



OHIO COUNTY
DOG WARDENS ASSOCIATION

OCDWA

"STRIVING TO BE MAN'S & DOG'S BEST FRIEND"

The Ohio County Dog Warden Association presented our 2020 awards at the Association's annual meeting on December 10th.

President's Award

The President's Award is given to an individual who has supported OCDWA, its members and our profession. The 2020 President's Award recipient is Todd McCullough. Todd is a past Chief Dog Warden for Fairfield County. While he was the Fairfield County Chief Dog Warden, Todd served as the Southeast representative to the Ohio County Dog Warden Association. He was instrumental in setting up the current OCDWA web site. Todd has been involved in the OCDWA legislative committee testifying on bills on behalf of the association before the Ohio House of Representatives. He left the Dog Warden position earlier in 2020 to take another position in Fairfield County Government but has stayed in touch with the OCDWA offering assistance in several areas including a survey of the members that he presented in a virtual meeting.

Agency of the Year

This award is given to a current County member of OCDWA. Selection criterion for this award includes participation in training programs for personnel, outstanding/innovative public education programs, active community involvement, and participation and support of OCDWA functions. This year's agency has been an active agency with OCDWA for many years and during that time overcome many obstacles. This agency has developed and implemented a number of programs to assist and support the constituents of the county, including:

- Animal awareness program – a divergence program that was developed to include a class offered to dog owners receiving a minor misdemeanor citation where the defendant may voluntarily register for the course in lieu of going to court.



- Dog safety program with the USPS.
- Improved working relationships with local police departments
- Live release rate – 2019 had a grim 55%-60% however after great strides, improved community relations and great staff dedication this agency is almost 92% for 2020. This is an increased rate of about 37%!

We believe it goes without saying the hard work and dedication of this agency is commendable and as such Montgomery County Animal Resource Center was the recipient of the 2020 Agency of the Year.

Dog Warden of the Year

This award is given to an individual that exemplifies professionalism and service as a Dog Warden for his/her community. Recipients may be nominated for a single outstanding achievement in animal control, or for long-term exceptional performance in the animal control field. This dog warden began his current role in 2015 but brings over 25 years of experience and expertise to the animal welfare field and position as a dog warden. His motto is firm, but fair, as he is strong on the enforcement of the ORC.

He has brought changes to his county to better housing, improving the outward image and having commendable statistics. Including:

- Lowering length of stay to an average of 6.4 days
- Increasing live release rates to almost 91%
- Increased RTO rates to 41.5%

This dog warden has had a career in more than one county, has been actively involved in OCDWA, and a true leader amongst his peers. We believe that he has been a mentor to many and helped others in the industry more than he may ever realize. This year's Dog Warden of the Year was presented to Dave Shellhouse.