

Dr. Mark L. Morris Jr.

[Dr. Morris' obituary appeared in the March 15, 2007 issue of JAVMA, as an AVMA Honor Roll Member.]

Dr. Morris (COR '58), 72, Topeka, Kan., died Jan. 14, 2007. Prior to retirement in 1988, he headed Mark Morris Associates and Theracon Inc., continuing the work of his father, Dr. Mark L. Morris Sr. (deceased) in developing therapeutic food for companion animals. Following graduation, Dr. Morris worked briefly for Mark Morris Associates before serving as a lieutenant in the Army Veterinary Corps for two years in Fort Detrick, Md. In 1963, he returned to Topeka, where he began his expansion of the Prescription Diet line of products for Hill's Pet Nutrition.

A charter diplomate and a member of the board of regents of the American College of Veterinary Nutrition, Dr. Morris became known for his expertise in companion animal nutrition. He went on to develop the Science Diet line of pet foods and the ZuPreem line of products for zoo animals. He served worldwide as a visiting lecturer in small animal clinical nutrition and co-authored three editions of the textbook Small Animal Clinical Nutrition. Dr. Morris was a trustee and vice president of scientific activities for the Morris Animal Foundation, founded by his father in 1948 to improve the health and well-being of companion animals and wildlife. He was a member of the Kansas VMA, American Animal Hospital Association, American Association of Veterinary Nutritionists, and Cornell University Feline Health Advisory Board.

Active in civic life, Dr. Morris served on the board and Investment Committee of the Topeka Community Foundation and on the Washburn University Board of Regents. He was a member of the Topeka Zoological Foundation, was a trustee of the St. Paul School of Theology, and served two terms on the Topeka School Board.

Dr. Morris is survived by his wife, Bette; two sons; and a daughter. His daughter-in-law, Dr. Darlia Morris (AUB '91), is a veterinarian in Kansas City, Mo. Memorials may be made to Morris Animal Foundation, 45 Inverness Drive E., Englewood, CO 80112; First United Methodist Church, 600 S.W. Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS 66603; or Kansas Masonic Cancer Research Institute, Development Office, MS 3012, KU Endowment Association, 3901 Rainbow Blvd., Kansas City, KS 66160.