

Community Engagement Award Criteria

Introduction

The New Zealand Veterinary Association Te Pae Kīrehe (NZVA) recognises that certain individuals, or organisations, accomplish extraordinary achievements on behalf of the profession and as such should be acknowledged. The Community Engagement Award was established in 2024.

Award Criteria

The Community Engagement Award aims to recognise individuals or organisations that have made outstanding contributions to community outreach and education related to animal health and welfare. This award celebrates efforts that bridge the gap between veterinary professionals and the public, enhancing awareness and promoting positive change in animal care.

Eligibility

Nominees are not required to be members of the NZVA.

Nominees may possess the following qualities and / or achievements. It is noted that many veterinarians make significant contributions in these areas and therefore nominations should be made based on exceptional achievement across one or more of these categories.

Community Outreach

- Demonstrated commitment to engaging with the community through programs, events, or initiatives focused on animal health and welfare.
- Effective outreach activities such as workshops, seminars, school programs, or public campaigns that educate and inform the public about veterinary care and animal welfare.

Impact on Public Awareness

- Evidence of increased public awareness or behavioural change resulting from community engagement efforts.
- Measurable outcomes such as improved understanding of animal care practices, increased responsible pet ownership, or enhanced public knowledge of veterinary services.

Collaboration and Partnerships

- Successful collaboration with other organisations, institutions, or community groups to achieve outreach objectives.
- Establishment of partnerships that enhance the reach and effectiveness of community engagement efforts.

Innovation and Creativity

- Use of innovative and creative approaches to engage the community and deliver educational content.
- Implementation of unique strategies or tools that effectively capture public interest and participation.

Sustainability and Long-Term Impact

- Evidence of long-term sustainability and ongoing impact of community engagement initiatives.
- Initiatives that continue to benefit the community beyond the immediate project or event.

Volunteer and Team Efforts

- Recognition of significant contributions made by volunteers or team members involved in community engagement activities.
- Effective coordination and leadership in organizing and executing outreach efforts.

Nominations

Nominations for the award will be called for annually with information advertised in VetNews and on the NZVA website. Nominators **must** be a member of the NZVA.

At a minimum each nomination must be accompanied with the following;

1. The name, email, telephone number of the nominator as well as your relationship to the nominee.
2. A cover letter with a brief statement outlining how the individual has demonstrated excellence through the above criterion.

Nominations may also be accompanied with the following;

1. Media articles written about the nominee (in pdf format or by web link).
2. Letters of support (maximum of 500 words in each).
3. Articles written by the nominee (in pdf format or by web link).

Nominees should **not** be made aware of their nomination, to avoid disappointment in the event that their nomination is unsuccessful.

Selection and Presentation

The selection of who may receive the Community Engagement Award sits with the Awards Committee of the NZVA. The Committee's decision on who will receive awards is final and binding, and no correspondence will be entered into about the decision. The award is presented at an appropriate occasion chosen by the President.