



Thank Your Vet for a Healthy Pet® 2009 Winner Profile

1. What does winning the Thank Your Vet for a Healthy Pet® award mean to you?

I am rewarded every day just being able to serve as a veterinarian. When I am able to make a difference or impact a client it is especially enjoyable. For someone to take the time to express this in writing is thoughtful, and I feel extremely honored.

2. When did you decide to become a vet and why?

When I was a young child, my family to euthanize a puppy I had for a very short time. I was heartbroken but always wondered if something could have been done. When I was a young teenager, I volunteered at a local small-animal practice, and I knew instantly that this was my calling in life.

3. Who were the special animals in your life (past and current)?

Any animal I have ever owned has been unique in his or her own way. We currently have five animals: four cats and a dog. They were all rescued animals. The two most special would be a Great Dane named Rocky, which I had while in veterinary school, and my current Great Dane, Lyle.

4. What are the most memorable experiences you have had in your career?

Having been exposed to veterinary hospital settings for almost 38 years, my memorable experiences are countless. Performing my first c-section, doing exploratory surgery on a monkey, seeing the joy in a child's face when her puppy was cured of parvovirus, helping the elderly maintain the companion animal-human bond when losing their spouse, seeing the excitement of a veterinary student performing his or her first surgical procedure, comforting a grieving client, teaching students with a strong interest in veterinary medicine and performing CPR and being able to resuscitate a patient successfully are among my most memorable.

5. What is your care philosophy toward your animal patients and their owners?

My philosophy is that all animals, and their owners, deserve to be treated with respect. We, as a profession, owe it to our patients to provide the best possible medical care. I believe we should be accepting and compassionate toward the differing levels of care clients are able to provide their pets. I feel strongly about the importance of recognizing and ameliorating pain and suffering.

6. Do you encourage your clients to do their own pet health research?

As a general rule, I do not encourage clients to do their own pet health research. Unfortunately, many clients educate themselves by searching Yahoo or Google. Although there is a wealth of good knowledge on the Web there is nobody there interpreting the vast amount of information and a little knowledge soon becomes a dangerous thing.

7. How do you use research in your practice?

Research is what allows new drugs, techniques and therapies to be implemented into better medicine. It is allowing our pets to live longer, healthier lives. I have made keeping up with advances in veterinary medicine a focus for my practice.

8. What is the most rewarding aspect of your professional life?

The most rewarding aspect has also been the most challenging. This would be in the area of advancing technology. In my opinion, the level of patient care is directly attributable to keeping abreast of advancements in veterinary medicine. The two go hand in hand in many ways.

9. How has the profession changed since you became a doctor?

The greatest change I have seen in the veterinary profession has been in the area of specialization. CT scans, MRIs, cataract surgery, total hip replacements, kidney transplants, endodontic treatments, open heart surgery, echocardiograms, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and many, many other treatments are commonplace today. Our diagnostic and therapeutic options are endless today and usually only limited by financial restraints placed on our pets' owners.