



2017 EQUESTRIAN CANADA HEALTH & WELFARE AWARD: DR. MARY BELL



The Equestrian Canada (EC) Health & Welfare Award recognizes an individual or organization that has contributed directly to the improvement of horse health and welfare in Canada through years of hard work and dedication.

The 2017 recipient, Dr. Mary Bell of Puslinch, ON has spent her life dedicated to the health and well-being of horses, both in her professional life as an equine veterinarian, and as a tireless volunteer for an endless list of local, provincial and national associations, committees, working groups and task forces.

Dr. Bell has been a champion in promoting increased awareness and understanding of the important relationship between animal health and welfare, and the responsibility owners assume for ensuring these elements are optimized in animals under their care.

Veterinarians are ideally positioned to promote these values through the clinical treatment and preventive care of horses. And, not only has Dr. Bell has been a major contributor, but a leader in these vital areas, helping to influence widespread change by participating in the development and delivery of health and welfare programs, policies, standards and regulations.

Through her clinical practice, Dr. Bell has pursued her passion for enhancing the health

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and welfare of animals in her care for over four decades. In addition, she has contributed significantly to animal health and welfare programming in Canada. During her time as a former co-chair and current member of the EC Health & Welfare Committee, Dr. Bell has helped to spearhead disease management development, high performance horse health programs, and emergency animal management guidelines, just to name a few areas.

Most recently, Dr. Bell took on a vital role in helping EC successfully develop the *National Farm and Facility Level Biosecurity Standard for the Equine Sector* in partnership with the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA). Throughout this collaboration, which spanned over two years, Dr. Bell was instrumental in ensuring the content was practical and reflective of the breadth of the equine industry, and that implementation and uptake for the Guide was promoted. The volume of work, time commitment and effort she generously dedicated to this project were invaluable.

In recognition of her incredible dedication to the equine industry, Dr. Bell has earned many accolades in her career, including the Ontario Association of Equine Practitioners (OAEP) Distinguished Lifetime Member Award, the Ontario Equestrian (OE) President's Distinguished Recognition Award and the EC Volunteer of the Year Award. EC is thrilled to add the 2017 EC Health & Welfare Award to the list.