



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Canadian veterinarians awarded for excellence

OTTAWA — Canadian veterinarians were awarded for their exceptional contributions to animal health and the veterinary profession, during the annual Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) awards ceremony on July 14, in Ottawa.

“Each year the CVMA awards individuals and groups in recognition of their contributions to veterinary medicine,” explains Jost am Rhyne, executive director at the CVMA. “Veterinarians are nominated by their peers and award winners are selected by a committee of CVMA members.”

2007 CVMA AWARD WINNERS:

CVMA Humane Award

The CVMA Humane Award, sponsored by Schering-Plough Animal Health, is awarded to an individual whose work is judged to have contributed significantly to the welfare and well-being of animals. Dr. Diane Blais is chairperson of the Department of Clinical Sciences at the Veterinary College at the Université de Montréal. Seven years ago, Dr. Blais launched a very special program called "Animals for Young Street People" in partnership with the non-profit organization, "le Bon Dieu dans la rue" based in Montréal. With help from a team of students, this program provides treatment for companion animals of street youth who cannot afford veterinary care for their pets.

CVMA Industry Award

The CVMA Industry Award acknowledges the role of industry in veterinary medicine. Dr. Clayton MacKay, director of veterinary affairs at Hill's Pet Nutrition Canada Inc., has 37 years of multi-faceted experience in the profession. Over the years Dr. MacKay has made significant contributions to the advancement of veterinary medicine. He has given hundreds of presentations in Canada and the USA, and chaired numerous committees and initiative programs. Dr. MacKay has been involved in many professional associations and is the only Canadian to have served as President of the American Animal Hospital Association since its founding in 1933.

CVMA President's Award

The CVMA President's Award is given on occasion to recognize an individual for his or her dedication and exceptional contribution to our Association. Dr. Christiane Gagnon, associate founder and senior administrator of the St-Eustache Deux-Montagnes Veterinary Hospital, broke ground at the CVMA in 1989 by becoming the first-ever female president of the association. In 1996 she continued to build her legacy by accepting the position of first female president at the Ordre des médecins vétérinaires du Québec, a position which she still holds today. Dr. Gagnon has contributed greatly to many projects led by the CVMA.

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CVMA Small Animal Practitioner Award

The CVMA Small Animal Practitioner Award, sponsored by Pet Plan Insurance, was established to encourage progress in the field of small animal medicine and surgery. A pioneer in the development of veterinary neurology in Canada, Dr. Joane Parent, professor of Neurology at the Faculté de médecine vétérinaire of l'Université de Montréal at St-Hyacinthe, and the first veterinary neurologist in Canada, is a sought-after speaker on the international continuing education circuit and a specialist in the diagnosis and treatment of canine and feline epilepsy.

Hill's Public Relations Award

The Hill's Public Relations Award, sponsored by Hill's Pet Nutrition Canada Inc., recognizes an individual or group for their work towards enhancing the public image of the veterinary profession. Dr. Ron Lewis, director of the Animal Health Branch and chief veterinary officer for the B.C. Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, has cultured public support for agricultural programs by profiling the work of veterinarians in livestock production and food safety. He continues to effectively manage unpredictable challenges regarding animal health issues and to explain these issues to the media. Responding to the 2004 outbreak of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza in B.C. is one high-profile example of the ongoing challenges Dr. Lewis encounters.

RVL Walker Award

The RVL Walker Award is presented annually to the president of the Students of the CVMA (SCVMA) for his or her work in promoting student interests in the CVMA. Ms. Helen Newton, the 2006-07 president of the Students of the CVMA, is a third-year student at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in Saskatchewan.

Schering Veterinary Award

The Schering Veterinary Award was established by Schering-Plough Animal Health to enhance progress in large animal medicine and surgery. Dr. Chris Bigland has been awarded posthumously in recognition of his many years of commitment to the veterinary profession in Canada. Dr. Bigland founded the Veterinary Infectious Diseases Organization, developing vaccines for the protection of livestock against serious and economically devastating diseases. The monetary portion of the award will be donated to the C.H. Bigland Fellowship Fund, which assists with the advanced training of Canadian veterinarians.

The awards ceremony was possible thanks to the generosity of several sponsors including, Hill's Pet Nutrition Canada Inc., Pet Plan Insurance, and Schering-Plough Animal Health.

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is the national body representing and serving the interests of the veterinary profession in Canada. To learn more about the CVMA visit www.canadianveterinarians.net. For animal health care information and advice from Canadian veterinarians visit www.animalhealthcare.ca.

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