

## 2005 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 and accomplishments for those working in or for the animal control field. The Officers and Board wish to thank those who responded to the nomination process. Award presentations will be made by Mark Byers, NACA President. The Award introductions will be made by the Award Committee Co-Chairs, Mark Kumpf and Melisa Sullivan.

### **Animal Control Employee of the Year Award**

This winner of this award shall have been directly employed in the animal care profession for a minimum of five years and shall 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 profession draws dedicated individuals who often give more of themselves than others in less challenging fields. The Animal Control Employee of the Year Award honors one who has demonstrated outstanding efforts on behalf of others and the animals in our care.”*

*Jane Decker, NACA Vice President*

#### **The Winner is: Jeff Reckling**

Adams County Animal Control Shelter  
28 year animal control veteran



Jeff is a cancer survivor and a compassionate animal control officer who comes to work early and stays late. He has never mentioned the words, “It’s not my job” and is always willing to help whenever and wherever needed. As an officer he is no different than any other on the road, but is one of the few people who truly seems able to talk to the animals. There is comfort in knowing that for our animals, if it is a layover awaiting their new family or just waiting for their owners to redeem them and even for the ones at the end of the line, of the last human that dealt with them did it out of compassion.  
*Annette Lerch, Nominating Officer*

### **Bill Lehman Memorial Award**

This 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 individuals outside of the Animal Control Field who have shown awareness in animal control matters. It is an opportunity for us to thank those individuals for their contributions to Animal Control.”

*Melisa Sullivan, NACA Awards Co-Chair*

**The Winner is: Doctor Jerilee A. Zezula, D.V.M.**

Associate Profession, University of New Hampshire, Thompson School for Applied Sciences

She has been a friend to animal control throughout New England for the past 25 years during which she has introduced many of her students to the profession of animal control and care as a possible career choice through her teaching. She has dealt with the interstate problem of dog fighting and was selected to serve on the New Hampshire Governor’s Taskforce on the review of the state’s cruelty laws. Doc “Z” established the New England Animal Control / Humane Academy in 1980 at the University of New Hampshire in large part as the result of her own vision and dedication. It has been 25 years since the dream took root and it continues to flourish and grow.



*Lorraine Moule, NACA Board Member*

**Outstanding Animal Control Agency Award**

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

“No matter how big or small your agency is, it is what's in your heart and the team work you do for your agency that makes an Outstanding Agency”

*Mark Byers, NACA President*

**The Winner is: Floyd County Animal Control**

Floyd County has been a NACA member for years. The NACA News is a regular training resource used by the department with six staff handling over 6200 calls per year. Each officer handles more than 2000 calls each!

The agency sponsors FREE rabies clinics with over 400 people attending the last one in 2004. Teaming with local humane groups



the agency sponsors off-site adopt-a-thons and has provided reduced cost spay/neuter surgery for pets. They host community events to raise funds for local rescue groups. The officers routinely attend local civic groups fostering a spirit of involvement and focusing their assistance on the needy in the community.

### **R.D. "Bob" Ward D.V.M. Memorial Posthumous Award**

This award honors animal control employees who died in the line of duty.

"I think Buddha captured the essence of the R.D. "Bob" Ward Award when he said 'Neither fire nor wind, earth nor death, can erase our good deeds'".

*Mary Metzner, NACA Past President*

### **NACA recognizes, honors and remembers: Animal Control Officer Phil Simard**

15 year veteran Portland Maine Police Department Animal Control

Phil received the department's unit citation for helping apprehend two robbery suspects in 1992. He was also honored as a civilian employee of the month in 2002 (pictured here). He was known for his positive attitude and ever-present smile on the job. According to those that knew him, "It doesn't get much better than him!"



Phil spent three hours tracking a wayward husky that had escaped for a local veterinary clinic where it was recovering from surgery.

Phil collapsed and died of an apparent heart attack just as he captured the animal. He was still clutching the dog's leash when help arrived. "I could always rely on Phil. Very professional, very concerned and took his job to heart. It's a big loss to the department." *Police Chief Michael Chitwood*

### **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 NACA Past President*

**The Winner is: Justin Olson**

South Salt Lake Animal Control Shelter

Volunteer Award Winner Utah Animal Control Officers Association

Justin has volunteered at the shelter over the past years and is a vocal champion for animal control officers and the pets at the shelter. Born with Cerebral Palsy, Justin has been in a wheelchair for his entire life but has not let that slow him down. Having to travel by bus, it takes planning, time, and effort just for him to come and volunteer. He always has a smile on even when dealing with rude comments on the phone. He is the most whole hearted, loving, caring and willing person to help despite his own limited abilities. His favorite things include bowling, dancing & pizza in addition to the time the spends at Animal Control! *Jason Rasmussen, Nominating Officer*



**Outstanding State Association Award**

This winner 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, Virginia Animal Control Association President and past State Association Award Winner*

***The Winner is: the Virginia Animal Control Association***

