



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Local Resident Anne Grzywacz Earns Volunteer of the Year Award for Animal Welfare
Michigan Pet Alliance Honors Animal Welfare Organizations, Shelters, Volunteers

September 8, 2022, St. Clair Shores, Michigan – Today, Michigan Pet Alliance (MPA) proudly announces that Anne Grzywacz, Ph.D., CPDT-KA, CBCC-KA, St. Clair Shores, Michigan, is the recipient of the Karen Brocklehurst Volunteer of the Year Award.

“This annual award honors a nominated individual who gives selflessly of their time volunteering in various aspects of animal welfare and who takes every opportunity to learn and know more,” said Joe Dobesh, MPA CEO. “It was encouraging to see how many volunteers in Michigan are worthy of this award, but in the end, the nomination for Anne surpassed all others.”

Grzywacz has spent the last 13 years studying, practicing and teaching all aspects of dog behavior. She earned her Ph.D. in psychology with a focus in animal behavior and cognition, and she has been volunteering in animal rescue since 2005. Grzywacz has hosted animal behavior workshops for the staff of boarding kennels, dog daycares, shelters and rescues to help them develop or improve their own training programs and policies for safe animal handling, including identifying stress in dogs and how best to alleviate stress and anxiety.

Grzywacz’s official role with nonprofit Paws for Life Rescue, Troy, Mich., is director of dog behavior and training, but her contributions extend far beyond that. Grzywacz has assisted with TNR community cat projects, fostered behaviorally difficult cats and participated in the Jackson Galaxy Cat Training Program. She serves as a mentor to new volunteers and schedules shadowing and training opportunities for anyone who wants to learn more, so they can do more.

“I am extremely honored to receive an award in Karen’s name,” said Grzywacz. “Karen and I worked closely together for seven years prior to her passing. I am humbled and grateful to receive an award that commemorates the work and dedication of such an amazing soul. I hope that Karen’s life’s dedication to speak for those who cannot speak for themselves serves as motivation to us all to get involved and to help however we can. Karen helped however she could, wherever she could, for as long as she could - even when she was ill.

“I hope to follow in her footsteps and serve these deserving animals for as long as I possibly can, among the best team of volunteers and people that I know. Thank you again to Michigan Pet Alliance for naming this award in her honor - it is truly a gift to all of us that know and love Karen, present tense.”

Grzywacz has built a reputation throughout southeast Michigan as a skilled, talented, certified dog trainer who specializes in force-free, fear-free methods, providing behavior modification to homeless dogs suffering from reactivity and/or anxiety. Her willingness to share her knowledge and to teach others saves lives.

“Education and advocacy are pillars of our mission, to speak with one voice to improve lifesaving and standards of care for our state’s pets,” said Deborah Schutt, MPA chairperson. “Anne is one of our members who exemplifies these qualities in support of our mission.”

Anne, husband Joe Grzywacz, daughter Hadley and dogs reside in St. Clair Shores and are expecting a new family member next month.

Michigan Pet Alliance, 2210 Lancaster Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302
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2022 award categories and recipients:

Karen Brocklehurst Volunteer of the Year

Anne Grzywacz, Ph.D., CPDT-KA, CBCC-KA, St. Clair Shores

Elected Official's Friend of Homeless Animals Award

Representative Tommy Brann, Kent County

Community Outreach Program: \$3,000 grant

Wishbone Pet Rescue Alliance, Douglas

Best Friend to Dogs Award

Jennifer Clarkson, Bloomfield

Fundraising Program: \$2,000 grant

Paws for Life Rescue, Troy

Best Friend to Cats Award

Cheryl Phillips, Northville

On-Site Cat Training Grants: \$1,000 value to each

Little Traverse Bay Humane Society, Harbor Springs

Upper Peninsula Animal Welfare Shelter, Gwinn

Grant awards are made possible thanks to the generosity of the Humane Society of Macomb Foundation. Nominations and submissions are judged blindly by a committee of MPA members. Volunteer of the Year is bestowed annually to a nominated MPA member. The recipient receives a \$100 gift card in addition to the award. For more information on the 2022 awards program, nominations and recipients, visit www.michiganpet.org.

Karen Brocklehurst Volunteer of the Year Award

Karen Brocklehurst was a jack-of-all-trades volunteer who spent her life giving back to Michigan's animal welfare community. She took every opportunity to attend conferences and workshops. Karen appreciated that the more she knew, the more she could do. Karen didn't fill just one volunteer role, she pitched in everywhere - from fundraising and partnership building to dog walking and foster care. Karen was the reliable, go-to volunteer who answered every call for help. Karen embodied every characteristic that an animal welfare organization hopes for in a volunteer. In 2021, Karen passed away after a long battle with cancer. It is in her memory and in honor of her legacy that Michigan Pet Alliance recognizes and awards a volunteer who exemplifies that same spirit, passion and dedication for homeless pets. This award is given annually to a nominated MPA member and the recipient receives a \$100 gift card in addition to the award.

Michigan Pet Alliance

Michigan's only professional trade association of animal welfare organizations, the mission of Michigan Pet Alliance is to work in collaboration and to speak with a single voice to eliminate abuse and neglect of Michigan's companion animals and to save all healthy and treatable homeless companion animals through training, technical assistance, education and advocacy. For more information, please visit MichiganPet.org and follow @MichiganPetAlliance on Facebook.

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