

# The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine

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*For immediate release*

## Local Professor Receives National Animal Welfare Award



A hero to both pets and people, Dr. John C. New, Jr. received the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) 2004 Animal Welfare Award at the AVMA Animal Welfare Forum in Chicago, IL.

New, professor and head of the Department of Comparative Medicine at The University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, has served as a past board member and scientific advisory committee member of the National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy, and has researched many avenues of animal welfare, including pet ownership, overpopulation, and pet relinquishments. His work has been used to develop and enhance programs that have successfully targeted both people and their pets by identifying aspects of pet ownership and responsibility that can lead to abandonment. Because of Dr. New's insight into a prevalent problem, countless pets have remained in their homes.

Dr. New has had a great impact on the local level as well. A founding member of HABIT, or Human-Animal Bond in Tennessee, he now serves on the organization's Executive Committee and oversees all animal-related matters, including medical and behavioral evaluations. HABIT is one of the country's oldest and largest community based human-animal interaction organizations.

In addition, Dr. New co-founded HERO—Humane Education and Responsible Ownership—of Pets, a consortium of organizations committed to promoting responsible and humane pet ownership through educational projects. HALT (Humans and Animals Learning Together), a third organization dedicated to animal welfare and co-founded by Dr. New, uses dog obedience training to provide therapeutic intervention for at-risk adolescents.

He has dedicated his time and talents to many organizations, including the Humane Society of the Tennessee Valley, and the American Association of Human-Animal Bond Veterinarians. He currently is the co-chair of the AVMA Committee on Human-Animal Bond and is a distinguished diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine.

After graduating from Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. New served as a captain in the US Army Veterinary Corps and was assigned as a clinical veterinary

officer. Following his military service, Dr. New returned to the academic arena and earned a masters degree in public health from the University of Minnesota.

Dr. New has received numerous awards, including the Michael J. McCulloch, MD Memorial Award; the Leo K. Bustad Companion Animal Veterinarian of the Year Award; and the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine's Reed Outstanding Service Award. In a fitting tribute to the life and work of Dr. New, the Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association created the John New Human-Animal Bond Award in 2002