



SUSAN WILKINS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2025

The **Susan Wilkins Achievement Award** acknowledges the pivotal role of the late Susan Wilkins in establishing the APDT Australia as its founding member, newsletter editor and publicity officer.

After reading several books by Ian Dunbar in the early 1990s, Susan was greatly influenced by his training methods. She became particularly interested in the Association Ian had established in the USA, which she promptly joined in 1995.

Susan decided that a similar forum was needed where information could be shared among all trainers across Australia. Susan recognised that many trainers were missing out on significant educational opportunities. As a result, APDT Australia was founded in late 1997.

Susan wrote a history of APDT in 2004 and concluded by saying:

"My great hope is that trainers actively share the information they gain from attending conferences/workshops or their experiences. Everyone can benefit, and it results in a kinder way to train through a thorough understanding of dogs, then APDT will achieve its objectives." – **Susan Wilkins**

The **Susan Wilkins Achievement Award** is one way for Susan's 'great hope' to be realised.

The award recognises APDT Australia members who make significant contributions to the welfare of pet dogs and improve their lives.

This Award will be presented at the APDT Australia Conference, 2–5 October 2025.

Applications will be assessed by an independent judge, whose decision will be final. Entries remain the property of

APDT Australia Inc. If you do not wish to apply yourself, please encourage other members to apply who meet the entry criteria.

The successful applicant will be notified by 12 July 2025 to allow time for them to make arrangements to attend the APDT Australia Conference 2025 in Glenelg, South Australia.

ENTRY CRITERIA

Applications should explain why the nominee should be considered for the award. For example:

- Operating 'dog day' educational events for schools or local councils.
- Working with council to improve local community dog services.
- Introducing positive reinforcement training to a dog training club.
- Establishing a leash-free area and offering education to dog owners.
- Furthering education for dog owners – providing free articles in local newspapers, hosting regular radio appearances, and distributing handouts at veterinary clinics and educational nights.
- Volunteering or working at a shelter as a trainer or walker or participating in initiatives aimed at improving the welfare of shelter dogs.

Complete the application form on the reverse to enter.

For further information, contact awards@apdt.com.au.

APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted electronically on this **Susan Wilkins Achievement Award 2025 Application Form**.

Submissions must be received no later than **31 May, 2025** by email at awards@apdt.com.au.

ELIGIBILITY

All applicants (and those nominating) must be current financial members of APDT Australia Inc.

APDT Australia Inc. committee members are ineligible to nominate for or receive this award.

PRIZES

The award winner will receive the following prize pack in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the APDT.

- Full registration to attend the APDT Australia Conference 2025 in South Australia
- A cash amount of \$500
- An award certificate
- An award trophy
- A profile article in the APDT Australia *Click!* magazine.

The winner will be notified by **12 July, 2025**, so they can prepare to attend the APDT Conference 2025 in October!

SUSAN WILKINS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD 2025 APPLICATION FORM

This application form can be completed using Adobe Acrobat to complete the fields. Ensure you save the document before you email your application.

APPLICANT DETAILS

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Applicant's name | |
| Address | |
| Email | |
| Contact telephone | |
| APDT membership number* | |

**Applicant's and those nominating others must be financial members of the APDT Australia Inc.*

APPLICANT CONTRIBUTION

Please complete the relevant section/s below. If necessary, you may attach additional supporting comments or information to application email. (Please limit your responses to 300 words in each section.)

| Contribution type | Describe the contribution and length of service |
|---|---|
| Council Volunteer Name of Council | |
| Dog Club Volunteer Name of Dog Club | |
| Animal Shelter Employee Name of Shelter | |
| Animal Shelter Volunteer Name of Shelter | |
| Other Organisation's name | |
| Other Organisation's name | |

REFEREES

Two referees must support your application. Suitable referees may include council officers, shelter managers, dog club members or instructors, local veterinarians, etc.

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Referee #1 Name and Position | |
| Relationship to applicant | |
| Email | |
| Contact telephone | |
| Referee #2 Name and Position | |
| Relationship to applicant | |
| Email | |
| Contact telephone | |

Referees may write up to 200 words to support your application, which should be attached to your application email.

Applications must be received no later than 31 May 2025. Please note that late entries will be ineligible for consideration. The judge's decision is final.