



The North Star

Canada's Pembroke Animal Hospital wins
2016 AAHA-Accredited Practice of the Year Award



by Jen Reeder

THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER, RICHARD HOBART, DVM, has championed collaboration among veterinary professionals. It started in 1981, when he joined the veterinary team at Pembroke Animal Hospital in the small Canadian town of Pembroke, Ontario. He convinced the owner at the time to seek AAHA accreditation, which the practice achieved on its first attempt in early 1983. Hobart flew to San Francisco to attend his first AAHA conference in 1984 and was impressed by the level of support offered by more experienced veterinarians.

"I was pretty young at the time and they were quite sincere in terms of telling me to contact them if I ever had any problems or wanted some advice," Hobart says.

"That's something I've tried to follow on myself when I go to conferences, because that's important to the individual and the profession."

In 1986, at the AAHA conference in New Orleans, Hobart met several veterinarians with whom he founded the North American Business Association (NABA) to share advice about management decisions. (NABA groups are now transitioning into AAHA-Accredited Veterinary Management Groups, in cooperation with Veterinary Study Groups [VSG].) That same year, he became a partner at the practice, which has continued to grow and become a pillar of the local community with Hobart as a co-owner.