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She has been working in animal control services since she was young enough to still need a babysitter. On Dec. 10, Kim Peckler, the animal control supervisor for the City of Burleson, was named the 2013 Administration Employee of the Year (external services). The honor was announced at the City's annual awards luncheon.

Neighborhood Services Director Lisa Duello wasn't surprised. She has worked with the award winner for more than three years.

"Kim consistently performs her job with integrity while providing outstanding service to the community," Duello said. "She is genuinely dedicated to the shelter employees and the animals that she cares for. She is passionate about providing the best care she can for the animals and is committed to going the extra mile to reunite a pet with its owner."

Peckler's mother was the manager of the Tarrant County Humane Society (now called the Humane Society of North Texas) when Kim was a child so "instead of having a babysitter I would go to work with her. The rest is history."

The award winner's mother eventually retired from the City of North Richland Hills, where she worked in animal control services and Peckler's uncle worked for Hurst animal control so "it's a family tradition."

Working in municipal government spans three generations of Peckler's family. Peckler's grandfather retired from the public works department at the City of Euless.

The honoree was hired by Burleson in March 2010. She supervises four people—three animal control officers and a shelter technician.

"I manage the animal shelter and all that entails that, from cleaning to managing the budget," Peckler said. "We all work offsite adoptions, host the Paw Pals Animal Care Academy every summer, and work with other departments on City projects."

She has more than 20 years of professional experience working in animal control. Peckler worked for the City of Euless for 18 years, as a supervisor. She also worked for the City of Dallas as an animal control officer and for Haltom City

as a supervisor. She had taken a break from animal control for a few years when the Burleson job was advertised.

“I love animals more than life itself and I missed working in a shelter environment,” Peckler said. “I was actually interviewing with another city when I heard about the Burleson job. Honestly, God sent me here and I am very grateful that he did. I have the best staff that I have ever had and an unbelievable director who helps me run the most successful shelter I have ever run.”

Duello credits Peckler’s success to her knowledge of animal care, which she describes as “uncanny.” She said the award winner “has the intuition to know when to take an extra step to please a citizen and their pet. She deals with difficult and emotional situations frequently with compassion and professionalism. Kim is a great asset to our team and this city.”

The 48-year-old honoree has one daughter and a 6-year-old granddaughter Audrey. Another granddaughter, who will be named Kelsey, is due this month. Peckler also has four dogs at home.

The supervisor was born in Cleburne into a family of four children. Her father is a retired mechanic. Peckler grew up in Fort Worth and graduated from Carter Riverside High School. She briefly attended Tarrant County College.

The honoree taught Tae Kwon Do for 17 years and is a third degree black belt. She retired from teaching and now “just wants to hang out with my friends and my critters, work around the house and yard and enjoy all that life has to offer.”