



The USKBTC-Charitable Funds Kerry It Forward Award



Since 2010 Annually Honoring the Kerry Blue Terrier's Canine-Humanitarian Contribution to Society and the Individual

Jann Mackenzie Steel Lane, PhD, Kerry It Forward Award

In 2010, Bob Nazak and I believed that the Kerry Blue Terrier provided a special contribution to our Kerry breed community that had not been recognized. That contribution was its heart and its desire to give back, beyond its devotion to its owners. Today, sadly, Bob and Martha Nazak are no longer with us, but would be pleased to know that we continue to honor members of our breed who share their special gifts of the heart.

The love of a Kerry Blue Terrier is a special gift we are all fortunate to have experienced. However, there are some Kerries who choose to share that gift in special ways with their family members or with others facing life challenges, outside the family. The **Kerry It Forward Award** honors those Kerries who demonstrate the canine humanitarian bond in these exceptional ways. The award is not a competition; there can be as many recipients as Kerries that qualify. The application can also be found on the USKBTC Website or you may email me at drlane@mackenziesteel.com with **Kerry It Forward** in the subject line. Thank you all for your past and current service to our Kerry community. The four categories in which a Kerry may qualify are:

1. Service Dog:

Service or assistance dogs are trained to assist individuals with meeting special needs on a daily basis; these needs can be physical, psychological and/or emotional; examples include hearing, sight service dogs and medical alert response dogs who alert their human companions to seizures and other medical emergencies;

2. Therapy Dog:

Therapy dogs are trained to provide care and comfort to owners, patients and residents in medical care facilities, retirement communities and shelters; Examples include retirement communities; senior centers; veterans homes, military hospitals; healthcare facilities, hospitals, hospice, and medical care facilities; children's hospitals, rehabilitation centers such as shelters for homeless, battered women and children; military and veterans' hospitals and recovery centers for wounded soldiers.

3. Educational Service/Therapy Dog :

Educational Service Dogs or therapy dogs work with children in public and private schools in academic and special needs areas; Programs can include but are not limited to the Bite Avoidance programs in schools and organizations such as The Boys and Girls Clubs; Canine-Assisted Reading Programs in Schools and Libraries; Safety School Crossing Program; Programs include Kerries teaching children how to interact and build a positive relationship with dogs;

4. Exemplary Companion Dog /Act of Exemplary Performance:

The Exemplary Companion Dog is the Kerry who has performed a one-time event of an exemplary act; exhibited companionship to an individual under exemplary circumstances (Example: saving a life; saving family members from a fire in the home or acted as a companion to a person who is terminally ill; protected owner from a mugger or intruder) Other examples of exemplary performance include Kerries who

serve in search and rescue, or work with military, firefighters and police in security and rescue.

Award Criteria:

1. The dog must be a purebred Kerry Blue Terrier;
2. The dog must be nominated by a member of the USKBTC to receive the award/recognition; the owner(s) of the dog does not need to be a member of the USKBTC to receive the award/recognition;
3. Through 2012, AKC and other certification registry requirements for the applicant are waived; after which a minimum of AKC-PAL registration will be required; additional requirements for certification may be added per award category, as necessary.

Award:

- Each qualified recipient who contributes in one area receives a Level I Certificate and Medallion;
- Each qualified recipient who contributes in two areas receives a Level II Certificate and Medallion;
- Each qualified recipient who contributes in three areas or more receives a Level III Certificate and Medallion

Recognition:

Each recipient will be recognized in Blueprints; on the USKBTC website, and the USKBEC annual meeting or at a USKBTC Specialty of their choice if requested.