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Michael San Filippo
Senior Media Relations Specialist
American Veterinary Medical Association
Tel: 847-285-6687
Cell: 847-732-6194

**Dr. Bruce Kaplan receives 2017 AVMA Meritorious Service Award for
Outstanding Contributions to Veterinary Profession**

(INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana) July 22, 2017—The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has named Dr. Bruce Kaplan recipient of its 2017 Meritorious Service Award. This award is given annually in recognition of an individual who has brought public honor and distinction to the veterinary profession through service outside the scope of organized veterinary medicine. Kaplan, who received the honor at AVMA Convention 2017 in Indianapolis, was recognized for his outstanding contributions to and support of the One Health Initiative.

“For more than 10 years, Dr. Kaplan has been, without a doubt, one of the world’s most significant leaders in the One Health movement,” said Dr. Tom Meyer, AVMA president. “His absolute commitment to the advancement of animal, human, and environmental health is evident in his tireless efforts and many years of pro bono service to this initiative. In addition, his work has been instrumental in advancing the image of the AVMA and indeed, placing the entire veterinary medical community in a positive light. I congratulate Dr. Kaplan on receiving this well-deserved award and I thank him for his leadership and profound dedication to One Health.”

Dr. Kaplan began his veterinary career practicing small animal medicine and surgery for 23 years. Throughout this time and subsequently, he held prominent positions in a variety of organizations, including the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). In 2006 Dr. Kaplan co-founded the One Health Initiative Autonomous Team and in 2008 he launched the One Health Initiative website (www.onehealthinitiative.com). Kaplan is a prolific writer and sought-after educator both nationally and internationally on the subjects of veterinary medicine, epidemiology, public health, and One Health. He serves on a variety of public health committees and boards, and has received many industry awards, including the AVMA’s Practitioner Research Award, the USDA’s Group Honor Award for Excellence, and the American Association of Public Health Physicians’ (AAPHP) Presidential Award for Meritorious service. Dr. Kaplan currently serves as primary Content Manager/Editor for the One Health Initiative website. One Health is an international movement to forge communication and collaboration among all aspects of health care for humans, animals and the environment. The initiative is

endorsed by nearly 100 scientific organizations and 1,000 prominent scientists, physicians, and veterinarians in over 55 countries.

Members of the media are encouraged to visit www.avmaconvention.org for convention details. For more information on media opportunities at the AVMA Convention, to schedule interviews, and to register as a press attendee, contact Michael San Filippo, AVMA senior media relations specialist, at 847-285-6687 (office), 847-732-6194 (cell) or msanfilippo@avma.org. Members of the media must register with the AVMA prior to the convention to validate their press credentials and ensure that their press badges and materials are ready for them when they arrive. Registration for the press is free.

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The AVMA, founded in 1863, is one of the oldest and largest veterinary medical organizations in the world, with more than 89,000 member veterinarians worldwide engaged in a wide variety of professional activities and dedicated to the art and science of veterinary medicine.