

# 2001 Alumni Award of Merit Recipients

During the Annual Meeting of the Veterinary Medical Alumni Society (VMAS) of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine on May 20, 2001, three alumni received a 2001 Alumni Award of Merit. They are:

**Dr. Earl Wesley Cook**, a 1936 graduate. A resident of Huntingdon Valley, Pa., he co-founded QC, Inc., a commercial laboratory for testing and quality control of milk, food, water, and the environment.

**Dr. Charles D. Knecht**, a 1956 graduate. A resident of Opelika, Ala., he is a former Professor and Head of the Department of Small Animal Surgery and Medicine at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine.

**Dr. Suzanne Ruch Jenkins**, a 1966 graduate. A resident of Richmond, Va., she is assistant state epidemiologist in the Virginia Department of Health Office of Epidemiology.

The VMAS honors alumni who have made outstanding contributions to their profession and the School with the Alumni Award of Merit. The award is given annually to recognize distinguished graduates for their contributions that advance knowledge in biomedicine, promote the welfare of animals through public education of animal owners, and benefit society through civic activities which foster the advancement of the profession and the School's good name.



From left to right: Charles D. Knecht, V'56, Earl Wesley Cook, V'36, and Suzanne Ruch Jenkins, V'66.

Photograph by Ken Adams/hisphotos

**University of Pennsylvania  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
Veterinary Medical Alumni Society  
Salutes  
Earl Wesley Cook, V.M.D.  
Class of 1936**

*For co-founding QC, Inc., a commercial laboratory for testing and quality control of milk, food, water, and the environment.*

*For taking a leadership role in Pennsylvania's dairy industry by serving as President of the Pennsylvania Dairy Laboratory Directors Association and as an officer of the Pennsylvania Dairy Sanitarians Association.*

*For taking an active interest in your profession as a member of the American Veterinary Medical Association and the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association.*

*For your continuous commitment to your alma mater as a Class Agent.*

*For your service to the community that promotes the good name of the School of Veterinary Medicine, most notably as Chairman and Chairman Emeritus of Fox Chase Bank and as Chairman of the Board of Trustees and as a member of the Advisory Board of Bethany Baptist Church.*

*For being recognized with the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Membership.*

*For your family's legacy of nine University of Pennsylvania graduates.*

*The Alumni Award of Merit is presented to you this 20th day of May 2001.*

**University of Pennsylvania  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
Veterinary Medical Alumni Society  
Salutes  
Charles D. Knecht, V.M.D., M.S.  
Class of 1956**

*For educating many veterinarians for more than 35 years in your faculty positions at various veterinary schools, most notably as Professor and Head of the Department of Small Animal Surgery and Medicine at the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine.*

*For taking leadership roles with various veterinary professional associations including the American College of Veterinary Surgeons, the American Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Veterinary Clinicians, the American Veterinary Neurology Association, and the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.*

*For your numerous honors that promote the School of Veterinary Medicine's good name, including many teaching awards during your distinguished academic career; the Annual Award by the Alabama Academy of Veterinary Practice; and the Heinz Cycle Award by the American Animal Hospital Association.*

*For your research projects that have led to new discoveries and for sharing your findings through numerous published articles and scientific presentations.*

*For your service to civic organizations including the Lee County, Alabama, Heart Association, and the Auburn University Academy for Lifelong Learners.*

*The Alumni Award of Merit is presented to you this 20th day of May 2001.*

**University of Pennsylvania  
School of Veterinary Medicine  
Veterinary Medical Alumni Society  
Salutes  
Suzanne Ruch Jenkins, V.M.D.,  
M.P.H.  
Class of 1966**

*For taking leadership roles in the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians and serving as Chair of the Compendium of Animal Rabies Control and Prevention.*

*For your service to the American Veterinary Medical Association as Chair of the Council on Public Health and Regulatory Veterinary Medicine and for serving on the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists Executive Committee.*

*For numerous honors that promote the School of Veterinary Medicine's good name, most notably for being named an Honorary Diplomat by the American Veterinarian Epidemiology Society and for receiving the Society's K. F. Meyer/James H. Steele Gold Head Cane Award, and for being named Distinguished Virginia Veterinarian.*

*For successfully obtaining numerous grants to conduct research in a variety of public health and epidemiology subjects, including Public Health Preparedness and Response to Bioterrorism in Virginia.*

*For educating veterinarians and veterinary technicians as an adjunct professor and lecturer for over 10 years.*

*For your contributions to books, journals, and other written materials, which have advanced the knowledge of your fellow professionals.*

*The Alumni Award of Merit is presented to you this 20th day of May 2001.*