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## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 23, 2021

### **Ontario Veterinarian Awarded for his Contribution to the Advancement of Veterinary Medicine**

OTTAWA, Ont. – Dr. Walt Ingwersen has been honoured with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's (CVMA) *Industry Award* for his contributions to the advancement of veterinary medicine in industry.

Dr. Ingwersen graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) in 1982 before returning to complete a small animal internal medicine internship and residency resulting in his post-graduate Doctor of Veterinary Science degree and his veterinary internal medicine specialist certification from the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

From 1987 to 1998, Dr. Ingwersen was chief of veterinary internal medicine at a multi-person, general and specialty veterinary clinic on the east side of Toronto, becoming its hospital director in 1993. In 1998, he changed career directions by becoming the first Canadian editor of the *Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association*. He also provides consulting services to the pet health industry, including the areas of microchipping, pet health insurance, and clinical pathology laboratory medicine.

“Walt has made many contributions to Canadian veterinary medicine during his career, including his work on numerous projects setting standards for microchips,” informs Dr. Jim Berry, veterinarian, CVMA Past-President, and Executive Board Member of the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA). “Through his work with WSAVA, Dr. Ingwersen was instrumental in mounting an international campaign ensuring qualified veterinary personnel maintained access to ketamine and, most recently, he spearheaded the campaign to ensure global access to essential veterinary drugs and biologics.”

Since 2002, Dr. Ingwersen has been a consultant to the Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd. Vetmedica Companion Animal team, joining full-time in 2004. He continues to provide internal medicine consults and assists veterinarians across Canada in making healthcare decisions and treatment recommendations.

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“Dr. Ingwersen is based in Ontario and within his capacity at Boehringer Ingelheim, he provides specialist-level medical and technical support to veterinarians regionally, while also interacting with academic veterinarians and specialists nationally and internationally,” says Dr. Michael Witt, Business Unit Director at Boehringer Ingelheim Canada Ltd. “He is heavily involved in team training, serving as a key technical resource for pharmaceuticals. Dr. Ingwersen has been recognized by his colleagues as being an invaluable team member and has won company awards and recognition for his achievements.”

As an active volunteer for provincial, national, and international veterinary medical associations, Dr. Ingwersen is a Past-President of WSAVA and recently joined the advisory group of Pawzy, focused on connecting pet parents to the best advice and services. He was honoured to receive the CVMA President's Award in 2000 and the 2020 OVMA Outstanding Veterinarian Award.

“Since 2008, Dr. Ingwersen has been a hardworking and dedicated member of the WSAVA Executive Committee,” states Dr. Berry. “One of his key focuses was to ensure our voice was heard on issues affecting members and their ability to provide their patients the highest standard of care. He was instrumental in the successful campaign against the proposed rescheduling of ketamine and in recent years, spearheaded WSAVA’s commitment to improving access and availability to veterinary therapeutics. Dr. Ingwersen is working on promoting the Essential Medicines list, which will be used to focus collective lobbying efforts in regions of highest need. This will have a strong and lasting impact on regional inequities. He engages tirelessly with key community stakeholders to ensure their collaboration and through his stewardship, WSAVA is building on this important initiative’s momentum.

*Instituted in 1996, the CVMA Industry award publicly acknowledges and celebrates the role of industry in veterinary medicine. The award formally recognizes a CVMA member for their contributions to the advancement of veterinary medicine.*

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*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, CVMA proudly recognizes individuals and groups for their outstanding contribution to veterinary medicine. Visit [canadianveterinarians.net](http://canadianveterinarians.net) to learn more about the CVMA.*

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