

THE
Schweitzer
MEDALISTS



PRESENTED BY
the Animal Welfare Institute

*The Albert
Schweitzer Medal*

OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE

In 1951, Dr. Albert Schweitzer gave his permission to the Animal Welfare Institute to strike a medal in his honor to be presented for outstanding achievement in the advancement of animal welfare.



In granting his permission, Dr. Schweitzer wrote,

“I would never have believed that my philosophy, which incorporates in our ethics a compassionate attitude toward all creatures, would be noticed and recognized in my lifetime.”

In 1953, a gold replica of the medal was presented to Dr. Schweitzer by Dr. Charles Joy in Oslo, Norway, where Dr. Schweitzer had gone to accept the Nobel Peace Prize.

- 1955 Dr. Robert Bay, veterinarian in charge of a colony of 500 beagles used in research, whose humane treatment of the animals exemplifies the purpose for which the Schweitzer Medal was struck. Dr. Bay later resigned after being refused permission by new management to end the suffering of a beagle with 24 fractures.
- 1956 Major Charles W. Hume, founder and director-general of the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare, which develops and promotes improvements in the welfare of animals through scientific and educational activity.
- 1957 Paul Kearney, author of “The Case for Humane Vivisection,” the first article in a national magazine calling for humane treatment of animals in research.
- 1958 Senator Hubert H. Humphrey, author of the first humane slaughter bill introduced in Congress and chief Senate sponsor of the federal Humane Slaughter Act, passed in 1958.
- 1959 Congressman W.R. Poage, chairman of the Livestock and Feed Grains Subcommittee of the Committee on Agriculture, US House of Representatives, and chief House sponsor of the federal Humane Slaughter Act.
- 1960 Isobel Slater and Chief Z.S. Fundikira, founder and president, respectively, of the Tanganyika branch of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, with 40,000 African members. The Honorable G. Mennen Williams presented the medals in Tanganyika (now Tanzania). In New York, the Honorable Adlai E. Stevenson gave the Schweitzer award address.
- 1961 William H.A. Carr, reporter and columnist, for his articles exposing cruelty toward animals in New York City hospital research labs.
- 1962 Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring*, for her contribution to the protection of animals from dangerous pesticides such as DDT. The medal was presented by renowned ornithologist Dr. Robert Cushman Murphy.
- 1963 Ann Cottrell Free, author and journalist, whose discovery and reporting on hundreds of dogs in research at the Food and Drug Administration, perpetually caged in a sub-basement, led to action by Congress to provide comfortable kennel runways for them.
- 1964 Patrolman John Mobley of the Detroit Police Department, whose prompt reporting on suffering and neglect of animals in experiments led to improvements in their care.
- 1965 Abe Fortas, associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States, for authoring, during his time as a private attorney, the first federal bill to require humane treatment of animals in research.
- 1966 Senator Warren G. Magnuson and Senator A.S. Mike Monroney, who sponsored and fought for enactment of the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act, which passed by a vote of 85–0 in the Senate and was subsequently signed into law.

- 1967** Dr. Francis Mulhern and Dr. Earl Jones of the US Department of Agriculture, who prevented much suffering by their enforcement of the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act.
- 1968** Dr. John Quinn, state veterinarian for the Michigan Department of Agriculture, who created the United States Animal Health Association's first animal welfare committee.
- 1969** Stan Wayman, *Life* photographer, whose "Concentration Camps for Dogs" and other photo essays brought recognition to millions of people that animals need protection.
- 1970** Bob Cromie, whose hard-hitting columns against cruel experiments by school children resulted in Westinghouse Science Fair prizes being changed to eliminate any experimentation on captive vertebrates. The medal was presented by Senator Charles Percy.
- 1971** Congressman Thomas Foley, who won enactment of the Animal Welfare Act amendments of 1970, including the requirement for "appropriate use of anesthetic, analgesic and tranquilizing drugs" for animals in research. The medal was presented by Senator Warren G. Magnuson.
- 1972** Russell Train, chairman of the President's Council on Environmental Quality, who obtained unanimous adoption of a resolution for a 10-year moratorium on commercial whaling at the UN Conference on the Human Environment. The medal was presented by S. Dillon Ripley, secretary of the Smithsonian Institution.
- 1973** Scott McVay, who obtained the listing of all the great whales on the US Endangered Species List. The medal was presented by Dr. Lee Talbot, senior scientist for the Council on Environmental Quality.
- 1974** Dr. Lee Talbot, who successfully fought the spread of cruel poisons on federal lands. The medal was presented by the Honorable Russell Train, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.
- 1975** Fay Brisk, who uncovered cruelty and theft by dealers selling dogs for experimentation in the 1960s and initiated an animalport in Washington, DC, to help animals transported by air. The medal was presented by Senator Lowell Weicker.
- 1976** President Daniel Oduber of Costa Rica, for outstanding achievement in creating major national parks in Costa Rica where wildlife can flourish. The medal was presented by Senator Hubert H. Humphrey.
- 1977** Yoko Muto, animal caretaker of Tokyo University and representative of the Japan Animal Welfare Society, for her seven years of unstinting effort to allay the suffering of thousands of dogs subjected to experimental surgery by gentle, personal nursing care given to each animal. The medal was presented by Mike Mansfield, the US ambassador to Japan.
- 1979** Shri H.M. Patel, chairman of the Indian Board for Wildlife, for his contributions to wildlife conservation and humane education as India's finance minister.
- 1980** Roger and Katharine Payne, for leadership in the protection of whales through observation of living humpback and right whales. The medal was presented by Senator Paul Tsongas.
- 1981** Dr. Dallas Pratt, for his landmark books, especially *Alternatives to Pain in Experiments on Animals*. The medal was presented by Senator Mark Hatfield.
- 1986** Senator Robert Dole, whose leadership ensured enactment of the 1985 Improved Standards for Laboratory Animals Act and the 1978 humane slaughter legislation.
- 1987** Dr. Jane Goodall, for her lifetime of work as a defender of chimpanzees. The medal was presented by Senator John Melcher, author of the requirement for psychological well-being of primates in the Improved Standards for Laboratory Animals Act.
- 1989** Astrid Lindgren, author of *Pippi Longstocking* and other classics of children's literature, for her work to impel the Swedish government to enact the world's most comprehensive law against cruel factory farming practices. The medal was presented by Congressman Charles Bennett.
- 1990** Allan Thornton and Dave Currey of the Environmental Investigation Agency, for achieving international protection for elephants and dolphins by exposing cruel and illicit commercial killing. The medal was presented by Senator John Heinz.
- 1994** Michael Tillman, for thwarting commercial whalers, reversing the Revised Management Procedure, and maintaining the moratorium on whale killing for profit at the 1993 International Whaling Commission meeting in Kyoto, Japan. The medal was presented by actor Jason Robards.
- 1996** Henry Spira, for his successful campaigns against unnecessary experiments on animals and face branding of cattle and for his pioneering efforts to prevent cruel confinement of hens, pigs, and calves in factory farms. The Albert Schweitzer address was given by the Honorable Charles Percy.
- 1999** Edward Seymour-Rouse, founder of Eurogroup for Animal Welfare and Parliamentary Intergroup for Animal Welfare, for being instrumental in achieving a ban on leghold traps in the European Union. The medal was presented by Madron Seligman, member of the European Parliament.
- 2001** Andrzej Lepper, president of Samoobrona RP—a Polish political party and agrarian trade union—for his battle against the industrial hog factory system. The medal was presented by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., president of Waterkeeper Alliance.
- 2004** Gail Eisnitz, author and humane investigator, for her courageous and unrelenting efforts to document, expose, and prevent widespread animal abuse in factory farms and slaughterhouses. The medal was presented by John Mackey, CEO of Whole Foods Market.
- 2008** Greg Fett, manager of a tire shop in Arkansas, for his heroic rescue, on two separate occasions, of several horses he found severely injured, malnourished, and dehydrated on vehicles transporting the animals to slaughter. The medal was presented by Congressman John Conyers.
- 2011** Michelle Welch, assistant attorney general for Virginia, for her strong prosecution of animal cruelty and animal fighting cases and her work training other prosecutors and animal control and law enforcement officers; and to Raj Prasad and Amy Slameka, assistant prosecuting attorneys for Wayne County, Michigan, for co-founding the county's Animal Protection Unit and their work training local investigators and animal control officers. The medals were presented by Laurie O. Robinson, assistant attorney general for the US Department of Justice.
- 2013** Tom Knudson, investigative journalist, for his series of in-depth articles in the *Sacramento Bee* that brought national attention to USDA Wildlife Services' inhumane, ineffective, and ecologically damaging wildlife management methods.
- 2018** Dr. Samuel K Wasser, Director of the Center for Conservation Biology at the University of Washington, for developing noninvasive tools to measure the distribution and physiological condition of wildlife, monitor human impacts on wildlife, and combat transnational wildlife crimes. The medal was presented by Senator Maria Cantwell.
- 2019** John Thompson in recognition of his extraordinary efforts to improve both law enforcement's recognition of animal cruelty as a crime of violence and its response to those crimes. The medal was presented by AWI board member and cofounder of Show Your Soft Side, Caroline Griffin, Esq.
- 2022** Jennifer Lonsdale, OBE, cofounder of the Environmental Investigation Agency, for nearly four decades of work protecting the world's oceans from environmental crimes and abuses. The medal was presented by Andrej Bibič, chair of the International Whaling Commission.



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