



For Immediate Release
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PIJAC Recognizes Pet Trade Leaders at 2015 Top2Top Conference

Washington, DC – Last week the pet industry’s most influential leaders assembled to participate in the Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council’s (PIJAC) fourth annual Top2Top Conference set at the picturesque Omni la Costa Resort & Spa in Carlsbad, California. Attendees enjoyed networking opportunities and a stellar line-up of compelling speakers addressing a wide spectrum of issues facing the pet sector, focusing on the conference theme of what it means to “Lead the Pack.”

During the Top2Top Conference, PIJAC recognized leaders, innovators and allies in the responsible pet trade through an annual award ceremony. PIJAC would like to congratulate this year’s award winners:

2015 PIJAC Ambassadors of the Year

Mike Isaac
PAWSitive

Rob Cook
Pinogy

2015 Chairman’s Award of Excellence

Laura “Peach” Reid
Fish Mart Inc.

2015 Pet Industry Leader of the Year

Phil Goss
United States Association of Reptile Keepers

2015 Lifetime Achievement Award

Duane Ekedahl
Pet Food Institute

2015 Pet Advocate of the Year

Julian Sprung
Two Little Fishies

2015 Program Innovator of the Year

Blaine Phillips

Phillips Pet Food & Supplies

2015 Presidential Award of Excellence

Patty Backer

H. H. Backer Associates Inc.

PIJAC Visionary Award

Andrew Hunte

The Hunte Corporation

PIJAC applauds all of our award recipients for being exemplary pet leaders. We thank all of this year's attendees who demonstrated leadership and initiative through participating in the annual Top2Top Conference.

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The Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council (PIJAC) provides its members a voice in state and national legislative issues through advocacy and timely information regarding upcoming policy issues that affect pet businesses, pet owners, and the animals they care for. PIJAC's mission is to promote responsible pet ownership and animal welfare, foster environmental stewardship & ensure the availability of pets. As pet owners, and those who care for and raise pets, we have a responsibility to ensure that the animals in our care are treated with kindness and respect, and that pets do not cause environmental or human health problems. PIJAC is a pioneer in developing educational programs for pet owners, the pet industry, related industries, and governmental organizations that address these issues. PIJAC has supported pro-pet legislation and regulations for forty years. With over \$183 million donated in the form of food and general supplies, as well as direct monetary aid, the pet industry and has helped more than 7.5 million homeless and shelter pets in the last two decades. More information can be found at www.pijac.org.