Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association
2801 Crossroads Dr. Suite 1200 Madison, WI 53718
608.257.3665 | 608.257.8989 fax
wvma@wvma.org | www.wvma.org

August 3, 2010

Wisconsin Veterinarian Elected to AVMA Leadership

Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association (WVMA) member, René Carlson, DVM, was installed as the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) president-elect at the 147th Annual Convention in Atlanta today.

Dr. René Carlson obtained her DVM from the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine in 1978. Dr. Carlson has been involved in exclusive private small animal practice in both urban and mixed animal practices (primarily dairy and equine). In 1996 she built the Animal Hospital of Chetek, which was certified by the American Animal Hospital Association in 1997, and received the Veterinary Economics "Practice of Excellence" Award in 2000.

Dr. Carlson is the past president of the WVMA, served in the AVMA House of Delegates for eight years representing Wisconsin and on the American Veterinary Medical Foundation Board of Directors, including as its secretary. In October 2001, she received the Wisconsin Veterinarian of the Year Award.

During her acceptance speech, Dr. Carlson focused on the future – a growing population, increased demand for safe food and the continuous spread and risk of infectious diseases, many beginning in the animal kingdom.

"Veterinarians have been the quiet, compassionate, silent heroes for decades. Now is the time we must become more visible and vocal," she said. "We must awaken the giant within us or veterinary medicine will be left behind in areas in which we need to be engaged, such as food safety and security, surveillance and containment of zoonotic disease, service in rural communities, all while maintaining our special niche of healing and health care for the variety of animals with which we share our lives on this earth."

Dr. Carlson is looking forward to working with and leading her fellow veterinarians.

"I have an amazing opportunity to help mold our profession, to represent AVMA, what I consider to be the most prestigious veterinary medical organization in the world, to my colleagues, here and abroad, and to the public. I am extremely proud to be a veterinarian and I can't contain that pride whenever someone asks me what I do for a living. There is no place I would rather be than in the exam room with animals and their owners as a general practitioner, except of course, on the road for AVMA these next few years."

Dr. Carlson added "The future is what you make it, and our future at AVMA and for veterinary medicine begins today."

The mission of the Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association is to advocate and promote veterinary medicine, while enriching animal and human health. Founded in 1915, The Wisconsin Veterinary Medical Association has more than 2,500 members.

####