

# Hadley C. Stephenson

*January 16, 1893 — August 25, 1976*

Hadley C. Stephenson, professor emeritus of small animal medicine and consultant to the Cornell Research Laboratory for Diseases of Dogs died on August 25, 1976, ending almost sixty years of professional service to Cornell University. Dr. Stephenson was a lifelong friend of dogs, a veterinarian's veterinarian, and a member of a vanishing breed of Cornellian. If there were a better life than that of a doctor of veterinary medicine at Cornell University, Dr. Hadley C. Stephenson — Steve as everyone knew him — did not recognize or acknowledge it. With his passing the dog world has lost a true champion. He was indeed the gentle doctor, a role he played in a short film honoring doctors of small animal medicine produced by the Gaines Dog Research Center. His love for his profession came naturally, as his father, his grandfather, and a brother, were veterinarians.

He was born in rural Ogdensburg, New York. Cornell granted him the Bachelor of Science degree in 1919 and the D.V.M. in 1920. He joined the faculty upon graduation and remained the eternal teacher both in and out of the classroom. It was his firm conviction that progress was possible only through research, and its application to teaching and field problems. "Everything I was ever taught was somebody's research" was more than just another expression to Steve, it was his creed. He used it as a spear to prod and to inspire his colleagues and all dog lovers as well.

His teaching methods were revolutionary: question the past, innovate, experiment, and improve tomorrow today. As a result, he helped develop many new methods for the treatment of small animal disorders. These advances were concentrated in the therapeutic usage of new drugs for small animal disease. He recognized early that if biologicals were to be completely effective, sound vaccination regimens had to be developed for use in clinical control programs. For many years he was editor of the *Veterinary Drug Encyclopedia*, an invaluable aid to all veterinarians.

Steve's zest for life and all that it had to offer was reflected in his love for competitive sports. He enjoyed the well-played game—all the better if Cornell won. He was a conspicuous figure at Cornell athletic events where, surrounded by friends and colleagues of all ages, his enthusiasm could be felt when a play was executed with skill, his despair sensed when perfection was flawed.

His imagination and persistent effort resulted in many honors and awards. In 1960 he was elected by his peers to the presidency of the New York State Veterinary Medical Society. Other citations for his conspicuous contributions

came from the National Dog Welfare Guild, the Ithaca Dog Training Club, the Tompkins County SPCA, and the Finger Lakes Kennel Club. In 1974 he was honored with the Fido award by the Gaines Dog Research Center.

This same year, his colleagues at the James A. Baker Institute for Animal Health honored Steve by dedicating a laboratory for the study of canine diseases in his name. This was in recognition of his twenty-one years of service to the development and maintenance of a cooperative relationship between the Cornell Research Laboratory for Diseases of Dogs and its collaborators and supporters.

It is in this laboratory where the spirit of this inspiring colleague will live on, where continued progress for the better health of dogs will be fostered by “asking the dog.”

*Leland E. Carmichael, Robert W. Kirk, Ben E. Sheffy*