



Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc.

**AWARDS OF DISTINCTION *for* EQUINE WELFARE
Western College of Veterinary Medicine Honored**

For Immediate Release

March 11, 2009

The Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN) was honored by the Farm Animal Council of Saskatchewan Inc. (FACS) and the Saskatchewan Horse Federation (SHF) in three of the four categories for the 2009 Awards of Distinction for Equine Welfare.

In introducing the awards that were presented at the SHF Awards banquet on March 7 in Saskatoon, Dr. Byrnie Rothwell, Chair of the SHF Equine Welfare Committee, noted this is the fourth year the Awards have been presented, and that they "are all about recognition, and not at all about competition."

"FACS is most appreciative of the expertise of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine in our goal to advance responsible animal care. The College has consistently collaborated with FACS, and the outbreak of the equine herpes virus (EHV-1) demonstrated collaboration at its best," FACS Executive Director Adele Buettner said.

SHF Executive Director Mae Smith expressed the admiration of the SHF for the exceptional research and clinical activities of the WCVN. She explained that the two joint awards recognizing multiple individuals honour these individuals with certificates, having the two horse figurines remain on display at the College. WCVN Dean Dr. Charles Rhodes graciously received the figurines on behalf of the WCVN.

Recipients of the 2009 Awards of Distinction in Equine Welfare:

- **Miss Shawna Sawatsky, Saskatoon**

Equine Welfare Young Steward of the Future – Award of Distinction

This honour recognizes a young person between the ages of 13 and 25 who has shown, through practices as a horse owner or interaction with others, the importance of a commitment to responsible equine care.

- **Dr. James Carmalt, DVM WCVN**

Equine Welfare Innovation – Award of Distinction

This award recognizes a person or company who has developed a new process, product or source of knowledge that has made a significant impact on the improvement of the welfare of horses in Saskatchewan. The honoree will also be saluted for efforts to work collectively with the horse industry to share the innovation.

- **Dr. Nathalie Tokatloff, DVM; and Dr. Kristin Poirier, DVM
WCVN Large Animal Clinic Sciences – Field Services**

Equine Welfare Leadership – Award of Distinction

This award recognizes a person or syndicate or other equine business owner who integrates animal welfare into their core business strategy and has set their own bar higher for expectations regarding animal welfare. The honoree(s) demonstrate leadership and commitment in dealing with issues relevant to animal care. This individual(s) or company leads by example. The Award will recognize an active horse owner.

- **Dr. Katharina Lohmann, DVM; Dr. Hugh Townsend, DVM; and Ms. Myrna MacDonald
WCVM Large Animal Clinical Sciences**

Equine Welfare Communication – Award of Distinction

This Award recognizes a person, organization or company who has taken an active role in effectively conveying equine welfare issues and raising awareness of equine welfare with the general public and the agri-food industry. The objectives of factual and honest information will result in an increase of trust and credibility for the industry and business of equines.

Citations outlining the achievements of the Awardees are available on the FACS website, www.facs.sk.ca

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