

THE CHIRON AWARD 2009

Biography – Mr Ray Butcher MA VetMB MRCVS

Ray Butcher qualified from the Cambridge University Veterinary School in 1976 and is currently a partner in the Wylie Veterinary Centre in Upminster, Essex, where he has seen its evolution from a traditional mixed practice to a large companion animal hospital.

He is a Past President of both the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) and the Federation of European Companion Animal Veterinary Associations (FECAVA).

He has been presented with numerous awards from distinguished bodies. The World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA) award for outstanding service to the profession and the special service awards from the national companion animal veterinary associations of Britain, France, Spain, Portugal and Hungary. He has been awarded Honorary Membership status of the BSAVA. In 2007 he was awarded the Alf Wight Memorial Award for Animal Welfare by the BSAVA/Blue Cross. BSAVA has also awarded him the Melton Award and the Frank Beattie Travel Scholarship.

Throughout his career Ray has been an advocate for veterinary nurse training and speaks regularly on the subject in Portugal and Spain. He has been awarded Honorary Membership of the British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA).

Ray has a special interest in animal welfare and as well as working in his clinic, he is currently a Veterinary Advisor and Board Member of the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA), involved mainly in promoting humane methods of stray dog control throughout the world. He has lectured widely on this subject and represents WSPA on the World Health Organisation (WHO) working group dedicated to reduce the burden of rabies in Asia. He is also a Founding Director and Board Member of the Alliance for Rabies Control, an organisation whose vision is a world where all countries have eliminated rabies.

He has helped develop the WSPA Concepts in Animal Welfare programme - a teaching resource aimed at supporting the introduction of animal welfare in veterinary facilities in the developing world.

Ray also led a WSPA fact-finding team to Banda Aceh, Indonesia following the Tsunami in 2004. Many will recall the devastating losses and suffering felt by that community – and I know Ray himself was profoundly moved by the extent of this catastrophic human tragedy. His work there highlighted that it is not possible to consider animal health and welfare in isolation to human health and behaviour.

Most recently Ray has been involved with the Blue Dog Trust – a multidisciplinary project to educate children how to behave with dogs in order to reduce the incidence of dog bite injuries in young children.

He has lectured extensively at major national and international veterinary and welfare conferences throughout the world – and he is currently the co-chairman of the WSAVA Welfare Committee.