

Veterinarian receives WSAVA award

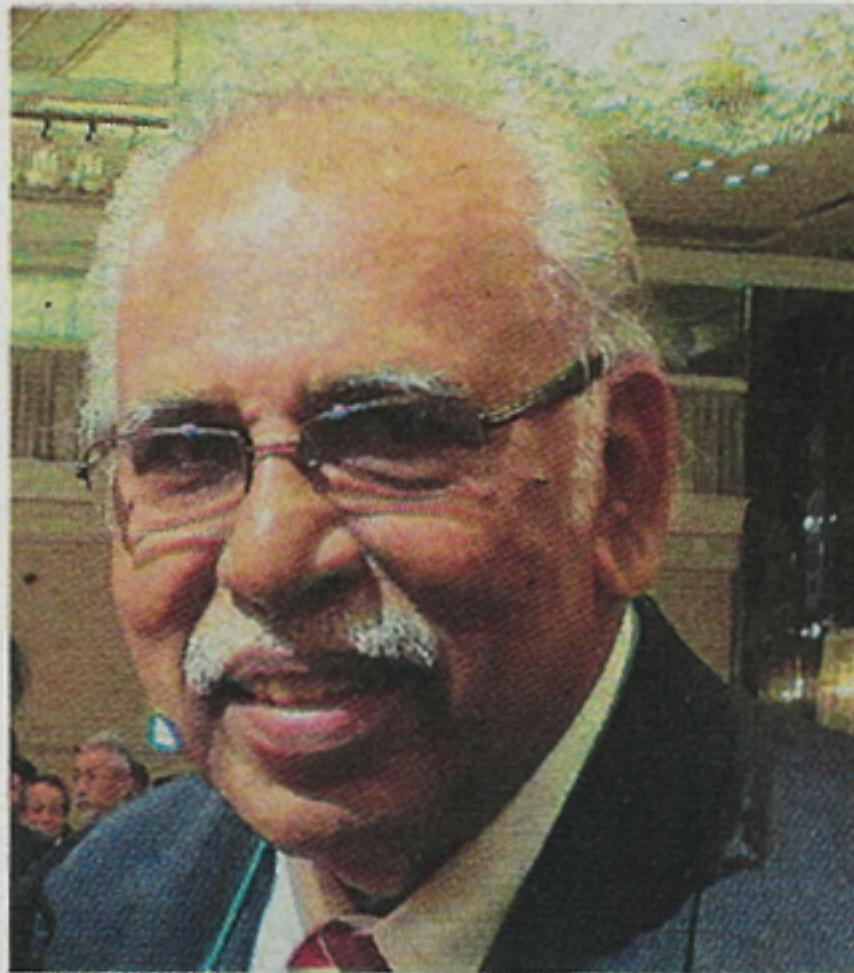
KUALA LUMPUR: Prominent Malaysian veterinarian Dr S. Sivagurunathan (*pic*) has been awarded the prestigious WSAVA (World Small Animal Veterinary Association)-Hill's Excellence in Veterinary Healthcare Award.

He will be only the second Asian to be honoured with the award, which he will receive in Bangkok next May.

The award recognises the outstanding work of veterinarians in promoting companion animal healthcare and the family pet/veterinary bond through a special sensitivity to both clients and patients using leading edge clinical nutrition as well as advanced medical and surgery techniques on a national, regional and global level.

Dr Sivagurunathan is the founder of the Animal Medical Centre Group of Hospitals in Malaysia.

Earlier this year in Beijing, he was the first recipient of the Federation of Asian Small Animal Association-Hill's Practitioner of the Year 2014



Award for Asia-Pacific Region.

"We need to view the role of the veterinarian as a contributor to the well-being and standard of care of animals and to society as a whole.

"I accept this as an award for all veterinarians who are dedicated to the task," said Dr Sivagurunathan.

He paid tribute to his mentor and close friend, the late Dr. William G. Whittick, who he said was instru-

mental in exerting tremendous influence in his career as a companion animal practitioner.

"He always reminded me of the need to improve animal welfare in Malaysia by advocating the practice of pet care and management."

Dr Sivagurunathan was acknowledged for his vision and direction when he founded the Malaysian National Animal Welfare Foundation (MNAWF) in 1998.

The foundation is aimed at promoting a caring Malaysian society and building awareness via a balanced approach to animal welfare.

His book *Pets Have Feelings Too* is currently the only real-life chronicle illustrating the life and times of a Malaysian veterinarian, the role of a veterinarian in client and public education and the evolution of the companion animal industry.

The proceeds of his book were donated to the Malaysian National Animal Welfare Foundation (MNAWF) and became the starting fund for its welfare activities.