

# 2015 BILL LEHMAN MEMORIAL AWARD

*Presented To*  
**SUSIE SCHRAMM**  
Jefferson County Animal Control, Jefferson County, WV

*For your continued support as a friend  
to those in the animal care & control field*



Susan Schramm became a "Friend of Animal Control" on December 30, 2010 when we reached out to her during an investigation regarding an equine cruelty case. A horse needed to be seized and transported to a local equine veterinarian and then needed a place to be housed. Mrs. Schramm stepped right up to the plate and offered the services of her horse barn, Matilda Bay Farm, to help us. She did everything under her professional power to help this particular horse but he was so far down that he had to be euthanized 5 days in. After that, Susan Schramm, has dedicated herself and her farm to assisting of Jefferson County Animal Control with numerous other equine cruelty cases.

She has donated her time and resources to remove a horse that had to be euthanized in the field due to extreme cruelty. She offered her staff, vehicle and trailer to remove the horse and

transport it to the Virginia Department of Agriculture for a necropsy.

She has also housed 8 other horses at her farm from 3 separate cruelty cases since 2013. All of these horses were a part of a prosecution case. She was able to bring all of the horses back into good health. Once the cases were prosecuted and guilty pleas were rendered, we were able to find homes or rescues for all of these horses.

On 4/8/2015, Jefferson County Animal Control responded to a call regarding an injured miniature horse standing in a field and it had not moved all day. We discovered this miniature horse did indeed have some sort of rear end injury and could not be left out in this field without veterinarian care. We called Mrs. Schramm late in the afternoon to ask assistance with the removal of the miniature horse. She responded immediately with her truck and trailer and we were able to get the miniature horse out of its situation and transport him to a local equine vet for evaluation. She then transported him to her farm where he was housed until it was determined the animal had either been abandoned or was a stray that no one cared to come look for. Once again, Susan Schramm, cared for this animal and brought in several other veterinarian's to evaluate the overall condition of the animal.

Her devotion to this animal is just another example of the passion she has for the wellbeing of abused, neglected or unwanted horses. Jefferson County Animal Control does not know what we would do if we did not have the assistance, compassion, resource and love Susan Schramm has demonstrated over and over again when it comes to the welfare of the local equine community. She has donated hundreds of hours of her time, equipment, and money to the Jefferson County Animal Control agency. Without her, we would not have been able to succeed in saving the lives of these horses and eventually placing them into responsible, well-deserved homes.



**NATIONAL ANIMAL**  
CARE & CONTROL ASSOCIATION



# 2015 DIANE LANE MEMORIAL AWARD

*Presented To*  
**ANGELIKA LINGL**

Chattanooga Pet Help Line &  
McKamey Homeless Project, Chattanooga, TN

*For outstanding care, compassion, and dedication  
by a volunteer in the animal care & control field*



Dr. Lingl DVM serves as a volunteer veterinarian not only in a veterinary capacity for several programs but has actually developed and implemented a vital program called the Chattanooga Pet Help Line to assist pet owners with issues that would otherwise result in relinquishing their pet. This helpline has provided assistance to thousands of pet owners since its inception in 2014.

In addition she also is the volunteer veterinarian for the McKamey Homeless Project serving the pets with free services of homeless citizens throughout Chattanooga.

She also is the main service provider for monthly free vaccine clinics held by the McKamey Animal Center in underserved areas throughout Chattanooga. In the last year she has single-handedly provide over 1000 vaccinations and triage care to pets of pet owners who otherwise would never have been able to afford or even access those services.

She was an honoree for the United Way Volunteer of the year for 2015 for her work with Homeless people and their pets. She was named the Humanitarian Veterinarian of the Year for City of Chattanooga and Hamilton County 2014 as well. If that wasn't enough, she commits five hours of her week to work with the most behaviorally challenged dogs at the McKamey Center. We estimate she volunteers an average of 600 hours annually to McKamey Animal Center.

Lastly, she has assisted on numerous animal hoarding and animal cruelty cases by accompanying our officers at the scene gathering evidence and documenting conditions for prosecution. Needless to say, she has been a one woman force that has been instrumental in helping McKamey provide vital services to the community that will having a lasting impact for years to come.



**NATIONAL ANIMAL**  
CARE & CONTROL ASSOCIATION



# 2015 OUTSTANDING STATE ASSOCIATION AWARD

*Presented To*

## VIRGINIA ANIMAL CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Robert Leinberger, Jr., President, Chesterfield, VA

*For outstanding commitment and support  
to your association, and to NACA*



Total membership was at 218 members March 2015  
NACA membership is automatic for every active VACA member

VACA provides instructors for State mandated regional Basic Animal Control Academies across the Commonwealth of Virginia. VACA also provides training to Animal Control Officers via workshops and the annual training conference ensuring that all officers have access to continuing education.

VACA members participate in a state committee to study and make changes to the Animal Control Officer Training Standards, seeking to decrease the period from hire date to receiving mandated training from two years to one year.

VACA Board members are regularly sought after for their opinions, information and assistance from legislative working groups and committees.

VACA provides support and assistance to its members with complex, difficult and large scale cases. Support includes advice, personnel and making referrals to other agencies that are capable of providing funding support.

VACA Board members improved social media communication to improve its ability to relay information to and from its members and to other parties interested in VACA. VACA has a robust presence in various social media formats including, Constant Contact, VACA Facebook, and the VACA website.

VACA takes an active role in legislation affecting Animal Control Officers and animals. The organization puts forward legislation each year to improve the animal control profession and quality of life for animals. VACA provides a legislative representative to the Virginia General Assembly to monitor bills, represent animal control officers and testify before committees. VACA members regularly participate in state level animal law working group committees.

VACA is working towards improvements to animal control training requirements, to decrease the period between hire and an ACO's completion of state mandated training. VACA regularly reviews animal laws to ensure that ACO's are well equipped to enforce laws designed for the protection of animals.

VACA continues to lobby to amend the definition of animal control officer to a law enforcement position to allow officers access to more benefits, protection and resources to do their jobs more effectively. This effort is one of few in the country.

VACA maintains an Animal Control Officer Memorial/Compassion fund for the Commonwealth of Virginia, which offers financial assistance to help families of Animal Control Officers that have died in the line of duty.

Each year, VACA produces the Virginia Comprehensive Animal Law Handbook. The pocket sized handbook includes all the state animal codes and is provided to all active members. In addition to being offered at no additional charge to Animal Control Academy attendees, it is available for purchase directly from the VACA website.

Each year VACA conducts a training conference that is available to all of its members as well as any non-members of the association. Training topics include animal fighting, large/small animal cruelty investigations, hoarding, court room testimony and the link between domestic violence and animal abuse. Additionally, VACA helps sponsor four scholarships annually for the VACA conference. The scholarship awards help VACA to increase accessibility to the jurisdictions who need it most and to promote both continuing education and professionalism.

For a 5th year, VACA held a food drive and collected 85 lbs. of human food and pet food donated to the Food bank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore.

In 2015, VACA and its board members were directly involved in the following training:

January/February 2015: VACA Board members, Kathy Strouse and Rob Leinberger, taught at the Animal Control Basic Academy in Virginia Beach.

February 26: VACA President Rob Leinberger participated in a state level roundtable at the Virginia Veterinary Medical Association conference in Roanoke.

March 21 VACA Vice-President Willie Tydings taught at the Virginia Federation of Humane Societies conference.

March 27: VACA President Rob Leinberger co-taught compassion fatigue at Richmond Animal Care & Control

March 28: VACA President Rob Leinberger was the lead speaker at a Chesterfield County community forum about animal laws in Virginia

In April 2015: VACA Vice-President Willie Tydings taught at the ACO Basic Academy in Fredericksburg.

In May 2015: VACA Board members, Kathy Strouse and Rob Leinberger taught at ACO Basic Academy in Prince George.

The VACA Shelter Schools was started in conjunction with the regulating authority of Public Animal Shelters, VDACS. The Goal is to provide professional training to animal care workers that was consistent with laws of the state and the guidelines of the regulating authority. Attendees are instructed on; proper cleaning and disinfecting techniques, proper animal handling, disease recognition and control, developing and following drug protocols and full compliance with all Board of Pharmacy, VDACS and VVMA regulations

VACA actively promotes NACA participation through the use of the VACA website: [www.vacaonline.net](http://www.vacaonline.net) as well as the VACA Facebook page.



**NATIONAL ANIMAL  
CARE & CONTROL ASSOCIATION**



# 2015 OUTSTANDING ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL AGENCY AWARD

*Presented To*  
**STRATFORD ANIMAL CONTROL**  
Stratford, CT

*For outstanding care, compassion, and dedication  
to the citizens and animals that you serve*



What is Stratford Animal Control? A Valuable Community Resource.

All three full-time Animal Control Officers are Certified in NACA Levels 1 & 2. All three ACO's attend continuing education classes every year that far exceeded the required mandatory hours. ACO's Participated on the State of CT subcommittee for the humane treatment of animals in a shelter.

Animal Control is a division of the Stratford Police Department that enforces all State Laws and Town Ordinance related to animals ensuring public safety. They investigate roaming dogs, animal bites, cruelty to animals, animal hoarding situations, barking nuisance, unreasonable tethering or confining of a dog, town defecation ordinance, leash law, valid rabies vaccine, dog license and rabies related wildlife complaints that present an eminent danger to the public. Including Disaster preparedness planning for the community.

All Animal Control Officers received certificates of recognition at a ceremony at Town Hall for their attention to duty and performance during Hurricane Sandy. Not only did they respond to calls and save animals but they slept at and set-up a fully functional co-located animal shelter at the local high school that housed many of the communities and owned animals for 6 days. The ACO's have a disaster plan in place and through grants have two trailers filled with cages and disaster supplies ready to go in the event of a disaster.

They Educate the Public on animal laws and humane animal care. They Place adoptable impounded animals into qualified homes. They have Zero euthanasia for adoptable animals. All animals leaving the facility are spayed/neutered, vaccinated, tested for disease and microchipped. All paid for by donations.

They work with and manage a volunteer force of over 60 people. Continual Fundraising for veterinary costs and care of the impounded animals and Food Pantry - The ACO's regularly have pet food collection days. The food is given to people in need so that they can keep their pets. The volunteer group mandated by the Stratford Town Council, work together on various fund-raisers every month. Animal Control could not function properly without constant fundraising activities such as the Low cost Microchip Clinics. These programs promote responsible pet ownership and returns animals to their owners.

Animal Control Annual Averages: 500+ Animals Impounded, 9000+ Individuals/Families Visit the Facility, 3000+ Animal Control Investigations Handled, \$60,000+ in Donations Raised for Veterinary Costs & Animal Care. Every single impounded animal is examined by a veterinarian, spayed, neutered, vaccinated, microchipped and temperament tested prior to adoption. Only animals that are too sick for treatment or are a danger to the public are euthanized.

When planning the building of the new building the Chief ACO made sure to include a community room. This classrooms gives opportunities for educational programs, volunteers and youth groups. Other activities include: Fundraising Activities, Stratford Animal Control & STARS and operates as a base to coordinate training opportunities for the community and first responders. Meetings and training classes are held here on a regular basis. Mutual Aid The room has been used to host mutual aid meeting for cities and towns within the state. Training has been brought in for these Animal Control Officers.



**NATIONAL ANIMAL  
CARE & CONTROL ASSOCIATION**



# 2015 ANIMAL CARE & CONTROL EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

*Presented To*

## **CPL. PHILLIP KING**

Sevier County Sheriff Animal Control Division, Sevier County, TN

*For your commitment to excellence  
in the animal care & control profession*



Cpl. Phillip King has served in the animal control division at the Sevier County Sheriff Department for 20 plus years.

Cpl. King was the first ACO in Sevier County. Cpl. King has built the division from the ground up. Cpl. King was a one man team for 14 years answering over 4000 calls a year. Cpl. King is one of the best and most dedicated officers I know. His accomplishments are too many to tell...

Cpl. King has successfully worked and charged several animal cruelty cases and never lost a one in court. Cpl. King has worked hard in bringing a professional outlook on our department.

Cpl. King also serves as President of the Tennessee

Animal Control Association, which he helps with providing training and networking with other ACOS in the field.

Cpl. King also is active in helping to get tougher legislation passed in Tennessee for tougher laws on animal cruelty and especially animal fighting. Cpl. King, in 2014, with the help of HSUS, brought down one of the biggest dog fighters in East Tennessee.

For Cpl. King's effort in this matter he was awarded the Humane Law Enforcement Award this past February by the Humane Society of The United States and the National Sheriff Association.

Cpl. King has also started a program with volunteers in giving away dog houses to those who do not have one or needs a better one.

... I hope you can see what Cpl. King means to not only this department but to his community and county. I have worked with Cpl. King for the past 20 plus years and can't say enough about his professionalism and dedication to his job as an ACO. I can't think of an individual who deserves this more than he does!



**NATIONAL ANIMAL  
CARE & CONTROL ASSOCIATION**