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Change of location for IVNA conference



For our 5th IVNA Annual Conference there is a change of venue for 2014. In response to members feedback on accessibility, this year we are delighted to be centrally located at the Heritage Hotel, Portlaoise, with its excellent public transport links and great facilities for our ever growing event

The committee is, it hopes, planning an inspiring programme and there will be a variety of topics for Saturday's lectures. With skin problems, wound management and obesity management all on the menu and confirmation of Shane Guerin as one of our speakers, we feel this offers something for everyone.

Sunday's theme is the popular one of behaviour. We are hoping to run three concurrent practical sessions on dogs, cats and exotics. Places for the Sunday sessions will be limited. Registration for Sunday includes dinner at the end of the sessions, to allow delegates to relax, discuss and recharge before the close of the weekend. Please be sure to book your place early. The conference programme and registration details are distributed with your copy of this journal next month or visit the IVNA website.

The annual conference wouldn't be the same without its social evening and award ceremony. Please visit the website to nominate and why not display the poster in your reception area to encourage your clients to nominate someone? It could be you! The nomination form has been altered to assist those filling it in as to what kind of information is desired. If a nurse, student or support staff member you know has gone beyond the call of duty for a patient or is just generally awesome, now is the time to recognise their efforts. Last year's deserving winner of the Nurse of the Year was Mairead Deasy. She received a number of nominations but this excerpt could inspire you to nominate that outstanding colleague you work with this year.

"Mairead attacks her daily routine with an incredible passion, providing an excellent standard of care to her surgical patients. In addition, she encourages a very high standard of work ethic to the staff around her. She applies

what she has learned all around her in her working environment – a huge benefit to our patients and staff. Mairead has endless time for trainees – both vets and nurses and she is an invaluable source of inspiration and knowledge and teaching to them. Nothing, absolutely nothing, is too much trouble for Mairead within her professional position in Gilabhey Veterinary Hospital. I have absolutely no hesitation in highly recommending Mairead for this award. I only ask that nobody steals her from our hospital."

Hopefully, you have had a chance to enjoy your prize of an hotel break. Our sponsors: Allianz; Royal Canin and Zoetis are looking forward to choosing this years winners and don't forget that we also award a prize to the winning nomination. Remember, that we will also have our popular dog behaviour CVE day during March. Dogs Trust are once again providing venue, speaker and dogs for the practical sessions. This year we are hoping to cover the tricky areas of fear and phobias, introducing new pets and safe integration of dogs with babies. Look out for the mailing regarding date and registration.

HORSE WELFARE CHARITY

In other news, the IVNA has chosen the Irish Horse Welfare Trust as its charity of the year for 2014. This registered charity was established in 1999 and relies entirely on public donations to fund their work to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome abandoned, neglected and ill treated horses. We ask that all IVNA members support them by organising fundraising events and also by joining the committee in being sponsored to taking part in this year's Dublin and Cork mini marathons. Please follow the link from the IVNA website for more details of the charity's work.