



CANADIAN VETERINARY
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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 21, 2017

Dr. Temple Grandin Gives Keynote Lecture at Annual Canadian Veterinary Student Symposium

CALGARY, AB. – On January 21, 2017, Dr. Temple Grandin addresses 200 Canadian veterinary students with her keynote lecture, *“Animal Behaviour; Understanding How Animals Talk and Feel,”* at the annual Students of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (SCVMA) Symposium, hosted this year by the University of Calgary – Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM).

“The 2017 SCVMA Symposium theme ‘Take the bull by the horns, take charge of your actions’ ties in UCVM’s focus on production animal health, specifically beef cattle, and emphasizes Dr. Grandin’s lecture messages on cattle handling and understanding animal behavior and emotions,” says Sarifa Lakhdir, SCVMA senior representative, 2017 SCVMA Symposium Chair and UCVM Class of 2018.

Dr. Temple Grandin, Animal Science professor at Colorado State University, designed livestock handling facilities world-wide. Almost half of North American cattle are handled in meat plants with Dr. Grandin’s centre track restrainer system. Her cattle-curved chute and race systems are used internationally; both significantly improving animal welfare. Many corporations also use Dr. Grandin’s objective scoring system for assessing cattle and pig handling at meat plants, and her writings on the flight zone, the area around an animal that triggers alarm or escape behaviour if invaded by a potential threat, and other grazing animal behavior principles have helped many people reduce their animal’s stress during handling.

“I think using animals for food is an ethical thing to do, but we have to do it right,” says Dr. Grandin. “We have to give those animals a decent life and we have to give them a painless death. We owe the animal respect.”

Dr. Grandin has been featured on countless television shows and in many prominent magazines and newspapers; including Time Magazine’s 100 most influential people issue in 2010. Dr. Grandin’s interviews have been broadcast on National Public Radio and she has a TED Talks Lecture titled “The World Needs ALL Kinds of Minds.” Dr. Grandin wrote over 400 articles on animal handling, welfare and facility design and authored seven books including “Animals in Translation” and “Animals Make Us Human,” which made the New York Times best-seller list. HBO also made an Emmy and Golden Globe winning biopic showing her teenage life and career start, titled “Temple Grandin,” starring Claire Danes.

“I was told securing Dr. Grandin as our 2017 SCVMA Symposium key-note speaker would be challenging, if not impossible,” says Sarifa. “However, when I spoke with Dr. Grandin, she was delighted to have the chance to speak to Canadian veterinary students and I know this year’s symposium participants were thrilled to meet her.”

The exclusive, annual SCVMA Symposium is organized by veterinary students for students enrolled in one of Canada’s five veterinary colleges and is a valuable opportunity for students to view Canada’s diverse veterinary profession while learning and networking with future Canadian colleagues.

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The Canadian Veterinary Medical Association is the national and international voice for Canada's veterinarians, providing leadership and advocacy for veterinary medicine. In Canada, there are over 1,600 students currently pursuing a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree at the five Canadian veterinary colleges. Student members of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (SCVMA) strive for success in their studies to achieve their goal of practicing veterinary medicine and shaping the future of the veterinary profession.

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