



CANADIAN VETERINARY
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Leading Ontario Veterinarian Honoured for Her Contributions to the Care of Homeless Pet Owners and their Animals

OTTAWA, Ont. – Dr. Michelle Lem was honoured with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) *President's Award* for her ongoing commitment to the veterinary profession through her practice and work as founder and director of Community Veterinary Outreach, a registered charity that has provided pro bono preventive veterinary care for animals of the homeless and marginally housed in Ottawa since 2003.

Since then Dr. Lem's outreach program has been successfully reproduced in four other communities and is demonstrating how veterinary care can be leveraged to engage marginalized pet owners in social services and healthcare for themselves.

"The CVMA is delighted to honour Dr. Lem with the President's Award for her dedication to the health and well-being of animals whose owners may be experiencing hardship, but who want to access proper care for their pets," says Dr. Jean Gauvin, 2014-15 CVMA President.

After graduating from Ontario Veterinary College (OVC) in 2001, Dr. Lem practiced in New Zealand before returning to Ottawa, where she has practiced companion animal medicine and surgery as an associate veterinarian, companion animal mobile service and locum. From 2003 to 2009, Dr. Lem provided behavioural consultations for companion animals on a referral basis; was the contract veterinarian for the Department of National Defence's military working dogs from 2009 until 2011; and has taught in the Veterinary Assistant and Technician programs at Algonquin College since 2004.

Among the many awards and recognition Dr. Lem has received for her contribution to animal welfare, is the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal in 2012 and the 2011 Ottawa Humane Society's Muriel Davies Award for her contribution to animal welfare in the Ottawa community. In 2009, Dr. Lem received an OVC fellowship to pursue graduate research in the Department of Population Medicine, studying the effects of pet ownership on street-involved youth, receiving her MSc in 2012. Dr. Lem sits on many committees and is an active member of the CVMA as a trained member of the Canadian Veterinary Reserve and serves on the CVMA's Animal Welfare Committee.

The CVMA President's Award is given from time to time to recognize an individual member for his/her exceptional contributions and devotion to the association. Recipients are selected by the President and the CVMA Executive Committee.

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The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) is the national and international voice for Canada's veterinarians, providing leadership and advocacy for veterinary medicine. Each year, CVMA proudly recognizes individuals and groups for their outstanding contribution to veterinary medicine. Visit canadianveterinarians.net to learn more about CVMA.

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