

2002 NACA Awards

The National Animal Control Association (NACA) is proud to announce the Winners in each of the following Award Categories. Nominations were accepted for achievements in and for the animal control field. The Officers and Board Members wish to thank those who responded to the nomination process. Mary Metzner, President of NACA, made award presentations. The Award Committee Co-Chairs, Mark Kumpf and Mark Byers made award introductions.

Animal Control Employee of the Year Award

The winner of this Award shall have been directly involved in the animal control profession for a minimum of five years and shall be a current member of either NACA or his/her affiliated state association. The winner may be recognized for a single outstanding achievement in animal control or for long-term exceptional performance in animal control.

*"The Animal Control Employee of the Year Award seeks to identify that individual who best exemplifies the very best in our profession."
Ed Boks, Director of Maricopa County Animal Care and Control Services*

The Winner is: Kimberly S. Cherney from City of Irvine Police Department



- ❖ She is a 14-year veteran in animal control. She received the Employee of the Quarter Award in 2001. She was injured in the line of duty but opted for surgery and rehabilitation rather than take a medical retirement. Her house is a rest home for several debilitated animals including a blind greyhound and retriever, a diabetic pug, plus a host of other critters. In her spare time she is married to Police Investigator Jonathan Cherney

(who nominated her) and has two children Joshua and Daniel.

The Bill Lehman Memorial Award

The winner of this Award is not directly employed in the animal control field, but has shown exceptional awareness in animal control matters that merit distinction. The winner shall be recognized as a "friend" of animal control, for contributions and outstanding action that assist in furthering the positive image of animal control professionals through local, state or national animal control associations.

"The Bill Lehman Award recognizes that individual who selflessly contributes so much to the animal control profession. It is those very special people who compound the value of the profession's work, by giving of their unique expertise to help animals." Joyce Briggs, Executive Director, Petsmart Charities

The Winner is: Carolyn Danese from Atlanta, Georgia



- ❖ She has worked to develop coalitions amongst Georgia dog clubs, humane organizations, and veterinarians to assist animal control adoption and spay/neuter programs. She has lobbied at the State level for animal protection laws. She is currently working on a Georgia License Plate Bill to create legislative funding for a statewide animal spay/neuter program.

Outstanding Animal Control Agency Award

The winner of this Award must be a current agency member of NACA. Selection criterion includes effective training program for personnel; outstanding/innovative public education programs; active community involvement; and average officer response time to calls for assistance.

"No matter how big an agency is or what level of funding they enjoy, every agency can put some of North Richland Hills Animal Services Division's ideas to work for them." Bob Hillman, Director, Albuquerque Animal Control

The Winner is: City of Aurora Animal Care Division, Aurora, Colorado

- ❖ The City of Aurora Animal Care Division has won many state and local awards including Agency of the Year awarded by the Colorado Association of Animal Control Officers in 2001. The Divisions program "The Link", which focused on the child abuse, animal abuse, and domestic violence connection won a certificate of recognition at the Best Practices Exposition. They were also named Department of the Year by the City of Aurora. Officers have attended NACA (Level I, II, III) training and continue to work towards officer excellence and professionalism through training. They also provide hands-on training to Veterinary Technicians in the Shelter.

Diane Lane Memorial Award:

This Award is for outstanding Volunteer service in animal welfare related fields, the winner shall demonstrate exceptional dedication or performed outstanding work far and beyond the requirements of their volunteer position. *"In a life cut tragically short, Diane Lane enriched the entire animal welfare field through the promotion of volunteerism. This Award recognizes those who responded to her call."*

Darlene Larson, friend of Diane Lane and previous president of NACA

The Winner is: Karen Menzyk, Williamson County Animal Shelter



- Champion of “Maggie’s Bark Park”
- Karen has volunteered at the shelter over the past years and worked with the County to see a new shelter built for the stray and homeless animals. She helps with sick and injured animals often at her own expense. She is the “HERO” of the shelter but is embarrassed at the word. Much of the materials used in the shelter education program were compiled, copied and paid by Karen. Understanding the problems faced in the shelter each

day, Karen makes the rounds, shared in the joys and the pains of daily life, and is the shelter’s proudest defender. Don’t call it the “Dog Pound” in front of the “Mama Dog” or you will find out why the staff loves her so much!

The R.D. "Bob" Ward D.V.M. Memorial Posthumous Award

This Award is to honor animal control employees who died in the line of duty.

"I think Budda captured the essence of the R.D. "Bob" Ward Award when he said, 'neither fire nor wind, birth nor death can erase our good deeds'". Mary Metzner, Past President, of the National Animal Control Association

NACA recognizes, honors, and remembers:

Animal Control Officer Nathan Mitchell

- Biloxi Police Department
- Nathan was known for his positive attitude and ever-present smile on the job. He was as good with people as he was with animals because he was sincere in his duties on a daily basis. He would put himself at risk before he would hurt an animal, often foregoing a ketch-pole using his bare hands instead. He loved his job and was held in great esteem by his coworkers.
- Nathan lost his life attempting to capture a pitbull that had reportedly threatened women and children in the area and had attacked another dog. His third attempt to capture the dog was near CSX rail lines in Biloxi. According to reports, he was on his hands and knees on the tracks trying to coax the animal to him when he realized that he was in the path of an oncoming train. “He died doing what he loved best” Andrew Jones, Nathan’s Supervisor.