



## TAKE A BOW, DR ROGER CLARKE

### ... you are amazing!

Everyone at the *ASAV* and *Companion* magazine would like to offer our belated congratulations to Dr Roger Clarke, who was awarded the Kesteven Medal at the AVA Annual Conference earlier this year.

**This prestigious award is reserved for vets who have made pioneering contributions to international veterinary science through assistance that they have provided to developing countries via institutional building and training, the transfer of technical or technological skill to produce economic or social benefits, the establishment of mutually beneficial business linkages, or other positive developments such as improving intergovernmental understanding of livestock issues.**

**The medal was inaugurated by the late Dr KVL Kesteven and was first awarded in 1980.**

Roger began his career in a dairy cattle practice in Victoria in the mid-1960s, then moved into mixed practice for some time before concentrating on small animal surgery and medicine later in his career.

He became a Member the Australian College of Veterinary Sciences in Canine Surgery in 1982, a Fellow of the Australian College of Veterinary Sciences in Small Animal Surgery in 1991, and registered as a Veterinary Specialist, Small Animal Surgery in Victoria and Queensland that same year.

Roger is now retired, however, during his long and productive career he devoted countless hours of his time to assisting developing nations improve their veterinary practices and standards of care through the gift that keeps on giving – continuing education.

He was unfortunately unable to be interviewed for this article due to current ill health, but as the Featured Member for *Companion's* Quarter 2 edition 2016, Roger said: "Now that I'm 75 years old and starting to slow down a bit and closer to seriously contemplating retirement, I'm pleased that I can look back on my career and have no regrets and be proud of what I've been able to bring to the profession, especially through education.

"I have dedicated my life to promoting and improving veterinary education in China, Vietnam, Laos, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, and India. At first, we gave continuing education lectures and then as we got bigger, we started to invite guest speakers, and I acted as chairman."

Among Roger's veterinary passions was his tireless commitment to the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA). He was Australia's national representative from 1980-2003 and afterwards also enjoyed a role in the WSAVA Assembly.

Roger's work for the WSAVA included impressive stints as convener of the WSAVA Committee on Companion Animal Welfare (CCAW) from 1994-2001 and convener of WSAVA Continuing Education (CE) in the Asia-Pacific from 1996-2009. He played a pivotal role in the drafting, adoption and promotion of the WSAVA's Convention for the Protection of Companion Animals, which has now been ratified by 64 member associations.

Roger also promoted a scientific stream devoted to animal welfare in the WSAVA Annual Congress, making it the first international veterinary association to recognise the importance of animal welfare in veterinary science.

During his time as convener of WSAVA CE in the Asia-Pacific region, Roger assisted in the formation of the Federation of Asian Small Animal Veterinary Associations (FASAVA), which acts as an international small animal veterinary group and forum for members to discuss our region's specific needs.

Roger also helped to develop FASAVA's constitution and rules, and he was elected the inaugural chairman from 2007-2011. He then moved into a past-president role from 2011-2013, and afterwards continued to assist the organisation in an advisory capacity.

FASAVA now comprises small animal veterinary associations from Australia, Beijing, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Philippines, Shanghai, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taipei and Thailand.

We wish Roger all the best and thank him for his outstanding service to the veterinary profession within Australia and internationally.

What a legacy! 🐾