



Charlotte Swade

HLRSC Distinguished Service Award Recipient

The nominations for Charlotte Swade paint a clear and heartfelt picture of a woman whose decades of service, mentorship, and kindness have profoundly shaped the Holland Lop community. For nearly 30 years, Charlotte has been a steady and uplifting presence—an exhibitor, teacher, supporter, and friend whose influence stretches across generations of breeders.

Charlotte's impact begins with her role as a generous and knowledgeable mentor. Numerous nominations emphasize how she has helped both youth and adults enter the hobby, often providing high-quality Hollands to beginners who otherwise could not find show stock. Her willingness to share her herd—sometimes gifting animals or replacing losses—has built the foundation for many successful rabbitries. In Wisconsin especially, breeders note that nearly every herd carries traces of her "Swade" bloodline.

A talented and dedicated breeder, Charlotte has developed exceptional Hollands over the decades, culminating in major national wins, including a 2023 HLRSC National Best of Breed. Yet she remains humble and grounded. She cheers sincerely for others, celebrates their successes, and models the highest level of sportsmanship. Her encouragement often comes

paired with her well-known advice: "Breed, breed, breed—you haven't made your best rabbit yet."

Charlotte's service extends far beyond the show table. She has volunteered at national shows, helped host multiple HLRSC Nationals, assisted in setup and teardown, contributed raffle items, and continuously supported club fundraising. Exhibitors recall her sweeping floors after Nationals, working quietly behind the scenes with no expectation of recognition. Her dedication reflects a genuine love for the breed and the community surrounding it.

What stands out most in these nominations is Charlotte's character. She is described as humble, unselfish, kindhearted, encouraging, and steadfast. She checks on breeders who have been absent, supports those experiencing setbacks, and reminds everyone that camaraderie, friendship, and fun are at the core of this hobby. For many, she has become far more than a mentor—she is a confidant, travel companion, and even a surrogate grandmother.

Across all submissions, the message is consistent: Charlotte Swade embodies the spirit of distinguished service. Her decades of giving, her generosity, her exceptional sportsmanship, and the countless lives and herds she has touched make her profoundly deserving of this honor.