

## Animal Planet Searching for a Hero

**The 2009 Hero of the Year contest rewards an animal advocate and their charity of choice.**

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Animal Planet's Hero of the Year contest is looking for those who make a difference in the lives of animals. Animal cops, shelter workers, veterinarians and anybody else who demonstrates a commitment to the welfare of cats and dogs have a chance to become Animal Planet's next Hero of the Year.

The 2009 contest has gotten under way to search for the man or woman who shows extraordinary effort, talent and spirit in support of animals in their community, according to Animal Planet Media. The fourth annual competition encourages the nomination of candidates through June 28.

To be considered for the contest, the nominator must write an essay no longer than 250 words that describes the cause that their nominee works to support. In addition, contest judges want to know about the activities and actions that show the candidate's dedication, the impact of their actions on the animal community and how they inspire others to get involved.

Those who enter a friend or relative in the contest automatically qualify to win a \$50 Petsmart gift card, one of which will be rewarded daily during the nomination period. The panel of judges will select 10 finalists and the public will choose their favorite contestant during People's Choice voting, available Sept. 14-27 on AnimalPlanet.com.

The winner will be featured on Animal Planet and will receive a trip for two to a destination that supports their cause. In addition, Animal Planet donates \$10,000 to the winner's favorite animal charity. Contest rules and details are available online.