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## PRESS RELEASE

### Canadian Veterinarian to Receive WSAVA's 2023 'Future Leader' Award

Dr Brendon Laing, a Canadian veterinarian and co-owner of award-winning clinics in Ontario, is to receive the 2023 [WSAVA](#) Future Leader Award in recognition of his strong contribution to the wider veterinary community in Canada, in particular his work to highlight issues around mental health in the profession and to promote technological innovation in the sector.

Dr Laing has served on the board of the Ontario Veterinary Medical Association (OVMA) since 2017, using this platform to advocate for, among other things, a more people-centered approach to veterinary medicine. An early-adopter of technology, he also played a key role in helping the OVMA to update regulations around telemedicine, an initiative which enabled veterinarians in Ontario to use the technology effectively and which supported them in providing safe care to pets during the pandemic. Dr Laing joined the OVMA's Executive Committee in 2022 to help shape its transition to a post-COVID world and is currently President Elect. He is also Chair of the Professional Development Committee of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA), a role in which he leads the development of the CVMA's annual convention and other CE activities.

In his clinical work, Dr Laing is co-owner and veterinarian at the Town and Country Animal Hospital, Hillside Veterinary Clinic and Dean Veterinary Hospital in Ontario. The clinics have expanded under his leadership, which prioritizes the cultivation of a workplace of collaboration and the importance of continuing education. The clinics have been recognized with awards for their customer service.

The WSAVA Future Leader Award is generously supported by long-term WSAVA Partner, [Hill's Pet Nutrition](#).

Commenting, Dr Mike Topper, Chair of the WSAVA Membership and Nomination Committee, said: "Dr. Laing stood out among the already outstanding applicants because of his engaged leadership at the provincial and national levels of organized veterinary medicine; his continuous efforts to improved wellness and wellbeing in his small animal hospitals, and his on-going promotion of telemedicine to improve the accessibility of veterinary care."

Dr Laing said: "I am deeply honored to receive the WSAVA Future Leader Award for my contributions to the veterinary community. This recognition highlights the importance of a people-centered approach, mental health advocacy, and technological innovation in veterinary medicine. I am grateful to my colleagues, mentors, and

teams at Town and Country Animal Hospital and Hillside Veterinary Clinic. Together, we prioritize collaboration, education, and excellent patient care. I thank the WSAVA and Hill's Pet Nutrition for their support. I look forward to accepting the award at the WSAVA World Congress and continuing to advance companion animal care globally."

The WSAVA Future Leader Award acknowledges the work of a veterinarian who graduated within the last ten years and who has contributed significantly to the betterment of companion animals, the veterinary profession and society at large.

"Dr Laing's passion to support the veterinary profession at all levels in his home country within a just few years of qualification is simply inspirational," said Dr Iveta Becvarova, Director of Global Academic and Professional Affairs at Hill's Pet Nutrition. "His visionary leadership in areas such as mental health and wellbeing, continuing education and the adoption of innovative technologies will help to advance practice in Canada and improve the health and wellbeing, not just of veterinary team members across the country, but also of the patients they care for with such dedication. We are delighted that his achievements are being recognized with this Award."

Dr Laing will receive an engraved plaque and a WSAVA certificate during this year's [WSAVA World Congress](#) which takes place in Lisbon, Portugal, from 27-29 September. Candidates for the WSAVA Future Leader Award can come from any country and must meet a range of criteria, including:

- Have graduated within the past ten years
- Be active in continuing education
- Have a strong record in community service

The WSAVA represents more than 200,000 veterinarians worldwide through its 115 member associations and works to enhance standards of clinical care for companion animals. Its core activities include the development of WSAVA Global Guidelines in key areas of veterinary practice, including pain management, nutrition and vaccination, together with lobbying on important issues affecting companion animal care worldwide. WSAVA World Congress brings together globally respected experts to offer cutting edge thinking on all aspects of companion animal veterinary care.

More information on the WSAVA Future Leader Award is available here:

<https://wsava.org/about/awards/wsava-future-leader-award/>

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