RCVS Honours 2017 - a chance to recognise outstanding achievement

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) is the regulatory body for veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses in the UK, and sets educational, professional and ethical standards.

The public expects veterinary professionals to meet high standards. Sometimes, however, individuals exceed expectation, and we feel this ought to be recognised.

We would also like to recognise and celebrate the achievements of those who have contributed to the health and welfare of animals by working in fields related to the veterinary profession.

If you know someone whose achievements are outstanding and who has worked above and beyond the call of duty in the fields of veterinary medicine or science, or related areas, now is your chance to ensure that they are considered for wider recognition.

Nominations are now welcomed for two Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons honours: The Queen's Medal and the Honorary Associateship, which is for non-members of the RCVS.

The honours

The Queen’s Medal

This honour will recognise a veterinary surgeon who has achieved a highly distinguished career and whose outstanding achievements deserve recognition.

The RCVS Queen's Medal is the College’s most prestigious honour and is open to all members of the RCVS. The award will provide a further aspirational distinction for those Members who already hold an RCVS Fellowship by thesis, meritorious contribution to learning or election.

This honour may be conferred upon only one Member of the College each year. However, if the calibre of nominees in a particular year is not of the requisite standard then the RCVS Council need not confer this honour.

Honorary Associateship

Associateship of the College is a prestigious honour conferred to a small number of non-members of the RCVS each year, in recognition of their special contribution. The College is keen to recognise the full range of individuals who contribute to the veterinary sphere, for example, scientists, lecturers, veterinary nurses, charity-workers, farriers, farmers and those involved in the commercial field.

There would not usually be more than three honours conferred per year. The Council need not confer any honours if the calibre of nominees is not high enough.
How to nominate

If you wish to nominate someone for either honour, please:

1. **Complete the Nomination form.**
2. **Print one copy, sign it and post** to Mrs Dean at the address given at the end of the form, to arrive no later than 5pm on Friday 16 September 2016.
3. **Email a second copy**, as a Word document which can be unsigned, to Mrs Dean at p.dean@rcvs.org.uk.
4. **Send this guidance to and secure additional written supporting statements** from each of two people who support the nomination. At least one of these must be someone who is not a close working colleague of the person nominated, to demonstrate breadth of support. The supporting statements should be no longer than 300 words and should include:
   - The name of the nominee
   - Supporter’s job title
   - Relationship to the nominee
   - Signature of supporter, and date
5. Post or email the supporting statements to Mrs Peris Dean (they can come via the nominator or direct from the supporters) to arrive no later than 5pm on Friday 16 September 2016.

Notes

Please note the following:

- Nominees should **not** be made aware of their nomination, to avoid disappointment in the event that their nomination is unsuccessful.
- Nominators and supporters should only be involved in one nomination per year.
- No correspondence will be entered into following Council’s decision on the nominations and Council’s decision is final.

What happens next?

- The nominations will be considered by the Operational Board and then by Council at its November 2016 meeting.
- Nominators and individuals who have been successful will be notified in November 2016.
- The honours will be presented for approval at the March 2017 meeting of RCVS Council and made public knowledge.
- Honours will be conferred at RCVS Day in July 2017.
Below are summary citations for successful recipients of RCVS honours from the last four years.

**The Queen’s Medal**

2015: Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior

2014: Mr Desmond James Thompson

**Honorary Associates**

2015: Dr Michael J Francis for his exceptional impact on the wellbeing of livestock and pets globally through the vaccines he has developed against infectious diseases.

2015: Miss Catherine Anne Phillips for her dedication to enhancing veterinary nurse training in both the small animal and equine fields.

2015: Dr Phillip Sketchley for his tireless contribution to the pharmaceutical industry for over 30 years and for his work alongside the veterinary profession and at the National Office of Animal Health (NOAH).

2014: There were no Honorary Associates awarded this year.

2013: Dr Kirsten Rausing for outstanding contributions to equine health and welfare through her work for the thoroughbred racing industry and her support of veterinary education and research.

2012: Dr Douglas McGregor for his distinguished career in immunology research and for his contribution to the recruiting and training of veterinarians in the fields of academia, industry and teaching.

**Honorary Fellows (final awards)**

2015: (Gordon) Nick Henderson has had a pivotal role in the development of veterinary associations and societies over the past 60 years, particularly those which encourage the profession to speak out and engage with the public. He is a tireless campaigner for vets in a wide range of disciplines and continues to inspire and encourage the profession with his continual support and expertise.

2015: Professor Donald F Kelly has been a leader in the pathology field both in the UK and internationally and is renowned for his contributions to teaching and promoting standards in postgraduate education and qualifications. He has inspired and encouraged generations of trainee veterinary pathologists.

2015: Mr Alistair Lawrie for his exceptional career and his contribution to animal welfare in Scotland. Alistair has been a major influence on the development of zoo and wildlife medicine and is one of the foremost practitioners of avian and exotic medicine in the UK.
2014: **Mr Andrew Holliman** the longest serving VIO, a highly respected pathologist with a particular interest in cattle and fish whose steady support and experience have proved invaluable to the North West veterinary community.

2014: **Professor Maxwell Murray** Emeritus Professor of Veterinary Medicine and Honorary Senior Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow. A veterinary surgeon of international standing and acclaim for his work with protozoal diseases particularly.

2014: **Mr Donald Rutty** an exemplary scientist with enormous practical knowledge and experience. As both a comparative pathologist and MRCPath his work completed a unique bridge extrapolating animal-based knowledge to human clinical endeavour.

2013: **Dr Joy Archer**: has been the driving force for the development and recognition of clinical pathology worldwide.

2013: **Mr David Franklin** far exceeded the high personal, clinical and professional standards he set himself both as a practising vet in his work with the Veterinary Defence Society.

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2012: **Mr Colin Whitaker** whose clinical acumen and determination played a crucial role in the development of veterinary science and the definition of a new disease, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE).