Award Categories & 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.
Eligibility/Requirements: All veterinarians who are members of OVMA are eligible. Nominees should demonstrate a suitable background of leadership in professional associations at the regional, provincial and/or national levels, plus involvement in the community leading to an enhanced image of veterinarians and/or the profession. A minimum of two letters of recommendation from two veterinarians—one of whom is an OVMA member—must accompany each 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 who 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. 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 clinic owner 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 the local or provincial level. Their exceptional conduct should reflect an overall positive image of the veterinary profession. A minimum of two supporting letters are required: one from a staff member and one from an OVMA clinic owner 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, who has served the interests of the veterinary profession through various endeavours. A minimum of two supporting letters, both from OVMA member veterinarians, must accompany each nomination.

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.

Tim Zaharchuk, DVM
Outstanding Veterinarian
Dr. Tim Zaharchuk was recognized for outstanding volunteerism and animal welfare advocacy. He has been actively involved with veterinary associations on the local, provincial and national levels over the course of his career, including the Brampton Veterinary Association, the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association and the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association. Dr. Zaharchuk served as the veterinarian for the Lions Foundation of Canada Dog Guides for two years, and has represented Ontario veterinarians as a media spokesperson on a number of important topics. Most recently, he was instrumental in assisting the City of Mississauga as it redeveloped its animal welfare bylaws in 2014.

Susan Cochrane, BSc, MSc, DVM, DVSc, Diplomate ACVIM (Neurology)
Golden Life Membership
Dr. Susan Cochrane is a clinical neurologist, and was recognized by her peers for going above and beyond in the care she provides to her patients, many of whom suffer from complex neurological conditions. Although health outcomes can be unpredictable in the field of neurology, clients and veterinarians alike consistently praise Dr. Cochrane’s bedside manner, dedication, compassion and knowledge.

Kasia Sulima, DVM
Rising Star
Recognized for her exceptional volunteerism, leadership and client and patient service, Dr. Kasia Sulima has impressed her peers and clients with her dedication to veterinary medicine after just a few years in practice. Dr. Sulima has volunteered for a variety of animal welfare and charitable causes, and serves as a mentor to many high school and veterinary technician co-op students. Dr. Sulima was recognized by her clients for her compassion, empathy and gentle demeanor in addition to her outstanding technical skills.

Jerome Billett, DVM & Janice Harrower, DVM
Award of Merit
Partners in life as well as in practice, Drs. Jerome Billett and Janice Harrower were lauded for outstanding leadership within their practice and local community. Their success can in part be attributed to their willingness to embrace the constant advances in veterinary medicine and technology while recognizing the importance of providing exemplary patient care and client service. Described by their peers as “the dream team of veterinary medicine,” they have left a lasting and far-reaching impact on their hospital, their community, and their employees.

Suzi Peters, DVM
Award of Merit
Dr. Suzi Peters was recognized for her volunteerism, having served on local and provincial veterinary associations throughout the course of her career, including the Niagara Peninsula Veterinary Association and the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association. She is the Head Coordinator of the St. John Ambulance Therapy Dog Program in Niagara and dedicated over 1,500 hours to the program in 2015. She also serves as a mentor to aspiring veterinarians, and regularly promotes the veterinary profession and responsible pet care to students.

2017 OVMA Awards Program Nomination Form

Is the Nominee an OVMA member?  ❑ Yes  ❑ No

I would like to nominate the above named Nominee for the following award:

❑ Outstanding Veterinarian Award
❑ Honorary Membership Award
❑ Golden Life Membership Award
❑ Award of Merit
❑ Associate of the Year Award
❑ Rising Star Award

NAME OF NOMINEE

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER  EMAIL ADDRESS

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