Nikeae Michalchuk** is a Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT), qualified in Alberta Provincial Court as a Subject Matter Expert in eight areas of Canine Behavior. Nikeae has over 15 years experience as a Peace Officer / Specialty Dog Handler in Alberta specializing in aggression cases, animal handling, and animal control bylaw.

Nikeae has provided training and aggression specialty services to hundreds of dog owners throughout Alberta, and over three dozen municipal enforcement departments. She actively trains and competes performance dogs in disciplines of Canadian Kennel Club Competition Obedience, Draft Dog, Conformation, NADAC Agility, and Dock Diving. Nikeae holds the first-place obedience title with the Canadian Kennel Club obtained by a Bernese Mountain dog in 2019, second-place in 2022, and obtained Obedience Trial Champion Title in 2023. She actively trains and competes for this title with an American Staffordshire Terrier.

**Animal Threat Pattern Response Instructor, Bonni Rogers** is a Sergeant/ Peace Officer with City of Calgary Community Standards. Bonni has over 10 years experience as a Peace Officer in Alberta. She is a Certified Safety Instructor in Set Can, ACE (Avoid Control Eliminate), Human Factor Research Group, PPCT, and Verbal Judo with over 350 hours of trainer certifications and over one thousand hours of instructing Community Peace Officers, Sheriff's, and Corrections. Bonni's experience includes Instructor with the Alberta Solicitor General Training Academy, and the City of Calgary Animal Aggression Team. Bonni actively quarries for Calgary Police Service and trains two Pit Bull puppies for performance dog work.

**Assisting Internship, Brad Tomlinson** is a Sergeant/Peace Officer with City of Airdrie Municipal Enforcement. Brad has over 11 years experience as a Peace Officer in Alberta. He has assisted in the development of Airdrie's Responsible Pet Ownership Bylaw, and takes a primary lead in Aggression investigations, and Animal Protections cases in Airdrie. Brad is presently working towards his Certified Professional Dog Trainer Certification (CPDT) and has been assisting with Maverick's ACO certification for 6 years.

*At Maverick, we work with a variety of clients including dog owners, peace officers, and professionals within the canine industry. Maverick promotes the most advanced and innovative training and consulting service tailored to maintaining animal field safety and balanced domestic companion dogs, which thrive in a safe community for all.*

[www.maverickdogworks.com](http://www.maverickdogworks.com)