

2018 Texas Animal Hall of Fame Inductee: Sascha

In 1984, the Texas Veterinary Medical Foundation (TVMF) created the Texas Animal Hall of Fame to share the joy of the human-animal bond by recognizing exceptional animals. Through the Texas Animal Hall of Fame, TVMF strives to honor the outstanding contributions our animal companions make to human lives, to heighten public awareness of the human-animal bond and to allow animal lovers to share in celebrating their pet's accomplishments by serving as nominators. Nominations are sought in three categories: hero, companion and professional. TVMF is proud to celebrate animals that give back within their home communities as we announce the 2018 Texas Animal Hall of Fame inductees.

The 2018 Texas Animal Hall of Fame inductee for the hero category, which recognizes an animal that has performed an incredible act of bravery or saved a human life, is a 74-pound Doberman Pinscher, Sascha.

Early one morning, Glenn and Thelma Sterling's dishwasher short circuited and started a kitchen fire and sent deadly smoke throughout their home. Sascha sprang into action and woke the couple from their slumber who were able to escape out their bedroom window without injury. The couple watched as firefighters doused the flames before the flames were able to spread throughout the home. Their kitchen was left full of soot and standing water, but they were alive thanks to Sascha.

"It was a horrific thing," Thelma said, "Sascha is our lifesaver."

"She knew what she was doing," Glenn said. "She came over and licked me in the face. She licked me and licked me until I got up. When I woke up, it was pitch black. I turned on the light by the bed and there was white smoke almost all the way down to the bed. I woke up my wife and all three of us went right out the bedroom window."

Sascha joined the family in 2011 just after the Sterlings retired.

"She's our baby. We take her swimming. She's [a member] of the family, our protector and savior." Thelma said.

Sascha was nominated by TVMA member Dr. Tillman A. Richey of Groves Veterinary Clinic in Groves, TX.

To learn more about TVMF's mission and programs, please visit www.tvmf.org or contact TVMF Director Leah Ann Tibbitts by phone at (512) 452-4224 or via email at ltibbitts@tvma.org.