THE GLOBE

Newsletter of the International Society of Veterinary Ophthalmology

Special Issue Dedicated to Keith C Barnett

Editor
Claudio Peruccio
Co-Editor
Kristina Narfström
Production Manager
Sten Wiechel

ISVO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
Past President: **Jose Laus** (Brazil)
President: **Maurice Roze** (France)
President Elect: **Akihiko Saito** (Japan)
Secretary: **David Maggs** (USA)
Treasurer: **Lloyd Helper** (USA)
Members: **Paulo Barros** (Brazil)
Ralph Hamor (USA)
Bruce Robertson (Australia)

Dr Keith Chartres Barnett OBE MA PhD BSc DVOphthal DipECVO DACVO FRCVS

19th April 1929 - 10th March 2009

Editorial

A tribute to Keith C Barnett

I met Keith first in Barcelona, September 1980, at the ISVO founding Meeting, a man already well-known as an outstanding representative of the British patrol of veterinary scientists dedicated to study and prevent animal eye diseases.

In the following 29 years Keith increased more and more his contribution to the progress of Veterinary Ophthalmology playing a unique role now internationally well recognized being the first and only person in the world who became a Foundation Diplomate of the RCVS Diploma in Veterinary Ophthalmology and honorary member of the American, the European and the Japanese Colleges of Veterinary Ophthalmologists.
More about Keith from the scientific and human points of view will be said by his closer friends and cooperators.

By dedicating this issue of The Globe to Keith C Barnett we symbolically want to recognize the important role of the unforgettable fathers of our specialty, Keith being one of them.

Thank you Keith, we owe you so much, thanks for your professional lifetime dedication to Veterinary Ophthalmology, a science finalized, as you taught us, to the animal welfare, your first interest.

Claudio Peruccio

Obituary

Professor Sheila Crispin, one of the many veterinary ophthalmologists owing a huge debt of gratitude to Keith for his excellent teaching skills, wonderful company and extensive knowledge of ophthalmology and many other subjects, has submitted this obituary, which is an amalgamation of those produced by her for, amongst others, the Veterinary Record, International Sheep Dog Society and Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Dr Keith Barnett, a much loved veterinary ophthalmologist of international reputation, collapsed and died at the Animal Health Trust on March 10th and there is, perhaps, an elegant poignancy that this was so; he loved working there and, many years before, had planned and overseen the construction of the Centre for Small Animal Studies with meticulous attention to detail - that splendid building now stands as a fitting memorial to his vision and commitment.

Keith decided that he would be a veterinary surgeon at the tender age of five and

qualified from The Royal Veterinary College (RVC) London in 1956, with the award of a gold medal and Fellowship of the RVC Medical Association. After a short period in general practice, he returned to the RVC as House Surgeon to the Beaumont Animals' Hospital and later (1960-1963) started his PhD studies on canine retinopathies following the award of a Clement Stephenson Scholarship; his approach to veterinary ophthalmology was undoubtedly influenced by the perfectionist approach of Gordon Knight, one of the outstanding veterinary surgeons working at the RVC during this period.

In early 1963 Keith took up a position in the Department of Veterinary Clinical Studies at the University of Cambridge where, on a Leverhulme Fellowship, he completed his PhD and started a Unit of Comparative Ophthalmology, funded through his links with the Animal Medical Centre in New York. The Animal Medical Centre had tried to attract Keith to America, but that was a long way from his birthplace in Brighouse, Yorkshire, and Keith worked his charm to set up an outpost of the Animal Medical Centre at Cambridge. He had the ability to attract scientists from all over the world, in part because of his enthusiasm and expertise, but also because the clinical work and research went right across the species and covered a huge number of conditions of the eye, many of which had not been previously reported. The Comparative Ophthalmology Unit at Cambridge was a vibrant place to work from the outset. During my time there Terry Grimes was on sabbatical from University College Dublin and Keith had advised him "that even if he did not learn much ophthalmology he would at least know the cost of a bronze and be able to recognise a Stubbs by the end of the year." Roger Curtis was engaged in PhD studies on infectious canine hepatitis and remembers the mystifying speed with which he went from expressing interest in the subject - at a party - to commencing the research. Peter Bedford came to demonstrate glaucoma surgery and internationally renowned veterinary ophthalmologists from abroad dropped in at regular intervals. I spent a lot of time in the Ophthalmology Unit before I had even qualified, already fascinated by the subject; Keith had suggested that ocular lipid deposition might make an interesting area for post-graduate study and how right he was, but my first assignment was to investigate strange ocular problems in Icelandic ducks at Pensthorpe Hall (later to be the Pensthorpe Wildlife Park) in Norfolk; it transpired that the birds had ocular candidiasis - an early introduction to the complexities of ecosystem management. There was fruitful collaboration with many colleagues at the Veterinary School and much innovative research, including studies on cataract in a number of species, inherited retinopathies in dogs, lysosomal storage diseases in cats, colobomata in Charolais cattle and 'bright blindness' a condition of unknown cause in sheep, which was found to be a primary toxic retinopathy caused by ingestion of bracken.

In 1975 the Animal Health Trust (AHT) in Newmarket persuaded Keith that his future lay there and he soon built up a world-renowned Comparative Ophthalmology Unit, continued to nurture the veterinary ophthalmologists and research workers of the future, oversaw the building of a new Centre for Small Animal Studies and became Head of the Centre.

During his long and illustrious career Keith published in excess of 130 scientific papers in no less than 16 different internationally recognised peer-reviewed scientific journals and authored and co-authored a number of highly respected veterinary ophthalmology textbooks. He also received many honours and awards; becoming a Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) by meritorious contributions to learning in 1976 and a Foundation Diplomate in Veterinary Ophthalmology of the RCVS in 1983.

He was an Executive Member and President of the International Society of Veterinary Ophthalmology from 1984-1986. The Diploma of the European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists was conferred on him in 1993 and he was appointed to the Order of the British

Empire for Services to the Veterinary Profession in the same year. In recognition of his immense contributions to veterinary ophthalmology, he was recently made an Honorary Member of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists and Honorary Membership of the European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists swiftly followed. Keith was the only veterinary ophthalmologist in the world to be awarded this double accolade. Veterinary awards included the Francis Hogg Prize (1968), the George Fleming Prize (1971), the Simon Award (1971), the Bourgelat Award (1976), the Blaine Award (1996) and the John Henry Steel Memorial Medal (1998).

Keith was a member of the British Veterinary Association / Kennel Club / International Sheep Dog Society Eye Scheme Panel from its inception in 1966; in those days only PRA was certified and a direct ophthalmoscope was sufficient - Keith was widely acknowledged as being superbly accomplished in the use of this instrument, but was also innovative in recording ocular disease by photography using, in those early days at Cambridge, the iconic Kowa fundus camera and a Gambs slit lamp biomicroscope. He also served as Chief Panellist and was an Honorary Consultant to the Scheme.

From 1964 until his death he was Honorary Research Assistant to the Institute of Ophthalmology and Honorary Veterinary Surgeon to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (GDBA), a role that involved visiting all the Guide Dog Centres in the UK twice a year. Neil Ewart, of the GDBA, said, "Dr Barnett always showed the qualities of a true expert. He would always patiently and thoroughly explain his findings to any member of staff without talking down to them."

Keith held a number of external consultancies in ophthalmology abroad, for example, France and America and, much closer to home, acted as an equine ophthalmological consultant to Rossdale and Partners in Newmarket for almost 30 years and they have paid eloquent tribute not only to his "great efficiency, professionalism and charm" but also to his "approachable manner and the wonderful twinkle in his eye" - how accurate this description and how we shall miss his infectious chuckle. John Parker, another equine ophthalmologist and Past-President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, wrote of Keith's immense influence on modern equine ophthalmology - "His generosity with his time was unlimited, his patience proverbial, and his sympathetic attitude hugely supportive to those of us interested in the horse's eye."

Keith worked ceaselessly to help dog breeders and the general public reduce and eliminate inherited ophthalmic diseases by improving their understanding of genetics and the scientific knowledge of the inheritance of these conditions; his research on retinal conditions in a number of different dog breeds was groundbreaking. Keith understood breeders and they returned the compliment by holding him in genuine affection; he was awarded the Tersing Trophy by the Tibetan Terrier Association in 1981. Although his efforts were primarily focused on improving the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of ophthalmic conditions in animals, humans were also the beneficiaries of his research on many occasions and he served on a Medical Research Council Working Party on retinitis pigmentosa and was a Scientific Adviser to the British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society. Keith was an active Member of the Kennel Club and at this year's Crufts, in typical irrepressible form, he spoke to me enthusiastically about the presentation on primary glaucoma and the latest genetic work at the AHT that he was to give to the forthcoming Eye Panel Working Party meeting. He was also a valued Trustee of Canine Partners; a charity that trains assistance dogs to transform the lives of people with disabilities. Terry Knott, the Chief Executive of Canine Partners said, "a kinder, more articulate, professional yet gentle and encouraging soul would be hard to find."

From the early 1960's Keith acted as Honorary Veterinary Surgeon to the International

Sheep Dog Society (ISDS). Keith and his wife Fay, a highly respected orthoptist, were enthusiastic followers of sheep dog trials, indeed when I first met them they owned a Border Collie called Nell, as well as lots of Labradors. I acquired Nell's full sister Bassie and the two dogs hated each other as only litter sisters can - unfortunately I was working in the Comparative Ophthalmology Unit in Cambridge at the time and also liked going to sheep dog trials, so there were many opportunities for exciting confrontations. At many National and International trials Keith was on eye examination duty, but also took a keen interest in the competition and he and Fay carefully marked up their cards for each run, but the formula that they used to apportion marks was, Paul Evans told me, not the standard approach. It transpires that they counted the number of commands that were issued and then used the score as a means of deciding if the dog had imperfect vision! I doubt if this system would withstand scientific scrutiny now, but at the time it may have had some merit, as CPRA was relatively common - and the condition did affect vision and the dog's ability to work. It is largely because of Keith's extensive research on CPRA that the 'Barnett formula' has become redundant. Brian Singleton, another Past-President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and a former Chief Executive of the Animal Health Trust recalls that Keith's charm also worked on the animals he examined - on one occasion, a Yorkshire farmer with a particularly shy, potentially aggressive dog, which Keith soothed into submission, was heard to say "that's the nearest anyone has been to that dog!"

His contributions were twice recognised by the ISDS - for his work on CPRA he was presented with a silver medal in 1973 and for his outstanding contributions to the Society, sheep dogs and sheep dog trials received the Wilkinson Sword Trophy in 1981.

Keith enjoyed life to the full - he was a keen collector of antiques, including dog bronzes and works of art - especially those illustrating dogs, shire horses and sheep. Sheep were a recurring theme throughout his life. For some years Keith and Fay owned a flock of extremely wild Soays and Jacobs; he enjoyed their unpredictability and gathering them for any kind of husbandry intervention was an uncertain and sometimes alarming experience, which always amused Keith greatly - the Soays were impossible to drive and the Jacobs could be guaranteed to jab some part of the anatomy with one of their four horns, indeed one well aimed Jacob horn left Keith with a permanent scar above one eye. Most people would have become annoyed and frustrated at the antics of this wayward flock but, quite remarkably, I cannot remember Keith ever becoming angry with anyone or anything; it was just not part of his nature.

With his kindness, generosity, charisma, knowledge, humour and personal charm, Keith made numerous friends from all walks of life throughout the world and many of those veterinary surgeons whose life he touched were inspired to follow in his footsteps and become veterinary ophthalmologists, wherever he went his infectious enthusiasm recruited yet more disciples. He was invited to lecture in many parts of the world, as a Visiting Professor in Australia and, one of his favourite places, Canada, but also in Scandinavia and many other European countries, the USA and Japan, where he was made an Honorary Diplomate of the Japanese Association of Veterinary Ophthalmology in 1995.

Keith shared much of his life with Jane, a distinguished fellow ophthalmologist and, for many years, Head of the Comparative Ophthalmology Unit at the AHT, who provided love and loyal companionship, especially so following Keith's diagnosis of oesophageal carcinoma last year. Keith came through the gruelling radiotherapy and chemotherapy regime with flying colours, helped by huge amounts of support from Jane and was able to enjoy regular periods of living in their newly acquired house in Yorkshire; the home he had always wanted as part of his 'retirement.' In his last letter to me he wrote "It was great to see you again in Yorkshire in January. We were delighted that you approved of the new house." Not difficult, located in the heart of Swaledale, it was the perfect place in which to enjoy the joys of Yorkshire. There were few, if any, concessions to his illness and he continued to enjoy the finer things in life - good food and wine and human fellowship, as well as the company of his dogs. He had an abiding passion for the working Labrador and owned some beautiful dogs over the years.

Keith was passionate about veterinary ophthalmology, so much so that he carried on working part-time at the Animal Health Trust after his official retirement at the end of 1996 and, to his delight, he was made an Honorary Vice-President of the AHT in 2008. After his retirement the Animal Health Trust website read 'Retired and returned and is still here!' and such is the immensity of his contributions that this remains true - his legacy will live on.

Sheila Crispin

Acknowledgments

From the International Society of Veterinary Ophthalmology (ISVO)

Enjoying his lectures and papers during so many years, we all will deeply miss Keith Barnett.

Keith Barnett presenting a paper on "Progressive Retinal Atrophy in the Miniature Dachshund: a clinical and genetic study" ECVO/ESVO/ISVO/SOVI 2007 Genova Meeting

He was one of the first ISVO Presidents and among the pioneers of modern Veterinary Ophthalmology.

Our community is indebted for his huge contribution in such varied fields as hereditary eye diseases and equine ophthalmology.

I considered Keith Barnett as I did for Bill Magrane: with respect and admiration.

Now, I sadly have to express on behalf of the ISVO Board our gratitude and say how much we will miss him.

On behalf of the ISVO, April 2009

Maurice Roze, ISVO President & the ISVO Executive Committee : Akihiko Saito, Jose Laus, David Maggs, Lloyd Helper, Paulo Barros, Ralph Hamor, Bruce Robertson

From the European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ECVO)

When the European College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists was founded in 1992, Keith C. Barnett was already one of the brightest shining stars of European veterinary ophthalmology.

Being known by everyone in the field and the careful, knowledgeable tutor of several, it was self-evident that Keith should be one of the first Diplomates of the ECVO. He was appointed the first chairman of the Credentials Committee, a very important committee for the college where considerable amounts of integrity and fairness are required by the committee members. Keith stayed in the Credentials Committee for eight years, a period when the committee was busy scrutinizing and evaluating the credentials of the now senior members of the college.

Also after leaving the committal work, Keith kept an interest in the ECVO, and continued to share his profound knowledge, strong interest in animal welfare and humanism and was eager to discuss questions that had bearing on veterinary ophthalmology or college business. In 2008, Keith was elected the first Honorary Member of the ECVO by the Diplomates, a recognition so well deserved.

Now, the ECVO has not only lost a Honorary Member, but a person who dedicated his professional life to the advancement of European veterinary ophthalmology.

On behalf of the ECVO, April 2009

Björn Ekesten, Ingrid Allgoewer, Ellen Bjerkås, Gill McLellan, Anne-Marie Verbrüggen, Albert Heijn and Ron Ofri

From the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO)

When Claudio contacted the ACVO to see if a member of the Board of Regents would be able to contribute to this issue of the Globe I was quick to accept. It provides me with an opportunity to acknowledge Keith's contributions to ophthalmology as well as the role he played in my life. Were it not for Keith Barnett I am certain that I would not be sitting here writing this now.

I first met Keith in 1978 when I was in general practice in England. I had developed an interest in ophthalmology as a student at the Royal Veterinary College and was fortunate to

attend a weekend BSAVA course on ophthalmology taught by Keith.

I was fascinated by his lectures and photographs of retinal diseases. During one of the breaks I asked him whether there would be any chance to get involved in research on inherited retinopathies at the Animal Health Trust. In typical Keith fashion he enthusiastically invited me to visit the AHT to discuss this possibility. Needless to say all worked out rather well and within the year I found myself working with Keith on retinal disease in Tibetan Terriers. Over the next three years he watched over me and provided (seemingly paternal) encouragement through various up and downs of the research. I can only say that I owe an immense debt of gratitude to Keith for his willingness to take me on as a student and to mentor me during this time.

Keith was an excellent teacher – imparting his considerable knowledge and fascination for comparative ophthalmology to all of the people who regularly visited him at the AHT. One of his many significant contributions was the photographic documentation of ophthalmic diseases – exemplified by his atlases of ophthalmology in the various domestic species. Keith studied and photographically documented the progression of many of the inherited diseases we now know in domestic animals (and particularly dogs). – his retinal and slit-lamp photographic skills were unsurpassed in veterinary ophthalmology –he was one of the best ophthalmic photographers I have had the opportunity to work with.

Keith's contributions internationally were numerous – his research into inherited ocular disease was respected and much cited in publications throughout the world. No more was this the case than in the USA where he developed many close friendships and collaborations over his career. He encouraged me to continue studies in the US when the opportunity arose – sage advice for which I am also very grateful.

ACVO awarded Keith honorary membership in 2007 (a rare occurrence in its 40 year history then) in acknowledgment of his numerous contributions to ophthalmology. His wisdom, friendship and sense of humor will be sorely missed on this side of the pond.

On behalf of the ACVO, April 2009

Nicholas J. Millichamp

From the Ophthalmology Chapter, Australian College of Veterinary Scientists

We may be small in number and somewhat disadvantaged by living so far away from the major centres of ophthalmology research in the Northern Hemisphere, but all 18 Australian and New Zealand veterinary ophthalmologists owes a great deal to the scientific legacy of Keith Barnett.

The span of his significant output in scientific journals and the general dissemination of knowledge in animal eye science corresponds very closely with the development of the specialty in Australia and New Zealand, as has been recognised by our own early 'peer practitioner' Dr J Rowan Blogg.

Rowan was the first veterinarian in Australia to undertake formal post-graduate training overseas in this discipline and he has always expressed the greatest of respect for Keith Barnett and his contemporaries, the early pioneers of veterinary ophthalmology.

The first time I met Keith Barnett in person was about 1985 when he opened the door of his hotel room in Napier, New Zealand - ruddy faced and half-dressed, but surprisingly ebullient having just stepped out of the shower after a few hours sleep following the long flight from London! He was in New Zealand as guest speaker at the Equine and Companion Animal streams at the NZVA Annual Conference, and there was little sign of jet-lag over the next three days as he delivered the most eloquent series of state-of-the-art lectures, as always nicely illustrated by his excellent slide collection – mostly taken by fundus camera with which he was very skilled.

It was my pleasure to host Keith during the rest of his visit to New Zealand, even taking him to the remote North Island farming township of Taihape, where one of the local practitioners had been sending him histories from New Zealand working sheepdogs that had demonstrated familial patterns of bilateral progressive vision loss. At that stage the belief was that this may be some new inherited retinopathy, but the submission of eyeballs for pathology at Keith's encouragement, later showed the condition to be acquired – the result of toxocara visceral larva migrans in the somewhat spartan litter rearing conditions that were the norm for hill country 'huntaway' dogs in those days!

In addition to his great love of animals and the pursuit of new knowledge in visual science, Keith was a practised 'mover and shaker'

who knew how to turn the wheels to make things happen. His accomplishments over many years as Head of Ophthalmology at the Animal Health Trust in UK are clear testament to his persuasive and organisational skills, and many graduates who worked at the AHT or had the benefit of the peer support he so generously offered to anyone trying to carve a career path in veterinary ophthalmology, owe Keith Barnett a lasting debt of gratitude. Keith helped to focus attention on those vision-threatening conditions that we now know to be inherited, but have struggled to produce predictable control methods for until we knew more about actual modes of inheritance and other contributing factors. Many inherited conditions that Keith was among the earliest to draw attention to, are now subject to much more accurate mapping through canine DNA testing and should move on into history within a few years.

It's a hackneyed phrase I guess, but I find it hard to think of anyone upon whom the accolade 'a gentleman and a scholar' should sit better. Those who knew Keith Barnett well will miss his cheerful friendly greetings and yes, his firmly held opinions!

On behalf of the Ophthalmology Chapter, Australian College of Vet Scientists, April 2009

Bruce Robertson

From the British Association of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (BrAVO)

Keith was awarded honorary Life Membership at the 2003 meeting of the British Association of Veterinary Ophthalmologists held in Cambridge in conjunction with ECVO/ESVO.

At the meeting he gave us a very entertaining synopsis of his career, which obviously continued for several years after this date. He would frequently attend our meetings, from the fledgling sessions attended by a couple of dozen at most, to our recent sell-out weekend gatherings, and would always be dominant in any discussions following the oral presentations!

He was always great fun socially – and since most BrAVO meetings have a dinner or banquet where the wine flows freely many of us remember well (or not quite so well) Keith chatting expansively over a whole variety of subjects!

All BrAVO members held Keith in tremendous regard – he was the leader as far as we were concerned and his contribution to Veterinary Ophthalmology is so vast as to be almost incomprehensible!

His passing is a loss to us all.

By Sally Turner, on behalf of the BrAVO Committee (Christine Heinrich, Claudia Hartley, Jim Carter, Heidi Featherstone, David Gould, Tim Knott, Rob Lowe and David Williams) and all BrAVO members

From the Animal Health Trust

Keith founded the Unit of Comparative Ophthalmology at the Animal Health Trust in 1975. He later established the Centre for Small Animal Studies (CSAS) and was instrumental in the development of the CSAS building we have today. He officially retired in 1996, but his love of ophthalmology drew him back as a part time consultant three days a week.

As a man he was charming, placid and humorous, I have yet to meet anyone who disliked him. Even if you were having a bad day, with difficult clients, or patients with depressing diseases, he could bring out a smile or laugh in you. He an enormously generous spirit, especially with his time and experience to the benefit of all he taught.

I have worked at the Trust for five years, and Keith and Jane supervised my residency which I completed in 2007. Keith and I shared a similar sense of humour, the highlight of my day would be to achieve one of Keith's giggles at something wicked and funny. During several of his regular ECVO eye certificate clinics we would sit in the consult room between cases discussing lesions and nuances of diagnosis. The two of us would soon end up giggling about some shared mirth. He was easily recognisable with a full head of white hair, ruddy cheeks, smiling face and trademark tweed trousers. He was a big man, both in stature and reputation. Always approachable, he is a lesson to all of us in giving back to our profession for the benefit of us all.

Every person that has met Keith, been taught by him, or worked alongside him has gained something special.

The day of his death, he remarked to Jane how good he was feeling, the best he had for months. He had thoroughly enjoyed Crufts the week before, and was telling the Trust's head secretary, Karen Bond, about the event. He commented that he was feeling slightly dizzy and Karen got him a chair and offered him a glass of water. He admonished her for fussing, in his usual Yorkshire way, and continued with his humorous story. Moments later he slumped in the chair and lost consciousness. Our anaesthesia team undertook CPR until the ambulance service arrived at astonishing speed. He never regained consciousness and Jane said her final goodbyes to him at the hospital 40minutes later.

I think the Trust's heart broke open that day, a devastating shock and incalculable loss to every one of us. He did not suffer, and a part of me thinks he would have been pleased to have been working up to the day he died, such was his passion for ophthalmology.

The grief is still raw for all of us, especially for Jane who shared twenty years of her life with him. I wish I had known him longer, he was a lesson to all of us on how to teach, inspire and be a gentleman.

Claudia Hartley

ooo

Tribute to Keith Barnett from his 'Barnett Babes'

I was lucky enough to spend nearly 4 years at the Animal Health Trust (AHT) doing a residency in comparative ophthalmology. Over the years there have been many budding ophthalmologists in similar positions – sometimes studying for PhD or other further qualifications. Keith and Jane were always around to help with our sometimes naïve questions and difficult cases.

No matter how busy Keith was – often in his office surrounded by piles of slides, proof reading scripts for his books and 2 or 3 black Labradors, he would always jump up and come and share our excitement at what we thought was an interesting ocular lesion. And even if he had seen the condition countless times before he would always enthuse about the beauty of the world through the ophthalmoscope.

There were often functions and parties at the AHT and Keith would always be there, glass of red in one hand and gesticulating with the other about some important (or otherwise) point he felt he had to make to his attentive audience!

I'm not sure when or how we became the 'Barnett Babes' but somehow the name seemed to fit! We included Beverley Cottrell, Lorraine Fleming, Christine Heinrich, Heidi Featherstone, myself and, obviously, Jane Sansom as the team leader! More recent members have been Claudia Hartley and Kerry Smith.

Photograph of 'Barnett's Babes'
Left to Right: Heidi Featherstone, Christine Heinrich, Sally Turner, Jane Sansom, Lorraine Fleming & Beverley Cottrell

Each and every budding ophthalmologist who spent time with Keith (including the male residents, of which there were a few!) became and remained a firm friend. And the fact that the vast majority went on to pursue careers in full time Veterinary Ophthalmology is a tribute to Keith's infectious dedication to our specialty.

Sally Turner

Memories, anectodes ....

Keith Barnett & Peter Bedford
among the other participants at the
Symposium on Retinal Degenerations in Dogs
(Uppsala , Sweden, 1993)

I was fortunate to spend the first three years of my postgraduate life working as a house surgeon at the Beaumont Animals Hospital (R.V.C) under the tutelage of Gordon Knight, in essence treading the same footsteps as Keith had trod several years previously. Keith progressed to complete his Ph.D studies in canine retinal disease and after a short stay at the University of Cambridge went on to establish his world renowned ophthalmology unit at the Animal Health Trust. It was in 1972 that I eventually met the great man through a common interest in angle closure glaucoma in the English Springer Spaniel. We met fairly regularly in those days and as a penniless student I benefitted enormously from his friendship, advice and hot meals. We were both born on the right side of the Pennines in the county of Yorkshire and as such some of our conversations were quite brusque. However I will never forget one particular dinner in Sweden several years later when wearing horned Viking helmets we delivered a version of " Ilka Moor Baht Tat " to a well lubricated company of like-minded fellows in perfect harmony. This song is close to the heart of all Yorkshire folk -- its our anthem and our war cry -- and it relates to the fate of mankind if you deem to walk across a freezing Ilkley Moor without a hat on your head. I remember Keith`s pronunciation of the word "ducks" and his subsequent explanation of what the "ducks " did brought the house down. One of many fond memories of a very personable human being with a character larger than life. He was a constant presence in veterinary ophthalmology, a presence that will be sorely be missed. I was privileged to spent an hour or so with him at the Crufts Dog Show just two days before he passed away . He was in great form for he had seemingly won his battle with carcinoma and he was ready to roll again. We talked about the old times , the new times and the future for he was full of his new house in Yorkshire and full of enthusiasm for yet more work. Both of us had recently seen primary glaucoma in the Border Collie and we parted having decided to pool our findings and write the definitive paper. That was Keith -- always the twinkle in his eye and always an infectious interest in his own creation, ophthalmology. So many people know the name but those of us who knew the man will remain forever grateful.

Peter Bedford

Keith Barnett, Lloyd Helper & Bernhard Spiess
(Cambridge, 2003 – Photo by Ellen Bjerkås)

I first met Keith Barnett through Bill Magrane while attending a European meeting in the 70s or early 80s. I soon shared the great respect for Keith with Bill and I was always interested in Keith's publications and ideas.
I soon quickly learned that Keith had keen insight into Veterinary Ophthalmology and many other things as well. I looked forward always to talking with him at meetings, such as the one represented by this picture.
His voice will certainly be missed!

Lloyd Helper

ooo

The picture shows a still aspiring ophthalmologist (me) listening in to the conversation of two of the most prominent ophthalmologists of their time (Keith and Lloyd). I have always looked and still look at them as the elder statesmen of veterinary ophthalmology and I consider myself fortunate to have known them and been able to spend some of my time with them. Keith used to come to Switzerland many years ago to do eye certifications for the Retriever club, and he allowed me as a newly graduated veterinarian to

look over his shoulders and learn more about hereditary eye diseases in purebred dogs. He really spurred my interest in ophthalmology and started my still ongoing journey in this specialty field.
I can't forget that another of my great mentors, Gary Blanchard,, who introduced me to his secrets of veterinary ophthalmic surgery almost a quarter century ago, has passed away February 27, 2009.

Bernhard Spiess

Keith Barnett & Frans Stades
(Brugge, 2006 – Photo by Ellen Bjerkås)

Always open to a good discussion !!

Frans Stades

Keith Barnett & Cathryn Mellersh
(Yorkshire, U.K, 2007)

The picture shows Keith Barnett and Cathryn Mellersh standing proudly in front of Keith's fantastic new home in Yorkshire, U.K., summer of 2007. The three of us had just come back from a gourmet dinner and Keith was showing us his beautiful garden with a small pond and one of his most recent interests: carrier pigeons that were nesting and breeding in his back yard.
In Sweden, most old-timers in regards to Veterinary Ophthalmology (like myself), had actually been trained by Keith. I was an exception, however, having spent half a year in USA, then, regularly returning across the Atlantic for longer or shorter periods of time, in order to pursue my specialty studies. The first time I met Keith Barnett was when he came to Sweden to provide a small group of veterinarians interested in Ophthalmology with an examination in order for us to become panel members and proceed with ophthalmic exams in regards to hereditary eye defects (all regulated by the Swedish Kennel Club). My great respect for Keith Barnett was born at that point in time.

Keith Barnett & Kristina Narfström
(Wien, 2000 - Photo by Ellen Bjerkås,)

I realized that we had a mutual interest and a passion for Veterinary Ophthalmology and, especially, hereditary eye diseases. Since then our paths have crossed numerous times mostly in regards to research findings. For example, Keith and collaborators, observed PRA in the Abyssinian cat in the beginning of the 1980's. Initially it was not easy to convince Keith that the "English" Abyssinian rod cone dysplasia (rdy) was different from the "Swedish" rod cone degenerative disease of Abyssinian cats (rdAc) that I had described only a few years earlier. A series of publications from Keith Barnett and Roger Curtis, and from myself finally proved that the Abyssinian cat was indeed affected by 2 variants of PRA!
I visited the Animal Health Trust (AHT) for the very first time only 2 years ago, actually at the time the above photo was taken. Keith Barnett then graciously invited me to stay in his home

and we had a wonderful evening together. I was proud to tell him that the breeding pair of rdy cats that had been donated to me by him and his collaborators at AHT was thriving and that we were very close to finding the mutation for the disorder. Also, we talked about his most recent work with the longhaired dachshunds. He was intrigued by the fact that the phenotype was not always showing the affection status of the dogs.
Only 2 months ago I received a very warm and friendly letter from Keith Barnett, congratulating me for our recent discovery of the mutation in the rdy cats. Also, he was happy to tell me that researchers at AHT were now using the HMsERG to diagnose cone rod dystrophy in the longhaired dachshund. He stated that some dogs homozygous for the *cord1* mutation, not showing clinical signs of disease, however demonstrated significant functional changes, proving that the discoveries done by molecular geneticist Cathryn Mellersh and by himself were correct! Finally, in his letter he told me about the terrible disease he was fighting, but that he was certain to participate in the Copenhagen ESVO/ECVO meeting and possibly also ACVO.
Our ophthalmic community has lost a wonderful, knowledgeable and worldwide renowned colleague with a warm, charismatic and exceptionally generous personality. He will be remembered, most probably as the European Father of Veterinary Ophthalmology.

Kristina Narfström

From Japan

At the ISVO/BrAVO/ECVO/ESVO Joint Meeting held in 2003 in Cambridge, England, Dr. Keith C. Barnett reported a paper on an interesting ocular hereditary disease observed in Curly coated Cavalier King Charles Spaniel.

On that occasion Dr. Barnett showed us the excellent facilities of the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket, particularly the Ophthalmology section devoted to research and clinical work.

This was unfortunately my last chance to see and talk to him.

In the fall of 1991, at the Business Meeting of the ISVO held in Vienna, Austria, Dr. Barnett together with Dr. W.G. Magrane, Member of the Nomination Committee, suggested my name as a Member of the ISVO Executive Committee. I served the Society till the early summer of 2005.

I have always taken advantage of Dr. Barnett's excellent books, while serving in the voluntary service project, for instance Color Atlas of Veterinary Ophthalmology (1990), Canine Ophthalmology (2002), etc., to explain to my clients the hereditary eye diseases of their dogs.

Dr. Barnett was nominated an Overseas Honorary Diplomate of our College, JCVO, and he gave an excellent lecture at our Society's 10th Anniversary Meeting held in the City of Mishima, 120 km west of Tokyo and located near the Mt. Fuji, a beautiful volcano and symbol of our country.

I will always consider his work during my voluntary service and I will eternally remember him, a worldwide famous veterinary ophthalmologist.

Masanobu Fukui, PhD, DVM.
Former Member of the ISVO-Executive Committee

Editorial note

This special issue of The Globe dedicated to Keith C Barnett is a tribute to a man, a way to rally around our English friends and switch from the scientific to the human bonds playing such an important role in our life.

We want to thank the many contributors who sent a message, a note, a comment, a picture, not all listed by name, representing most of the Countries where Veterinary Ophthalmology is now an important speciality devoted to Animal Welfare.

Thanks to all of you !

Memorial Service arrangements for
Dr Keith Barnett OBE:

Memorial Service - will be held on the 7th May at 2pm. It will be in St Mary's Church, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, UK

http://www.stmarystpeter.net/stmaryschurch/

Further information:

Sheila Crispin
s.m.crispin@bristol.ac.uk
44(0)7802 667235 (mobile)

Claudia Hartley
claudia.hartley@aht.org.uk
01638 552700 (work)
01638 555600 (fax)
01223 562004 (home)

ISVO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ADDRESSES

Past President: **Jose Luiz Laus (Brazil)**
jllaus@fcav.unesp.br

President: **Maurice Roze (France)**
rozemaur@aol.com

President Elect: **Akihiko Saito (Japan)**
akihiko-saito@triangle-ah.co.jp

Secretary: **David Maggs (USA)**
djmaggs@ucdavis.edu

Treasurer: **Lloyd Helper (USA)**
jandlh@comcast.net

Members: **Paolo Barros (Brazil)**
pauloeye@usp.br

Ralph Hamor (USA)
hamor@uiuc.edu

Bruce Robertson (Australia)
bruce@eyevet.com.au

ISVO will continue to e.mail TheGlobe for free twice - three times a year. If you don't want to receive it, if you like to change e.mail address or add more addresses, please e.mail a note to info@retvetcorp.com