

Veterinarian of the Year



Dr. Chris Bell

The Veterinarian of the Year is a veterinarian member of the MVMA that has greatly contributed to the profession and increased the professional image among members of the public.

Dr. Chris Bell is renowned for his expertise in equine care and veterinary education. As the owner of Elders Equine Hospital, Dr. Bell's impact extends across western Canada and the northern United States, treating a wide range of equine patients and providing a learning environment for veterinary professionals at various stages of their careers.

Dr. Bell's role as an adjunct professor at the WCVM and his involvement in offering clinical teaching of veterinary students, internships, residency programs and consultative support to colleagues showcase his dedication to education and professional development within the veterinary field. His career accomplishments include various committee roles, the MVMA Award of Merit in 2019, chair of the CVMA emerging leaders program, and active involvement in the WCVM Advisory Committee, Townsend Equine Health Research Fund Advisory Board, Manitoba Horse Council advisory, Urban Stable board and the Canadian Equine Veterinary Advocacy Alliance. Additionally, Dr. Bell's presidency of the CVMA in 2022-2023 and service on the MVMA Council reflect his significant contributions to veterinary organizations.

A board-certified Equine Surgeon and Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, Dr. Bell is recognized for his expertise in equine surgery and sports medicine, often presenting at conferences globally. Under his leadership since 2012, Elders Equine Veterinary Service has become a center of excellence for equine veterinary medicine and veterinary training for the Province of Manitoba. Dr. Bell also expanded his practice to include canine sports medicine with the establishment of Grant Park Animal Hospital with two of his classmates in 2020, demonstrating his versatility in animal care.

The Veterinarian of the Year Award highlights Dr. Bell's profound dedication and impact in veterinary medicine, encompassing education, practice, and community service, solidifying his status as a deserving and inspirational figure in the field.

Veterinary Technologist of the Year



**Ms. Shannon
Dyck,
Registered
Veterinarian
Technologist**

The Veterinarian Technologist of the Year is a veterinary technologist member of the MVMA that has greatly contributed to the profession and increased the professional image among members of the public.

Shannon Dyck exemplifies dedication, empathy, and a commitment to equitable veterinary care. For over a decade, she has served underserved northern and remote communities in Manitoba, addressing the significant care gap and ensuring that countless companion animals receive necessary care. Beginning her career at the Winnipeg Humane Society, Shannon's expertise and dedication quickly became apparent. She is renowned for her fear-free approach to animal care, minimizing stress for her patients and earning high praise from colleagues.

Beyond animal welfare, Shannon is deeply invested in Indigenous reconciliation, community engagement, and the One Health initiative, emphasizing the interconnection of human, animal, and community health. Her work in First Nations communities is marked by deep respect and understanding of the historical and ongoing impacts of colonialism on Indigenous Peoples and their animals in Canada. Despite the challenges of remote veterinary service, including time away from her supportive family, Shannon's passion for providing essential services to underserved communities remains strong. She balances her professional duties with family life, instilling the importance of equitable care in her children.

Shannon's warmth, compassion, and humour have made her a beloved figure among animals, clients, and peers. Her mentorship benefits veterinary students, veterinarians, and fellow RVTs, fostering a positive learning environment. Shannon Dyck is a shining example of the profound impact RVTs can have on animal health, the veterinary community, and the human-animal bond. Her dedication to underserved communities and her efforts to promote understanding and respect make her an outstanding recipient of this award. Congratulations, Shannon, on your well-deserved recognition!

Certificate of Merit



**Dr. Colleen
Fisher**

A Certificate of Merit recognizes veterinarians and other individuals who have made significant contributions towards the achievement of the MVMA's vision.

Dr. Colleen Fisher's career is full of exceptional contributions to veterinary medicine, marked notably by her longstanding and impactful involvement with the Peer Review Committee (PRC). After over two decades, Dr. Fisher's tenure is not just a record in longevity but also a testament to the spirit of volunteerism that is integral to our association.

Her reputation for analytical depth and the adept handling of complex cases with grace and respect has established Dr. Fisher as a respected voice within our community. She skillfully balances a variety of perspectives with her own informed and often innovative viewpoints. Among her professional achievements is the noteworthy distinction of becoming Manitoba's first certified behaviourist, an attainment complemented by an MSc in Clinical Animal Behaviour, and her dedicated involvement in canine search and rescue and service dog training.

The esteem in which Dr. Fisher is held by her colleagues and clients reflects the significant impact of her work. She exemplifies the dedication and expertise that the MVMA values, making her a truly meritorious recipient of this award. We celebrate Dr. Fisher's remarkable service, her contributions to veterinary science, and her steadfast integrity, which have significantly enriched our profession and the community at large.

Mentorship Award



Dr. Neil Versavel

The Mentorship Award was created in 2021 to celebrate and honor members that demonstrate excellence in supporting colleagues and those wishing to join the professions. Mentorship helps members realize their full potential, promotes collegiality, and helps ensure the professional and personal well-being of members.

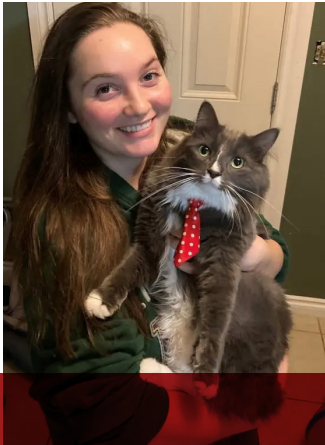
Dr. Neil Versavel's approach to mentorship is characterized by inclusivity and hands-on experience. Every year, he generously fills his truck with volunteers, RVT students, and veterinary students, embarking on a journey that offers invaluable practical experience to those looking to fulfill their large animal hours requirement for program applications.

Dr. Versavel's mentorship is not just an educational expedition but a vital bridge connecting future professionals to the often-underrepresented field of rural, mixed animal practice. His efforts are instrumental in drawing attention to this sector, ensuring it continues to flourish with passionate and well-equipped professionals. His forthcoming endeavour includes mentoring his veterinary assistant, who is set to undertake a distance education RVT program, further showcasing his dedication to continuous learning and development.

The impact of Dr. Versavel's voluntary mentorship is far-reaching, playing a crucial role in shaping the careers of countless aspiring professionals. The tales of his mentees, enriched by real-world experiences and nurtured by his guidance, are a testament to the essence of the Mentorship Award.

Dr. Neil Versavel exemplifies the transformative power of mentorship, ultimately contributing to the collective strength and diversity of the profession. Congratulations to Dr. Versavel for this well-deserved recognition and our heartfelt thanks for his unwavering commitment to nurturing the next generation of professionals.

Mentorship Award



**Ms. Jordan Grift,
Registered
Veterinary
Technologist**

The Mentorship Award was created in 2021 to celebrate and honor members that demonstrate excellence in supporting colleagues and those wishing to join the professions. Mentorship helps members realize their full potential, promotes collegiality, and helps ensure the professional and personal well-being of members.

Jordan Grift continuously demonstrates exemplary professionalism, compassion, and commitment to veterinary care. Since her start at the Morden Veterinary Clinic in 2019, Jordan's dedication to mentorship has significantly impacted both her colleagues and the broader veterinary community. She skillfully combines her deep care for animals with a profound commitment to nurturing aspiring veterinary professionals, greatly enriching those around her. Her peers recognize her as a vital source of knowledge and support, always willing to impart wisdom and encourage professional growth.

Her innovative approach to veterinary practice and meticulous attention to client communication has set a new standard of excellence. Jordan's contributions to developing essential programs and policies at the clinic have enhanced operational efficiency and fostered a nurturing and welcoming workplace culture. Beyond her professional duties, Jordan's compassion extends to the local humane society, where she and her husband devote their efforts to caring for vulnerable animals.

Jordan's palpable passion for her profession and impactful mentorship make her a deserving recipient of this award. Her story highlights the profound influence that dedication, lifelong learning, and heartfelt guidance can have in veterinary medicine.

Life Member



**Dr. Kenneth
Mould**

A Life Member is someone who has been in good standing in one of the MVMA's membership categories for 25 years or more, who has retired from active practice, and who does not have a license to practice. During his/her career, this member must have contributed to the veterinary profession and/or their community.

Dr. Ken Mould's extraordinary career, exceeding 35 years at the Centennial Animal Hospital in Winnipeg, has been characterized by professional distinction, compassionate care, and a steadfast commitment to mentorship. As the 1980 MVMA President and the 1993-1994 CVMA President, Dr. Mould has played pivotal roles in shaping the veterinary landscape both provincially and nationally.

His accolades, including MVMA Veterinarian of the Year and CVMA Small Animal Practitioner of the Year, are testaments to his professional prowess and high esteem among his peers. Beyond his clinical work, Dr. Mould's visionary initiatives, such as founding the Canadian Animal Blood Bank and its foundation, highlight his innovative contributions to veterinary medicine.

Dr. Mould's passion extends into environmental conservation, where his volunteer work with the Nature Conservancy of Canada has made a substantial impact. His leadership roles within this organization demonstrate a dedication to preserving our natural heritage. Moreover, Dr. Mould's remarkable achievements as an esteemed member of the golf community echo the excellence he has displayed in his veterinary career. His titles as Club Champion and Manitoba Senior Golf Champion, along with his international recognition at St. Andrews, are reflective of his dedication to excellence.

Dr. Ken Mould's professional journey has left a legacy of excellence, mentorship, and an unwavering commitment to service, setting a benchmark for future generations of veterinarians.

Life Member



**Dr. Janice
Waddell & Dr.
Bruce Waddell**

A Life Member is someone who has been in good standing in one of the MVMA's membership categories for 25 years or more, who has retired from active practice, and who does not have a license to practice. During his/her career, this member must have contributed to the veterinary profession and/or their community.

Dr. Janice Waddell and Dr. Bruce Waddell have graced the veterinary field in Manitoba with 37 years of unwavering service. For decades, the Waddells could be found at their practice, the Shoal Lake Veterinary Clinic. Their round-the-clock dedication was evident as they tirelessly served the pets and livestock in the southwest corner of the province. However, their contributions extended far beyond the clinic walls. Dr. Bruce Waddell's passion resonated on the local football field, coaching aspiring players, while Dr. Janice Waddell warmed hearts in the rink kitchen, always ready with a helping hand.

But the legacy of the Waddells isn't confined to Shoal Lake alone. Their indelible mark on Manitoba's veterinary community can be felt in the myriad of veterinary students and new graduates they've mentored over the years. Sharing their vast reservoir of knowledge, they've shaped the careers of many, including their own daughter, Heather, who stands as a shining example of their influence.

Their daughter's heartfelt tribute perfectly encapsulates the sentiment of many: "I would not be the Veterinarian I am today without their support as both parents and mentors."

While the Waddells have retired from active practice, their impact continues to reverberate. We are thrilled to celebrate their illustrious careers, and we wish them a retirement filled with joy and relaxation.