

2026 Employee of the Year Nomination: Jeannette Dease

It is with great pleasure to nominate Jeannette Dease for the City of Burbank's Employee of the Year Award. Since January 2006, Jeannette has served as the Burbank Animal Shelter's Registered Veterinary Technician, a role comparable to a nurse in the animal care field. Throughout her nearly two decades of service, she has consistently demonstrated exceptional knowledge, compassion, dedication, and commitment to the animals and residents the City serves.

In September 2023, the Animal Shelter's Veterinarian retired, and for much of the following period, Jeannette became the only full-time member of the medical team. For over three years, she carried an extraordinary level of responsibility and consistently rose to the challenge with grace, resilience, and leadership. She ensured that animals received essential medical treatment, specialized surgeries, and ongoing care while maintaining the best possible operation of the medical area despite the absence of a full-time veterinarian.

Jeannette utilized every resource available to continue providing high-quality medical services, including contract veterinarians, local veterinary hospitals, volunteers, student workers, staff members, and interns. Coordinating these resources required exceptional organization, adaptability, and careful planning to ensure each animal's needs were met. The workload was substantial, yet Jeannette consistently went above and beyond, often working additional hours to ensure that every animal received the care, attention, and compassion they deserved. Her meticulous attention to detail, proactive approach, and unwavering commitment exemplify her deep sense of duty and genuine compassion for the animals and the community served by the Burbank Animal Shelter.

Jeannette has demonstrated an extraordinary level of dedication, compassion, and professionalism that has truly touched the lives of countless animals, coworkers, volunteers, and community members. What sets Jeannette apart is her innovative spirit and unwavering commitment to making a meaningful difference. She continually identifies creative solutions to enhance medical operations, improve veterinary care, and maximize available resources. Her resourcefulness, critical thinking, and ability to approach challenges from new perspectives have had a profound impact on the efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of the medical services provided.

Beyond her exceptional technical skills and innovative ideas, Jeannette's greatest strength is her heart. She provides compassionate care to every animal that comes through the Shelter, supports foster families with patience and kindness, and leads by example through her quiet determination and professionalism. She embodies the spirit of service, teamwork, and dedication that the Employee of the Year Award seeks to recognize.

It is without hesitation that I recommend Jeannette Dease for this recognition. Her hard work, passion, and unwavering commitment make a meaningful difference in the lives of Burbank's animals and the people who care for them every day. Jeannette is a shining

example of what it means to serve with heart, and her dedication to the animals, her colleagues, and the community is truly inspiring.