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NEWS RELEASE

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A Canadian Veterinary Profession Pioneer Honoured with CVMA Life Membership

OTTAWA, ON – Dr. Eugene Janzen was honoured with *Life Membership* to the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA) for his significant contributions to the national veterinary profession.

“Dr. Janzen was key to starting and running Canada’s newest veterinary school, the University of Calgary – Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) for the first 14 years. First as Interim Dean, and then Dean of Clinical Programs,” states Dr. Carl Ribble, Professor in UCVM’s Department of Ecosystem and Public Health. “His knowledge of and important connections within Alberta’s animal industries were key to successfully assembling the veterinary teaching community forming the foundation of the DVM program’s fourth-year clinical rotations. Dr. Janzen’s experience was fundamental to his significant curriculum contributions now in place at UCVM.”

Dr. Janzen received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM) in 1972 from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) and spent three years practicing in northeastern Alberta before returning to WCVN on an Alberta-sponsored fellowship to complete a post-graduate degree. He received a Master of Veterinary Science degree in 1977 from the University of Melbourne before accepting a position with WCVN’s Ambulatory Clinic, focusing on beef cattle medicine. He started working with Canada’s newest Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (UCVM) in 2005, accepting its first class in 2008.

“Dr. Janzen was a tremendous teacher and mentor during my time at UCVM,” exclaims Dr. Elizabeth Homerosky, veterinarian with Veterinary Agri-Health Services. “He often invited to me to ‘inspect fresh air’ with him, which was code for investigating a disease outbreak. I saw his vast knowledge of veterinary medicine during these investigations, but I also saw the respect he commanded from each rancher we visited. When ranchers struggled to describe the awful disease outbreaks, Dr. Janzen offered encouraging words or simply asked, ‘... but how are YOU doing?’ Most veterinarians are distracted by animals’ clinical or pathologic signs, but Dr. Janzen focused on the caretakers. Knowing someone genuinely cared meant more to them than any laboratory results.”

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Dr. Janzen recently transitioned from holding the 10-year position of UCVM’s Associate Dean of Clinical Practice, Community Partnerships to UCVM’s Professor Emeritus in the Production Animal Health Department. His main interests are mitigation of painful cattle procedures, validation of digital necropsy diagnostics, feedlot cattle lameness management, and investigating referred disease and nutrition issues in western communities.

“It is an honour to call Dr. Janzen my mentor and friend,” concludes Dr. Honerosky. “However, my story is not unique. It would be hard to find a cattle veterinarian in Canada that has not been positively impacted by Dr. Janzen’s innovative teaching, ground-breaking research, or heartwarming stories. He is truly an inspiration. The most accurate way I can describe Dr. Janzen is that he is a legend in his own time.”

Life Membership is presented to a CVMA member for long and outstanding service on CVMA Council, Executive, Boards and Committees, or for outstanding contributions to the veterinary profession.

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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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