Eligibility/Requirements:

Nominees must meet the eligibility criteria and nomination requirements for each award as outlined below. Additional supporting materials are required.

Outstanding Veterinarian Award

This award is presented to a veterinarian for outstanding contributions to the veterinary profession. Candidates may be nominated by the general public, veterinarians or the general public.

Eligibility/Requirements: All veterinarians who are members of OVMA are eligible. Nominees should demonstrate a suitable background of demonstrated client and patient service, and should be recognized as a leader in their clinic, community, or in organizations at local or provincial levels. A minimum of two supporting letters are required: one from a staff member, and one from an OVMA clinician at their place of employment. The nomination should also include one letter from a client which can be requested by the clinic staff in support of the nomination.

Golden Life Membership Award

This award recognizes OVMA members who are retired from full-time career pursuits of veterinary medicine or who have been a veterinarian for a minimum of 30 years, and have served the profession in an extraordinary manner. Recipients receive an honorary lifetime OVMA membership.

Eligibility/Requirements: OVMA member veterinarians who are either retired or have been a veterinarian for a minimum of 30 years, and have served the profession in an extraordinary manner. Candidates may be nominated by the general public, veterinarians, or the general public. A minimum of two supporting letters, both from OVMA member veterinarians, must accompany each nomination.

Award of Merit

This award recognizes individuals for their practice of, or help to, veterinary medicine. It is awarded for distinguished public service to the veterinary profession in any form.

Eligibility/Requirements: All veterinarians who are members of OVMA are eligible for nomination. Candidates may be nominated by the general public, or by members of the veterinary profession. Supporting letters from members of the animal health sector, veterinarians or the general public must accompany each nomination.

Associate of the Year Award

This award is presented to an associate veterinarian who has demonstrated superior customer service and has proven to be an asset to their practice as well as their community.

Eligibility/Requirements: All associate veterinarians who are OVMA members and who graduated more than five years ago are eligible for nomination. Nominees should demonstrate a suitable background of demonstrated client and patient service, and should be recognized as a leader in their clinic, community, or in organizations at local or provincial levels. A minimum of two supporting letters are required: one from a staff member, and one from an OVMA clinician at their place of employment. The nomination should also include one letter from a client which can be requested by the clinic staff in support of the nomination.

Rising Star Award

This award is presented to an associate veterinarian who has demonstrated superior leadership in their place of employment and their community for the betterment of animal welfare and/or their clients and/or their colleagues in the veterinary profession.

Eligibility/Requirements: All associate veterinarians who are OVMA members and who graduated five years ago or less are eligible for nomination. Nominees should demonstrate a suitable background of demonstrated client and patient service, and should be recognized as a leader in their clinic, community, or in organizations at local or provincial level. A minimum of two supporting letters are required: one from a staff member, and one from an OVMA clinician at their place of employment. The nomination should also include one letter from a client which can be requested by the clinic staff in support of the nomination.

Honorary Membership Award

This award is presented to someone who is not a veterinarian but has contributed to animal welfare and/or the veterinary profession.

Eligibility/Requirements: Any person, other than a veterinarian but has contributed to animal welfare and/or the veterinary profession.

How do I nominate someone for an OVMA award?

1. Choose an award category that best suits your proposed candidate.
2. Complete an OVMA Awards Program nomination form.
3. Compile your supporting materials (biography, supporting letters, newspaper clippings, etc)*.
4. Mail, email or fax your completed nomination form and supporting materials to OVMA at the address below.

*Please be sure to include biographical information about your nominee. This will serve as the basis of the award nomination and presentation.

What do award recipients receive?

Award winners will receive an engraved OVMA award, complimentary registration to the OVMA Conference & Trade Show, accommodation for one night at the conference venue, and travel expenses to/from the conference.

When are awards presented?

Awards are presented during the annual OVMA Conference & Trade Show in January. Awards are not automatically awarded on an annual basis, but are awarded when at least one nominee meets the award criteria, as determined by the OVMA Awards Committee and the Board of Directors.

When is the deadline for nominations?

Nominations must be received by October 1st of each year. Nominations will be accepted after October 1st, however will not be considered until the following year's awards program.

About OVMA

Founded in 1980, the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association represents thousands of Ontario veterinarians in private practice, government, academia, industry and public service. Our mandate is to advance and promote excellence in the veterinary profession in Ontario, and to contribute to the betterment of animal health and the protection of human health.

For more information, contact:

OVMA
420 Bronte Street South
Suite 205, Milton, ON L9T 0H9
Tel: 1.800.670.1702
Fax: 1.877.482.5941
info@ovma.org
www.ovma.org
The OVMA Awards Program honours those who have made extraordinary contributions to the veterinary profession and, by doing so, have inspired others to do the same. The Awards Program provides the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) with the opportunity to recognize and share the inspiring and exceptional work being done across the province on behalf of veterinary medicine, animal welfare and the veterinary profession.

OVMA Award recipients are recognized for their achievements in the following ways:

- Award winners are honoured at a ceremony during the annual OVMA Conference & Trade Show.
- Award winner profiles are published in OVMA’s member magazine, Focus.
- Award winners are announced on the OVMA website (www.ovma.org) and OVMA social media sites.
- Press releases are distributed to media in the recipient’s local community.

OVMA AWARDS HALL OF FAME
Celebrating our 2015 Winners!

Petra Burgmann, BSc, DVM, Dipl ABVP (avian)
Golden Life Membership Award
Dr. Petra Burgmann has made immense contributions to the exotic animal field over her 30-year career, including becoming the first Canadian to qualify as a Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners in Avian Practice. To quote one of her nominators, “We as practitioners hope in our careers to help thousands of pets. Petra, in her career, has helped thousands directly and tens of thousands indirectly through the knowledge she has passed to veterinarians and the public…”

Dana Clayton, DVM
Rising Star Award
After little more than a year in practice, Dr. Dana Clayton made an impression on both her co-workers and clients. She has impressed her colleagues with kindness, confidence and skill far beyond her years as a veterinarian. Dr. Clayton’s co-workers say her “upbeat attitude is a breath of fresh air” and she “captures the trust, respect and devotion of every single client she has the pleasure of assisting.”

Brian Laing, BSc, DVM
Award of Merit
Clients of Town and Country Animal Hospital recounted stories of Dr. Laing’s willingness to go above and beyond by considering every treatment option and being available at any time of day to owners of pets in precarious health. He created the “Best Doggone Diet” app, which empowers pet parents to help their dogs maintain or lose weight safely, and appeared on a number of television programs, including CBC news, to spread information about animal welfare.

Doug MacDougald, DVM – Outstanding Veterinarian Award
Dr. Doug MacDougald has proven himself to be an outstanding veterinarian through his work in the swine industry and his role in addressing the challenges of Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea (PED). He is one of the founding members of the Ontario Swine Health Advisory Board, where he currently serves as Chair. Through these organizations Dr. MacDougald has helped foster co-operation and collaboration in dealing with issues facing the swine industry with tremendous dedication. He received the YMCA 2011 Peace Medal for his work with Sleeping Children Around the World, a charitable organization that distributes mosquito nets and other basic supplies to children in developing countries. Peers and colleagues recognize Dr. MacDougald for his energy, enthusiasm and his immense contributions to the swine industry.

Ron Mergl, BSc, DVM, MSc – Award of Merit
Throughout his 30-year career, Dr. Ron Mergl has demonstrated a deep empathy for his clients and has a humanitarian streak that has taken him around the globe. His staff members have lauded him as a leader and mentor who makes clients feel like family. As a volunteer with Vets without Borders he travelled to Malawi to help develop a human/animal rabies awareness and prevention program. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Niagara Falls and has made several international trips as part of that organization’s mission to eradicate polio in children. Dr. Mergl has received Rotary’s Paul Harris Fellowship Award multiple times.

Are You an OVMA Member?  Yes  No
I have included all required supporting documents  Yes  No

Please return this form, along with all supporting nomination materials to:
OVMA Awards Program
420 Bronte Street South, Suite 205
Milton, ON L9T 0H9
Toll-free fax: 1.877.482.5941

To download this brochure & nomination form, please visit www.ovma.org