



IVMA PRESENTS 2023 AWARDS

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health, especially in the areas of research and vaccine development. He continues his interest and involvement in disease treatment and prevention using his experience and expertise to serve as a consultant in many situations.

One of Dr. Sick's most inspiring and unique attributes is his passion for helping young people find their way to careers in veterinary medicine. He has served as the advisor with the PreVet Clubs at Dordt University in Sioux Center and Northwestern College in Orange City. He has also been an advisor to Northwest Iowa students who attended Iowa State University and South Dakota State University. To date, Dr. Sick has mentored 54 students who have entered veterinary schools around the country and the world.

Dr. Sick served on several IVMA committees over the years, including the Administrative Committee when he was President of the IVMA in 2006. Although retired, he continues his involvement as an IVMA Foundation Fellow and a Sustaining PAC member.

Outside of veterinary medicine, Dr. Sick has served as an officer or director for the American Legion, Lions Club, Sioux Center Chamber of Commerce, Sioux County ISU Ag Extension Council, and the Iowa Association of Extension Councils. He has also served as a Deacon for his church and on the Sioux Center Community Advisory Committee.

Congratulations, Dr. Sick!



Dr. Abbey Smith (right) receives her Rising Star award from Dr. Shawn Nicholson at the IVMA Annual Meeting in Ames on September 28.

RISING STAR AWARD

Dr. Abbey Smith, a mixed animal veterinarian at North Tama Veterinary Clinic was presented with the IVMA's Rising Star Award. The Rising Star Award recognizes an IVMA member who graduated from veterinary school within the last seven years and has displayed outstanding accomplishments in veterinary research, private practice, regulatory services, civic activities, academia, and/or organized veterinary medicine.

Dr. Smith is a 2019 graduate of Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine and obtained her Master of Public Health from the University of Iowa. Since joining the North Tama Veterinary Clinic after her graduation from veterinary school, she has added equine, chiropractic, and acupuncture options to her clinic's services.

Dr. Smith generously shares her time and talents with her community. She has volunteered at the Iowa State Fair with sheep check-in and with Veterinary Camp for kids. She educates local students about equine and small animal medicine and pet first-aid at a county-wide 4-H learning day. She donated her time to Iowa 4-H by reviewing scholarship applications and interviewing applicants for state-wide awards. She also allows undergraduate students to shadow her as veterinarian and has presents to groups of grade-school children about veterinary medicine.

Congratulations, Dr. Smith!

HEALTHCARE TEAM AWARD

Kourtney Chance of Family Pet Veterinary Center in West Des Moines and Norwalk received the IVMA's Healthcare Team Member Service Award. This award recognizes a non-veterinarian healthcare team or individual who has contributed to the advancement of veterinary medicine.

Kourtney began with her clinic as a part time receptionist and advanced to be the practice manager of two locations. She was nominated for her commitment to her team, leading positive monthly team meetings, mentoring new veterinary professionals, providing positive feedback to team members, and filling in for multiple roles in a team member's absence.

Kourtney is a Certified Cat Friendly Veterinary Professional through the American Association of Feline Professionals and is Fear Free Certified.



Kourtney Chance (left) receives the Healthcare Team Member Service Award from Dr. Shawn Nicholson at the IVMA Annual Meeting in Ames on September 28.



Dr. Shawn Nicholson, (left) awards the IVMA President's Award to Dr. Rex Wilhelm at the 2023 IVMA Annual Meeting in Ames on September 28.

Outside of work, Kourtney volunteers for Oh My Dog Rescue and Paws N Claws, encouraging the shelter organizers to provide the pets in foster with the best veterinary medicine available. She also educates the new pet owners on the importance of continuing veterinary care, yearly dental procedures, good nutrition, and preventative care.

Congratulations, Kourtney!

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The President's Award recipient is chosen by the IVMA President and recognizes an individual(s) or organization who has had a positive impact on the veterinary profession, IVMA, animal health and welfare and/or public health. This year President Dr. Shawn Nicholson chose two people to receive the President's Award.

The first recipient is Dr. Rex Wilhelm of Stuart. Dr. Wilhelm is a 1968 graduate of Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine and started working at Stuart Veterinary Clinic right out of veterinary school. After a few years he bought the practice from Dr. Wayne Cook and hired two other veterinarians, Dr. Cary Christensen and Dr. David Schmitt.

Dr. Wilhelm has been involved in many research trials over the years that have helped the veterinary profession diagnose and treat various important livestock pathogens. One example was testing the use of Pulmotil to control respiratory disease in swine. Dr. Wilhelm was also the first veterinarian to diagnose/recognize

coronavirus as both an enteric and respiratory pathogen in cattle.

Dr. Wilhelm has served on many boards for the veterinary profession including the Iowa Board of Veterinary Medicine for 9 years, with several years as chairman. He served on the IVMA's Bovine Committee and Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine's Admissions Committee. Dr. Wilhelm has also served 5 years on the American Veterinary Medical Association's (AVMA) Council on Education doing on-site assessments of veterinary colleges seeking accreditation. In 1991, Dr. Wilhelm was presented with the IVMA Veterinarian of the Year award.

Over the years, Dr. Wilhelm has mentored many veterinary students and veterinarians who practice all over the country. Dr. Nicholson says, "During my years of working with him, Rex was always there to give me a hand or answer a question. He also allowed me to make my own mistakes when needed. Rex taught me the importance of asking questions to challenge the status quo. He was also tremendous at using technology and data analysis to enhance his veterinary practice. Probably the best lesson I learned from him was understanding the utmost importance of being with family and having leisure time. There's never enough of this when you're a veterinarian but when you can, you make the most of it."

Congratulations, Dr. Wilhelm!

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