

# RSPCA Honours 2012



## Marina Armsby Award

This award is for RSPCA branches and animal centres that can demonstrate the most innovative practices in dog rehoming in the last 12 months. This year's winner is **RSPCA Newport Animal Centre**.

## Anderson Plumbe Award

Given to three RSPCA inspectors, in recognition of special merit and ability. An inspector's work includes collections and rescues, giving advice on complain work and building cases for prosecution.

The winners are:

### **Special Investigations Officer (SIO) Miranda Albinson**

Miranda has been involved in investigating cock fighting, badger baiting, dog fighting and irresponsible dog breeding amongst the traveller community often dealing with the more difficult cases and characters the RSPCA and police come up against.

### **Special Investigations Officer (SIO) Caroline Doe**

Caroline has become the youngest special investigation officer in England and Wales. She submitted 41 prosecution case files last year and is involved with the team which is monitoring live export.

### **Special Investigations Officer (SIO) Helen Bestwick**

Helen has undertaken a number of difficult and challenging investigations, including the organised and deliberate baiting and killing of foxes.

## The Gordon Jones Award

This award is given annually to an inspector with no less than seven years service who has shown outstanding ability, efficiency and devotion to duty.

This year's winner is **Inspector Geoff Edmond** who is not just an inspector, he is also a wildlife officer and as part of his duties he went to West Hatch wildlife centre in Devon last year to help in the cleaning of hundreds of oil-covered manx shearwaters and has even been up the Humber Estuary to help a stranded whale.

## Jeanne McBride Award

This years Jenna McBride award has been given to **Animal Collection Officer (ACO) Zenon Brown** in recognition of special merit and ability.

Zenon completes more collections year in year out than any other officer in his group and has carried out rescues from ducks tangled in fishing line, to injured foxes, cats involved in road traffic collisions to pigeons stuck in netting.

## Dave Millard Award

Presented to **Inspector Nicola Thorne**, for investigating an intricate and sensitive case against a couple who ran a dog training business for pet owners. The training techniques used by the couple meant that dogs were being subjected to pain. Thanks to Nicola's meticulous attention to detail the defendants pleaded guilty to seven offences relating to the failure to ensure the welfare of the dogs.

## Queen Victoria Gold Medal

The RSPCA's highest meritorious award is presented to members of the RSPCA in recognition of particularly long and valued service.

The winners are:

**David Grant**, who served with the RSPCA for 25 years until his retirement last month. David's specialises in dermatology and has written many scientific papers on the subject including a student text book for small animal dermatology. More recently, David has spoken out about the problem of irresponsible dog breeding and ownership and provided veterinary insight into the problem.

**Pat Monk, RSPCA Suffolk East and Ipswich Branch** who has been involved with her branch in Felixstowe for forty years. She became involved with the branch 40 years ago as a house to house collector and soon took over the coordinator role, recruiting a small army of dedicated volunteers to assist her.

## The Queen Victoria Silver Medal

Presented to **Kathy Kay, RSPCA Bolton branch**, in recognition of her long and meritorious service. Kathy is involved in every aspect of branch affairs, including finances, staff management, fundraising and hands-on animal welfare, which means dealing with road traffic accidents, rescues, rehoming and running a mobile animal welfare clinic.

## Charlotte Wright Award

The Charlotte Wright Award has been awarded to 14-year-old **Louisa Ingleton** for supporting her local RSPCA Branch. Louisa helps out with the coffee mornings which help raise money for the branch. She has recorded her own short films about animal welfare that she is allowed to show in school and has shown an enthusiasm and commitment to animal welfare.

## Regional Media Award

Birmingham Mail received this award for an outstanding and sustained contribution to the field of animal. The Birmingham Mail is an extremely supportive newspaper which covers a vast array of stories for the RSPCA, from animal centre rehoming appeals to inspectorate court cases.

## National Media Award

**John Curran** was awarded the National Media Award for his outstanding and sustained contribution to the field of animal welfare in his role as a journalist. He has been in close contact with the RSPCA press office for several years and given much of his own time to support our animal welfare work.

## William Wilberforce Award

**Dr Ssuna, Lilongwe Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (LSPCA)** was given the William Wilberforce Award for his work to further the link between human and animal welfare. Dr Ssuna started working with the LSPCA when it was established in 2008 and became the Programmes Director in 2009. Under Dr Ssuna's guidance, the LSPCA is now at the forefront of animal welfare in Malawi.

## European Animal Welfare Award in memory of Michael Kay

Given to **Dr Lorraine Docherty, Mona-UK** in recognition of services to European Animal Welfare with The Mona Foundation, which works to end the exploitation of primates in captivity.

## Elsie MJ Evans Bronze Award

Awarded to **Robert Fuller**, a wildlife artist, who was brought up in the countryside and loved photographing wild animals in action. One day Robert Fuller's skills as a photographer secured a conviction for a terrible act of badger baiting.

## Lord Erskine Silver Award

Awarded to **Lucy Fensome, Safe Haven for Donkeys in the Holy Land** who gave up her job with British Airways and set off for Israel where she rented a farm that now serves as a safe and permanent home for 152 donkeys and horses.

## The Richard Martin Gold Award

The Richard Martin Gold Award was given to **Doris Day, Doris Day Animal League**.

Doris up her own animal shelter, the Doris Day Pet Foundation in the late 1970s and would carry pictures around with her of all the animals in new care to share them with other people in order to find these pets new homes. As word got round, the actress found she had more and more animals left with her. Every new placement she arranged was a great accomplishment but it became overwhelming. It got her thinking and she decided she wanted to make a difference at the heart of the problem of pet overpopulation.

She set up Doris Day Animal League which later merged into the US Humane Society. The Doris Day Animal League would deal with the big legislative issues directly with the president and congress. Doris was on the phone, dictating letters and speaking to everyone who would listen. Recognising the power of the voter with elected officials, the Doris Day Animal League became one of the most powerful forces on Capitol Hill for the sake of animals.

## Special Investigation Award

Recently retired Northumberland **Police wildlife officer Andrew Swinburn** was involved in many RSPCA investigations over the years and offered a great deal of support to the local officers.

The support from police officers like Andrew Swinburn helps RSPCA inspectors fill in the missing pieces of a case. With increasing pressures on them to deliver their own results, it's even more important to us to know there are police officers like Andrew Swinburn to help us with cases that otherwise we'd have to close unresolved.