

# Meet These Award Gala Awards Celebration

The CVMA honors individuals and organizations that make significant contributions to veterinary medicine and the human-animal bond at the Pacific Veterinary Conference. The latest inductee into the California Animal Hall of Fame is also recognized.

Congratulations to the CVMA 2010 award winners! They illustrate the very best of the veterinary profession in California and the human-animal bond. Meet the award winners at the Pacific Veterinary Conference in San Francisco, July 15-18. We'll honor each winner with a special presentation during the Gala Awards Celebration on July 16.

## OUTSTANDING RVT OF THE YEAR IN PRIVATE PRACTICE

### Ms. Jan Yaroslav, RVT, VTS (Dentistry)

Ms. Jan Yaroslav has been an RVT since 1978 and is now the Senior RVT and Technical Supervisor at Mangrove Veterinary Hospital in Chico. In 2008 she became certified as a Veterinary Technician Specialist in dentistry – one of only 28 boarded dental technician specialists in the country. Area hospitals call her for advice on equipment and dental cases. She enjoys sharing her knowledge, training and motivating many students, technicians and veterinarians



by conducting seminars and wet labs.

According to her colleagues, Ms. Yaroslav sets the positive mood at Mangrove Veterinary Hospital. She leads by example and

is a wonderful role model, both in her attitude and her technical expertise. She shows professionalism in every situation and has the ability to draw a team together. She is also a great communicator with clients. Ms. Yaroslav has spent hundreds of hours working with assistants and helping them take online courses to become certified. Ms. Yaroslav is committed to her career, her colleagues, and most importantly, to her patients.

## MERITORIOUS SERVICE

### Veterinary Street Outreach Services (VET SOS)

San Francisco's VET SOS provides compassionate veterinary care to the companion animals of the homeless and offers non-judgmental support and free community clinic referrals to their human owners. VET SOS was founded in 2001 by Dr. Ilana Strubel, who works tirelessly with many other volunteers. The second Friday of every month, their signature blue van hits the streets, staffed by a veterinarian, a veterinary technician, and two outreach workers, going where people living on the streets can be found: in tents, in parks, under freeway overpasses, and in doorways. They establish trust with the pet owners and thereby make a healthier pet population in the city.

In 2008, this veterinary clinic on wheels tended to more than 750 animals. All medical supplies and operating expenses are donated by partner agencies and all veterinary personnel donate their time. The program provides vaccines, heartworm/flea prevention, food and basic veterinary care to homeless animals, and also distribute pet supplies, including food, flea control products, and leashes/collars. Homeless people value their companion animals, and VET SOS eliminates barriers to care for them. When VET SOS volunteers provide veterinary care for a homeless person's sick or injured animal, they are also helping the person who loves and needs that animal. For many homeless people, VET SOS is the only veterinary care their pets have ever known. This is a much needed program and can be a model for other cities.



# Winners at the on in San Francisco!



centers, Alzheimer's facilities, local schools, and local service clubs.

Moorea brings comfort and companionship to the sick and elderly. Moorea's outward beauty and soft fur initiates the visit, but her gentle step and readiness to lie next to a new friend is what people remember. She often cuddles on their bed with hospice residents, or just sits next to them for comfort. Though not many words are spoken, the connection and touch is valuable. Moorea's calm nature is a gift to many people making life's final transition, and to their families, who enjoy petting her and hearing her purr. It's amazing the magic that a little cat on a leash can bring!



## CALIFORNIA ANIMAL HALL OF FAME

The CVMA's California Animal Hall of Fame, created in 1990, celebrates the companion and working animals of California and the veterinarians who care for them. The winning animal's care provider is recognized at the Pacific Veterinary Conference as well.

### 2010 Inductee: Moorea, a Registered Therapy Cat

Owners: Nancy and Mike Denen  
San Diego, CA

Veterinary Sponsor: Kim Dembinski, DVM  
Carmel Mountain Ranch Veterinary Hospital, San Diego

Moorea is a 13 year-old pet-therapy cat with the "Love on a Leash" program in San Diego. With her retired owners, Nancy and Mike Denen, she is part of "Team Calico," which makes weekly visits to nursing homes and hospice facilities. Wearing a harness and walking on a leash, Moorea has visited hundreds of individuals at various nursing facilities, senior

