

2006 NACA Awards

The 2006 Awards Ceremony held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma again allowed NACA to recognize the leaders in our profession from across the United States. Nominations were accepted for achievements and accomplishments for those working in or for the animal control field with the actual presentations made by Mark Byers, NACA President. Award Committee Co-Chairs, Mark Kumpf and Nancy Hill handled the introduction ceremony. A recap of the awards winners is included!

Many asked how the awards recipients were chosen. NACA would like to reveal some of the internal workings of the awards process. First, the Awards Committee seeks out nominations. This is done in a number of ways including emails to the membership, articles in NACA News (like this one), articles in the State of Affairs, as well as contacts with the NACA affiliated state associations. Additionally, the committee monitors news reports for word of exceptional accomplishments and line-of-duty deaths involving animal services employees. This part of the process continues through the NACA News publication of the award nomination forms. Information can be found on our website <http://www.nacanet.org/pastawards.htm> with lists of previous winners and PDF nomination forms available.

The second step of the process centers on collating the nominations, verifying eligibility for awards (some require NACA membership while others do not), contacting nominating agencies or individuals, and gathering information regarding nominees. An unfortunate reality that has faced the committee during the past several years centers on membership. Many outstanding nominations have been disqualified for not meeting the eligibility requirements listed on the award nomination form. Everyone is encouraged to read them before submitting a nomination. NACA is always looking to recognize the leaders in our profession. If you, your agency or someone you know fits any of the award categories – please feel free to enter a nomination. You MAY nominate yourself.

What should be included with each nomination? First, as mentioned above, make sure that the nominee MEETS the basic requirements. If membership is required – JOIN!!! Then start compiling the information to offer the best nomination possible. Letters of recommendation, news articles, internet or web links, photographs, copies of other awards won, testimonials, copies of program descriptions, DVDs & video tapes of news clips, statistical reports, etc., send it along for consideration. Sorry, entry materials will not be returned unless accompanied by appropriate mailing materials and postage... Some nominations arrive in three-ring binders with foldout sections tabbed for easy access. Others are one page handwritten sheets from nominators. All are considered for their individual merits and relation to the award in question. Being the biggest or the smallest doesn't matter as much as being the best representation of the goal or ideal behind each award. A multi-thousand dollar

outreach program with tons of support may match itself against an officer who funds it out of his / her pocket. Amazingly enough, each is able to hold up their head on equal terms. The only nominations that can't be considered are those that are incomplete or otherwise do not meet eligibility requirements. Please, please, please include complete contact information including name, mailing address (with city, state & zip), telephone number and email if available.

Once the list is compiled, the third step begins. The committee members review the qualified nominations and prepare a package for the Executive Committee to review along with the Executive Director. Each winter (usually in late January or early February) the Executive Committee meets and the final selections are made. In cases where members are associated with potential nominees, the member will recuse him or herself from the final decision on that particular category. The Executive Committee considers the Awards Committee's recommendation for each category and then makes that final choice.

Following the decision, the Awards Committee then contacts the selected persons or agencies to notify them of their selection and arrange for their attendance at the next annual conference. When things go properly, correspondence is sent to all nominees and the person who nominated them. Supervisors and others are advised that their agencies or employees have been chosen to receive an award to give them an opportunity to attend and recognize the accomplishment. The committee also handles the mundane tasks of ordering award plaques and other recognition items. NACA likes to acknowledge departing board members and officers whenever possible. Although it may seem minor, this fourth step is very important.

As the conference approaches, the committee prepares the awards brochures and puts together the conference presentation. An additional article may appear in the NACA News to coincide with the conference announcing the winners. At the conference, the committee coordinates the actual awards presentation during a luncheon with the current President handing out each award. Winners in each category are offered an opportunity to address the general attendees and are then available for questions after the ceremony. Five minutes after the presentations conclude, the committee starts breathing again. Ten minutes later, they start thinking about NEXT year!

So who were our winners for 2006?

Animal Control Employee of the Year Award

The successful nominee for 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 recipient may be nominated for a single outstanding achievement in animal control or for a long-term exceptional performance in animal control. The winner of this Award will receive complimentary NACA Conference registration. History: Established October 12, 1989.



Nancy Clemmons

Wake County Animal Care, Control & Adoption Center, Raleigh, NC

Nancy Clemmons is the Adoption Center Manager for Wake County Animal Care, Control & Adoption Center in Raleigh, NC. She has been employed in the animal control field for 27 years. Her accomplishments in the areas of training, outreach, and animal welfare are exemplary. She serves on a number of committees related to animal care and control, both state and nationwide.

Bill Lehman Memorial Award

The successful candidate for this Award will be someone not directly employed in the animal control field, but who has shown an exceptional awareness in animal control related matters which merit distinction. The nominated recipient shall be recognized as a “friend” of animal control, for contributions and outstanding action that assisted in furthering the positive image of animal control professionals through local, state or national animal control associations. The winner of this Award will receive complimentary NACA Conference registration.



Doctor Bill Hamilton

Friends of San Francisco Animal Care and Control

Bill Hamilton is the President and Founder of the Friends of San Francisco Animal Care and Control. He serves as volunteer organizer and has developed a group of over 5000 donors who actively support the animal control operation. FSFACC raises funds to cover medical expenses for indigent animal care, raising over \$200,000 per year towards these causes.

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. The recipient of this Award will receive complimentary NACA Conference registration. History: Established October 12, 1989.

Knox County Animal Control

Knox County Animal Control is located in Knoxville, Tennessee. Director Dave Head's organization handled over 15,000 calls for service in 2005 with seven officers. Despite budget constraints, Knox County provides multiple community outreach programs to serve the citizens in their area. While some organizations reduce services or offer explanations "why we can't", Knox County Animal Control demonstrates the principal of "why we CAN!"



Diane Lane Memorial Award

This Award is for outstanding volunteer service. The nominee selected to win this Award must be someone who is not directly employed in the animal control field, but is a volunteer in animal welfare-related activities. He or she will have demonstrated exceptional dedication or performed outstanding work far beyond the requirements of the volunteer position. To nominate someone for this Award, you must work with, or have direct first hand knowledge of the nominee. Support or services provided by the nominee shall have directly benefited your agency or organization.

Alison Gianotto, Pet-Abuse.Com

Alison Gianotto is the President and founder of Pet-Abuse.Com. In addition to her vast volunteer work with this site, Ms. Gianotto has helped a variety of local, state, national, and international groups provide web based services to their members. She is a dedicated and committed individual who has accomplished things that even national organizations still dream about. Her actions have contributed to improving thousands of animals' lives over the past years.



Outstanding State Association Award

The Association that wins this Award must be currently affiliated with NACA. 100% of the Association's membership must also be NACA members. Factors considered in this Award include number of active members and new members; improved quality of animal control programs within their state; active sponsors of seminars and training for members; and active in NACA sponsored training. The recipient of this Award will receive complimentary registration and \$500 in sponsorship money for their next Conference. History: Established October 12, 1989.



Utah Animal Control Officers Association

The **Utah Animal Control Officers Association** has been an active supporter and a long-time NACA-affiliated state association. They host a variety of training events and 100% of their members are NACA members. UACOA continues to endorse professional animal control services and works diligently to deliver on their endorsement.

R.D. "Bob" Ward D.V.M.

Memorial Posthumous Award

This Award is for animal control employees killed in the line of duty. NACA has a long history of acknowledging and honoring those among us who have made the ultimate contribution to the animal control field. Although I know we all agree that if we never present this Award again, that would be too soon, we don't want to be remiss when the unthinkable occurs. When an individual in the employee of an animal control program is killed, allow all of us to honor and remember this person by notifying NACA so this Award can be presented.

James Greer Jr., Animal Control Officer, Alton Police Department

A long time city employee, Mr. Greer collapsed shortly after arriving for work. Described as a "Good, professional guy", Greer died in January 2006.

Gina Gracio, Director, San Diego Pet Partnership

Ms. Gracio was killed in an automobile accident while transporting two rescued dogs in Foster California, January 2006.

Kathleen Coppolino, Volunteer, People Pet Partnership

Ms. Coppolino was killed while transporting animals for the Philadelphia based animal care & control association in July 2005.