

*Farmville Herald December 2,  
2009*

### PE's Foster Recognized

By ROB CHAPMAN

PRINCE EDWARD — County animal control officer Ray Foster has received the Virginia Animal Control Association's public service award.

"I think you can tell a lot about a person and who they are when you are watching them and they don't realize anybody's watching them," said Dr. Julia Palmer, of Hampden-Sydney College's Department of Modern Languages. "It's kind of what you're doing when no one's looking that can reveal a lot about who you are. And a lot of the times that I've seen Ray, and he doesn't even realize anyone's watching him, he's doing his job faithfully, with a lot of compassion for animals and for people and for college students."

Dr. Palmer nominated Foster for the award on behalf of fraternity Sigma Nu and the Hampden-Sydney community. Sigma Nu, working with Foster and his assistant Vicki Horn, have worked on a community service project to socialize and play with the dogs at the County's animal control facility and are working to foster adoption. (A homepage was created on Petfinders for Prince Edward's animal control to encourage adoption. Additionally, Dr. Palmer cited in a letter of support for Foster's recognition, animal control helped the College create a rescue and foster program for dogs—that would otherwise be euthanized—where they are cared for and trained by college students.)

"Ray is one of the most dedicated, hard working and compassionate men I have ever met," Dr. Palmer wrote.

Foster has worked as the County's animal control officer since 1983.

"Ray's likable and easy-going demeanor enables him to manage even the most difficult cases with a positive attitude," Assistant County Administrator Sarah Puckett also wrote in a letter supporting Foster's recognition. "Ray is universally well-thought of throughout the community and works well with the public, and I believe that has contributed significantly to the positive opinion our citizens have of Prince Edward County Animal Control."

Foster offered that Ms. Horn had done as much as he had to deserve the recognition. He also noted that they have the backing of the board.

"Ya'll pass the ordinances to help us do our job and (County administrator Wade Bartlett) and (Ms. Puckett) they back us a lot and they help us out a lot," Foster said. "And I have real good help in Vicki—the best in the world."

He also offered special recognition to his wife who, he noted, puts up with a lot of phone calls at night and him having to go out.