



Animal Welfare Lifetime Achievement Award

Established July, 2017

Animal welfare is a critical part of modern professional animal care, and there are many animals that have benefited from the dedication of animal welfare practitioners. Individuals within the AZA community who have moved the field of animal welfare forward through implementation, research, education, veterinary care and professional development that improves animal lives deserve to and should be recognized. The Animal Welfare Individual Leadership Award honors a person who significantly influences the quality of animals' lives through long-term personal commitment to the field of animal welfare. The significant contributions can be in the form of animal management, professional development, education, research, and/or exhibit design. Only one recipient can be honored in any given year, and since the award criteria are lofty, it is anticipated that the award will not be given every year.

To qualify for consideration, a candidate must unquestionably meet the following standards:

1. The candidate is/was a member of AZA in good-standing at the time of their contributions to animal welfare, and as such may be active or retired.
2. The candidate must have demonstrated impeccable character, and a distinguished record of honorable service to the association throughout his or her career.
3. The candidate must be strongly committed to enhancing welfare programs through scientific research, professional development, education and awareness, program implementation, and/or exhibit design within the AZA-accredited zoo and aquarium community.
4. The candidate must have made outstanding contributions to the advancement of animal welfare in the AZA-accredited zoo and aquarium profession, as represented by scholarly publications and presentations, animal care manuals and other AZA animal welfare materials, accreditation standards, professional development courses, institutional and association leadership, implementation of evidence-based animal welfare best practices *ex situ* or *in situ*, and/or other tangible and measurable achievements.

Rationale:

AZA values superior animal husbandry practices and recognizes that they are directly related to the advanced level of animal welfare maintained within its Accredited Zoos and Aquariums, Certified Related Facilities, and Sustainability Partners. In 2000, AZA established an Animal Welfare Committee to promote great welfare for animals in AZA-accredited zoos and aquariums, by assisting member institutions in identifying and applying best practices in animal welfare and through promoting advances in animal welfare science and programs.

The AZA Animal Welfare Committee defines Animal Welfare as an animal's collective physical, mental, and emotional states over a period of time, and is measurable on a continuum from good to poor. In addition, AZA enforces numerous accreditation standards related to animal welfare, and supports many scientific centers and advisory groups such as behavior, endocrinology, and nutrition focused on factors known to impact animal welfare. Establishment of an award for animal welfare leadership will acknowledge AZA's collective expertise and emphasize to the public AZA's commitment to evidence-based animal care and management leading to the highest levels of animal welfare.

Criteria

1. Significant authorship of original, peer-reviewed, scientific publications and/or national/international presentations regarding animal welfare within the community that have led to positive changes in the welfare of animals.
2. Significant contribution to animal care manuals, other AZA animal welfare materials (e.g., white papers, connect articles, my academy, etc.), AZA Professional Development classes, AZA committee goals and objectives, and/or accreditation standards.
3. The candidate has taken evidence or research results and implemented changes in the practices of animal management that lead to measured benefits in welfare within the zoo and aquarium community and/or in the field.
4. The candidate's mentoring of students, interns, post-docs, staff and/or colleagues that has contributed to the advancement of the field of animal welfare within and beyond AZA.
5. The candidate has been actively involved in the support and promotion of animal welfare within AZA.
6. The candidate has significantly contributed to animal health and/or care practices that have had positive impacts on individual animal welfare. This can include outstanding achievement in enrichment and training practices.
7. The candidate has led the design of exhibits that have had demonstrated positive impacts on the welfare of the individual animals inhabiting them.

Judging/Evaluation of the Award:

1. The AZA Animal Welfare Committee will be responsible for evaluating nominations for the award.
2. To avoid conflicts of interest due to collaboration and/or co-authorship, the AWC Chair and/or Vice-Chair will select a group of at least 5 but no more than 7 members of the committee to judge award nominations. In the event that not enough AWC committee members are eligible to judge, the AWC chair will select qualified judges from the AZA membership.

Submission Requirements:

1. Two letters of nomination. Letter must outline how the nominee meets the eligibility requirements and evaluation criteria. Letters should emphasize how the nominee's work has influenced animal welfare within the zoo and aquarium community. One of the letters may come from the nominee.
2. Complete CV/Resume accompanied by Cover Letter.
3. Evidence demonstrating how the nominee's body of work meets the award criteria (documents, policies, plans, manuals, etc.).

Please send the completed nomination to Barbara Pueschel (bpueschel@aza.org) or by mail to the AZA office: 8403 Colesville Road, Suite 710, Silver Spring, MD 20910 by June 1.