



## **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?**

This is a tremendous honor. I work with so many wonderful veterinarians that it is hard to single just one of us out. I think of this as a wonderful acknowledgment for working so hard all these years. I am very proud to have received this award.

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

I have always wanted to be a veterinarian. Even as a boy I did not want to be anything else. It has always been easier for me to understand animals more than people. Animals need a voice and protection from those people who do not care. It is a perfect job!

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

As a boy I had a German shepherd named Heidi. We were inseparable. She later passed from cancer, and I knew that I wanted to help any animal either control their pain or take them away from their discomfort or pain.

Presently, Derrick, my daughter's cat, who tells me every day that I am here for him.

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

They are too numerous to note, but they are all the memories of fixing a fracture or healing a special friend and getting them back home.

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

Their friend is my friend. It is exactly the way I would want my children taken care of if they were sick or injured. To the best of my ability!

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

Knowledge is at the clients' fingertips. I remind them though that not everything they read is true! I tell them to let me know what they have found and we can talk about it.

**7. How do you use research in your practice?**

One person cannot know everything in all fields. It is a tremendous advantage to work with so many wonderful vets who have interests in different fields of veterinary medicine. Combining that knowledge makes us each a better veterinarian.

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

Being part of a community. My wife and I started our practice together nearly 14 years ago. With some very long hours and lots of sacrifice it has grown into a new hospital with six doctors. I would never have imagined this in my wildest dreams.

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

The technology, medications and procedures have changed so much in the time since I graduated. It has also become much more complicated. Balance between work and life is very difficult to do. I remember the veterinarians I grew up with working 80 to 90 hours per week. I love my family as much as I love my work, and you need to separate them to enjoy them both.