

MSAVA'S NOMINATION FOR THE FASAVA-HILL'S PRACTITIONER OF THE YEAR AWARD 2018

DR.YEOH ENG CHEONG (BVSc &AH)

PAST PRESIDENT MSAVA.

FOUNDING HON. SECRETARY FASAVA

Dr Yeoh Eng Cheong obtained his Veterinary degree in 1975. From graduation, till today he is a full time Companion Animal Practitioner. During the early seventies, Malaysia Companion Animal practice was still in its infancy stage and only a handful of small animal clinics existed. He is one of the pioneer veterinarians that endorsed the importance of premium commercial pet food and proper nutrition, and now emphasized the importance of prescription diets for prevention and as part of treatment of many diseases. Being operating in basic practice and no access to internet and overseas continuing education, Dr. Yeoh and his fellow practitioners mooted the formation of Small Animal Practitioners Association of Malaysia (SAPAM) which was officially registered on 30th January 1991. The name SAPAM was later changed to Malaysian Small Animals Veterinary Association (MSAVA) when the association went National and upgraded its constitution.

Dr. Yeoh became the President of MSAVA for 4 consecutive years (1995-1999). During his tenure, he strongly emphasized and promoted continuing professional education. With limited financial support and sponsors, he persistently encouraged local practitioners to present and share their knowledges and experiences pertaining to companion animal practice. Dr. Yeoh was the first speaker of the SAPAM Veterinary congress amongst members. When the association finances became better, Dr. Yeoh and his committee managed to invited speakers from regional countries like Japan, the Philippines, Taiwan, and India to be speakers of subsequent congresses. With the enthusiasm of the members and hungry for further enhancing their Veterinary knowledge, Dr. Yeoh volunteered to take the journey to the WSAVA congress in 1998 Buenos Aires, Argentina and managed to get MSAVA voted in as member country of WSAVA. Since then Dr. Yeoh became MSAVA representative to WSAVA for 6 years with the blessing of MSAVA.

Being member country of WSAVA, Dr. Yeoh succeeded in organising for five consecutive years WSAVA continuing education programs in Malaysia covering Internal Medicine, Orthopedics, Endoscopy, Ophthalmology and Neurology.

Dr. Yeoh was the Honorary Secretary of the founding committee of FASAVA. He informed the members of MSAVA that there was a strong determination of veterinarians from ASEAN countries with regards to the formation of FASAVA and managed to convince MSAVA to become member country of now the prestigious FASAVA which has brought in a lot of benefit to the members in term of continuing educations.

Dr Yeoh is a humble educator. He was an invited speaker of WSAVA congress in Bangkok in 2003. He was also an active speaker in local congresses of MSAVA, Veterinary Association Malaysia (VAM) and Malaysian Association of Veterinary Pathology (MAVP). He has also been invited by commercial companies to share knowledge on arthropod diseases and in-house cytology and hematology. Dr. Yeoh is one of the founding fellows of the Malaysian College of Veterinary Specialists (MCVS).

He has formulated quick biological stains and encourage practitioners do more microscopy using staining techniques to enhance practice and interpretations. He emphasizes the importance of in- house peripheral bloods smears (as first line diagnostic tool) and cytology which is very useful in this country endemic with arthropod borne diseases. This knowledge has been shared and benefited many of his previous veterinary employees and students, who have become skillful practitioners.

Not only sharing practical knowledge to the practitioners, Dr. Yeoh also provides practical training to students from local and foreign universities, pertaining to companion animal medicine and surgery. Some foreign veterinarians were taken in as interns for one to three months.

Dr. Yeoh has been participating in subsidized neutering program from SPCA and the Department Of Veterinary Services. He has allocated one day in a week for this program, knowing that one of the effective ways to reduce stray population in Malaysia is through neutering.

Dr. Yeoh was also honoured by the Veterinary Association of Malaysia (VAM) for his service to the Veterinary Profession in Malaysia with an award ANUGERAH MENGENANG JASA PERSATUAN VETERINAR MALAYSIA 2006. Dr. Yeoh also served the Malaysian Veterinary Council in one of its sub committee.