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Contact: Denise Mikita, MS, CVT  
Executive Director  
Phone: 303.318.0652  
Email: [info@cacvt.com](mailto:info@cacvt.com)

Contact: Troy Bowman  
Administrator  
Phone: 303.318.0652  
Email: [admin@cacvt.com](mailto:admin@cacvt.com)

### CACVT Announces CACVT Technician of the Year and CACVT Veterinarian of the Year

Colorado Association of Certified Veterinary Technicians (CACVT) announced the recipients of several awards to the general membership at the CACVT 2009 Annual Spring Conference, held at The Ranch in Loveland, Colorado, on Saturday, April 25, 2009.

*The CACVT Technician of the Year* award was given to Elizabeth "Liz" Peach, a Certified Veterinary Technician (CVT) at the Humane Society of Boulder Valley ([www.boulderhumane.org](http://www.boulderhumane.org)).

Each year, nominations are submitted for a CVT who has gone above and beyond the call of duty, and performs his/her job in a highly competent and professional manner. It is also based on the overall attitude that the technician has – about projecting a love of the job of caring for animals, being compassionate toward animal owners, and showing it every day. It's about people skills and animal magnetism (literally).

Liz's nominations included praise for her on-going service to under-served/developing countries helping animals, through her work with Animal Balance, a non-profit agency that organizes spay/neuter clinics in the Dominican Republic and Galapagos Islands, Ecuador. They also remarked about her exceptional skills, patience and clarity when speaking with concerned clients.

During the announcement of this year's winner, Amy Johnson, CVT, CACVT's president, stated to the membership, "Because she is such an exceptional role model for the profession, and her dedication to making animals and people happier is evident, the 2009 CACVT Veterinary Technician of the year award goes to Liz Peach."

The category of “Honorable Mention” was added this year. “We had many good applicants this year and want to thank people for submitting their nominations,” said Ms. Johnson. “We decided to choose an “Honorable Mention” in addition to the Technician of the Year, as two candidates really stood out,” she added.

The award was presented to Tina Bennett, CVT. Her co-workers at Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital stated that not only is Tina a highly skilled technician, she is an advocate for the veterinary profession on every level – always raising the standard for patient care and client service.

“Tina believes strongly in the certification process as well as the advancement of technicians,” the nomination read. “She promotes veterinary technicians through teaching and mentoring and does so with a positive, encouraging attitude. She also provides compassionate, humane, and comprehensive care to our patients while providing superior service to our clients.”

For the final award – *CACVT Veterinarian of the Year* – the award was presented to Dr. Don Ostwald, Jr. This award is presented annually to an outstanding Veterinarian who recognizes and utilizes technicians. The criteria for nomination is based on (1) promotion of the technician field through proper utilization, (2) encouragement of technicians through Continuing Education and membership, and (3) acknowledgement of technicians' work through incentive/bonus programs.

Doctor Oswald is Board-Certified in Canine and Feline General Practice and is one of the owners of the Wheat Ridge Animal Hospital. In citing Dr. Oswald’s contributions to the CVT’s who work in his practice, one technician stated, “Dr. Ostwald places great value on his technicians and utilizes them in every capacity – from exam room assistance, client education, appointment scheduling, anesthesia, and assistance with procedures. He not only utilizes his technicians, but he believes in giving them the tools they need to succeed and become more knowledgeable, therefore making them more well-rounded and educated technicians.”

Another CVT remarked, “Dr. Ostwald not only focuses on the professional development of his technicians, but he also promotes their personal well-being and happiness. He encourages us to further our knowledge, and he provides a generous continuing education allowance which allows for a wider variety of CE. His caring and light-hearted personality combined with his obvious focus on the importance of the veterinary technician makes him the perfect candidate for this award.