

Good Evening

The Smooth Jazz perpetual trophy is awarded to an individual or individuals that exhibit excellence in horse welfare. Horse welfare is a 24/7 365 day a year commitment. The commitment extends to all horses – not just the most valuable horse, not just the biggest winner, but all horses in our care. The recipients of this special annual award are members of our OHJA community. Members that are true horseman – they put the horse first.

This year's recipients have been breeding, raising, competing and retiring horses in our area for many, many years. You know them well. You know them for their participation and success at our NW shows as well as shows in California and Canada. What you may not know is the commitment of maintaining a stable at their home. Duties begin promptly every day at 6 am. Feeding and turning out the family herd.

This year's recipients maintain brood mares and breed them every year - carefully selecting the stallion to try to produce the best offspring. They deliver the foals and get them to the stage where they leave the farm for training. They work hard at trying to find each horse's niche and place them accordingly. They take horses home for down time and consistently exercise the retired horses to keep them as fit as is appropriate so as to keep them as healthy as possible. Their horses are healthy, happy, safe and impeccably cared for.

In honor of the tremendous commitment they give to their horses and the obvious joy they receive from each of them, we proudly award this year's Smooth Jazz Horse Welfare Award to Diane and Bryan Laycoe.