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## PRESS RELEASE

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The Prince Edward Island Veterinary Medical Association Annual Awards Banquet was held on Saturday, November 4th, 2023, at the Rodd Charlottetown. The banquet is held on the first Saturday in November every year to recognize the members of the public and PEIVMA members who are honoured as award recipients. The following awards were presented: PEIVMA Practitioner of the Year Award, PEIVMA Cow Comfort Award, PEIVMA Lowest SCC Awards, Top PEI Owned Conformation Dog and Top PEI Owned Rally Obedience Dog.

It was in the inaugural year for the PEIVMA Practitioner of the Year Award. This award was created in 2023 to recognize the excellence of a deserving PEIVMA member in clinical practice. Nominations may be submitted by members of the animal owning public or student volunteers. The first winner of the PEIVMA Practitioner of the Year Award was Dr. Jody Mokler of the Charlottetown Veterinary Clinic. Dr. Mokler is a companion animal general practitioner. She demonstrates excellence and dedication to client communication, taking the time to make clients feel important and heard. She is described as a wonderful, kind and compassionate person. Dr. Mokler was unavailable to receive the award so Dr. John Drake of the Charlottetown Veterinary Clinic accepted on her behalf.

The PEIVMA Cow Comfort Award recognizes an individual or organization that has made a significant impact towards the improvement of the comfort of cattle. This award is nominated by veterinarians and members of the cattle sector. The 2023 PEIVMA Cow Comfort Award winner was Dr. Shawn McKenna of the Atlantic Veterinary College. Dr. McKenna plays a key role in training future bovine veterinarians as well as providing continuing education for Atlantic Bovine Veterinarians. He has contributed significantly to research focused on cow comfort and welfare. Dr. McKenna also participated in the development of the Animal Care Assessment for the dairy industry's national ProAction Program.

The PEIVMA Lowest Somatic Cell Count Awards recognize the three PEI dairy producers with the lowest bulk tank somatic cell counts for the period of September 1, 2022 to August 31st, 2023. Somatic Cell Count is a key measure of milk quality. Finishing first place with 43.86 was Logan Bryanton who farms in Miscouche. Second place with 44.62 went to Abe and Elaine Buttimer of Abelaine Farms in New Glasgow. Third place with 44.64 was Frits and Janna Hoff of Hoff Dairy in Rustico.

The PEIVMA Dog Awards are determined by the points accumulated during the 2023 show season. The award for the Top PEI Owned Conformation Dog was awarded to the Toy Fox Terrier CH ISLANDGEMS DREAMS COME TRUE CGN owned by Amanda Oatway.

The award for Top PEI Owned Rally Obedience Dog went to the Chinese Crested GARDINE HAIR I GO AGAIN owned by Jennifer McKenney and Alicia Willson.

(Photos included below.)



Dr. John Drake accepting the PEIVMA Practitioner of the Year Award of behalf of Dr. Jody Mokler from PEIVMA Public Relations Chair Dr. Helen Fraser. (Photo: Katherine Drake Photography)



Dr. Shawn McKenna accepting the PEIVMA Cow Comfort Award from PEIVMA Public Relations Chair, Dr. Helen Fraser. (Photo: Katherine Drake Photography)



First place Lowest Somatic Cell Count Winner Logan Bryanton accepting the award from PEIVMA Public Relations Chair, Dr. Helen Fraser. (Photo: Katherine Drake Photography)



Abe and Elaine Buttimer of Abelaine Farms accepting Second Place Lowest Somatic Cell Count from PEIVMA Public Relations Chair, Dr. Helen Fraser. (Photo: Katherine Drake Photography)



Fritz Hoff accepting third place PEIVMA Lowest Somatic Cell Count from PEIVMA Public Relations Chair, Dr. Helen Fraser. (Photo: Katherine Drake Photography)



Top PEI Owned Conformation Dog CH ISLANDGEMS DREAMS COME TRUE CGN  
with owner Amanda Oatway. (Photo: Katherine Drake Photography)



Top PEI Owned Rally Obedience Dog GARDINE HAIR I GO AGAIN with owner and handler Jennifer McKenney. (Photo: Katherine Drake Photography)