



## **Press Information**

### **Malaysian Veterinarian's Commitment to Raising Standards Leads to WSAVA 2018 Award for Global Meritorious Service**

Dr Amilan Sivagurunathan, a past President of the Malaysian Small Animal Veterinary Association (MSAVA) and architect of the highly successful 2016 Federation of Asian Small Animal Veterinary Association (FASAVA) Congress in Malaysia, has received the 2018 [World Small Animal Veterinary Association's](#) Award for Global Meritorious Service. The Award was made in recognition of his contribution to small animal practice in Malaysia through increasing continuing education (CE), raising standards of animal welfare through better practice and enhancing access to veterinary therapeutics.

Dr Amilan graduated from the University of Pretoria, Onderstepoort, and later undertook a residency in Veterinary Ophthalmology at the Faculty. He is a Director and Consultant ophthalmologist at the Animal Medical Centre, a veterinary hospital in Kuala Lumpur established by his father, Dr S Sivagurunathan.

Active in the veterinary profession regionally, Dr Amilan was President of MSAVA from 2015-2017 and instrumental in taking the 2016 FASAVA Congress event to completion. Profits made were then used by MSAVA to establish a permanent regional CE hub for small animal veterinarians.

Dr Amilan is also a member of the technical working committee of the Malaysian National Animal Welfare Foundation (MNAWF). In this role, he has made a significant contribution to raising standards of companion animal welfare in the country.

Recognizing the value of an effective partnership with the veterinary industry, in 2007 Dr Amilan established a Pharmaceutical Working Group to enable the MSAVA to work with livestock representatives to discuss policies and regulations being established by the pharmacy board for the Malaysian veterinary industry. Following years of engagement, the MSAVA now manages the screening and validation of drug registration dossiers for consideration by the National Registry (NPRA), a development which has speeded up access to veterinary therapeutics for veterinarians in Malaysia – although challenges in its facilitation still remain.

Problems in accessing therapeutics is an issue faced by many veterinarians in Asia and other parts of the world with the WSAVA's Therapeutics Guidelines Group currently campaigning for equal access to veterinary medicines worldwide.

Commenting on the Award to Dr Amilan, Dr Käthi Brunner, Chair of the WSAVA Leadership and Nomination Committee, said: "As WSAVA World Congress was in Asia this year, it was a fitting time to recognize the work of Dr Amilan. While working full-time at a busy veterinary hospital, he has worked tirelessly to raise standards of veterinary care for companion animals. His achievements in animal welfare and in CE education are particularly impressive. He is a veterinary pioneer in Malaysia and, indeed, across Asia and is determined to leave a positive legacy for the next generation of veterinarians. We congratulate him on what he has achieved so far."

Dr Amilan said: "As a second-generation veterinarian, I grew up understanding the profession through my father who himself pioneered changes in the companion animal industry. Realizing the changes to come, I felt that bridges had to be built and that the profession should lead the way. I would like to thank the WSAVA board for recognizing my services."

Dr Amilan was presented with the Award during the [2018 WSAVA World Congress](#) which is taking place from 25-28 September in Singapore.

The WSAVA aims to advance the health and welfare of companion animals worldwide through creating an educated, committed and collaborative global community of veterinary peers. It currently represents more than 200,000 veterinarians through 110 member associations. Its annual World Congress brings together globally respected experts to offer cutting edge thinking on all aspects of companion animal veterinary care.

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