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NEWS RELEASE

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Canadian Veterinary Pioneer Honoured with CVMA Life Membership

OTTAWA, Ont. – Dr. Wayne McDonell was honoured with *Life Membership* to the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) for his significant contributions to the national veterinary profession.

Dr. McDonell received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) from the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) in 1965 and, after a year in private practice, was hired by OVC as a junior faculty member to establish anesthesia as a specialization – the first in a Canadian veterinary school. His veterinary discipline training was largely “self-taught,” but he did participate in the University of Toronto medical residency program. He completed a Master of Science (MSc) in 1969 from the University of Guelph, and a PhD in 1974 from the University of Cambridge.

“Dr. McDonell mentored and taught countless veterinary students and advised many graduate students,” states Dr. Alan Meek, veterinarian, retired Dean of the Ontario Veterinary College, and OVC Emeritus Professor. “Dr. McDonell was instrumental in establishing modern veterinary anesthesia in North America and quickly became pre-eminent in the specialization. In 1980, he was appointed Chair of the American College of Veterinary Anesthesiology (ACVA) Examination Committee, in 1981, appointed President of ACVA, and over a dozen of his students are also now board-certified anesthetists.”

During his academic career at the University of Guelph, Dr. McDonell served as the Departmental Graduate Coordinator, as Area Coordinator for the small animal, and then large animal clinic, as Hospital Director, and as College Assistant Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs for the final seven years of his career. While serving as Hospital Director, he was instrumental in establishing the OVC Pet Trust companion animal fund, which has proven to be the most successful fund of its kind in North America.

“Dr. McDonell envisioned and then led the establishment of the OVC Pet Trust companion animal Fund after recognizing that they are increasingly important to society and there was no funding available for the research needed to support their health and well-being,” explains Dr. Meek. “And so, the OVC Pet Trust, Canada’s first charitable fund completely dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of companion animals, was formally established in 1986.”

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While serving as Assistant Dean for Research and Graduate Affairs, Dr. McDonell developed and implemented a successful Canadian Foundation for Innovation research proposal devoted to comparative medicine. His passion is research and graduate training and he has supervised seven veterinary anesthesia interns, six residents, 10 residents/clinical doctorates, five MSc students, and three research doctorate students.

Dr. McDonell has also published 120 referenced scientific articles and 13 chapters in monographs and textbooks. He retired in 2004 after 38 years as an OVC faculty member and was granted University Professor Emeritus status. After retirement, he helped establish the veterinary charity organization, Veterinarians Without Borders – Canada in 2005, serving as board member for years.

“From the beginning, Dr. McDonell’s knowledge of veterinarians, veterinary schools, veterinary businesses, and Canadian and international veterinary organizations was invaluable,” praises Dr. David Waltner-Toews, founding President of Veterinarians Without Borders. “He recruited volunteers to design our website, execute public relations activities, and arranged for us to secure necessary office space and resources. He was a signatory on our charitable organization application with Industry Canada, served as our first treasurer and bookkeeper, and helped us understand how to best interact with the CVMA, the Commonwealth Veterinary Association, and veterinary education in Canada and abroad.”

“Dr. McDonell has been a CVMA member since his DVM graduation and has served as an Associate Editor for *The Canadian Veterinary Journal* (CVJ) for the past six years,” says Dr. Carlton Gyles, veterinarian and past Editor-in-Chief of *The CVJ*. “He has been an unselfish and creative leader in the veterinary community and has made remarkable contributions to the profession over the past 50 years. I strongly support his CVMA Life Membership award.”

Life Membership is presented to a CVMA member for long and outstanding service on CVMA Council, Executive, Boards and Committees, or for outstanding contributions to the veterinary profession.

– 30 –

The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is the national and international voice for Canada’s veterinarians, providing leadership and advocacy for veterinary medicine. Each year, the CVMA proudly recognizes individuals and groups for their outstanding contribution to veterinary medicine. Visit canadianveterinarians.net to learn more about the CVMA.

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