

Salt Lake County Animal Services **Wins 2010 Best of State Award**

Animal shelter given high regards for going the extra mile for homeless pets

Salt Lake County, UT - Salt Lake County Animal Services will be receiving a 2010 Utah Best of State Medal Award for its work and achievements in the Community Development Category.

“It is an honor to receive this recognition by the Best of State committee” says Shawni Larrabee, Director of Salt Lake County Animal Services. “This is often a tough job and this type of recognition is greatly appreciated by the staff, volunteers and community partners that have dedicated themselves to changing the fate of lost and abandoned pets entering the county shelter.”

“New programs and a focused determination to promote shelter pet adoptions have resulted in a continued downward trend in the number of animals euthanized at the Salt Lake County shelter” says Larrabee. These programs include Salt Lake County’s FREE Cat Adoptions, the Salt Lake County Pit Crew and TNR (Trap-Neuter and Return) program for feral cats. “All of these programs have shown a significant impact on increasing the live release rate at the shelter,” says Larrabee.

Larrabee also says that SLCo Animal Services takes pride in developing strong relationships with local rescues and volunteers as well as partnering on programs with groups such as Best Friends Animal Society and No More Homeless Pets in Utah. “These relationships are critical to our efforts, and the response from the community has been amazing,” she says.

The Best of State Awards were created in 2003 to recognize outstanding individuals, organizations and businesses in Utah. Best of State candidates are evaluated by a panel of 100 judges based on three criteria: achievement in the field of endeavor; innovation or creativity in approaches, techniques, methods or processes; and contribution to improving the quality of life in Utah.

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