

AHS News

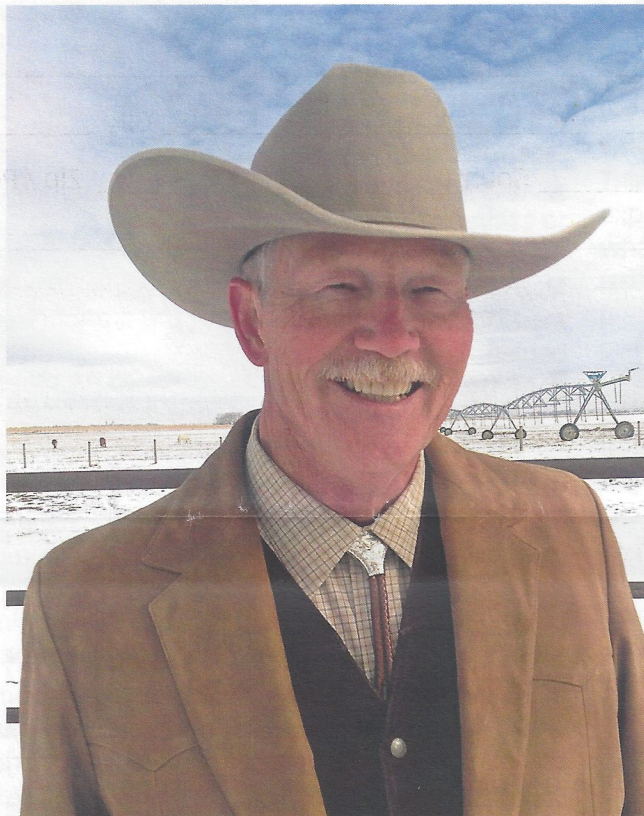


Dr. R. Lee Seward Named 2013 AHS Honorary Member

Dr. R. Lee Seward,

the recipient of the American Heartworm Society's 2013 Honorary Membership, has a long record of distinguished service to the Society. A member since 1983, Dr. Seward served on the AHS Board from 1995 to 2007. He was Editor for the Society from 1995 until 2004 and edited the Triennial Symposium Proceedings for 1998 and 2001. Dr. Seward twice stepped in to fill the role and assume the duties of Immediate Past President following the untimely passing of Drs. David Knight and Don Doiron. The Immediate Past President is responsible for leading the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, overseeing the AHS Policy book, chairing the Nominations Committee, and serving as an advisor to the AHS President. Dr. Tom Nelson, AHS President from 2004 to 2007, stated, "I cannot begin to tell you how valuable Lee's counsel was during my tenure in dealing with the politics of the various groups that make up the AHS. I knew without a doubt that Lee's allegiance was to the Society and in fact I referred to him as "The Conscience" of the Society." Dr. Seward has presented papers and served as moderator for several sessions at our Symposia over the years.

Dr. Seward obtained his B.S. (Zoology) and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (1980) degrees from Colorado State University. He had returned to college



after 6 years of active duty in the US Army including service in Vietnam as an officer and helicopter pilot where he was awarded two Bronze Stars.

After a brief period of private practice he joined Animal Science Research at Merck Research Laboratories (Merck and Co., Inc.) in 1981. Dr. Seward was assigned to head the group responsible for canine and equine ivermectin product development. He led the team that developed the original Heartgard 30® (Merial) products for dogs and successfully advocated for the "low dose" heartworm preventive product approach as well as selecting the unique meat-based chewable formulation. He

also was one of the first to identify the sensitivity of certain collie dogs to avermectin toxicity and designed studies to further elucidate the issue. These decisions along with the amazing properties of ivermectin helped make Heartgard 30® and the subsequent product iteration, Heartgard 30 Plus®, a revolution in the prevention of heartworm disease and an enduring product success helping protect millions of dogs from the devastating effects of heartworm disease.

Dr. Seward's equine product team developed ivermectin oral paste for horses, Equivalan/Zimectrin® (Merial). When launched it was the broadest spectrum anti-parasitic product ever developed for horses. The broad spectrum and convenient dosage form allowed for control of parasites that had previously required multiple treatments with different actives, enhancing the health and well-being of horses around the globe.

Having successfully directed the teams that developed these products, Dr Seward was promoted to a role in Basic Animal Science Research. He directed the effort to discover an avermectin that could be used in cattle with no meat or milk withdrawal. Working with chemistry and his evaluation team, eprinomectin was synthesized, evaluated, and later developed into the product, Eprinex® Pour-On (Merial)

for cattle. Dr. Seward subsequently returned to Animal Science Research to head product development worldwide.

Dr. Seward left Merck in 1994 to return to Colorado. He joined the start-up company Paravax, where he served as Vice President and then Executive Vice President. He helped establish the company's product development and regulatory affairs capability and served on the executive team that built the organization and took the company public in 1997 as Heska Corporation. He played a significant role in the development of the format for their Solo Step® heartworm diagnostic products. He served as an executive and a consultant for Heska until 2001, at which time he left to broaden his consulting activities and to focus on the farm he and his wife own near Eaton, Colorado.

Dr. Seward has authored or co-authored 28 scientific papers plus a number of abstracts and presentations. He

is named as a co-inventor on three patents. He has served on a number of boards and committees including the Animal Health Institute and the National Fund for Medical Education. More recently he has focused his efforts on philanthropic and community-oriented projects. He has served on the CSU Development Council, and with the Community Foundation Serving Greeley and Weld County, as a board member, as Chair and as a member of their scholarship committee. He and his wife of over 40 years, Becky, have been honored by the Governor of Colorado with the Colorado Cares Award for establishing an innovative scholarship program at a local rural high school. They continue to operate that program and have participated in the CSU Athletic Department Legacy Scholarship Program as well as endowing scholarships at the College of Natural Sciences and the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. He and Becky are members of the Highland Service Club.

Dr. Seward is on the Board of Officers for Honor Flight Northern Colorado, taking WWII and Korean War Veterans to Washington, DC to see the memorials built in their honor. He is an officer at V.F.W Post 4334 and a volunteer at the Cheyenne VA Hospital.

Dr. Seward's contributions to science have extended from basic discovery through product development and beyond. Through his interest and focus on heartworm disease, the veterinary profession and dog owners around the world have been able to better prevent, diagnose, and control this potentially devastating disease. The time he has dedicated to the AHS and its mission is greatly appreciated. The American Heartworm Society is proud to have Dr. Seward join our roster of outstanding Honorary Members. Dr. Seward will be recognized at the Triennial Symposium in September, along with Dr. Sheldon Rubin, 2012 Honorary Member, and Dr. John McCall, 2011 Honorary Member.

