**This Award will be presented at the APDT Australia** **Conference, 12-15 October 2023.**

Applications will be judged by an independent judge whose decision will be final and entries remain the property of APDT Australia Inc. If you do not wish to submit an application for yourself, please encourage other members who you feel meet the criteria, to apply.

The **successful applicant will be notified by 10th July 2023** to allow time for them to make arrangements to attend the APDT Australia Conference 2023 in Hunter Valley, NSW.

**About the Award:**

**The Susan Wilkins Achievement Award** acknowledges the pivotal role of the late Susan Wilkins in establishing the Association of Pet Dog Trainers Australia, as its founding member, its Newsletter Editor and its Publicity Officer.

After reading several books by Ian Dunbar back in the early 90s, Susan was greatly influenced by his training methods and particularly interested in the Association Ian had established in the USA, which she promptly joined in 1995.

Susan decided that a similar forum where information could be shared amongst all trainers, Australia wide, was needed. Susan recognised that many trainers were missing out on important educational opportunities. As a result, APDT Australia was founded in late 1997.

Susan wrote a history of APDT in 2004 and concluded by saying:

*“My great hope is that trainers actively share the information they gain from attending conferences/workshops or even just from their own experiences. Everyone can benefit and it results in a kinder way to train through a thorough understanding of dogs, then APDT will be achieving its objectives.”*

**The Susan Wilkins Achievement Award** is one way for Susan’s ‘great hope’ to be realised.

The Award aims to acknowledge other APDT Australia members who are making significant contributions to pet dog welfare and the betterment of dogs’ lives.

***\*Applicants (and those nominating another member) must be financial Members of APDT Australia to be eligible for this Award.***

***\*\* APDT Australia Committee Members are ineligible to nominate for or receive this Award.***

**The winner of this award will receive:**

* **3-day registration to attend APDT’s Australia’s Conference 2023\***
* **A cheque for $500**
* **An Award Certificate**
* **An Award Trophy**
* **A Profile in the APDT Australia *Click!* magazine**

**Criteria:**

Your application should explain why you should be considered for the Award.

Some examples or relevant achievements are:

* Operating ‘dog day’ educational events for schools or local councils.
* Working with local council to improve dog services in the community.
* Introducing positive reinforcement training to a dog club.
* Establishing a leash free area and offering education to owners.
* Furthering education for dog owners be? free articles in local newspapers, regular radio appearances, handouts at vet clinics or educational nights.
* Volunteering or working at a shelter as a trainer or walker, or for initiatives taken to improve the welfare of shelter dogs.

**Submitting your Application:**

Applications must be submitted in electronic format on the “**Susan Wilkins Achievement Award 2023 Application Form”** which is available for download from the APDT Australia website – [www.apdt.org.au](http://www.apdt.org.au)(or from the Awards Coordinator at awards@apdt.com.au)

**Send your completed application for the Susan Wilkins Achievement Award 2023 by email to -** awards@apdt.com.au

**Applications for the Susan Wilkins Achievement Award close on 31st May 2023**

***Any application received after the deadline date will not be eligible to be considered for the Susan Wilkins Achievement Award 2023***

**In recognition of significant contributions made to pet dog welfare and the improvement of dogs’ lives.**

**NOTE:** Applicants (and those nominating another member) must be financial members of APDT Australia.

**Applications close: 31st May 2023**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applicant’s name |  |
| Address |  |
| Email address |  |
| Phone (Home/work) |  | Mobile |  |
| APDT Membership number |  |

## REASON/S FOR APPLICATION:

## *Please complete the relevant sections below. If necessary, you may attach a separate sheet of paper with comments/relevant information supporting the application. (Please do not exceed 300 words in any one section).*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Type of contribution | Describe your contribution and length of service |
| Voluntary work with local councilCouncil name: |  |
| Dog Club volunteer Dog club name: |  |
| Shelter workerShelter name: |  |
| Shelter volunteerShelter name: |  |
| Other:Organisation name: |  |
| Other:Organisation name: |  |

**References**

Please supply two references in support of your application. Suggestions might be Council Officers, shelter managers, other dog club members or instructors, local veterinarians, etc.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Referee’s name and position** |  |
| **Relationship to applicant** |  |
| **Email** |  | Phone |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Referee’s name and position** |  |
| **Relationship to applicant** |  |
| **Email** |  | Phone |  |

Referees may write up to 200 words in support of the application. Written references should be attached to this form.

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***\*\* APDT Australia Committee Members are ineligible to nominate for or receive this Award.***

## Email your completed application to: awards@apdt.com.au

## Closing date: 31st May 2023