

SHELTER REFORM
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2010 MAGGIE AWARD
AMERICA'S BEST ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

April 15, 2010

Dear Officer Millwood,

It is with great delight that we at Shelter Reform are giving the 2010 Maggie Award for America's Best Animal Control Officer to an exceptionally deserving individual. This award is truly unique in what it celebrates, and we want you to know exactly how unique it is.

This is National Animal Control Appreciation Week, during which you and your fellow officers are rightfully being recognized by your community for your sacrifices in a difficult line of work. Although presentation of the Maggie Award coincides with this annual event, the award goes far beyond the scope of this commemorative week.

Your work ethic is acknowledged by your peers and your employer, who day-to-day see your dedication and how hard you work. But the Maggie Award focuses on something different, something that can't be measured by your peers or employer.

The Maggie Award is not based on the opinion of your peers or your employers, nor can it be. It's not based on the fact that we're observing the one week that animal control officers are officially recognized. The award you are receiving today, thanks to the good offices of Chief Burns acting on our behalf, should excite true civic pride for all citizens of Macon. This award means that you've passed muster with the one group whose standards are impossibly high, the one group who looks for nearly superhuman consistency when it comes to compassion for the animals in their community. Your local animal advocates and rescue groups in Macon were all willing to go on record with Shelter Reform and stand behind your work with absolutely no reservations. No qualifications. No exceptions. And this, Nathan, is nothing short of extraordinary.

As winner of the 2010 Maggie Award, you've become an example of what your profession can aspire to, an example that extends beyond Macon. You're part of the success story that Macon is becoming, so that Macon can become a light to other cities as it pursues an uncompromising vision of compassionate treatment for its animals. The power of a good example can never be overestimated, which is why we've asked Chief Burns to be our hands today in remitting the 2010 Maggie Award to you.

The final proof that this award is unique is the fact that the local rescue groups and animal advocates are celebrating it with you. Never take this for granted, because bridging the gaps between volunteers, advocates, shelter staff, and rescuers is the key to your city's future.

Congratulations on your achievement, Nathan, and for quietly building bridges where most people get mired only in passionate conflict.

The founders, staff, and advisors of Shelter Reform