

# OVMA AWARDS HALL OF FAME

## Look Back at Some of Our Past Winners

Since the OVMA Awards Program was established in 1986, more than 90 individuals have been recognized with one of OVMA's prestigious awards. OVMA award winners have demonstrated a wide range of outstanding work in their communities. Whether it's volunteering for committees or associations, engaging in volunteer work at home or abroad, or working to improve animal welfare in the province, OVMA's award winners are improving the veterinary profession each and every day.



**Dr. Scott Bainbridge**  
2019 Award of Merit

Dr. Scott Bainbridge was recognized for his exemplary public service and contributions to the veterinary profession. From establishing a veterinary camp for kids in Australia to providing free medical care for pets of women

who have left abusive households, he has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to helping others and improving the lives of animals.



**Dr. Mark Gemmill**  
2019 Outstanding Veterinarian Award

Dr. Mark Gemmill has made a significant impact on the veterinary profession and on the lives of pets and pet owners across Ontario. He served on OVMA's Board of Directors for 17 years and he helped

establish the Farley Foundation, serving as a board member for 14 years. A dedicated volunteer in his community, he actively supports a variety of charities, and he regularly mentors future veterinarians in his practice.



**Dr. Christian Heyerhoff**  
2019 Rising Star Award

Specializing in large animal medicine and surgery, Dr. Christian Heyerhoff was praised by his colleagues for going above and beyond for his patients and clients, and for his ability to quickly diagnose complex medical problems. In addition to his

clinic work, he participates in a young veterinarian's group, mentoring less-experienced veterinarians and assisting them with difficult cases.



**Dr. Glenys Hughes**  
2019 Associate of the Year Award

Dr. Glenys Hughes has dedicated her career to providing excellence in feline medicine and has established a reputation for outstanding patient care and client support. Considered a role model to

her colleagues, she is also an active volunteer and advocate for animal welfare, providing medical care to animals at the Ottawa Humane Society and other organizations.



**Dr. James Mantle**  
2019 Golden Life Membership Award

Dr. James Mantle spent his 40-year career caring for the large animals in his community while mentoring countless youth and students. For more than 30 years, he volunteered with 4-H Ontario as

a local board member and as a club leader for the Veterinary Science Club, teaching rural youth about veterinary medicine and helping former 4-H members pursue careers in the veterinary profession.



**Dr. Michael Ritter**  
2019 Golden Life Membership Award

Dr. Michael Ritter was recognized for his leadership and extraordinary service to the veterinary profession during his 40-year career. From mentoring aspiring veterinarians to establishing a

local charity to support parents of children struggling with addiction, Dr. Ritter has dedicated his life to enhancing the lives of the people and animals around him.

## 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 Oct. 1 of each year. Nominations will be accepted after Oct. 1, but 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



# DO YOU KNOW AN OUTSTANDING VETERINARIAN?



The OVMA Awards Program honours those who have made extraordinary contributions to the veterinary profession, and provides OVMA with the opportunity to recognize and share the inspiring and exceptional work being done on behalf of animal welfare, veterinary medicine 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](http://www.ovma.org)) and OVMA social media sites.
- Press releases are distributed to media in the recipient's local community.

# 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.

## 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.

## 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. 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 that 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 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 member at their place of employment. The nomination should also include one letter from a client that can be requested by the clinic staff in support of the nomination.

## OVMA Awards Program Nomination Form

NAME OF NOMINEE

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

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 NOMINATOR

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER

EMAIL ADDRESS

Are you an OVMA Member?

- 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