

The AAZK Jean M. Hromadka Excellence in Animal Care Award

The purpose of the American Association of Zoo Keepers Jean M. Hromadka Excellence in Animal Care Award is to recognize achievement and determination of an individual or team in the animal care field and in fostering professionalism. Animal care is a science combining zoology, biology, animal management, animal welfare, behavioral observation and daily record keeping on the species in their care. This is essential knowledge for maintaining a species effectively in captivity. The excellent animal care professional must excel in one or more of these areas.

The AAZK Jean M. Hromadka Excellence in Animal Care Award is named in memory of her outstanding contributions to the furtherance of AAZK through her work as President of the Association. This award is presented at the annual AAZK National Conference.

Qualifications

- An individual member of AAZK, a team from a zoological institution, or a chartered AAZK chapter, in good standing, are eligible to be nominated for this award.
- The nominee(s) **must** be Professional Members of AAZK, in good standing, and full-time animal care professionals working in any North American zoological institution or organization.
- The nominee(s) **must** have been employed at least three (3) years on permanent status at the same zoo, aquarium or related facility.
- The nominee(s) **must** be nominated by his or her peers who have also been employed at the same zoo, aquarium or related facility. Management personnel from the same institution may submit supporting nominations.

Nomination Procedure

- Complete the nomination form which includes the nominee's name, position and years of service in the field, institution's name, address, phone and director and the recommendation of peers and colleagues.
- List and **document** commitment to the profession, outstanding achievements, practical/outstanding application of knowledge and experience, and keeper skills, etc.
- List any extra activities outside of the zoo, aquarium or related facility work: e.g. working with conservation groups, youth, wildlife officials, etc.

- Completed nomination packet (nomination form and supporting documents) may be submitted beginning January 1st and no later than the deadline: **MAY 1st** of each year.

Verification of the nomination requires a signature from the Director/CEO of the facility or their representative.

Selection Procedure

The Awards Committee members will independently review each nominee.

The **winner** of the Jean M. Hromadka Excellence in Animal Care Award **receives a cash award in the amount of \$500.00, endowed by a generous donation through the Lutz Ruhe Family Educational Trust** for AAZK. The award is endowed by the Lutz Ruhe Trust primarily to aid winners in making travel and registration arrangements to attend the AAZK National Conference in the year of their award, to receive the award and be recognized in person at a gathering of their peers.