



## **COVID-19 Mitigation Efforts: HSPO Continuing Education Program Training Suspension**

To: Humane Society Police Officers

From: Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

Date: April 14, 2020

Due to the measures being implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (novel coronavirus), the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture received approval under the Governor's disaster declaration to temporarily waive the requirements of section 3713 (related to continuing education program) (22 Pa.C.S.A § 3713) of the Act dealing with Humane Society Police Officers (22 Pa.C.S.A §§ 3701-3718)(hereinafter "Act"). The continuing education provisions require Humane Society Police Officers to successfully complete a minimum of sixteen (16) hours of continuing education instruction, every two years, from the date on which the individual was appointed (22 Pa.C.S.A. § 3713 (a) and (c)). Failure to complete the minimum amount of continuing education credits within the two year time period results in an automatic suspension of the Humane Society Police Officer's powers and authority to perform his duties under the Act (22 Pa.C.S.A. § 3113 (e)).

The Continuing Education Program training has been suspended because it requires in classroom and on-site training and often involves large classes of officers. Failure to suspend the continuing education requirements of the Act will result in the automatic suspension of many Humane Society Police Officers' ability to continue their work. Their work is vital to the well-being of the animals of this Commonwealth.

For additional information, contact the Bureau of Animal Health at 717-772-2852, or email Tony Arnold, [toarnold@pa.gov](mailto:toarnold@pa.gov).