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NEWS RELEASE

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British Columbia Veterinarian Honoured for Significant Contributions to the Advancement of Small Animal Medicine

Ottawa, ON. – Dr. Suann Hosie of Vancouver, British Columbia, was honoured with the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association's (CVMA) *Small Animal Practitioner Award* in recognition of her significant contributions to the advancement of small animal medicine and small animal practice.

“Dr. Hosie founded the Vancouver Animal Emergency Clinic (VAEC) in 1978 at a time when veterinary storefronts rolled up their welcome mats and locked their doors when the sun went down,” says Dr. Sarah Armstrong, Past-President of the CVMA-Society of British Columbia Veterinarians Chapter. “There were no competing 24-hour emergency facilities with personnel and equipment like today and simply nowhere to turn if your pet got hit by a car, ingested something poisonous, or simply wouldn't move. Small animal owners had nowhere to go until the pioneering and forward-thinking Dr. Hosie created a better way to deliver emergency animal care.”

Dr. Hosie filled summer locums in England after graduating from the Ontario Veterinary College in 1966, then joined a small animal practice near San Francisco and co-chaired a committee to establish one of the first emergency veterinary clinics in the United States of America by 1971. Dr. Hosie believed that emergency practices could flourish if referring veterinarians felt valued and were kept “in the loop” with their patient's care.

After returning to Canada in 1978, she founded the VAEC dedicated to providing after-hours emergency care. A VAEC milestone was converting to a 24-hour service in 1985.

“British Columbia veterinarians would be hard-pressed to scan the emergency veterinary clinic landscape and not see an area shaped by Dr. Hosie,” expresses Dr. Armstrong. “In B.C. emergency veterinary medicine, Dr. Hosie was the first. She has focused so intently on providing emergency care that it has enveloped a large part of her career, and life. Emergency care is at Dr. Hosie's foundation, it's in her blood.”

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Dr. Hosie was an American Animal Hospital Association committee member and won its Northwest Region Award for Outstanding Service to the Veterinary Profession in 1982. Dr. Hosie served on British Columbia Veterinary Medical Association committees and council, becoming president in 1992. When the College of Veterinarians of BC was established in 2010, she served on its Discipline Committee. Dr. Hosie sold VAEC in 2012, before the practice moved to a larger facility, becoming the Vancouver Animal Emergency and Referral Centre.

CVMA's Small Animal Practitioner Award, sponsored by Petsecure Pet Health Insurance, is presented to a CVMA member whose work in small animal practice, clinical research or basic sciences is judged to have contributed significantly to the advancement of small animal medicine, surgery, or the management of a small animal practice.

- 30 -

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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