



PRESS RELEASE

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The Association of Pet Dog Trainers Announces Award Winners for 2009
Five Individuals Recognized for Excellence in the Field of Dog Training and Behavior

The 2009 award winners will be honored at The Association of Pet Dog Trainers' Annual Educational Conference and Trade Show held in Oakland, California on October 21-25th. Recipients are selected based upon criteria established by a committee composed of volunteer APDT members.

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Named after APDT's founder, the APDT Ian Dunbar Member of the Year Award celebrates the member who exemplifies the APDT vision through their contributions to the organization, and recognizes efforts to uphold the APDT Mission Statement and volunteer work within the APDT community. This year's recipient is **Rebecca Ramsey Fenton** (Yellow Springs, OH).

A member of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers since 1997, Rebecca Ramsey Fenton, CPDT-KA attended her first APDT conference in 2000 and was among the first to pass the CPDT test in 2001. Rebecca offered her services as a Border Collie and has been running in circles ever since.

Rebecca served on the Members Relation and Communication Committee, but found her true calling on the Conference committee where she has served since 2003. She became a Conference staff member in 2005 and in 2008 became the Border Collie Coordinator. The Association of Pet Dog Trainers is extremely important to her and she loves planning for the next conference throughout the year. Building better trainers through education—the APDT motto—is also Rebecca's.

She and her dogs are active volunteers in her community making nursing home and classroom visits and working with the Ohio Reads program. Rebecca began Courteous Canine Companions in 1987. She considers herself an ethologist specializing in canine behavior. Rebecca tries to instill the importance of communicating with the dog, building a relationship of trust through training and management, and making it fun.

Rebecca shares a home near Yellow Springs, Ohio with 3 dogs, 5 cats, numerous turtles, and her husband Ron.

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The APDT Outstanding Trainer of the Year recognizes an APDT member who demonstrates their commitment to the organization by upholding the APDT mission through the use of positive reinforcement training. **Kim Brophey** (Marshall, NC) is this year's recipient.

Kim Brophey, CDBC, CPDT-KA, BA is dedicated to helping owners understand and enjoy their dogs through her down-to-earth, scientific yet realistic approach to the human-canine relationship. She specializes in more serious and complex behavioral issues such as aggression, anxiety and fear.

Kim provides in-home visits for clients through her company The Dog Door Canine Services, LLC and offers consults in two of the well-respected veterinary hospitals in Asheville. She offers free community educational presentations for veterinarians, shelters, colleges and universities, training centers, kennels, and other pet businesses.

Kim acquired a BA in The Applied Relationship Between Human and Animal Behavior in 1999 and has been consulting and training professionally since 2001. She has found a calling to provide a voice to dogs in her own community. Kim is an enthusiastic supporter of the Association of Pet Dog Trainers and is honored to be a part of what APDT stands for.

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In an effort to recognize shelter staff who are committed to using positive training methods to improve the chances of adoption for the dogs in their care, the APDT along with Premier Pet Products established The Premier Shelter Staff Award. This year's recipient is **Mariah Scheskie** (Missoula, MT).

Mariah Scheskie, B.S. is the Program Manager and Lead Trainer for the Humane Society of Western Montana where she has worked for the past five years. She teaches group classes and trains staff members to teach their own classes through the shelter's dog training program. Mariah has worked with special needs animals, fearful dogs rescued from hoarding situations, displaced Katrina dogs and aggressive dogs at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary.

Mariah got her start dog training nine years ago when she adopted Mowgli, an unruly Australian cattle dog. Mowgli guided Mariah in figuring out how to train a reactive, dog selective, highly driven, extremely vocal, obsessive-compulsive cattle dog that guards she who trains her. Mowgli also taught Mariah that the phrase 'where's your ball' can be successfully used in just about any recall situation!

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The Central Life Sciences Comfort Zone Veterinary Technician of the Year recipient for 2009 is **Danielle K. Simmons, AS, CVT** (Clarks Summit, PA).

Danielle Simmons became a Certified Veterinary Technician in 2000 after graduating from Johnsons College. At a veterinary conference in 2004, Danielle learned how clicker training and other positive training techniques could be used in veterinary medicine. Danielle has gone on to study behavior and training and incorporates behavior work to benefit the patients at Abington Veterinary Center.

Danielle has been training her own dogs in agility since 2004. She has recently started teaching puppy classes at the veterinary hospital. She also offers private behavior consultations and training services.

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The Dogwise John Fisher Essay Award honors both John Fisher and the work of writers whom he would have enjoyed reading. John Fisher inspired and enlightened a whole generation of dog owners, trainers and behaviorists with his remarkable insights into dog behavior and his huge, hilarious ability to entertain while sharing his knowledge. The recipient of this year's John Fisher Essay award is **Casey Lomonaco** (Binghamton, NY) Casey Lomonaco, KPA CTP wrote the winning entry in the Dogwise John Fisher Essay Contest. The most memorable training experience of her career is the transformation of her rescued Saint Bernard Montecristo, the star of this year's essay, "I Hope You Dance."

Because Monte's reactivity towards other dogs was significant, Casey believed socialization opportunities greeting other dogs would be out of the question. So watching him greet friendly (but unfamiliar) approaching dogs off leash with a play bow for the first time was a moment the entire family celebrated. Not having any two-legged children of her own, Casey imagines she now understands the pride that parents feel watching their kids graduate or win the state championship! Seeing Monte offer this simple canine communication to other dogs never gets any less exciting. That play bow was and is, without question, the most significant positive reinforcement Casey's encountered thus far in her training career.

In 2008, Casey graduated from the Karen Pryor Academy for Animal Behavior & Training. Casey now instructs group classes at Clicking with Canines, and assists with Karen Pryor Academy workshops. Casey also hosts off leash play groups and is a Dog Scouts of America Troop Leader.

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The Dr. Robert Curran NewTrix Video Award is designed to honor the recipient who creates a short video that describes a training concept or issue. This year's theme was innovative ways to teach clients how to exercise their dogs. This year's recipient is **Emily Larlham** (San Diego, CA).

Emily Larlham began her career in dog training at the San Diego Humane Society, taking care of the quarantined and unadoptable dogs and rooms full of puppies. After teaching classes at

the Humane Society and South Bark Dog Wash, she began her own dog training business, Dogmantics Dog Training.

Emily has combined her degree in Fine Art Media and her passion for training dogs to create a free dog training channel "kikopup" on Youtube. Here she gives tutorials on teaching dogs complex tricks as well as modifying behavior. Emily recently held seminars in Madrid and Barcelona on her clicker training methods.

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Located in Greenville, SC, the APDT is a professional educational organization of trainers who are committed to becoming better trainers through using positive, dog friendly methods based on sound scientific principles. With over 5,000 members worldwide, the APDT strives to provide professional dog trainers with a respected and concerted voice. The APDT promotes caring relationships between dogs and people and works to increase public awareness of dog-friendly training techniques. For more information, visit the APDT Web site at www.apdt.com.

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