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WOMAN'S AWARD GOES RIGHT TO ANIMALS. (JEFFERSON COUNTY POST)(JEAN WOOLERY) SAFECO CORP.'S RUDY AWARDS RECIPIENT)

Article from: St Louis Post-Dispatch (MO) | December 25, 2003 | Kelly, R. | Copyright

Byline: Robert Kelly Of The Post-Dispatch

* Jean Woolery is honored for her nonprofit leadership, and she promises her \$5,000 prize to county's shelters.

Jean Woolery, director of the Jefferson County Humane Society, was selected this week as one of Safeco Corp.'s five annual national award winners for people who have displayed outstanding leadership in nonprofit groups.

Woolery said she would use the \$5,000 cash award to help improve Jefferson County's animal shelter and programs to help animals.

"It's the biggest single grant that we've ever gotten," Woolery said. "I feel so honored. There are nominations for these awards from all over the country."

The award is one of five so-called Rudy Awards given annually in the holiday season by Safeco, an insurance company based in Seattle.

The Rudy Awards were established by the company in 1994 to recognize extraordinary individuals behind various nonprofit groups, says Wendy Stauff, a company spokeswoman.

Named after Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, the awards are for people in nonprofit work who demonstrate the ability to cut through the fog - or red tape or other obstacles - to get the job done, Stauff says.

Rudy Award recipients are nominated, without their knowledge, by Safeco employees.

Donna Hartmann, who works in the claims division for Safeco at Fenton, nominated Woolery for her Rudy Award, Stauff says.

"Donna's also very involved in organizations that help animals, and she was very impressed with the work Jean has been doing," Stauff said. Hartmann also volunteers her time with the Jefferson County Humane Society.

In nominating Woolery, Hartmann noted that Woolery had

* Worked with a Jefferson County veterinarian to develop a pet memorial program in which a part of the fee charged to euthanize animals is donated to the Humane Society to help fund a spay-neuter program.

* Helped the office of Jefferson County Prosecutor Bob Wilkins build cases against those accused of cruelty to animals.

* Volunteered many hours to educate the public on responsible pet ownership and helped subsidize pet-sterilization fees for qualified pet owners.

* Helped fund the county's animal-control facility, which receives only limited financing from the county.

Woolery "continues to find the strength and the donations to continue the programs that she has put her heart and soul into for years," the nomination letter says.

Woolery said much of her Rudy Award money would be used to expand spay-neuter programs in Jefferson County.

Safeco's other national Rudy Award winners this year are

* Judith Black, executive director of the Black Diamond, Wash., Community Center, which offers social and recreation programs for elderly people, families and youths.

* Karen Jackson and Linda Coil, executive director and assistant director of Community Connections Inc., an organization that serves children in need of foster or adoptive homes in Stone Mountain, Ga.

* Jeffery Foran, case manager of the Bridge Youth Shelter, one of the services for children, youth and families in Hartford, Conn.

* J. Paul Preseault, director of The Tribes Project, an organization dedicated to multicultural perspectives through the performing arts in Seattle.