Furensics: Animal DNA in Criminal Investigations

Training: Approxiamately 2 hours

Forensic science and DNA are amazing tools, but you can only use it if your officers know where to look, when to look and how to collect samples to test. This training, which has already been presented to 45 officers from 8 Bay Are animal control agencies, introduces officers to these tools in a way that is approachable, understandable and applicable to animal cruelty cases. It includes a practical exercise so that officers can feel confident sampling animals for DNA.

1. **General Training:**
   a. Introduction to UC Davis VGL-Forensics
   b. What is DNA (nuclear and mitochondrial DNA)
   c. Where is DNA in animals
   d. How can you use this tool in your cases? Case examples including a dog attack on a human, dog evidence in human homicide, animal cruelty cases, domestic violence, robberies, crush video, bestiality.
   e. Submitting samples to VGL-Forensics or other crime lab (including possible funding sources for testing)
2. **Sampling DNA:**
   a. What destroys DNA
   b. Methods of sampling from crime scenes
   c. Methods of obtaining reference/known samples
3. **Practical Exercise:**
   a. Swabbing live reference animals (a partnership with the shelter is helpful for this aspect of training)
   b. Packaging the swab evidence

<u>If you are interested in this training, please contact UC Davis VGL-Forensics.</u>

"I have investigated crimes against animals for 18 years. Applying forensic science in investigations was not an option because the information and training was not available. The Animal DNA in Criminal Investigation training provided information that will help our agency in future investigations. Animal law enforcement agencies and other agencies will greatly benefit from this training."

-Captain Jay Terrado
City of San Jose Animal Care and Services Division