

# Dr. Robert Getty

by Sally Brown\*

Dr. Robert Getty, Professor and Head of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy, died of a heart attack on February 18, 1971. Undoubtedly, one of the preeminent and most devoted faculty members of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Getty began his teaching career at Iowa State in 1941, following one year in private practice in Norwood, Ohio. Since that time essentially all students in the veterinary curriculum and those in animal science have been taught by Dr. Getty. In addition to teaching anatomy, his high standards of performance and his orientation of the first-year veterinary student have made significant contributions to the development of these students as they prepare for a professional career.

More than a few students entering the veterinary curriculum became interested in the profession after taking Dr. Getty's course in anatomy which was taught to students in agriculture.

Graduate student instruction was a very important part of Dr. Getty's teaching activities. Students seeking advanced training in anatomy had come from at least twelve foreign countries to study under his direction. A number of former graduate students are now department heads in various veterinary colleges across the country.

Dr. Getty was a research worker of the highest caliber who authored twenty-five articles, chapters in four books, and three outlines and laboratory guides. In collaboration with many other scientists, especially those under his guidance as graduate students, he coauthored seventy-five

additional articles and was, at the time of his death, revising Sisson and Grossman's *Anatomy of Domestic Animals*.

Best known for his pioneering work in gerontology, Dr. Getty was one of the first to study aging changes in animals and was a world authority in this field. This work has attracted attention in the human medical area where it has many applications.

Another pioneering activity of Dr. Getty's was his interest in visual teaching aids. He developed an impressive library of movies, videotapes, and other visual aids in his own department which are effectively used in courses in anatomy. His experience and knowledge in this field were recognized by his appointment and service on several national committees dealing with the development of visual aids.

Dr. Getty's special relationship with students was reflected in part by their participation in Veishea Open House displays which have consistently been superior in quality and which have won the Sweepstakes Award from 1964 through 1969. Much of the credit for these displays must go to Dr. Getty's help and encouragement of the first-year veterinary students.

Dr. Getty received numerous awards for his superior achievements and dedication, a few of which are the Distinguished Professor Award at Iowa State University, the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Ohio State, and an Iowa State University Faculty Citation as an outstanding long-time member of the teaching staff. Also recognized at the international level, Dr. Getty had served as president of the International Association of Veterinary Anato-

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mists and had presented papers at international meetings.

In addition to Dr. Getty's professional contributions as a teacher and researcher he served Iowa State University in many other capacities. Among these were appointments to many All-University committees such as Graduate Studies, ISU Research Foundation, Scholarship and Awards, and Honors Program, just to name a few.

A man of the arts as well as of science, Dr. Getty was an accomplished pianist and an artist who put himself through school

with money earned from sketching and painting. Unquestionably, there was much to admire in a man such as he, but Rev. Wilcox put it this way: "We whose energies are scattered want to honor his singleminded drive, the voracious hunger of that central determination to discover, to know more, and to teach it better. We, who settle so soon for getting by, want to bow for a moment before his detailed, meticulous, all-consuming passion for excellence."

Thank you, Dr. Getty—for giving us your all.

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## *From the Co-editors*

In this issue we are introducing four new facets to *The Iowa State University Veterinarian* namely: 1) a section on international veterinary medicine, 2) a section on laboratory and exotic animals, 3) a required format for references which is a part of "Instructions to the Author" of *The Iowa State University Veterinarian*, and 4) an opportunity for the authors to proofread the content of the galleys during a period of five days. Some of these facets have been maintained by *The Iowa State University Veterinarian*, however, on irregular basis.

We feel that the veterinary profession as a whole is in a state of sprouting to new fields—a state which we welcome happily. This state of sprouting is felt in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Iowa State University. Lately, this college has increased its awareness and its activities in the fields of international veterinary medicine and of laboratory and exotic animals. As a result, we are adding two sections to *The Iowa State University Veterinarian* which would concern themselves with these two fields on regular basis and would reflect upon the new activities of the college. It

is clear to us that the addition of these two sections would not minimize the importance of the other sections which have been represented regularly in this publication.

Concerning the other two new facets, we feel that by adopting them we are improving the quality of this publication in two ways. First, there will be more consistency in the format of the articles published. We realize that this is a difficult task to achieve mainly due to the fact that we publish different types of articles e. g. literature reviews, clinical case reports, research papers, reports on the college activities etc. Second, there will be an attempt to avoid misunderstanding between the authors and the editors.

We hope that these new facets will prove themselves worthy of being maintained in the future. Moreover, we hope that there will be more steps toward improvement of this publication in the future. If the readers have any suggestions, please let us know.

Your co-editors,  
Zadok Ruben and  
Loras Wilgenbusch