

New SCAV Board and Award Winners

The 2018 SCAV Annual Conference last weekend in Greenville was a great success. Excellent speakers offered 28 CE hours and 16 hours of hands on labs at the popular Embassy Suites Golf Resort & Conference Center. As always we appreciate and thank all of our conference supporters, exhibitors, and attendees.

On Sunday the new SCAV Board Officers and two new Board District Representatives were installed by AVMA Past President Dr. Michael Topper:

President: Dr. David Dawkins (Spartanburg)

Vice President: Dr. Adam Eichelberger (Greenwood)

Treasurer: Dr. Joshua Ames (Spartanburg)

Secretary: Dr. Mike Ferguson (Rock Hill)

Past President: Dr. Brett Feder (Lexington)

District 2: Dr. Rebecca Allen (Columbia)

District 5: Dr. Sylvia Chappell (York)

Dr. Boyd Parr (Newberry) was honored by the AVMA for his tremendous service as retiring South Carolina AVMA Representative. Dr. Scott Bryant (Spartanburg) is now our AVMA Representative and Dr. Ginger Macaulay (Lexington) is the new AVMA Alternate Representative. SCAV was also honored by the AVMA.

Dr. Randy Basinger then presented our 2018 SCAV Awards to five outstanding individuals recognized for their tremendous contributions in the veterinary field. Consideration was made to those who have served SCAV, the community, and all involved in the veterinary field to exemplify the highest ideals of the profession.

SC Veterinarian of the Year

Dr. Andy Roark

In nominating him, Dr. Ben D. Phillips described Dr. Roark as “exuding warmth, a contagious smile, vibrant enthusiasm for veterinary medicine and a million ideas on how to make things better.” Dr. Phillips said that the growing number of Dr. Roark’s social media followers speaks volumes about his commitment to encourage, lift, inspire and motivate others. In addition to practicing veterinary medicine with Cleveland Park Animal Hospital in Greenville, SC since 2012, Dr. Roark is a renowned author, speaker, director of Tall Oaks Enterprises (a veterinary consulting firm) and a social media spokesperson for veterinary medicine. His Facebook page with about 241, 000 followers was started for veterinary professionals seeking “happiness, humor and wisdom” in the practice. His humorous educational videos have been viewed more than a half million times. Dr. Roark has been recognized locally, nationally, and internationally as a speaker of note and is an award-winning columnist for several veterinary journals and magazines. He was honored as Practice Management Speaker of the Year three of the last four years at the North American Veterinary Conference (now VMX). Dr.

Roark is also a recipient of the Outstanding Young Alumni Award from the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine.

SC Distinguished Veterinarian of the Year

Dr. Clyde Warner Jordan

Dr. Clyde Jordan was nominated by Dr. Rebecca C. Allen who introduces him as "...her mentor, previous business partner, friend and the biggest Bulldawg fan I know." She adds: "After almost 17 years of practicing medicine with and sitting across a desk from Clyde Jordan, I learned a great deal. In the beginning, when I was scared to look at my first patients he always urged me not to form my worries or opinions ahead of time, let my exam lead me. His don't worry till you have something to worry about attitude was so important in forming healthy work habits from the beginning...." She further describes the impact that Dr. Jordan has had on the lives of animals and humans over the years. "Not a day goes by that I don't hear someone tell me how he saved their animals or comforted them when their animals passed and how they will miss him. His legacy lives on every day in his practice, where I give people my word that I will do my best to carry on in his place, although I will not be able to fill the shoes."

Dr. Jordan graduated from the University of Georgia, College of Veterinary Medicine in 1973. He joined Dr. Marnie Hook at St. Andrews Animal Clinic and helped build it into a practice that is still going strong today some forty years later. He also started Dutch Fork Animal Hospital. While working tirelessly as a caring small animal veterinarian, he raised two sons and served on the SCAV and GCAV. Most recently, he served an active role on the steering committee that was working to fund the new additions to the UGA Veterinary Teaching Hospital. Outside of veterinary medicine, his public service was continued in the St. Andrews Kiwanis Club and their sponsored Irmo Okra Strut.

SC Licensed Veterinary Technician of the Year

Jimmy Cooper

Jimmy Cooper was nominated by Dr. Katherine Saenger and Marshall Liger. In nominating him Dr. Saenger said, "He is always there to get in that difficult catheter (as seen on one episode of the locally filmed Rescue Vet). He is there to deal with the difficult client. He can fix anything. When a printer, computer or any other piece of equipment goes down, he finds a part from a stash in his office and gets the thing going until a new one can be delivered." In recommending him, Marshall Liger said, "...no matter the task at hand, Jimmy knows what needs to be done and how to do it. His thoroughness and attention to detail ensures the patient is always comfortable and safe." Cooper attended Trident Technical College's Veterinary Technology program after encouragement from his work colleagues at Bees Ferry Veterinary Hospital. He joined the hospital in 1996 as a young man with no veterinary experience but an admirable work ethic. He was soon unanimously elected to lead the growing number of assistants and nurses. That year the hospital won the Veterinary Practice of Excellence by Veterinary Economics magazine.

SC Hospital Employee of the Year

Billi Jo Baker

Billi Jo was nominated by Dr. Tim Loonam who based his nomination on the “four attributes I believe make for an all-star veterinary employee: attitude, compassion, team-player, and initiative. He reports, “...I can remember when she literally trudged snow and ice after a freak winter storm to take care of hospitalized and boarding pets when none of the staff could make it in. Billi Jo is one of those servant leaders who always gets the best effort from everyone and just makes people better at their jobs...” He further describes Billi as a professional who does what needs to be done without being told. She will rally the staff and look for better ways to organize and store supplies, equipment, and the stores of client literature and brochures. “Although she is not a licensed tech, Billi Jo has excellent discussions with our vendors and eagerly consumes professional articles from me and is closely involved with training vet tech students from Piedmont Technical College and even our visiting veterinary students,” said Dr. Loonam. Billi Jo has been an employee at Grace Animal Hospital since 2007 and has worked as a veterinary assistant for 12+ years.

SC Humanitarian of the Year

Linda Provence

Linda was nominated by Charlene Cassidy & Linda Larsen of Homeward Bound Pet Rescue Volunteers. In nominating her the two said that Linda has been a long-time advocate for dogs in Irmo, SC and surrounding areas and has dedicated her time and resources to animal rescue for over 15 years. She is a staunch advocate of responsible pet ownership including educating the public on the importance of heartworm prevention, spaying/neutering pets to help reduce euthanasia rates in shelters and making pets a part of the family.

In further describing Linda’s commitment, Cassidy and Larsen explained, “...what most demonstrates Linda’s commitment to animals and her love in service to them is her efforts on behalf of dogs who come to Homeward Bound with serious medical issues. Instead of turning these hard cases away, Linda seeks specialized care for these dogs. Most recently she coordinated with our veterinary partners, the life-saving surgery of a dog named Griff, who came to Homeward Bound as a stray, with a severe case of heartworms. The infestation was so severe that surgery was required to remove the heartworms.

Linda is a Co-Director of Homeward Bound, whose duties include coordinating veterinary care for the dogs, working directly with shelters around the state to take dogs from the shelter into the rescue – helping to reduce euthanasia rates, and working with the public on the daily requests for help with stray, abandoned, and pets for whom owners can no longer provide care. She began her rescue “career” volunteering with Project Pet and took that experience to grow Wescott Acres Pet Rescue where she assisted with pet intake from county shelters, coordinating veterinary care, and screening adoption applications. In 2010, along with Cam Chappell & Angela Peoples, Linda founded Homeward Bound Pet Rescue, an all-volunteer, foster-based dog rescue placing an average of 300 dogs per year.

Public Service Award

Lt. Kevin Hoover and Arko

This year the Awards Selection Committee decided to add a special award for Public Service. Lt. Kevin Hoover has been a police officer with both the town of Irmo and the Richland County Sheriff's Department for 25 years. He has been with the K9 unit for 17 years. He and his K9 partner Arko have apprehended numerous offenders in their years working together and have made South Carolina a safer place for us all. They were nominated by Patty Foy, who noted that "even in their down time that this dynamic duo has taken it one step further. He and Arko make frequent visits to many schools, children's hospitals, and special needs groups to raise awareness of the work that they do, and the need for fear free, compassionate and responsible animal care. They are often seen at fundraising and adoption events for rescue groups in the Midlands. Lt. Hoover is ever humble when Arko assumes the role of the star of the show. For 5 years, he has coordinated the Guardians of the Night K9 5k road race in an effort to bring the community and law enforcement together. In this event pets are welcome to attend the run with their owners. He has also lobbied the State House for stricter animal abuse laws. Lt. Hoover and Arko have been examples of what a dedicated partnership between human and animal should be, and their commitment to serving the community both on and off duty has been unprecedented in South Carolina." Lt. Hoover and Arko have just begun celebrating their retirement together as of the end of September.

Major congratulations to these deserving award winners! Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season for all.

The 2019 Southeastern Veterinary Conference is June 23-26 at the Myrtle Beach Marriott Grand Dunes and the SCAV Annual Fall Conference is November 14-17th at Wild Dunes in Isle of Palms.

Brett Feder
SCAV President

Randy Basinger
Awards Committee Chair