

ACVS MERIT AWARD

Presented at the Mark W. Allam Lecture & Awards Ceremony

8:00–9:30am, Thursday

Augustus I & II

In selecting Gail K. Smith, VMD, PhD, to receive the ACVS Merit Award, the ACVS membership acknowledges his major contributions in the field of veterinary orthopedic surgery. In studying orthopedic conditions and developing novel ways to ultimately improve the quality of life of veterinary patients, he gained worldwide acceptance and changed the way musculoskeletal disease is now studied and treated.

Dr. Smith received his veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1974 and his doctorate in Engineering and Applied Science from the University of Pennsylvania in 1982. In addition, Dr. Smith held a secondary faculty appointment at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. This dual degree of engineering and veterinary surgery laid the groundwork for his innovative research investigating the canine and feline musculoskeletal system in both health and disease for which he holds two U.S. patents.

Perhaps the most pervasive of Dr. Smith's accomplishments and his greatest contribution is his body of scientific research that has enhanced the understanding of canine hip dysplasia, primarily from the biomechanical standpoint, and led to the subsequent development of the PennHIP diagnostic methodology. Throughout the world, this method continues as a standard for identifying dogs at risk for transmitting genes that influence the development of hip dysplasia.

Dr. Smith's national and international reputation is supported by his extensive peer-reviewed publication history, the publishing success of the surgery residents he trained, and his history of presenting continuing education around the world. He has served as a reviewer for the top veterinary, orthopedic, and bioengineering journals; participated as a member of the editorial board for *Veterinary and Comparative Orthopaedics and Traumatology* and the *American Journal of Veterinary Research*; and directly contributed to the training of numerous ACVS Diplomates and surgery residents.

Dr. Smith has received many awards for research excellence from notable national and international organizations, including the Morris Animal Foundation, SmithKline Beecham, the American Veterinary Medical Foundation, and the AVMA Council on Research. He received the Iams Saki Paatsama Award for Excellence in Orthopaedic Medicine and Surgery from the World Small Animal Veterinary Association and The Blaine Award presented by the British Small Animal Veterinary Association for outstanding contributions to the advancement of small animal veterinary medicine or surgery.

Dr. Smith served not only as a member of many local, national, and international societies dedicated to the advancement of orthopedics, but also in leadership for the Eastern Veterinary Orthopedic Society, the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians, and the Veterinary Orthopedic Society, and was instrumental in the formation of the World Orthopedic Congress.

Noted by a colleague: "Dr. Smith has been a dedicated passionate veterinarian that devoted his entire career to improve hip health in dogs and cats."

The ACVS Merit Award was established to acknowledge contributions to the progress of veterinary surgery made by an individual from outside the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. The award is given to an individual who has a career dominated by major and ongoing contributions to the art and science of veterinary surgery.



**Gail K. Smith,
VMD, PhD**

Past recipients of the ACVS Merit Award:

2017: James N. Moore, DVM, PhD

2016: Padraic M. Dixon, MVB, PhD,
MrCVS, Dip EVDC (EQ)

2013: Aldo Vezzoni, Med. Vet

2012: Thomas M. Turner, DVM

2010: Gretchen L. Flo, DVM, MS

2006: Barclay Slocum, DVM, MS
(posthumously)

2005: Geoffrey Sumner-Smith,
MSc, DVSc, FRCVS

2003: Steven F. Swaim, DVM, MS