



## VETERINARY COUNCIL OF IRELAND

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### PRESS RELEASE

3 February 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (3 February 2011)

### **Honouring over 50 years of registration and service to the veterinary profession on the Island of Ireland**

The Veterinary Council of Ireland will host a special ceremony on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2011 at 2.00pm in the RDS Concert Hall to mark 2011, World Veterinary Year. The President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, will attend the ceremony as guest of honour.

The Veterinary Council, the body which regulates the veterinary profession in Ireland, has decided to mark this important year for the profession by awarding commemorative medals to veterinary surgeons who have served the profession on the island of Ireland over the past 50 or more years; this means those who were on the Council's register on 31 December 1961 and also on the register on 31 December 2010. Veterinary surgeons who have been registered in Northern Ireland for the same period are also being invited to receive a medal. 140 veterinary surgeons in total will be honoured in this way, representing almost every county of Ireland.

The world's first veterinary school was founded in Lyon, France, in 1761, shortly followed by the Alfort veterinary school, near Paris, in 1764, both of them at the initiative of French veterinarian, Claude Bougelat. By setting up the world's first veterinary training institutions, Bougelat created the veterinary profession itself. Thus, 2011 will also mark the 250th world anniversary of the veterinary profession.

ENDS

Issued by the Registrar, Valerie Beatty, on behalf of the Veterinary Council of Ireland.

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