TVMA AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

Categories, Criteria and Guidelines

In order to recognize and encourage outstanding practice and exemplary service in the veterinary profession, the Texas Veterinary Medical Association makes annual awards to those individuals who best exemplify, in various categories, the standards and ideals of the profession. These include several Practitioner of the Year awards in various areas of veterinary practice, Recent Graduate of the Year, Distinguished Veterinary Career Achievement, Licensed Veterinary Technician, Veterinary Public Relations, and Veterinary Industry Representative of the Year awards; and for service above and beyond the call of duty in the form of the President’s Awards. The nomination process, selection criteria, eligibility requirements and selection process are given below for each of these recognitions.

Practitioner of the Year Awards

The Texas Veterinary Medical Association makes annual awards to recognize outstanding professional practice in the following categories:

- Companion Animal Practitioner of the Year
- Equine Practitioner of the Year
- Food Animal Practitioner of the Year
- Non-Traditional Species Practitioner of the Year
- General Practitioner of the Year

The following rules apply to each of these awards.

- **Eligibility Requirements**
  - Must be a member in good standing of TVMA
  - Must be currently engaged in the practice category being recognized
  - Must be nominated as specified below
  - Must complete all requests for information and submit all required documents according to the selection criteria set forth below

- **Nomination Process**
  - Potential recipients of a “Practitioner of the Year” award must be nominated by one or more members of TVMA
  - All nominations must be made using a nomination form provided by TVMA and should include a letter of support from the nominator
  - All nominations must be received in the TVMA office no later than October 15 of each year
  - All nominees will be asked to confirm in writing that they accept their nomination and that they will accept the award if chosen
  - Nominees may provide two letters of recommendation to the TVMA Office no later than the given deadline preceding the annual meeting at which they will receive recognition if selected

- **Selection Criteria:** the nominees for each Practitioner of the Year Award shall be evaluated according to the following criteria:
o Length and scope of professional practice
o Distinctive contributions to advancing the standards of professional practice in the field recognized by the specific award for which nominated
o Leadership and contributions to advancing organized veterinary medicine at the local, state and national levels
o Involvement in civic activities and contributions to community life outside veterinary medicine, including elected office, volunteer work, youth activities, church involvements, service club membership and work, welfare and humanitarian activities, and related achievements
o Representation of veterinary medical practice of the type recognized in the sought-after award with other organizations inside or outside the veterinary profession
o Contributions to continuing education through seminars and papers presented and published
o Public education contributions, including specific activities through which the nominee aided in educating or informing the public about the category of veterinary medicine for which they are being nominated, through radio/TV appearances, educational presentations to schools, civic groups, related industries, voluntary service in public health situations
o Civic activities through which the nominee contributed to elevating the standards of veterinary medicine
o Contributions to refining techniques and improving methods of veterinary practice
o Other relevant achievements, activities and recognitions appropriate to the category for which applicant is being nominated

**Selection Process**

o The TVMA office shall gather all nominations and supporting information and confirm that all nominations were received by the stated deadlines
o Nominations and all supporting documents shall be delivered to members of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association Awards Committee
o The awards committee shall carefully review all nominee qualifications, professional and civic achievements, community and professional awards and recognitions and other appropriate information and shall weigh all such factors in determining which nominee best fulfills the ideas of the award being considered
o All deliberations of the committee shall be held in closed session and all discussions, evaluations, and decisions of the committee shall be held in strict confidence except for the final list of award winners which shall be communicated to the officers and directors of TVMA by the committee chair

**Award Presentation**

o All awards shall be presented at the annual meeting of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association at a time and place to be determined by the TVMA Executive Committee on recommendation of the TVMA staff
o Award winners shall be notified of their award including the date and time of presentation sufficiently in advance of the presentation as to all the recipients to make necessary arrangements to attend and to invite guests if desired.
Recent Graduate of the Year Award

The Texas Veterinary Medical Association makes one or more annual awards to recognize outstanding professional performance among recent graduates currently practicing veterinary medicine. The following rules apply to this award:

• Eligibility Requirements
  o Must be a member in good standing of TVMA
  o Must be currently engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine in any work setting or by any method or type of practice
  o Must have graduated with a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine no more than five (5) years preceding the date of nomination
  o Must be nominated as specified below
  o Must complete all requests for information and submit all required documents according to the selection criteria set forth below

• Nomination Process
  o Potential recipients of a “Recent Graduate of the Year” award must be nominated by one or more members of TVMA
  o All nominations must be made using a nomination form provided by TVMA and should include a letter of support from the nominator
  o All nominations must be received in the TVMA office no later than October 15 of each year
  o All nominees will be asked to confirm in writing that they accept their nomination and that they will accept the award if chosen
  o Nominees may provide two letters of recommendation to the TVMA Office no later than the given deadline preceding the annual meeting at which they will receive recognition if selected

• Selection Criteria: the nominees for the Recent Graduate of the Year Award shall be evaluated according to the following criteria:
  o Recognized performance and demonstrated potential for exemplary professional practice
  o Potential for advancing the standards of professional practice in the field recognized by the specific award for which nominated
  o Initial examples and promising potential for leadership and contributions to advancing organized veterinary medicine at the local, state and national levels
  o Initial indications of future involvement in and contributions to civic and community life outside veterinary medicine, including the possibilities of elected office, volunteer work, youth activities, church involvements, service club membership and work, welfare and humanitarian activities, and related achievements
  o Promising indications of personal character and profession ethics sufficient to bring honor, public appreciation and general high regard for the veterinary profession both within and outside the veterinary profession
  o Demonstrated commitment to life-long professional development and continuing education
Examples of efforts to better inform the public concerning veterinary medicine and responsibilities of animal ownership
Other relevant achievements, activities and recognitions documented by the recent graduate under consideration for the award

**Selection Process**

- The TVMA office shall gather all nominations and supporting information and confirm that all nominations were received by the stated deadlines
- Nominations and all supporting documents shall be delivered to members of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association Awards Committee
- The awards committee shall carefully review all nominee qualifications, professional and civic achievements, community and professional awards and recognitions and other appropriate information and shall weigh all such factors in determining which nominee best fulfills the ideas of the award being considered
- All deliberations of the committee shall be held in closed session and all discussions, evaluations, and decisions of the committee shall be held in strict confidence except for the final list of award winners which shall be communicated to the officers and directors of TVMA by the committee chair

**Award Presentation**

- All awards shall be presented at the annual meeting of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association at a time and place to be determined by the TVMA Executive Committee on recommendation of the TVMA staff
- Award winners shall be notified of their award including the date and time of presentation sufficiently in advance of the presentation as to all the recipients to make necessary arrangements to attend and to invite guests if desired.

**Veterinary Medical Specialist of the Year Award**

The Texas Veterinary Medical Association makes one or more annual awards to recognize outstanding professional performance among veterinary medical specialists currently practicing veterinary medicine. The following rules apply to this award:

**Eligibility Requirements**

- Must be a member in good standing of TVMA
- Must be currently engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine in a practice setting where at least 50% of the individual’s active practice time is devoted to a recognized veterinary medical specialty
- Must have received professional credentials or recognitions appropriate to the veterinary medical specialty practiced
- Must be nominated as specified below
- Must complete all requests for information and submit all required documents according to the selection criteria set forth below

**Nomination Process**

- Potential recipients of a “Veterinary Medical Specialist of the Year” award must be nominated by one or more members of TVMA
All nominations must be made using a nomination form provided by TVMA and should include a letter of support from the nominator.

All nominations must be received in the TVMA office no later than October 15 of each year.

All nominees will be asked to confirm in writing that they accept their nomination and that they will accept the award if chosen.

Nominees may provide two letters of recommendation to the TVMA Office no later than the given deadline preceding the annual meeting at which they will receive recognition if selected.

**Selection Criteria:** the nominees for the Veterinary Medical Specialist of the Year Award shall be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Length and scope of professional practice
- Distinctive contributions to advancing the standards of professional practice in the field recognized by the specific award for which nominated
- Leadership and contributions to advancing organized veterinary medicine at the local, state and national levels
- Involvement in civic activities and contributions to community life outside veterinary medicine, including elected office, volunteer work, youth activities, church involvements, service club membership and work, welfare and humanitarian activities, and related achievements
- Representation of veterinary medical practice of the type recognized in the sought-after award with other organizations inside or outside the veterinary profession
- Contributions to continuing education through seminars and papers presented and published
- Public education contributions, including specific activities through which the nominee aided in educating or informing the public about the category of veterinary medicine for which they are being nominated, through radio/TV appearances, educational presentations to schools, civic groups, related industries, voluntary service in public health situations
- Civic activities through which the nominee contributed to elevating the standards of veterinary medicine
- Contributions to refining techniques and improving methods of veterinary practice
- Other relevant achievements, activities and recognitions appropriate to the practice of specialty veterinary medicine

**Selection Process**

- The TVMA office shall gather all nominations and supporting information and confirm that all nominations were received by the stated deadlines
- Nominations and all supporting documents shall be delivered to members of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association Awards Committee
- The awards committee shall carefully review all nominee qualifications, professional and civic achievements, community and professional awards and recognitions and other appropriate information and shall weigh all such factors in determining which nominee best fulfills the ideas of the award being considered
All deliberations of the committee shall be held in closed session and all discussions, evaluations, and decisions of the committee shall be held in strict confidence except for the final list of award winners which shall be communicated to the officers and directors of TVMA by the committee chair.

**Award Presentation**

- All awards shall be presented at the annual meeting of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association at a time and place to be determined by the TVMA Executive Committee on recommendation of the TVMA staff.
- Award winners shall be notified of their award including the date and time of presentation sufficiently in advance of the presentation as to all the recipients to make necessary arrangements to attend and to invite guests if desired.

**Distinguished Veterinary Career Achievement Award**

The Texas Veterinary Medical Association makes one or more annual awards to recognize outstanding professional performance across a full career in veterinary practice. It is the intent of this award to recognize and celebrate outstanding achievement attained not just once or even periodically, but more or less continuously over an extended career in veterinary medicine. The following rules apply to this award:

**Eligibility Requirements**

- Must be a member in good standing of TVMA
- Must be currently or recently engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine and that practice must have been continuous over a minimum of 20 years
- Must be nominated as specified below
- Must complete all requests for information and submit all required documents according to the selection criteria set forth below

**Nomination Process**

- Potential recipients of a “Distinguished Veterinary Career Achievement” award must be nominated by one or more members of TVMA
- All nominations must be made using a nomination form provided by TVMA and should include a letter of support from the nominator
- All nominations must be received in the TVMA office no later than October 15 of each year
- All nominees will be asked to confirm in writing that they accept their nomination and that they will accept the award if chosen
- Nominees may provide two letters of recommendation to the TVMA Office no later than the given deadline preceding the annual meeting at which they will receive recognition if selected

**Selection Criteria: the nominees for the Distinguished Veterinary Career Achievement Award shall be evaluated according to the following criteria:**

- Length and scope of professional practice
- Total cumulative record of accomplishments, recognitions, and professional contributions at the professional and civic levels of responsibility
- Distinctive contributions to advancing the standards of professional practice
• Record of continued strong involvement in organized veterinary medicine at the local, state and/or national levels
• Extent of representation of veterinary medical practice to other organizations inside or outside the veterinary profession
• Cumulative record of continuous professional development and continuing education
• Degree to which award nominee has, over her/his full career aided in educating or informing the public about the veterinary medicine through media appearances, educational presentations to schools, civic groups, related industries, or voluntary service in public health situations
• Contributions to refining techniques and improving methods of veterinary practice
• Other relevant achievements, activities and recognitions appropriate to the category for which applicant is being nominated

• Selection Process
  o The TVMA office shall gather all nominations and supporting information and confirm that all nominations were received by the stated deadlines
  o Nominations and all supporting documents shall be delivered to members of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association Awards Committee
  o The awards committee shall carefully review all nominee qualifications, professional and civic achievements, community and professional awards and recognitions and other appropriate information and shall weigh all such factors in determining which nominee best fulfills the ideas of the award being considered
  o All deliberations of the committee shall be held in closed session and all discussions, evaluations, and decisions of the committee shall be held in strict confidence except for the final list of award winners which shall be communicated to the officers and directors of TVMA by the committee chair

• Award Presentation
  o All awards shall be presented at the annual meeting of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association at a time and place to be determined by the TVMA Executive Committee on recommendation of the TVMA staff
  o Award winners shall be notified of their award including the date and time of presentation sufficiently in advance of the presentation as to all the recipients to make necessary arrangements to attend and to invite guests if desired.

Licensed Veterinary Technician of the Year Award

The Texas Veterinary Medical Association makes one or more annual awards to recognize outstanding professional performance among individuals working as Licensed Veterinary Technicians. The following rules apply to this award:

• Eligibility Requirements
  o Must be a Licensed Veterinary Technician (LVT) member in good standing of TVMA
  o Must be currently engaged in work appropriate to the technical competence of an LVT
Must be nominated as specified below
Must complete all requests for information and submit all required documents according to the selection criteria set forth below

• Nomination Process
Potential recipients of a “Licensed Veterinary Technician of the Year” award must be nominated by one or more members of TVMA
All nominations must be made using a nomination form provided by TVMA and should include a letter of support from the nominator
All nominations must be received in the TVMA office no later than October 15 of each year
All nominees will be asked to confirm in writing that they accept their nomination and that they will accept the award if chosen
Nominees may provide two letters of recommendation to the TVMA office no later than the given deadline preceding the annual meeting at which they will receive recognition if selected

• Selection Criteria: the nominees for the Licensed Veterinary Technician of the Year Award shall be evaluated according to the following criteria:
Length and scope of employment in veterinary medicine or other animal-related work setting
Distinctive contributions to advancing the standards of technical practice in veterinary medicine
Leadership in and contributions to advancing the role and value of the veterinary technician
Involvement in community life outside veterinary medicine, including elected office, volunteer work, youth activities, church involvements, service club membership and work, welfare and humanitarian activities, and related activities
Activities related to the education of animal owners regarding the care and welfare of animals, value of preventative medicine and the duties of responsible animal ownership, such as in-clinic programs, radio/TV appearances, and educational presentations to schools or other civic groups
Voluntary service in public health situations or similar activities
Civic activities through which the nominee contributed to elevating the standards of performance in the field of veterinary medicine
Contributions to refining the techniques and improving methods of assistance to the licensed veterinary practitioner and as a member of the comprehensive animal health care team;
Other relevant achievements, activities and recognitions appropriate to the category of Licensed Veterinary Technician

• Selection Process
The TVMA office shall gather all nominations and supporting information and confirm that all nominations were received by the stated deadlines
Nominations and all supporting documents shall be delivered to members of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association Awards Committee
The awards committee shall carefully review all nominee qualifications, professional and civic achievements, community and professional awards and recognitions and other appropriate information and shall weigh all such factors in determining which nominee best fulfills the ideas of the award being considered.

All deliberations of the committee shall be held in closed session and all discussions, evaluations, and decisions of the committee shall be held in strict confidence except for the final list of award winners which shall be communicated to the officers and directors of TVMA by the committee chair.

• **Award Presentation**
  - All awards shall be presented at the annual meeting of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association at a time and place to be determined by the TVMA Executive Committee on recommendation of the TVMA staff.
  - Award winners shall be notified of their award including the date and time of presentation sufficiently in advance of the presentation as to all the recipients to make necessary arrangements to attend and to invite guests if desired.

*Veterinary Paraprofessional of the Year Award*

The Texas Veterinary Medical Association makes one or more annual awards to recognize outstanding professional performance among individuals working as veterinary team members, including Certified Veterinary Assistants (CVA), veterinary assistants, hospital managers and other non-licensed staff. The following rules apply to this award:

• **Eligibility Requirements**
  - Must be currently engaged in work appropriate to the technical competence of their role on the veterinary team
  - Must be nominated as specified below
  - Must complete all requests for information and submit all required documents according to the selection criteria set forth below

• **Nomination Process**
  - Potential recipients of a Veterinary Paraprofessional of the Year award must be nominated by one or more members of TVMA
  - All nominations must be made using a nomination form provided by TVMA and should include a letter of support from the nominator
  - All nominations must be received in the TVMA office no later than October 15 of each year
  - All nominees will be asked to confirm in writing that they accept their nomination and that they will accept the award if chosen
  - Nominees may provide two letters of recommendation to the TVMA Office no later than the given deadline preceding the annual meeting at which they will receive recognition if selected

• **Selection Criteria:** the nominees for the Veterinary Paraprofessional of the Year Award shall be evaluated according to the following criteria:
• Length and scope of employment in veterinary medicine or other animal-related work setting
• Distinctive contributions to advancing the standards of technical practice in veterinary medicine
• Leadership in and contributions to advancing the role and value of the veterinary team
• Involvement in community life outside veterinary medicine, including elected office, volunteer work, youth activities, church involvements, service club membership and work, welfare and humanitarian activities, and related activities
• Activities related to the education of animal owners regarding the care and welfare of animals, value of preventative medicine and the duties of responsible animal ownership, such as in-clinic programs, radio/TV appearances, and educational presentations to schools or other civic groups
• Voluntary service in public health situations or similar activities
• Civic activities through which the nominee contributed to elevating the standards of performance in their role
• Contributions to improving methods of assistance to the licensed veterinary practitioner and as a member of the comprehensive animal health care team
• Other relevant achievements, activities and recognitions appropriate to the category of veterinary team member.

• Selection Process
  o The TVMA office shall gather all nominations and supporting information and confirm that all nominations were received by the stated deadlines
  o Nominations and all supporting documents shall be delivered to members of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association Awards Committee
  o The awards committee shall carefully review all nominee qualifications, professional and civic achievements, community and professional awards and recognitions and other appropriate information and shall weigh all such factors in determining which nominee best fulfills the ideas of the award being considered
  o All deliberations of the committee shall be held in closed session and all discussions, evaluations, and decisions of the committee shall be held in strict confidence except for the final list of award winners which shall be communicated to the officers and directors of TVMA by the committee chair

• Award Presentation
  o All awards shall be presented at the annual meeting of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association at a time and place to be determined by the TVMA Executive Committee on recommendation of the TVMA staff
  o Award winners shall be notified of their award including the date and time of presentation sufficiently in advance of the presentation as to all the recipients to make necessary arrangements to attend and to invite guests if desired.

**Veterinary Industry Representative of the Year Award**
The Texas Veterinary Medical Association makes one or more annual awards to recognize outstanding performance among those individuals who work in veterinary-
related business and industry and who have significant interaction with veterinary practice owners and other individuals within veterinary medicine. The following rules apply to this award:

- **Eligibility Requirements**
  - Must be actively employed in a business or industry directly serving the veterinary profession
  - Must be nominated as specified below
  - Must complete all requests for information and submit all required documents according to the selection criteria set forth below
  - Prefer nominee to be an allied industry member in good standing of TVMA

- **Nomination Process**
  - Potential recipients of a “Veterinary Industry Representative of the Year” award must be nominated by one or more members of TVMA
  - All nominations must be made using a nomination form provided by TVMA and should include a letter of support from the nominator
  - All nominations must be received in the TVMA office no later than October 15 of each year
  - All nominees will be asked to confirm in writing that they accept their nomination and that they will accept the award if chosen
  - Nominees may provide two letters of recommendation to the TVMA Office no later than the given deadline preceding the annual meeting at which they will receive recognition if selected

- **Selection Criteria**: the nominees for the “Veterinary Industry Representative of the Year Award” shall be evaluated according to the following criteria:
  - Length and scope of service to the veterinary profession
  - Demonstrated adherence to the highest levels of business ethics and professional integrity
  - Distinctive contributions to customer service, veterinary practice management and similar activities
  - Significant involvement in and contributions to organized veterinary medicine at various levels
  - Recognitions and awards received from employing company or professional organizations representing the nominee’s field of work
  - Involvement in civic and community life outside veterinary medicine and the employing industry, including elected office, volunteer work, youth activities, church involvements, service club membership and work, welfare and humanitarian activities, and related achievements
  - Other relevant achievements, activities and recognitions appropriate to the category for which applicant is being nominated

- **Selection Process**
  - The TVMA office shall gather all nominations and supporting information and confirm that all nominations were received by the stated deadlines
o Nominations and all supporting documents shall be delivered to members of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association Awards Committee

o The awards committee shall carefully review all nominee qualifications, professional and civic achievements, community and professional awards and recognitions and other appropriate information and shall weigh all such factors in determining which nominee best fulfills the ideas of the award being considered

o All deliberations of the committee shall be held in closed session and all discussions, evaluations, and decisions of the committee shall be held in strict confidence except for the final list of award winners which shall be communicated to the officers and directors of TVMA by the committee chair

• Award Presentation
  o All awards shall be presented at the annual meeting of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association at a time and place to be determined by the TVMA Executive Committee on recommendation of the TVMA staff
  o Award winners shall be notified of their award including the date and time of presentation sufficiently in advance of the presentation as to all the recipients to make necessary arrangements to attend and to invite guests if desired.

President’s Award

Each year the outgoing President of TVMA has the prerogative to name one or more individuals of her/his choice as recipients of the “President’s Award.” These awards are at the complete discretion of the President, but typically they are made in recognition of individuals who have been effective mentors to the President in acquiring or developing the ideals, values and practice of veterinary medicine; or of individuals who have made notable contributions to the success of the President’s leadership efforts; or of individuals outside the profession who have given long and valuable support to the President or to the profession. The presentation of these awards will be as follows:
  o The President’s Award(s) shall be presented at the annual meeting of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association at a time and place to be determined by the TVMA Executive Committee on recommendation of the TVMA staff
  o Award winners shall be notified of their award including the date and time of presentation sufficiently in advance of the presentation as to all the recipients to make necessary arrangements to attend and to invite guests if desired.