

## 2021 ACVS Founders' Award for Career Achievement

In selecting Norm G. Ducharme, DMV, MSc, Diplomate, ACVS, for the ACVS Founders' Award for Career Achievement, ACVS membership recognizes the service of an ACVS Diplomate who is distinguished by his contributions made through specialized research, practice leadership, surgical skill, and service to ACVS and the veterinary community.

Since becoming board certified in 1985, Dr. Ducharme's highly innovative research work revolutionized the diagnosis and treatment of upper respiratory tract functions and led to the development of methods for grading laryngeal function in horses, both at rest and during exercise. These methods became internationally accepted and form the basis for assessment of all horses at yearling sales and during pre-purchase examinations. A research team headed by Dr. Ducharme developed a technique that has become known as the laryngeal tie-forward and an external device now known as the "Cornell Collar," which is used throughout the United States and Canada, both as a treatment for dorsal displacement of the soft palate (without the need for surgical intervention) and as a diagnostic tool.



**Norm G. Ducharme, DMV, MSc  
Diplomate, ACVS**

Recognized as an Honored Mentor (ACVS Foundation), he encouraged post-doctoral and graduate students, interns, and residents to grow and develop beyond what they thought were possible. He served on the Editorial Review Board of *Veterinary Surgery* and as chair of both the Resident Credentialing and Research Committees. He was elected to the ACVS Board of Regents and then served as president-elect, president, and chair. He continues to contribute extensively to continuing education both nationally, including speaking at more than 25 ACVS Veterinary Symposium/Surgery Summits, and internationally as a member of the Executive Committee of the World Equine Airway Society. He was inducted into the Equine Hall of Fame in Lexington, Kentucky. Dr. Ducharme's publications contributed extensively to equine surgical literature, with more than 165 peer-reviewed journal articles and 55 book chapters.

*"Dr. Ducharme is true pioneer in equine research, an outstanding surgeon whose unparalleled versatility and creativity have advanced our profession in ways never imagined. He is always thinking of how things could be done better. Dr. Ducharme is a credit to the profession and continues to push the boundaries of equine research and equine surgery. He is irreplaceable,"* noted a colleague.

Past recipients of the ACVS Founders' Award for Career Achievement:

2005 - Wade O. Brinker, DVM, MS, DACVS  
2006 - C. Wayne McIlwraith, BVSc, PhD, DACVS  
2007 - Fred P. Sattler, DVM, DACVS  
2008 - William Lumb, DVM, PhD, DSc, DACVS  
2009 - Donald L. Piermattei, DVM, PhD, DACVS  
2011 - Steven P. Arnoczky, DVM, DACVS  
2012 - Stephen J. Withrow, DVM, DACVS  
2013 - A. Simon Turner, BVSc, MS, DACVS  
2014 - Susan M. Stover, DVM, PhD, DACVS  
2015 - Alan J. Nixon, BVSc, DACVS  
2016 - Michael M. Pavletic, DVM, DACVS  
2017 - Jörg A. Auer, DMV, MS, DACVS  
2018 - Larry R. Bramlage, DVM, MS, DACVS  
2019 - James L. Tomlinson, DVM, MVSc, DACVS  
2020 - Dean W. Richardson, DVM, DACVS

*The ACVS Founders' Award for Career Achievement was established to recognize the service of ACVS Diplomates who have distinguished themselves in the pursuit of surgery by making significant contributions to the development of surgical techniques and methodology, and disseminating knowledge to colleagues, residents, and students.*