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IN MEMORIAM MVDR. ZDENĚK JAROŠ

The sudden death of Zdeněk Jaroš on February 4, 1970 will be felt as a great loss to veterinary science in Czechoslovakia. Dr. Jaroš, the veterinarian in charge of the Prague Zoological garden, will be sorely missed by all his colleagues and workers of the Prague Zoo.

Zdeněk Jaroš was born in Olomouc on October 18, 1913. After completing his early education, he began his university studies at the Veterinary College in Brno. These came to a sudden end when all universities in Czechoslovakia were closed by the nazis during the occupation. After the Second World War he received the diploma of veterinary surgeon and of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the Veterinary College in Brno.

For a short time, Dr. Jaroš was employed at the Central Slaughterhouse of Prague; from 1946-1949 he worked at the State Institute of Public Health in Prague and, from 1949-1951, at the Veterinary Institute in Prague. There, he worked mainly in pathology and parasitology with regard to the diagnosis of diseases of domestic animals. At the same time he worked also for the Prague Zoo as veterinarian. In 1951 Dr. Jaroš left the Veterinary Institute to take up a full time job at the Prague Zoo and to devote all his time to problems of the veterinary care of zoo animals.

For all these years, Dr. Jaroš kept up close contacts with his colleagues elsewhere, especially at the Institute of Parasitology of the Czech. Acad.

Sci. and the Institute of Tuberculosis. He was co-author of many publications on deep mycoses, toxoplasmosis and other protozoan diseases, on trichinosis, on the parasite fauna of zoo animals etc. His interests in osteopathology expanded from the osteodystrophy of young monkeys to changes in the skeleton of other zoo animals which, although of great importance for identifying the death cause, are often overlooked. Death prevented Dr. Jaroš to finish work on this extensive and most representative material of osteopathological nature, which he had collected during many years of work at the zoo. Some of his experiences in anaesthetics were presented at international meetings and published in the proceedings. His special interest in horse breeding and his experiences in this field were successfully applied in the preservation and breeding of the Przewalski horse in the Prague Zoo.

His erudition led to his nomination as Chairman of a committee entrusted with the elaboration of measures for preventing the introduction of exotic diseases to zoological gardens and circuses. These documents have been incorporated into the veterinary care act.

His modesty, righteousness and eagerness earned him estimation and love. He was known as a great personality and his departure will be felt as a great loss for many years to come. For all of us, who have worked with him, it will be most difficult to continue the work he started.

Dr. K. Blažek, CSc.