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Awards celebrate VN excellence

Three RVNs have been recognised at the International Cat Care (ICC) Awards for educational excellence.

The charity – alongside its veterinary division the International Society of Feline Medicine (ISFM) – announced the winners of its ISFM Distance Education Awards for nurses at a ceremony in London, which also marked ICC's 60th anniversary.

The ISFM Diploma in Feline Nursing was awarded to Margaret Fry (top), who was a registered nurse, midwife and senior nurse manager in the NHS for more than 35 years. She qualified as an RVN in 2014 and works at Goddard Veterinary Group.

Mrs Fry said: "Cats are very complex and I feel, having taken this course, I know more not only about their health and welfare, but how their behaviour affects how you care for these lovely little beasts."

The ISFM Certificate in Feline Nursing was presented to Sarah Hayward (centre) and Rachael Hodgson (bottom).

Mrs Hodgson qualified as an RVN in 2007, and worked in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire before joining Vets4Pets Cambridge in 2016.

She has started to

implement the cat-friendly techniques she learned on the certificate.

Mrs Hayward joined the veterinary world as a receptionist in 2001 and qualified as an RVN in 2006. She took an active interest in feline nursing care while in her role at Quarry Veterinary Group in Shropshire.

ICC chief executive Claire Bessant said: "These nurses not only improve the care of the cats they personally care for, they also influence the veterinary clinic to improve its cat friendliness in general."

A host of other accolades were presented by ICC chairman Stuart Carmichael:

Easy to Give Awards

- Dechra – Felimazole coated tablets
- Zoetis – Stronghold Plus spot-on solution, and VibraVet paste
- Bayer – Seresto flea and tick collar

Cat Friendly Awards

- ProtectaPet – cat fencing solutions
- Coastline Global – Kit4Cat cat urine sample collection sand
- Sure Petcare – SureFlap Microchip Pet Door Connect with Hub

Innovation in Humane Cat Population Management

- MDC Export – traps, restrainers and transfer baskets

ICC patron Lord Guy Black opened the ceremony and paid tribute to its work.

He said: "This has been a fantastic day



because it has reminded us of the success of ICC – not just in the past year, but over the past 60 years.

"It's an amazing story of how the vision of one determined lady has resulted in an international charity helping cats worldwide – that is something really to be celebrated."



Animal Star Awards

An RVN whose dedication to the job saw her buy a house in the same village as her practice so she could be closer to work, has made it to the finals of a national awards scheme.

Ellie Tappenden (pictured) is a finalist in the Veterinary Nurse of the Year category of the Animal Star Awards.

Colleagues at Albyn Veterinary Centre in West Lothian nominated Ellie because "nothing is too much trouble". At the end of the working day, she often stops at elderly clients' homes to drop off their pets' medications or prescriptions.

Such is her dedication to the job that Ellie bought a house in the village to enable her to be closer to work – a move that shortened her commute and strengthened her bond with clients as she became a familiar face in the community.

Ellie said: "I am excited the hard work I have put in to my career and the community has been recognised."

Launched in 2017, the first awards ceremony will be held on 3 November at the Mandolay Hotel in Guildford.

International Cat Care Awards



Lindsey Chadwick beat off stiff competition to win the 2018 photography competition.

Her snap of Mocha and Cappuccino (left) was named overall winner of the "Kittenhood" themed competition.

Lindsey, a rehoming welfare assistant at Battersea Dogs and Cats Home, said: "I feel overwhelmed and more than a little surprised. All the entries were fantastic, and I feel very privileged to have been chosen."

Charity founder and VN Rachel Wright has spoken of her joy at receiving the RCVS International Award 2018 in recognition of her work with the Tree of Life for Animals.

Rachel established the veterinary hospital and shelter in Rajasthan, India, 12 years ago and has since treated more than 160,000 sick and injured animals, sterilised 21,377 animals and rabies-vaccinated 26,156 street dogs.

The award was presented at the RCVS' Royal College Day.

Rachel (pictured) said: "I burst into tears when I found out about the award because it was a complete surprise, and came after we had a big canine infectious hepatitis and distemper epidemic."

"Living and working in Rajasthan feels a million miles away from my days as a VN in the UK. To be honoured with an award from the body that governs the profession I hold dear is humbling. I am grateful to the colleagues who nominated me and the RCVS for appreciating my work."

The charity has also been shortlisted in the UK Charity of the Year category at the Animal Star Awards.



International award for VN's charity

Blue Cross is on the lookout for the UK's Veterinary Nurse of the Year.

The award – given to a VN who cares for sick and injured pets, and goes the extra mile to encourage responsible pet ownership and improve pet welfare in their community – will be presented at BVNA Congress.

To make a nomination, visit www.bluecross.org.uk/BVNA2018 before 7 September.

Blue Cross Awards

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