The ACVS Foundation is pleased to announce that Larry R. Bramlage, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS, is the recipient of the 2010 ACVS Foundation Legends Award for his dedication and contributions to the field of equine orthopedic surgery. Dr. Bramlage is recognized worldwide as one of the leading authorities in equine orthopedics. Many of his contributions to equine orthopedics are easy to document; however, his intangible contributions to the field are perhaps more impressive.

Over the past 30 years, Dr. Bramlage has played an extremely influential role in advancing the art and science of fracture repair. One of the most recognizable results of his innovation, effort and experience is the technique he developed for fetlock arthrodesis. Following his initial report of the procedure 30 years ago, with few modifications, this technique has essentially become the classic procedure used by most equine orthopedic surgeons for fetlock arthrodesis. Dr. Bramlage also was one of the pioneers of equine arthroscopic surgery, making significant contributions to our knowledge in this important area of musculoskeletal surgery. Dr. Bramlage has also been a leader in the field of equine lameness diagnostics, integrating the use of imaging with other diagnostic procedures as new modes of imaging were being developed. He has been author or co-author on over 70 publications in refereed journals, has written numerous book chapters and has spoken at a wide range of national and international meetings to present his thoughts and experiences in equine orthopedic surgery. He has received many professional awards for his work in this discipline.

It is difficult to quantify Dr. Bramlage’s intangible contributions to equine orthopedics: the number of equine surgeons to which he has provided information, advice or encouragement; the number of referring veterinarians and trainers he has helped; and most importantly, the number of equine athletes that were able to return to competition because of his expertise.

In addition to his busy clinical schedule and time spent writing and speaking, Dr. Bramlage found time to contribute to the equine industry and veterinary community. He helped develop the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) “On Call” program where experts are immediately available to the media at many important races. He served as chair of the Research Advisory Committee of the Grayson Jockey Club Research Foundation for over 12 years and continues to serve on its Board of Directors. He has served as president of the AAEP and of the ACVS.

Dr. Bramlage graduated from Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1975, completed an internship at Colorado State University in 1976 and a residency in equine surgery at The Ohio State University (OSU) in 1978. He taught at OSU from 1978 through 1989, except for a one-year period in private practice. In 1989, he joined Rood & Riddle Equine Hospital where he became a partner in 1992 and continues to practice. It is remarkable how much he has contributed and achieved in equine orthopedics in his first 30 years of surgical practice and that is why he is being recognized now while still in the prime of his career.

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, while perhaps 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 unique and involves advancements in veterinary surgical science and not reapplication of general medical science.

Past recipients of the ACVS Foundation Legends Award:
2005 – George Wilson, VMD, MSc
2006 – Martin P. DeAngelis, DVM
2007 – Charles W. Raker, VMD
2008 – Marvin L. Olmstead, DVM, MS
2009 – George E. Eyster, VMD, MS