

AWARDS

AL AND CAROLYN SCHILLER DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



Karen K. Cornell, DVM, PhD
Diplomate, ACVS

The ACVS Board of Regents selected Karen K. Cornell, DVM, PhD, Diplomate, ACVS, as the recipient of the Al and Carolyn Schiller Distinguished Service Award for exceptional contributions to ACVS. Throughout 25 years of service, Dr. Cornell served on nine ACVS committees and chaired five of them, demonstrating her proficiency in leadership and vision.

Dr. Cornell began volunteering as a member of the editorial review board for *Veterinary Surgery* upon becoming board-certified with ACVS. She transitioned to continuing education with the Small Animal Surgery Scientific Session Committee. Dr. Cornell served on the Examination Committee and as its chair. She served as a regent on the Board of Regents and as ACVS president and chair. During this time, Dr. Cornell led the organization through strategic planning, the creation of fellowship programs, and the move to a digital examination process. Dr. Cornell has been a frequent speaker at the ACVS Surgery Summit and former ACVS Veterinary Symposium, demonstrating her prominence as a surgeon and communication skills leader.

In addition to her ACVS service, Dr. Cornell has demonstrated a passion for professional development and surgical training of all veterinary professionals in her faculty roles at the University of Georgia and at Texas A&M University, where she continues to serve as a trusted consultant and educator in the surgical curriculum. Dr. Cornell has been responsible for the surgical education of more than 4,000 veterinarians. Her passion for teaching is clear in the multiple accolades with which she has been honored, including the Carl J. Norden/Pfizer/Zoetis Distinguished Teaching Award twice, the Student AVMA Community Outreach Excellence Award, and the Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professorship.

Dr. Cornell trained over 330 veterinary faculty from 36 veterinary schools in the communication discipline as a lead facilitator for the Institute for Healthcare Communication. Thus far in her career, she has provided 151 hours of continuing education to veterinary practitioners and authored 12 textbook chapters on surgical conditions in companion animals and essential veterinary skills.

"Communication skills, self-awareness, and self-care were areas she explored with her students, interns, residents, and ACVS colleagues that help make us all more healthy, resilient, and compassionate surgeons."

—R. Randy Basinger, DVM, DACVS

The Al and Carolyn Schiller Distinguished Service Award allows recognition of anyone who has demonstrated unusual and meritorious service to the ACVS. Conferring this service award recognizes and honors recipients for outstanding contributions related directly or peripherally to the functions of ACVS.