



Oxford Animal Control Officer Edward Hart Named “ACO of the Year”

Auburn, MA – The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) and the Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (MSPCA) are proud to announce that Oxford Animal Control Officer (ACO) Edward Hart has been named Animal Control Officer of the Year for 2023.

ARL and MSPCA established the ACO of the Year award to honor an animal control officer whose efforts in their local community throughout the year have promoted responsible pet ownership by:

- manifesting a dedicated, humane attitude toward the treatment and well-being of all animals
- effectively enforcing pet responsibility laws
- conducting public awareness and humane education programs
- maintaining cooperative working relationships with other agencies involved with animals, such as state and local government departments, other ACOs, and animal protection groups

The award was recently presented at the annual banquet held by the Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts.

Hart’s nominations for ACO of the Year included a number of accolades, heralding his dedication to animals, his humility and dedication.

Nominations came in from the town of Oxford, the town of Webster, the International Fund for Animal Welfare, and others. Ed was commended for his proactive nature. For example, during hot weather, he checks out parking lots to ensure no dogs are at risk. He also routinely visits the dog park to build relationships with dog owners (with treats for the dogs).

Ed also has extensive experience helping in disasters, having traveled the world to help animals and people at risk, such as on the border of Poland and Ukraine. He has brought his expertise home, and helped with the disaster respond to the Webster tornado a few years ago. He has also been active in SMART, the State of Massachusetts Animal Rescue Team.

When the town of Webster was without an animal control officer, Ed helped provide coverage to ensure animals and people were still met with services. He also worked to establish and re-invent Webster’s animal control program and helped them interview potential ACOs.

“It’s always an honor for ARL and MSPCA to be able to recognize the contributions of those on the front lines with the ACO of the Year Award” said Allison Blanck, director of advocacy for ARL. “Ed goes above and beyond in providing education and resources. He truly supports animal welfare and helps those in his community.”

“We are excited to recognize Ed as the ACO of the Year. He exemplifies the traits ARL and MSPCA look for each year in an ACO,” stated Kara Holmquist, director of advocacy for the MSPCA.

Photo attached:



Kelly Flynn, Oxford ACO; Kara Holmquist, MSPCA Jennifer Callahan, Oxford Town Manager; Anthony P. Saad, Oxford Police (Ret.); Allison Blanck, Animal Rescue League of Boston

ABOUT the ANIMAL RESCUE LEAGUE OF BOSTON:

The Animal Rescue League of Boston (ARL) is an unwavering champion for animals in need, committed to keeping them safe and healthy in habitats and homes. Founded in 1899, ARL provides high-quality veterinary care, adoption, and rescue services; while also confronting the root causes of animal cruelty and neglect through innovative community programs, police investigations, and public advocacy. In 2021, ARL served over 23,000 animals throughout Massachusetts. ARL is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. The Animal Rescue League of Boston does not receive government grants or public funding and relies on the generosity of our supporters to help animals in need. For more information please visit us online at arlboston.org; and be sure to follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/arlboston), [Twitter](https://twitter.com/arlboston), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/arlboston).

ABOUT MSPCA-ANGELL:

The MSPCA-Angell is a national and international leader in animal protection and veterinary medicine and provides direct hands-on care for thousands of animals each year. Founded in 1868, it is the second-oldest humane society in the United States. Services include animal protection and adoption, advocacy, humane education, law enforcement, and world-class veterinary care. The MSPCA-Angell is a private, non-profit organization. It does not receive any government funding nor is it funded or operated by any national humane organization. The MSPCA-Angell relies solely on the support and contributions from individuals who care about animals. Please visit www.mspca.org and like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mspcaangell

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