

2004 Award Winners

The National Animal Control Association (NACA) is proud to announce the Recipients in each of the following Award Categories. Nominations were accepted for achievements and accomplishments for those working in or for the animal control field. The Officers and Board wish to thank those who responded in the nomination process. Award presentations will be made by the NACA President, Lorraine Moule. The Award introductions were made by the Award Committee Co-Chairs, Mark Byers and Melisa Sullivan.

Bill Lehman Memorial Award

The recipient 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 recipient 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 their unique expertise to help animals."* Joyce Briggs, Executive Director, Petsmart Charities

The Winner is: Richard and Christine Camp



- ❖ Richard and Christine are from St. Louis, MO. Richard and Christine decided to start Adopt-A-Stray about 4 years ago. Richard had volunteered at the St. Louis City Animal Control and at the time they had no air conditioning in the shelter. He felt that for the comfort of the animals they needed air conditioning in the building. St. Louis summers are very humid and hot. He called some business associates and he was able to arrange to have the city shelter air conditioned. After spending time at the City Shelter, the Camps felt that they could go and help all the shelters in the St. Louis Metro area. The Camps have formed a nonprofit organization called Adopt-A-Stray. The first official event was an adoption on Easter Sunday, more than 400 pets were adopted that afternoon. The Camps dream is to clear the St. Louis Metro area of all adoptable animals and to have potential adopters put their names on a waiting list to adopt a pet from the area shelters. The Camps currently operate 3 storefronts in the high traffic shopping malls and 1 stand alone adoption center. They get animals from area shelters and pet placement groups. Every animal is spayed/neutered, vaccinated, micro chipped and socialized before being placed. They and their volunteers do home visits and counseling with new adoptive families. If you ask them why they do it and they will both say it is for the animals.

Animal Control Employee of the Year Award

The recipient of this award must be directly employed in the animal care profession for a minimum of five years and must be a current member of 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, Past NACA Board Member

The Winner is: Debby Leddy



- ❖ Debby is from Franklin, TN and is employed with Williams County Animal Control. She has been with them for ten years and is currently the Assistant Director. She does oversee many aspects of the shelter, also the volunteer and education programs. The education program is developed for pre-school through high school aged kids; there is also education for adults. The program emphasizes the positive aspects

of the Williams County Animal Control, in addition to such topics as animal safety, cruelty and responsible pet ownership. Debby has also been involved in a successful project of developing the Maggie's Bark Park. This is the first off leash dog parks in the state of Tennessee. She has also established a second park called Rascal's Run Around, for smaller dogs and puppies. The parks are located near the shelter and have increased the shelters visibility in the community. This has increased adoptions in the community and donations to the shelter. Debby has been very successful in court cases involving animal abuse and neglect. She also has a great skill in dealing with potentially difficult situations. Her calm and compassionate demeanor has helped defuse many problems, and her empathy and people skills have won her many admirers throughout the middle Tennessee area. Williams County Animal Control has an excellent volunteer program, which is organized by Debby. There are many things that the volunteers do for the community. In April of last year, Debby was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Her last words before her medical leave were, "Please take care of my animals." This compassion, selflessness and dedication personify Debby's work ethic. She came back to work after her surgery, well before expected, more dedicated and enthusiastic than ever.

Diane Lane Memorial Award

The recipient for this award is for an outstanding volunteer service in the animal welfare related fields. The recipient shall demonstrate exceptional dedication or have 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 NACA. Board Member

The Winner is: Mary Robertson

- ❖ Mary is from Edmond, OK and she is the President of the Volunteer Program, Paws for Life. She has played an important role in getting the volunteer program at the shelter started. Mary has volunteered numerous hours by walking and bathing dogs. She is willing to help at the shelter in any type of weather. She has helped with getting improvements in the existing shelter by raising awareness of our facility's needs. Mary organized taking animals to the weekly Farmers Mart each Saturday. She makes sure volunteers are available to walk our dogs, helps with the "Home for the Holidays" program, has solicited numerous contributions for our shelter and spent hours contacting perspective volunteers. Mary played a vital role in getting our shelter involved with the local PetsMart store, and as a result, most of our adoptable cats have been placed in homes. Mary is a wonderful advocate for our animals and has spent countless hours of her own time in volunteer efforts that support our goal of making sure every adoptable animal gets a happy home.



Outstanding State Association Award

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

"With the challenges of poor laws, lack of training and professional recognition, Animal Control Officers often turn to their NACA supported State Association for help." Mark Kumpf, NACA Board Member

The Winner is: Missouri Animal Control Association

- ❖ This year MACA has accomplished numerous goals. They believe to have outstanding members who are always striving to be the best in the field. They have numerous shelters and members who network supplies, space and manpower. MACA has developed a scholarship program for those agencies that can not otherwise afford to participate in training. Through persistence they have obtained a not-for-profit status allowing donations to



their association to be tax exempt. The Board works very diligently on getting the animal conference POST Certified approved as an incentive to attract law enforcement personnel. These individuals are often required to perform animal investigations with little or no training. By inviting the law enforcement personnel to their training it

helps to form a relationship between them and the animal control agencies. MACA offers 3 to 4 training programs throughout the state each year. These training programs are an excellent opportunity for those who do not have the funds to travel. The programs provided by MACA are valuable tools for obtaining and maintaining the professionalism in the animal control field.