



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Great Plains SPCA Hosted Successful Animal Cruelty and Fighting Investigations Training for Regional Professionals

MERRIAM, KS — Great Plains SPCA, in partnership with the Leawood Police Department, the Northeast Kansas Animal Welfare Foundation, and Humane World for Animals, hosted a highly successful professional training focused on animal cruelty and fighting investigations at the Great Plains SPCA campus in Merriam, Kansas.

The free training, “Animal Cruelty and Fighting Investigations: Considerations for Enforcement Officers,” brought together law enforcement officers, animal control professionals, humane investigators, code enforcement officers, veterinarians, and prosecutors from across the region for a **full day of education and collaboration.**

Participants received practical instruction on:

- Assessing potential cruelty violations and determining appropriate remedies
- Understanding the connection between cruelty and other violent crimes, including domestic violence
- Report writing, warrants, evidence recognition, and evidence collection
- Interpreting and applying cruelty and fighting laws

Great Plains SPCA and its partners were thrilled with the turnout and engagement throughout the training. The event highlighted the growing commitment across the region to strengthening investigations, improving collaboration, and protecting vulnerable pets and people alike.

“Over the past year, we have seen a 75% increase in cruelty and neglect cases across our community,” said Emily Wallace, Vice President of Operations at Great Plains SPCA. “That alarming trend made it clear that we needed to bring together animal welfare professionals, law enforcement, veterinarians, and advocates to strengthen our collective response. By providing this training, we hope to equip more people with the knowledge and tools needed to

recognize, investigate, and address cruelty cases, ultimately improving outcomes for pets and helping prevent future suffering.”

“We were incredibly encouraged by the response to this training and grateful to everyone who participated,” said Tam Singer, CEO of Great Plains SPCA. “Bringing together professionals from multiple disciplines creates stronger partnerships and ultimately leads to better outcomes in our communities.”

The course was approved for continuing education units by the National Animal Care & Control Association and met the standards of the International Association of Directors of Law Enforcement Standards and Training through the National Certification Program.

The training was hosted at:

Great Plains SPCA
5428 Antioch Drive
Merriam, KS 66202

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About Great Plains SPCA

Great Plains SPCA (GP) is the highest rated animal shelter in the Kansas City area serving 500,000 residents and 7,000 community pets annually. GP works to save, protect and improve the lives of animals, while strengthening the relationship between pets and their human companions by providing humane sheltering, adoptions, community outreach and behavior training. GP is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. For more information, please visit www.greatplainsspca.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).