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.” Nancy Hill, NACA Awards Co-Chair

G. Robert Weedon, DVM, MPH, or “Dr. Bob” first reached out to his former employee, Jean P. McNeil, DVM in the late 1990s. Dr. McNeil was by then working for Hanover County Animal Control Services (HCACS). This began a partnership with animal control that continues today. Dr. Bob began by selling animal licenses at his hospital and encouraging his colleagues to do so, as well. He is committed to insuring that future veterinarians have an understanding and appreciation for the work of animal control professionals. In 2007, as part of the Southeastern Public Health Leadership Institute Training Course, Dr. McNeil and Dr. Bob developed the Rabies Awareness and Community Education Program. Dr. Bob continues to perform volunteer surgeries at the animal control clinic and frequently recruits veterinary students to assist him. He frequently makes presentations to county officials, including a recent one to defend and maintain Hanover’s anti-tethering ordinance, the only county ordinance of its kind in North Carolina. Dr. Bob’s support and collaboration with animal control highlights the importance of professional animal control and partnership with the veterinary community.

G. Robert Weedon, DVM, MPH
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Wilmington, NC 28409
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NACA 2008 Conference
Spokane, Washington

“Building Stronger Professionals”

2008 NACA Awards
June 5, 2008
Award Luncheon
Sponsored by

THE NACA AWARDS

The NACA Awards are made each year in conjunction with the Annual Conference. Awards nomination forms maybe found in the NACA News as well as online at www.nacanet.org/awards.htm. Some awards require NACA membership while others are presented to non-members for their support of NACA and animal care & control professionals nationwide.

Please contact any NACA Board member for additional information on how to nominate persons or agencies for the 2009 NACA Awards.

Be sure to introduce yourself to our Winners during the Conference!

NACA Corporate Office

National Animal Control Association
P.O. Box 480851, Kansas City, MO, 64148
Phone: 913-768-1319
www.nacanet.org
The National Animal Control Association (NACA) is proud to announce the 2008 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 Kumpf NACA President. The Award introductions will be made by Awards Committee members Debbie Dawson & Kathryn Strouse.

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.

And the Winner is: Yvonne Gaines

Yvonne Gaines has been an animal control officer since 2001. She is a graduate of the 68th Mid-Michigan Police Academy and the recipient of the 2007 Animal Law Enforcement Award for Ingham County. ACO Gaines was nominated by Animal Control Director Jamie McAlone Lampman, who cited her nearly 90% conviction rate for animal welfare and cruelty violations. Director Lampman commended ACO Gaines’ diligence in investigating cases and her collaboration with other law enforcement. “She was investigating and obtaining dog fighting convictions when dog fighting was virtually unknown to most judges and law enforcement officers in our community. Thanks to her tenacity in this area we enjoy a well educated judicial system and conduct training sessions with our local law enforcement agencies on those subjects.”

ACO Yvonne Gaines
Ingham County Animal Control
600 Custis St.
Mason, MI 48854
Phone - 517-676-8370

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.

The winner is the: Washington Animal Control Association

Back left: Jan Magnuson (President), Patrick Higbie (Secretary) Paul Evans, (NW Rep.) Ben Zigan (Eastside Rep.)
Front left: Trisha Kraff (SW Rep.), Jenny Edwards (Treasurer), Ann Graves (Vice President)

The Washington Animal Control Association (WACA) has been in existence since 1979. WACA has nearly 400 active members from over 170 agencies, and is committed to the advancement of skills and professionalism for animal control officers. Each year WACA, in cooperation with the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission, sponsors an 80 hour animal control academy. Along with the Washington Federation of Animal Care and Control Agencies, they co sponsor and host the annual Pacific Northwest Animal Care and Control Conference. WACA is actively involved in community outreach, scholarships for training, and legislation.

Ann Graves, President
c/o Seattle Animal Shelter
2061 15th Ave. W.
Seattle, WA
(206) 387-7387
ann.graves@seattle.gov

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/innovative public education programs; active community involvement; and average response time to calls for assistance.

And the Winner is: Pasco County Animal Services

Pasco County Animal Services serves 450,000 people in an area of 800 square miles. Education is important to PCAS. Their officers attend certification classes and receive continuing education through the Florida Animal Control Association (FACA) and NACA. Manager Denise Hilton and her staff are also committed to public education, and offer such programs as Dog Bite Prevention and Rabies Awareness. PCAS has received numerous local, state and national awards, including the 2007 FACA Animal Control Association of the Year. They formed an “Adoption Partners Program” in 2006 in an effort to work with other agencies in securing more adoptions for animals. PCAS has partnered with the Pasco County Library System, Friends of the Library, and the Coalition for Animal Welfare for a grant from PetsMart Charities to fund a 2008 Pit Snip spay/neuter event. They plan to break ground this year for a new adoption/surgery center.

Pasco County Animal Services
19640 Lake Patience Rd.
Land O’ Lakes, FL 34638
813-939-1212
animalservices@pascocountyfl.net

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.

And the Winner is: Patty Rusnak Peninsula Spay / Neuter Project

Patty Rusnak is a founding member of the Peninsula Spay/Neuter Project (PSNP). PSNP is the lead agency for Coalition Humane; a group dedicated to spaying and neutering, and was voted one of the top 10 providers of surgical services for 2006. Ms. Rusnak is the project manager for the Coalition Humane Spay & Neuter Clinic, slated to open in Tacoma in March of 2008. She is a founder of the dog focused reading assistance program, “Tutors With Tails”. She regularly writes a column entitled “Faw Talk With Patty” for the Suburban Times. Ms. Rusnak is currently working on the design and development of educational handouts that will focus on pet care and ownership.

Patty Rusnak, Coalition Humane Spay & Neuter Clinic
6002 122nd St. SW
Lakewood, WA 98499
253-582-5004
prusnak@psnp.org
**R. D. "Bob" Ward DVM Memorial Award**

This award is to honor animal control employees who died in the line of duty. History: Established October, 12, 1989. Dr. Ward was a Texas pioneer among those striving for professionalism in the Animal Control field. Although very ill his last year, he continued to work at improving Animal Control's image. Dr. Ward was an outstanding example of the type of person who gives their all for a just cause.

"I think Budda captured the essence of the R. D. "Bob" Ward Award when he said, ‘neither fire no wind, birth nor death can erase our good deeds’”. Mary Metzner, Past President of the National Animal Control Association.

NACA recognizes, honors, and remembers:

**Neal Duncan,**  
Seattle Animal Control,  
Seattle, Washington  
While assisting with an animal adoption at the shelter, Neal collapsed due to a heart attack while on duty. Effects by his fellow animal control employees and the Seattle Fire Department failed to revive him. Neal "Gentle Ben" was a gift to the Seattle Animal Shelter passing away in June 2006.

**Bobby Evans,**  
Animal Control Officer,  
Bellmead, Texas  
Bobby was murdered just because he was in the wrong place at the wrong time at the city animal shelter helping the animals in his care. Bobby was a Husband, Father, Grandfather, son, and friend to all. He also held the rank of Lieutenant as a Volunteer Fire Fighter. Bobby Evans passed away on June 18, 2007.

**Christina Winzer,**  
LA Animal Services,  
Los Angeles, California  
The community outreach and volunteer coordinator, Christina collapsed and died while at the City's San Pedro animal shelter. Outgoing and friendly, and always devoted to the animals she cared for, Christina embodied the humanitarian mission our shelters strive every day to meet. Christina Winzer passed January 14,