



7 June 2010

2010 WSAVA Awards Recognise Global Achievement in Veterinary Care for Companion Animals

At the opening ceremony of its 2010 congress in Geneva, the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) announced the winners of this year's awards, which recognise ground-breaking research and global achievement in the clinical care of companion animals.

The winners were as follows:

WSAVA Hill's Excellence in Veterinary Healthcare Award

Professor Dr Jan Rothuizen

This award was made to Professor Jan Rothuizen, Head of the Clinical Sciences Department at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Utrecht University. He was judged to have made an outstanding contribution to the promotion of companion animal healthcare and the family pet/veterinary bond. Jan has been instrumental in defining WSAVA standards for the clinical and histological diagnosis of canine and feline liver disease and is leading international projects to collect and analyse DNA from purebred dogs to identify genetic markers, help reduce the high level of inherited canine disease and improve the mechanisms and pathways of the pathology.

WSAVA Hill's Pet Mobility Award

Professor Peter Muir BVSc, MVetClinStud, PhD, SACVS, DECVS

This award, recognising the outstanding work of a clinical researcher in the field of canine and feline orthopaedics, was made to Peter Muir, Professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. It was made in view of his work to improve global understanding of the

causes of cruciate ruptures in dogs which was judged to have contributed significantly to the well-being of dogs and to have enriched the human-animal bond worldwide.

WSAVA International Award for Scientific Achievement

Professor Ian Duncan BVMS PhD, FRCVS, FRCPath, FRSE

Professor Ian Duncan from the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, was the recipient of the WSAVA International Award for Scientific Achievement. He received the award in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the advancement of knowledge of the causes, detection and management of disorders affecting companion animals. Ian is a leading global figure in the field of myelin biology and repair. He is currently working on the use of stem cells to repair myelin in multiple sclerosis, the most frequent myelin disease in humans.

WSAVA PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Professor Dr Ellen Bjerkaas DEVCO

This award is made periodically by the President of the WSAVA to a member judged to have made an outstanding contribution to the association. This year the award was made to Professor Dr Ellen Bjerkaas DEVCO. Ellen is a Professor in the Department of Companion Animal Clinical Sciences at the Norwegian School of Veterinary Science. She has served the WSAVA in a range of capacities and recently led the Norwegian Small Animal Veterinary Association's involvement in the WSAVA Continuing Education Programme (CE).

Commenting on the 2010 WSAVA Awards, its President Professor Jolle Kirpensteijn, said: "The WSAVA is delighted to recognise the pioneering work of this year's award winners. They have made significant contributions to improving the care of companion animals in their specialist areas and, on behalf of the WSAVA, I congratulate them. We are also grateful that some of them were able to join us at the 2011 Congress to give lectures on their latest research, which were enthusiastically received by delegates.

Since the WSAVA was created fifty years ago, it has dedicated itself to providing global leadership in scientific research and continuing education for companion animal medicine and surgery. This is a goal we can only achieve with the help of our member associations and industry partners. Once again, I'd like to thank our major supporters, Hill's Pet Nutrition,

Bayer Animal Health and Intervet Schering Plough. They play a crucial role in WSAVA and it's good to know that they share our commitment to Continuing Veterinary Excellence.

Hill's Pet Nutrition, in particular, is a major supporter, sponsoring two of the awards and being the Prime Sponsor of our last three congresses. It also contributes to the funding of our CE programme, various disease standardisation groups and other initiatives. We are indeed greatly indebted to Hills and look forward to working with the company again over the next year."

Nominations are now being taken for the 2011 WSAVA Awards which will be presented at the next WSAVA Congress, which takes place in Jeju, Korea, from 14-17 October 2011.

More information on WSAVA, how to attend WSAVA Congress and how to make nominations is available at www.wsava.org.

WSAVA & Hill's - working towards better veterinary care worldwide.

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