

The T. G. Hungerford Award

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Congratulations to Dr Linda Fleeman!

2024 recipient of the T. G. Hungerford Award for Excellence in Continuing Veterinary Education

We're delighted to announce Dr Linda Fleeman as this year's recipient for her *profound and multifaceted contribution to veterinary medicine particularly to advancing the discipline of veterinary endocrinology.*

Acting CVE Director Dr Jacqui Norris presented this prestigious award to Linda (*pictured above left to right, respectively*) at our recent highly successful 'Paws Under Pressure: An Emergency Medicine Conference' held in The State Library, Melbourne, in October. The framing includes a silver coin featuring a Goanna—the CVE's motif—in tribute to Tom's famous philosophy: Follow the Goanna Track to Success.

Tom's philosophy was that the key to success was to identify an area of interest and devote time to it, listening, learning and building what he called a 'tree of knowledge'. Now anyone familiar with a goanna can attest to the speed and agility with which they can scale a tree—to utilise Tom's 'Goanna Track' is to construct the tree and ascend it like a goanna. But once up the tree the goanna doesn't decide to spend the rest of its life in the canopy; it takes what it can, then returns to the ground and finds another tree. Tom's point was that climbing that tree offered a unique vantage point from which other opportunities for growth and development could be identified.

It is in this spirit that the CVE offers courses in many different aspects of veterinary practice, in forms that suit everyone—whether you have a spare hour, day, month or year to invest in building your tree of knowledge. The CVE is dedicated to empowering the veterinary profession through education: enhancing confidence, competence, wellbeing and welfare globally since 1965....

Linda joins the Honour Roll of past recipients of the Award, all giants in the profession:

2024	Linda Fleeman
2017 – 2023	Not awarded
2016	Terry King
2015	Stephen Page
2012 – 2014	Not awarded
2011	Stephen Holloway
2010	Robin Stanley
2009	Boyd Jones
2008	Karen Hoffman
2007	Paul Canfield
2006	Wing Tip Wong & Glen Edwards
2005	Victor Menrath
2004	Russell Mitten
2003	Not awarded
2002	Richard Malik
2001	David Church
2000	Jill Maddison
1995 – 1999	Not Awarded
1994	D.C. Blood
1993	Graeme Allan
1992	Richard LeCouteur
1991	Reuben Rose
1990	Susan Shaw
1989	Christopher Bellenger
1988	Jakob Malmo
1987	R.R. Pascoe



Follow the Goanna Track to Success...

HUNGERFORD AWARD CITATION FOR 2024

Dr Linda M. Fleeman

The T.G. Hungerford Award was established upon the retirement of Dr Tom Hungerford OBE, who significantly contributed to the veterinary profession. The award honours the tradition of recognising excellence in continuing veterinary education.

“ So splendid is their performance; they adorn the awards for excellence now conferred upon them.
T.G. Hungerford

Dr Linda Fleeman is a worthy recipient of the Hungerford Award for 2024, recognised for her long-standing commitment to continuing veterinary education and her dedication to advancing the discipline of veterinary endocrinology. Her work has significantly influenced the field, benefiting both veterinarians and the animals they care for.

Dr Fleeman is a pioneering figure in veterinary endocrinology, renowned globally for her expertise in managing diabetes in companion animals. Over her distinguished career, she has redefined the standards of care for diabetic dogs and cats, combining innovative research with clinical practice to improve the lives of many animals. She is undoubtedly the leading authority on canine and feline diabetes in Australia.

As the founder and director of Animal Diabetes Australia—the world’s first veterinary service dedicated exclusively to the care of diabetic pets—Dr Fleeman has created a vital resource for both pet owners and veterinarians. Since establishing this specialised service in 2010, she has tirelessly advanced diabetes management, ensuring that pets receive high-quality care grounded in the latest scientific evidence. Her efforts have not only benefitted individual animals but have also raised the overall standard of veterinary care in Australia and globally, setting a new benchmark for diabetes management in companion animals.

Dr Fleeman’s contributions to veterinary medicine are profound and multifaceted. Her research has examined critical aspects of diabetes, including insulin sensitivity, glucose tolerance, and the genetic and environmental factors influencing the disease. Her studies on metabolic processes in obese dogs, along with her discovery that type 2 diabetes—common in humans and cats—is rare in dogs, have had significant implications. These insights have shifted how veterinarians approach diagnosis and treatment, leading to more effective care.

A key area of Dr Fleeman’s work is the nutritional management of diabetes. Her research has shown that individualised nutritional strategies are essential for managing diabetes in dogs and cats, revolutionising how dietary interventions are integrated into treatment protocols. Her work on insulin therapy, glucose monitoring, and glucose level variability has established

the foundation for modern best practices in diabetes management, equipping veterinarians with evidence-based strategies to navigate the complexities of this disease.

Beyond her research, Dr Fleeman is an outstanding educator and mentor. She has held influential academic positions at The University of Queensland and The University of Sydney, where her roles as a lecturer and senior lecturer have shaped the next generation of veterinary professionals. Her dedication to teaching is reflected in the many veterinarians she has mentored, guiding them through the intricacies of managing diabetic animals and inspiring clinical excellence. Dr Fleeman is also a prolific contributor to the scientific community, authoring numerous highly cited peer-reviewed publications and textbook chapters that make her work accessible to both academic and clinical audiences. Her international reputation as a leader in veterinary endocrinology is demonstrated by her regular appearances at prestigious national and international conferences. As a sought-after speaker, Dr Fleeman shares her insights with veterinarians worldwide, ensuring her innovative approaches to diabetes management reach a broad audience. Dr Fleeman has provided the Centre for Veterinary Education (CVE) with regular clinical updates on managing diabetic dogs and cats, contributing to numerous conferences and symposia, as well as the CVE’s *Control & Therapy* series.

In addition to her clinical and academic achievements, Dr Fleeman’s compassionate care for diabetic pets distinguishes her as an exceptional clinician. Her commitment to improving the quality of life for animals with diabetes is reflected in her thorough clinical practice and ongoing efforts to educate pet owners. She fosters a collaborative approach to diabetes management, empowering owners with the knowledge and tools to care for their pets effectively.

Dr Fleeman’s work has saved lives and brought peace of mind to countless families. Her compassionate approach to the emotional and practical challenges faced by owners of diabetic animals has earned her deep gratitude from the community, extending her influence beyond the veterinary clinic. Through her leadership, Dr Fleeman has built a legacy that will continue to shape veterinary endocrinology for years to come.

For her visionary leadership, transformative research, and compassionate clinical care, Dr Linda Fleeman is a deserving recipient of the Hungerford Award for 2024. Her contributions have significantly impacted the field of veterinary endocrinology, improving the lives of both animals and humans, and her work will undoubtedly inspire future generations of veterinarians.