

ACVS MERIT AWARD

John Schumacher, DVM, MS

Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Large Animal)

In selecting John Schumacher, DVM, MS, Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (Large Animal), to receive the *ACVS Merit Award*, the ACVS membership acknowledges his major contributions, not only in the clinical practice of equine medicine and surgery, but further in support of his collaborative research and focus in equine lameness.

Dr. Schumacher developed novel and refined diagnostic methods that significantly contributed to the veterinary profession's current understanding of equine lameness and best practices for diagnostic analgesia. Equine surgeons perform lameness evaluations as a primary portion of their practices and have benefited in the interpretation and diagnosis of musculoskeletal pain. By carefully mapping what is, and what is not desensitized by each anesthetic injection (local, regional, and intra-articular anesthesia), he revolutionized the approach to lameness examination of the horse. These techniques advanced the knowledge and skills that are vital in the daily lives of equine surgeons: from the preoperative planning to postoperative management, and the maintenance of the equine athletes.



**John Schumacher, DVM, MS
DACVIM (Large Animal)**

Dr. Schumacher received both his bachelor's degree in animal science and his veterinary degree from Kansas State University in 1973, and his master's in large animal medicine and surgery from Texas A&M University in 1980, and was board-certified as a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (DACVIM) in 1988. Throughout his career as a professor in the Department of Large Animal Medicine and Surgery, College of Veterinary Medicine at Auburn University, he made numerous direct and indirect contributions to the education of veterinary students, residents, and faculty and was awarded the Carl J. Norden Distinguished Teacher Award in both 1995 and 1998.

He was the principal investigator or co-investigator to more than 25 funded grants and mentored thousands of students, many in clinical research projects related to lameness diagnosis, where discussions around the approach to the examination of the horse and the interpretation of the diagnostic anesthetic techniques, became the standard to what was then applied by equine veterinarians in their everyday practices. What was once a subjective interpretation has become a defined science through his research, publications, and instruction over the years.

A highly sought-after speaker, Dr. Schumacher presented globally at over 100 continuing education conferences, and professional and scientific meetings. He served as a reviewer for leading veterinary, orthopedic, and bioengineering journals; participating as a member of editorial review boards and directly contributed to the training of numerous ACVS Diplomates and surgery residents. His national and international reputation is supported by his extensive publication history and the publishing success of those surgery residents he trained, having written over 140 peer-reviewed journal articles and authored/co-authored over 20 book chapters, some of which can be found in surgical textbooks such as *Equine Surgery*. He also co-authored several textbooks on diagnostic anesthesia and equine joint injections, one of which was with his brother, Jim Schumacher, DVM, Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons—*Equine Joint Injection and Regional Anesthesia*.

His local, national, and international contributions have supported the missions of the ACVS and the veterinary

profession. Dr. Schumacher's other collaborative efforts are directed towards equine and canine surgical practices. Most recently, he established collaborations investigating improving surgical practices for the canine species in third world countries.

Excerpt from a letter of support for Dr. Schumacher's nomination:

"Dr. John Schumacher is genuinely one of the nicest, most respected, and listened to equine veterinarians alive today. He is not only highly deserving of this award, but he would also bring credit to the ACVS Merit Award by joining the list of previous award winners."

Past recipients of the ACVS Merit Award

2003 - Steven F. Swaim, DVM, MS
2005 - Geoffrey Sumner-Smith, MSc, DVSc, FRCVS
2006 - Barclay Slocum, DVM, MS (posthumously)
2010 - Gretchen L. Flo, DVM, MS
2012 - Thomas M. Turner, DVM
2013 - Aldo Vezzoni, medvet, SCMPA, DECVS
2015 - Padraic M. Dixon, MVB, PhD, MRCVS, Dip EVDC (EQ)
2017 - James N. Moore, DVM, PhD
2019 - Gail K. Smith, VMD, PhD

The ACVS Merit Award provides an avenue for recognition of non-ACVS Diplomates who have made major contributions to the conduct of veterinary surgery through the development of methods, techniques, devices, and educational aspects of veterinary surgery.