



[www.scas.org.uk](http://www.scas.org.uk)

# The Bob Harvey Award

**Recognising the strength and importance of  
the Human-Animal Bond in  
the support of older people and their  
companion animals**



[www.fosteringcompassion.org](http://www.fosteringcompassion.org)

Two charities, the Society for Companion Animal Studies ([SCAS](http://www.scas.org.uk)) and Fostering Compassion are launching the Bob Harvey Award in memory of Bob Harvey and his little dog Darcie after they faced the trauma of enforced separation or eviction from their care home following a change in management. Prior to this and on their initial move to the home, Bob, his wife and his little dog had all been promised they could remain together for the rest of their days. Read Bob and Darcie's moving story in full here <https://www.fosteringcompassion.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Fostering-Compassion-Bob-and-Darcie-Story.pdf>

Older people and their companion animals should be kept together wherever feasible. Protecting the bond between human and animal brings many health benefits in later life including companionship, reasons to exercise and reduced loneliness. The presence of a companion animal can provide a significant reduction in minor health problems, improvement to mental health and wellbeing, prevent the heartache of touch deprivation and can assist with recovery following illness or operations. The mere act of stroking an animal can lower blood pressure. The presence of an animal can bring vital comfort to older people when needed the most.

An Anchor study in 1998 found an estimated 140,000 companion animals were forced to be surrendered by older people annually when moving into care homes.

The Bob Harvey Award will go to nominate a care home, hospital, hospice or care facility that has gone above and beyond the call of duty to keep older people and their companion animals together.

If you would like to nominate, please complete the undernoted form. Thank you.

## **Person making the nomination**

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Your relationship to the person or organisation you are nominating</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Telephone number</b>	
<b>Date of Nomination</b>	

**Details of facility being nominated**

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Type of Facility e.g. care home, hospice</b>	
<b>Address of Facility</b>	

**Reasons for Nomination - here, please give details of the reason for your nomination and the steps/actions the facility took to keep the client and their companion animal together. Please also include the consequences if changes were *not* made and the positive changes that came about as a result of the facility's actions and efforts to recognise the importance of protecting the bond. (Word Count 400 max in font Calibri 11, 1.5 times spacing)**



**Please return the form by 20<sup>th</sup> August 2023 to:**

**info@scas.org.uk or lesley@fosteringcompassion.org**

**Thank you for your nomination for  
The Bob Harvey Award!**

**Further reading:**

[The SCAS Submission to the Commission on Loneliness: The Role of Companion Animals in Mitigating Loneliness and in Supporting Healthy Ageing](#)

[International Federation on Ageing Report: Companion Animals and the Health of Older Persons Full Report](#)

Gee NR, Mueller MK, Curl AL. Human-Animal Interaction and Older Adults: An Overview. Front Psychol. 2017 Aug 21;8:1416.

doi: 10.3389/fpsyg.2017.01416. PMID: 28878713; PMCID: PMC5573436.