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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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British Columbia Veterinarian Honoured for Improving Animal Lives Across Canada and Around the World

OTTAWA, ON – Dr. Bettina Bobsien has been honoured with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's (CVMA) *Humane Award* for her animal welfare advocacy and improving how animals in Canada, and around the world, are treated.

“Dr. Bobsien is a passionate advocate for evidence-based animal welfare, a dedicated equine veterinarian, and a role model for Canadian veterinarians interested in animal welfare,” states Dr. Emilia Gordon, Senior Manager, Animal Health at the British Columbia Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (BC SPCA). “She believes passionately that by demonstrating leadership on animal welfare issues, veterinarians will earn the continued trust and respect of the public.”

Dr. Bobsien is a practicing veterinarian actively focusing on animal welfare after developing a full-service equine practice on Vancouver Island. She was a member of the committee that developed the current Canadian Equine Code of Practice and worked on educational projects around its implementation. Dr. Bobsien was also the College of Veterinarians of British Columbia's (CVBC) Animal Welfare Committee Chair, achieving cosmetic surgery bans on ear cropping, tail docking, and de-clawing procedures.

“Dr. Bobsien's impact extends further than the animals she treats,” insists Geoff Urton, General Manager, Strategy and Innovation, BC SPCA. “Her determined work as a representative of the BC SPCA and the Canadian Federation of Humane Societies in two National Farm Animal Care Council processes and her championing of progressive new policies, including prohibitions on tail dockings for non-medical reasons, has improved the health and welfare of millions of animals across Canada, now and into the future.”

Dr. Bobsien is the current CVMA Animal Welfare Committee Chair, and Co-Chair of the Equestrian Canada Health and Welfare Committee. She advocates for “unwanted” horses and horses at the end of their careers by engaging in public education and volunteering with hands-on projects including providing aid to horses and veterinarians in Cuba and providing health care and first aid courses for horse owners.

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“If I could ‘do over’ my veterinary career, I would model it after the career of my colleague, Dr. Bettina Bobsien,” affirms Dr. Douglas S. Casey, Diplomate of the American Board of Veterinary Practitioners. “Dr. Bobsien always puts animal welfare at the forefront and upholds the five freedoms of animal rights: freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury, or disease, and freedom from fear and distress. If everyone in this world followed Dr Bobsien’s lead, we would all be living in a much better place.”

Dr. Bobsien continues to practice on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, focusing on performance horses, nutrition, geriatric horse care, podiatry, and equine endocrine diseases.

The CVMA Humane Award, sponsored by Merck Animal Health, recognizes leadership in the care and well-being of animals. This award is presented to a veterinarian whose work is judged to have contributed significantly to the welfare and well-being of animals.

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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, the CVMA proudly recognizes individuals and groups for their outstanding contribution to veterinary medicine. Visit canadianveterinarians.net to learn more about the CVMA.

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