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## Obituary: In memoriam Professor Ferenc Vetési (1935–2021)

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### OBITUARY



Ferenc Vetési, professor emeritus, professor and former head of the Department of Pathology and Forensic Veterinary Medicine, PhD, honorary doctor of the University of Veterinary Medicine, member of the Editorial Board of *Acta Veterinaria Hungarica* died on 13 February 2021.

Ferenc Vetési was born in Nemesbikk in 1935. He obtained his general certificate of education from the 'József Lévy' Reformed Grammar School of Miskolc in 1953. He continued his studies at the University of Veterinary Science where he received his diploma in 1958. After graduation, his interest in pathology guided him to the Department of Pathology led at that time by Professor Gyula Sályi. At that department, he worked first as Junior, then as Senior Lecturer, later as an Associate Professor (from 1977) and he became Full Professor in 1986, pursuing both teaching and research. Between 1985 and 2001 he had been

Head of the Department, but he maintained a close contact with teaching and the department even after his retirement: as professor emeritus, he regularly gave lectures that were followed with great interest by the students, guided PhD students preparing their theses, participated in veterinary specialist trainings, and was a regular invited speaker at postgraduate training courses held in different counties of Hungary. He participated in the public life of the University by acting as a member of the Senate over several cycles, as Head of the Students' Welfare Council and as Vice-Dean for Education between 1984 and 1990.

Professor Ferenc Vetési was a teacher to the core: even in possession of his professional experience encompassing several decades, he always conscientiously prepared for his lectures, which were constructed so as to address all listeners. Teaching and lecturing were an invigorating force for him even when his health had started to decline following his severe car accident in 2006. He wrote several university lecture notes and textbooks on pathology. He was editor and co-author of the books 'Lehrbuch der speziellen Veterinärpathologie' (1986), 'Healthcare of Rabbits' (1990), 'Autopsy of Domestic Animals' (1992), 'Veterinary Histopathology' (2002), 'Colour Atlas of Veterinary Pathology, I. Pathology of Mammals (2006)', 'Colour Atlas of Veterinary Pathology, II. Pathology of Domestic Birds' (2015).

Professor Ferenc Vetési was also an enthusiastic research worker: he studied the diseases of pigs and rabbits, and intestinal diseases of different species. Based on the results of these works, he defended his thesis in 1974 on the mucoid enteritis of rabbits caused by *Escherichia coli* and became a Candidate in Veterinary Science. He shared his scientific results with the professional community in more than 100 articles published in Hungarian and internationally respected peer-reviewed periodicals. Professor Ferenc Vetési made use of his professional knowledge also in his wide-ranging international co-operations.

Professor Ferenc Vetési played a key role in the Hungarian and international professional public life: he was a member of the executive board of the Hungarian Society of Pathologists, President of the Hungarian Society for Veterinary Immunology, President of the Hungarian Veterinary Society, member of the National Veterinary Council, the German Veterinary Society (Deutsche Veterinärmedizinische Gesellschaft), and the World Organisation of Hungarian Veterinarians. His professional knowledge was widely respected and





The Editorial Board of Acta Veterinaria Hungarica in December 2008. Standing: Károly Vörös, Attila Zsarnovszky, Balázs Harrach, †Ferenc Vetési, János Varga, Tibor Kassai, László Bárdos, †Sándor Tuboly, Tibor Gaál, Béla Nagy, Ferenc Kutas. Sitting: Mária Benkő, †János Mészáros Editor-in-Chief, András Székely. Not in the picture: †József Bokori, László Solti

acknowledged. Through decades he was member of the Editorial Board of the journals Hungarian Veterinary Journal (Magyar Állatorvosok Lapja), European Journal of Veterinary Pathology and Acta Veterinaria Hungarica.

Professor Vetési had officially joined the editorial board of Acta Veterinaria Hungarica in 1994 but already long before that he had contributed to the editorial work by performing the peer review of numerous manuscripts. For nearly a quarter of a century, until his resignation in 2017, he was present at virtually every single editorial board meeting except perhaps when he suffered a serious car accident. Everyone was relieved when, soon after the near-fatal event, his kind face with the typical smile reappeared again. His excellent professional skills, infallible judgement and benevolent criticism were an invaluable help in the process of manuscript evaluation.

His work was rewarded by many awards: he received the Order of Merit of the Hungarian Republic, Officer's Cross in 2005, the Nagyváthy János and the Hutýra Ferenc Medallions, the Tolnay Sándor, the Köves and the Sályi Gyula Awards. He also received the 'Arbor vitae' award for his oeuvre from the University of Veterinary Medicine in 2019.

From 2007 he was an honorary citizen of his native village, Nemesbikk. However, perhaps the greatest recognition that he received was that the students elected him as 'The Best Teacher of the Year' 14 times.

Professor Ferenc Vetési lived a full life in all respects. He took pleasure in all his duties: the veterinary practice, the diagnostic work, teaching, research and postgraduate training were not a burden for him at all, as he could do what he really liked. This full professional life was supported by a loving family: over a period of 50 years his wife Eszter provided him a strong and affectionate background, which greatly contributed to his professional success. He was happy to see the careers and success of his children (Ferenc and Edit) and to spend time with his grandchildren.

With the death of Ferenc Vetési we have lost an excellent teacher, a successful researcher and a true, warm-hearted colleague. We should regard it as a special gift from life that we could be his students, co-workers and colleagues. His life, work, personality and human virtues may serve as a model for us and for the future generations alike.

*Míra Mándoki and Miklós Rusvai*