

## ACVS FOUNDATION LEGENDS AWARD

*Presented at the Mark W. Allam Lecture & Awards Ceremony  
8:00-9:30am, Thursday, Grand Ballroom, Gold Level, East Tower*

The ACVS Foundation is pleased to announce that **Robert L. Leighton, VMD, Diplomate ACVS**, is the recipient of the 2011 *ACVS Foundation Legends Award* for his dedication and contributions to the field of veterinary surgery.

Dr. Leighton, an ACVS charter member in 1966, completed his veterinary education at the University of Pennsylvania in 1941 with an internship at the Angell Memorial Animal Hospital. Throughout his distinguished career, with the assistance of his father, a master machinist, he invented numerous surgical instruments including an equine mouth speculum, a protected perforating knife, an external fixator (described in Dr. William G. Whittick's book *Canine Fracture Treatment*), the Leighton Pin Guide and the Leighton Shuttle Pin, which was a precursor to the toggle and dowel pin techniques. Dr. Leighton developed the use of full thickness skin for treatment of the ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in dogs. Additionally, he performed the first infraspinatus surgery in the United States.

Dr. Leighton has been involved throughout his career with providing continuing education. His speaking and teaching engagements, which began in 1947 in Chicago, have resulted in world-wide exposure. He was responsible for extending continuing education to Chile and Argentina and, as a result, received an honorary degree from the University of Buenos Aires. Although now retired, he continues to provide continuing education in Japan, Taiwan, the Philippines, Australia and New Zealand.

Throughout Dr. Leighton's career he has written a number of books and is the co-author of *Small Animal Orthopedics and Radiology of Small Animal Fracture Management*. He also authored 140 refereed articles and received 15 awards. When asked, "What is the greatest achievement of your career?" Dr. Leighton responded, "Receiving the Fido Award from the American Animal Hospital Association for Veterinarian of the Year, and influencing future veterinarians, which I'm rewarded for in the kind words of my many students."

Dr. Leighton served in the Veterinary Corps during World War II and later went on to become the first chief of surgery at the Animal Medical Center in New York.



**Robert L. Leighton**

*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  
2010 – Larry R. Bramlage, DVM, MS

