Barrie D. Grant, DVM, MS, Diplomate ACVS, will receive the 2014 ACVS Foundation Legends Award for his dedication and contributions to the field of veterinary surgery. While a faculty member at Washington State University (WSU), Dr. Grant developed a collaborative relationship with human spinal surgeon, Dr. George Bagby. Together, they applied knowledge and surgical techniques and instrumentation from human to horse spinal surgery. Dr. Grant became a pioneer and innovator in equine spinal surgery and diseases of the equine spinal cord. Throughout his 40 years in academia and private practice, he developed and implemented four generations of spinal fusion implants. Originally, the procedure was performed completely freehandedly. Dr. Grant progressed this to a radiographic-guided technique and, subsequently, a cannulated system that significantly minimized errors and maximized the optimal placement and depth of the implant.

Dr. Grant received his DVM degree from WSU in 1967. He performed his equine internship and residency at the University of California, Davis. In 1969 he returned to WSU as a member of the faculty. He left academia in 1990 to join a private practice, San Luis Rey Equine Hospital in San Diego, CA.

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.