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## **THE WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB IN PARTNERSHIP WITH TRUPANION ANNOUNCES VETERINARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER**

*Joseph Rossi DVM of Lansdale, Pennsylvania Wins Online Award*

**New York, NY** — The Westminster Kennel Club (WKC), in partnership with Trupanion, named Dr. Joseph Rossi as the recipient of the inaugural Veterinarian of the Year Award. The two organizations have launched this new online award that recognizes and celebrates veterinarians who make a difference in our pets' lives. Dr. Rossi has gone above and beyond caring for the animals of his community and fostering the talent behind the best-in-class service at North Penn Animal Hospital since opening the facility in 1996. Westminster is donating \$10,000 in the name of Dr. Rossi to MightyVet, a non-profit, industry-wide online platform founded to support veterinarians, students, and vet techs tackling mental well-being issues and continuing education in the veterinary profession.

Dr. Rossi knew he wanted to become a veterinarian since he was in the second grade when he assisted in raising orphaned robins. Since then, he has always been available when animals were in need. He completed his undergraduate studies at Delaware Valley College in Doylestown, Pennsylvania, and received his veterinary degree in 1987 from Ross University. He finished his studies with an externship at Rochester Equine Clinic and started his career as a large animal veterinarian focusing on surgery and reproduction. Today his interests include all aspects of surgery, both orthopedic and soft tissue, reproduction, and dentistry on small animals. Since 2009, he has been using stem cell therapy to treat osteoarthritis and, recently, inflammatory bowel disease.

This dedicated veterinarian credits his wife, Jill, and their three children for allowing his profession to become their lives. They presently have seven dogs, five cats, donkeys, horses, Scottish Highland Cattle, and some rescued chickens.

The Westminster Kennel Club continues its tradition of prioritizing the veterinary community and canine health through the Veterinarian of the Year Award. In 1987 the Club began its WKC Veterinary Scholarship program, an initiative that has offered scholarships to students totaling over \$4.8 million to date. Trupanion's mission is to help devoted, responsible pet owners budget and care for their pets for life. Trupanion's tremendous support for the veterinary community through the founding of Veterinary

Appreciation Day™, TruCuddle™, and involvement with non-profit organizations to give back to the veterinary community is a natural match for Westminster's long history of giving back through veterinary scholarships. Together, the Westminster Kennel Club and Trupanion would like to use this award to create awareness for the mental well-being support needed by these passionate professionals and their teams.

Regional finalists include Dr. Ryan Carpenter of Grand Rapids, MI, Dr. Cindy Smith of Lakewood, WA, and Dr. Brian Jones of Oklahoma City, OK. Videos of the regional finalists were shared across Westminster's social media platforms. The winner received the most cumulative likes/favorites across platforms.

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#### **About the Westminster Kennel Club**

The Westminster Kennel Club, established in 1877, is America's oldest organization dedicated to the sport of dogs. It hosts the iconic, all-breed Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, the second-longest, continuously held sporting event in the U.S., and since 1948, the longest nationally televised live dog show. The annual dog show—a conformation competition for purebred dogs—and the Masters Agility Championship and Masters Obedience Championship— where dogs from all backgrounds are eligible to compete—make Westminster Week with its over 3,000 dogs from the U.S. and around the world a pinnacle experience for any dog lover. America's Dog Show has captivated canine enthusiasts for more than a century. The Club's mission, which enhances the lives of all dogs, celebrates the companionship of dogs, promotes responsible dog ownership, and breed preservation. WESTMINSTER. *There's only one.*® Visit: [westminsterkennelclub.org](http://westminsterkennelclub.org) and follow us @WestminsterDogShow.

#### **About Trupanion**

Trupanion is a leader in medical insurance for cats and dogs throughout the United States, Canada and Australia with over 700,000 pets enrolled. For over two decades, Trupanion has given pet owners peace of mind so they can focus on their pet's recovery, not financial stress. Trupanion is committed to providing pet owners with the highest value in pet medical insurance with unlimited payouts for the life of their pets. With its payment solution, Trupanion is the only provider with the technology to pay veterinarians directly in seconds at the time of checkout. Trupanion is listed on NASDAQ under the symbol "TRUP". The company was founded in 2000 and is headquartered in Seattle, WA. For more information, please visit [trupanion.com](http://trupanion.com).

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