

VET conference doubles attendance in second year

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TORONTO – More than 700 veterinary professionals — double the number of registrants from 2016 — attended the second annual Veterinary Education Today (VET) conference and medical exposition in Toronto’s International Centre from Nov. 2 to 4.

The VET conference provides high-quality continuing education (CE) at low cost registration fees. Relevant content, convenient location, free parking and excellent networking all contributed to the conference’s overall success.

The CE program, which was developed by the University of Saskatchewan’s Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVN), scored well with participants. More than 80 % of registrants rated the WCVN’s CE program as “very good to excellent” while 98 % validated the education as “relevant to or will alter their practice.”

“Our team worked hard to find specialists at the WCVN and at other centres across Canada who could effectively address key challenges in veterinary practice and then give veterinarians, veterinary technologists and other team members some great, take-home advice,” said Dr. Chris Clark, who co-chaired the VET planning committee with Carolyn Cartwright, RVT.

Conference registrants had 30 CE sessions to choose from with the opportunity to earn up to 12 RACE-approved CE credit hours. Sessions were categorized in companion animal, health and wellness, and equine tracks. In addition, participants had the chance to advance their skills through pre-conference seminars that focused on dentistry, nutrition and medical imaging.

The conference’s exhibit area featured more than 90 companies that represented all aspects of the veterinary profession and the animal health industry — everything from medical equipment and pet food to the latest diagnostic technologies.

A popular feature at the conference was the massage and recharge stations where registrants received complimentary neck and shoulder massages, and a place to relax and recharge their phones and themselves.

“I was very pleased to see conference attendance and sponsorship support grow by 50 per cent over last year,” said Bob Macgregor, president of Macgregor Communications, the company that organizes VET. “I’m looking forward to strong growth again next year as well with an enhanced educational program with new initiatives planned.”

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