

## 2007 NACA Awards

The 2007 Awards Ceremony held in Cincinnati, Ohio 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 the NACA Awards Committee. 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 2007?

### **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.

### ***Terry MacKillop***

***Rosecommon County Animal Control, Rosecommon, Michigan***

**Terry MacKillop** is the Director and Lead Animal Control Officer for Rosecommon County Animal Control in Rosecommon, Michigan. He has been involved with the Animal Control and Shelter program for eighteen years. When he started as the Assistant Animal Control Officer in 2001, the euthanasia rate for the 3,000 animals received was 95%. Within a year he was promoted to Department Head and through a vigorous public education program to include reaching out into the school, the animals received has dropped to 1,000 with a 98% adoption rate. Terry has been an active member of the Michigan Association for Animal Control Officer's for fifteen years serving as District Leader, President and is currently the Vice President for MACCO.



### **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.

### ***Loudoun County Animal Care & Control, Waterford, Virginia***

**Loudoun County Animal Control** is located in Waterford, Virginia. Director Thomas Koenig's department responded to over 4,500 requests for service to a community of nearly 258,000 people. When the devoted team of Animal Control Officers were not responding to calls, they trained all the Fire & Rescue personnel to use the pet oxygen masks donated by the citizens through a fund raising campaign, they spoke at summer camps and at Sheriff Department's role calls, they participated in microchip, and they volunteer for the CARE program along with the Holiday Pet Pantry. Loudoun County Animal Control regularly goes above and beyond in their service to the citizens and animals in their jurisdictions.



### **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.

### ***Lyn Woodhead, Stray Pets in Need of Massachusetts***

**Lyn Woodhead** is the past Vice President and currently serving as an advisory member for SPIN of Mass, Inc. in Wellesley, Massachusetts. She coordinates the volunteer shifts, trains new volunteers, and administers routine medications. She treats each stray as if it were her own and provides them with the same excellent care which she would do for her own pets. Lyn is also involved with in SMART – State of Massachusetts Animal Response Team. Our animal control program would not be as effective without volunteers and especially without a special leader and dedicated volunteer like Lyn Woodhead.



### **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.

### ***Virginia Animal Control Association***

**The Virginia Animal Control Association** has been in existence for twenty-eight years and is committed to assist and improve Animal Control Agencies throughout Virginia. They serve the one person animal control operation to the large jurisdictions offering state sponsored training events in addition to NACA courses. 100% of their members are NACA members. VACA Board Members provide instructional assistance to NACA.



### **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.

***NACA is fortunate that we do not have to issue this award this year. Our thanks for keeping each of our fellow officers safe this year and for their continued safety in the coming year.***

### **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.

***NACA did not receive any nominations in this category for the 2007 Awards.***