

## ACVS FOUNDATION LEGENDS AWARD

Joseph "Joe" J. Foerner Jr, DVM, Diplomate ACVS, is the recipient of the 2018 *ACVS Foundation Legends Award* for his dedication and contributions to the field of veterinary surgery.

Dr. Foerner received his DVM degree from the University of Illinois in 1965 and then completed an internship in equine surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. Following his internship, he became a partner with Dr. Tom Phillips at Illinois Equine Hospital. As the first ACVS board-certified equine surgeon in a private practice, Dr. Foerner opened the road to show people that equine surgery was not just an academic endeavor but was transferrable to equine medical care. His influence was not limited to a single entity. He embraced abdominal and later arthroscopic surgery as practical alternatives for the horse. Dr. Foerner refined many of the arthroscopic techniques and passed them onto other surgeons through his many lectures at ACVS Symposia and other surgical meetings. He also introduced many of the arthroscopic principals of equine surgery to small animal minimally invasive surgery, which has blossomed as a surgical subspecialty. He published from his private practice venue, which helped set the standard for private practices contributing to the continuing education of veterinary surgeons.

Dr. Foerner did not limit himself to equine surgery. His work with the zoos in the Chicago area led him to Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey in Florida where he developed the technique for castration of the elephant, which was no small feat since their testicles are intra-abdominal. This work helped solve the problem of management of captive elephant populations. His ability to innovate and adapt surgical principals to numerous different situations and species is likely still unmatched in the ACVS.

Dr. Foerner's internship at Naperville Equine Hospital initiated the career of many current ACVS Diplomates, and his personal help also influenced the career of many others. As Regent, President, and Chair of the Board of ACVS he had broad leadership influence as well. He was influential in the initiation of the ACVS European Surgical Forum when the ACVS took surgical education on the road to Europe. These meetings and the exposure of the ACVS to Europe were instrumental in the eventual birth of the European College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Unfortunately, Dr. Foerner passed away in late 2016 while still actively practicing surgery and imparting his skills to the next generation. His multiple contributions to veterinary surgery have certainly 'stood the test of time' and make him a very worthy recipient of the *ACVS Foundation Legends Award*. This award is being given posthumously to his surviving spouse Dr. Kim Peterson, daughter Josephine, and son Marshall.

*The ACVS Foundation Legends Award recognizes ACVS Diplomates who have developed a surgical or diagnostic procedure of significant value, proven by becoming the treatment or test of choice for a given condition. The procedure or test has "withstood the test of time" and, although possibly modified over time, remains the treatment or diagnostic method of choice or the scientific basis for the current treatment of choice. The procedure or test is novel and involves advancements in veterinary surgical science and not reapplication of general medical science.*



**Joseph J. Foerner Jr,  
DVM, Diplomate ACVS**

### **Past recipients of the ACVS Foundation Legends Award:**

- 2017: Bruce Hull, DVM, MS
- 2016: Jon F. Dee, DVM, MS
- 2015: Donald L. Piermattei, DVM, MS
- 2014: Barrie D. Grant, DVM, MS
- 2012: H. Phil Hobson, DVM, MS
- 2011: Robert L. Leighton, VMD
- 2010: Larry R. Bramlage, DVM, MS
- 2009: George E. Eyster, VMD, MS
- 2008: Marvin L. Olmstead, DVM, MS
- 2007: Charles W. Raker, VMD
- 2006: Martin P. DeAngelis, DVM
- 2005: George P. Wilson, VMD, MSc

