



AMERICAN COLLEGE OF
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Annual Award Renamed In Honor Dr. Lee and Inge Pyle

SEATTLE, WA (June 15, 2018) – [The American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine](#) (ACVIM) announces the renaming of the ACVIM Distinguished Service Award to the Dr. Lee and Inge Pyle Service Award.

Dr. Pyle was a charter member of ACVIM and a pioneer in the field of veterinary cardiology. He was a champion of and the driving force behind the establishment of the ACVIM.

The ACVIM was recognized as a specialty college by the AVMA in 1980. In 1981, Dr. Pyle was asked to assume the responsibilities of secretary of the ACVIM in addition to those of the treasurer, a position he had held since 1977. Dr. Pyle accepted with the understanding that an office would be established in Blacksburg, Virginia, because Dr. Pyle was moving there to help build the College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech. The first ACVIM office was established in the home of Lee and Inge Pyle with a rented IBM Selectric Typewriter, a telephone and rudimentary office equipment. In the spring of 1988, the ACVIM moved to an 1100-square foot office suite on North Main Street in Blacksburg. In 1993, the office was moved to Denver, Colorado. Dr. Pyle took a leave of absence from Virginia Tech and assumed the title of Executive Director. By 1994, the ACVIM completed its move to a more central location near Denver and a full-time executive director was hired. Quite deservedly, Dr. Pyle was the 2006 ACVIM Distinguished Service Award Recipient.

Dr. Pyle and his wife, Inge, were the glue that held ACVIM together in the early days. Inge was, at first, a volunteer supporting Lee, and then she gradually became an underpaid staff of one. They were partners in every aspect of their lives together, but especially in their devotion to ACVIM.

For 13 years Lee and Inge nurtured the evolution of the ACVIM office from a situation in which only a few thousand dollars were involved to one in which over half a million dollars flowed through the office annually. In 1985-1987, the Pyles did all the work needed to hold 3 years of the Forum at a time near its inception. In 1972-1973, the total membership

consisted of only the first 40 charter Diplomates, whereas in 1994, after the examinations, there was a total of 753 Diplomates. Today we number almost 3000!

At the ACVIM 2018 Annual Forum in Seattle, Washington, the ACVIM announced it has renamed its Distinguished Service Award, given annually in recognition of outstanding and dedicated service by a Diplomate who has served as an ACVIM volunteer, in honor of Lee and Inge Pyle to the ACVIM Lee and Inge Pyle Service Award. [View a video](#) highlighting their legacy to the ACVIM.

About the ACVIM

Based in Greenwood Village, Colorado, the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine is the certifying organization for veterinary specialists in cardiology, large animal internal medicine, neurology, oncology, and small animal internal medicine. With more than 2,600 members, the ACVIM is dedicated to improving the lives of animals and people through the education, training, and certification of specialists in veterinary internal medicine, discovery and dissemination of new medical knowledge, and increasing public awareness of advances in veterinary medical care. www.acvim.org

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