



David Copley Van Metre

March 5, 1964 - April 1, 2019

David Copley Van Metre, age 55, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly Monday, April 1st. He was desperately loved and esteemed by his family and friends. Dave was well known through his work at the veterinary school, but his greatest joy came at home with his wife and their two boys. Dave was a very committed and involved father and took great joy in watching his boys' athletic and other accomplishments. He was selfless, wise, loving, and infinitely kind. He was a light to those who were lucky enough to be part of his life.

He was born in Salina, Kansas on March 5, 1964. He graduated Omaha Central High in 1982. He was a graduate of Cornell University and Cornell Veterinary School. He was an Academic All-American football player while at Cornell. His academic training included UC Davis, Washington State, Kansas State and a few others. Dr. Van Metre was a livestock veterinarian at Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital for 20 years. He was a gifted teacher and veterinarian, a beloved mentor, and a man of strength, wisdom and kindness. He remained humble and kind despite his many achievements.

He is survived by his wife Dr. Robin Van Metre, two sons Aaron and Joe, his father David Ure Van Metre, and his brother James. He was preceded in death by his mother Carol Van Metre.

Dave was a loving father, mentor, coach and friend. It is with great sorrow that we note his passing. A memorial service will be offered in the near future to commemorate his life.

Comments



“ I am so saddened and shocked to hear of Dave’s passing. I only just heard the news and I am so very sad for his family. I worked with Dave as a vet tech when he was large animal crew at Cornell and later when I was a vet student and he always impressed me as being so honest, fair, hard working and good natured. When I was doing an externship in Omaha I actually got to meet his mom and dad and they were also so amazingly kind. I hope it brings some measure of comfort to his family to know how many lives he touched throughout his career, he will be missed by many. In deepest sympathy,

Hayley Weston Murphy



Hayley Murphy - June 11, 2019 at 10:14 PM



“ Very sorry to hear about Dave’s passing.

Ed Stenger - May 20, 2019 at 12:50 PM



“ My only memories are the stories about Dave that his wonderful Mother Carol and dear father Dave shared with me. I have reminders of Carol all around me, and I think of her often. I miss her her wisdom, her humor, her stories, her presence. I am so sad for all family and friends on earth who have lost two fine individuals, but I am comforted to KNOW that Mother and Son are now sharing the experience of a magnificent eternal life together in heaven...With sincere sympathy....Mary Anne Vaccaro

Mary Anne Vaccaro - April 25, 2019 at 11:35 AM



“ Dave Van Metre touched the lives of so many vet students throughout his career teaching at CSU. He was a brilliant, kind, gentle man with an exceptional talent for communicating complicated concepts to all of us. May you find peace in knowing that he made a positive, unforgettable impact on the lives of thousands. We are all crying with you.

Valerie Linse DVM
CSU Class of 2005

Valerie Linse - April 24, 2019 at 05:46 PM



“ I was shocked and saddened to hear of Dr. Van Metre's passing. He was such a great professor and teacher during my veterinary education at Colorado State University (1999 - 2003). He guided me through my first perineal urethrostomy surgery on a steer with much patience and care for the animal.

His knowledge and depth of understanding was not limited to ruminant medicine, encompassing equine, canine, and feline medicine. I can't tell you how many challenging concepts in small animal medicine were made more clear with Dr. Van Metre's additional insights.

I wish to pass on much peace to his family, both immediate and extended. You are all in my thoughts at this most difficult of time.

Jason Johnson - April 23, 2019 at 04:32 PM



“ I was so sorry to learn of Dave's sudden passing. He was a wonderful, warm and generous person. I will never forget how helpful he was as my lab partner in veterinary school at Cornell for first year anatomy. He always had helpful ideas to memorize the material and was a patient study partner. He was well liked and respected by all of his classmates. My deepest sympathies on your loss.

Sincerely,
Marya Verhave Gabriel, DVM
Cornell Vet class of 1989

Marya Verhave Gabriel - April 14, 2019 at 10:47 AM



“ I was David's undergraduate adviser at Cornell U. and he was a trusted student employee at the Pig Research center, for years. I was stunned to learn of his sudden passing; I cannot get my mind around it because of the deep hole that is left in the lives of his wife and sons. My deepest sympathy. David was a Cornell Presidential scholar with a record so impressive that arrangements were made for David to finish his final Undergraduate year by accepting credits from his first year of Vet School; all this while playing a major role for the Football team. David was such a wonderful, humble and kind man. He was steeped in integrity and had moral fiber that so few have in this day in age. Of all his accomplishments in life, few parallel his record of moral character and good standing he had before the Lord. May the Lord bless you as a family. He will be closer to you than you realize and he will yet watch over each of you, closely and constantly.

On a separate note, David and I reconnected 5 years ago. I grew up in Fort Collins, graduated from Poudre High School and from CSU.

R. Dean Boyd (dboyd@hanorusa.com)

R. Dean Boyd - April 13, 2019 at 02:48 PM



“ I was a classmate of Dave's at Cornell Veterinary College. I am very sad to hear of his unexpected passing. We were microbiology lab partners and had a great time identifying bacteria correctly . We hiked to the top of Mount Marcy in the Adirondacks spring break and We laughed when he threw our extra white gas into the campfire causing some minor explosions. We visited his family's cabin in Estes park winter break and trudged into the mountains in frigid weather for some winter camping and I will always remember communing with the Elk herd near the cabin with him. He was a great person and I will cherish my memories of him.
Matt Belman Dvm Cornell '89

Matt Belman - April 11, 2019 at 09:29 PM



“ Sympathy and condolences to Jim, plus your dad and Dave's family. Lots of great memories from the West Y all the way through CHS. So sorry for your loss.

Flip Crummer CHS '81 and Family

Flip Crummer - April 11, 2019 at 05:09 PM



“ A remarkably humble, smart, strong, calm, and kind man. May God's Peace and Strength quickly descend upon Dave's family in their time of sudden loss and despair, and may Dave soon see the face and hear the words of Jesus saying "Welcome home my good and faithful servant. I have prepared this place for you."

Pat Timmins - Central High School 1981

Pat Timmins - April 10, 2019 at 06:45 PM



“ Very sorry to read about Dave. I was an assistant football coach at Central High School in Omaha, NE., in 80-86. Although I was a backfield coach I would talk to Dave and the other guard to see how defenses would react to our option series. I also would sit with them on the bus to and from games to discuss blocking/defensive stunts and injuries.

Dave was an outstanding athlete, student and person. I remember every encounter with him as very pleasant. An absolute great student/athlete to work with. My condolences to the family. Dave and his family are in my prayers. Gary L. Kubik

Gary L. Kubik - April 10, 2019 at 03:59 PM



“ Very Sorry to hear about your loss. Dave and I were not close friends in Vet School but I always thought he was a really decent guy and was impressed with the work he was doing in his career. I know he will be missed even more for his role as a father and mentor. Please accept my sincere condolences
-Gwen Wollney DVM

Gwendolyn Wollney - April 10, 2019 at 03:20 PM



“ It was such a shock and a sad day when I learned of Bo's passing. Bo's life was exemplary in every way and he will be missed by everyone who knew him. My thoughts, prayers and love are with you all at this very difficult time. Bob Berguin

Bob Berguin - April 10, 2019 at 11:55 AM



“ Great memories of Dave from Cornell! I was a resident and Dave rode with me on ambulatory. We will all miss you! Sharing the love from those days with you all in these difficult times.

John Dascanio - April 09, 2019 at 08:20 PM



“ Awesome human being! This is heartbreaking. Great professor and mentor.

Tracie Beiter - April 09, 2019 at 04:00 PM



“ My deepest sincere condolences ..Class of 82

Ernest Love - April 09, 2019 at 03:55 PM



“ Sincerest Condolences!

Terry Grigsby
Cental High School c/o 1982

Terry Grigsby - April 09, 2019 at 03:45 PM



“ Words fail me. Sending my love to you all.
Cindy Otto

Cindy Otto - April 09, 2019 at 02:51 PM



“ So sad to hear of David's passing. Many thoughts and prayers are with you and your wonderful family.

Love always,

Joni and Bailey Flemming

Omaha,Nebraska

joni flemming - April 09, 2019 at 01:36 PM



“ I was shocked to hear the news of Dave's passing. However, the Omaha World Herald obituary couldn't have done a better job of describing Dave. I met Dave when I was in a PhD program at UC Davis veterinary school in the early 90's. In spite of his size and his impressive football history, Dave was the kindest, gentlest, most genuine person I have ever met. I have fond memories of our time together there.

I've spent my life working with cattle and reached out to Dave every once in a while regarding calf issues. He was always within reach. My friend Lisle George described Dave as a, "Mans Man". Something we all aspire to. Humble and strong. His sudden passing makes me sorry that I didn't take the time to stop by and see him more often. I am very saddened by your loss.

Kind Regards,

Kevin O'Connell
Omaha Nebraska

Kevin O'Connell - April 09, 2019 at 11:34 AM



“ I first met Dave when we were both at Kansas State. We immediately connected through our profession, but more than that through love of sports and family. Even though we moved to different places and positions, we maintained contact. I usually called him as I valued his expertise, but we always visited about other things as friends do. I have a hurt in my heart by Dave's passing, I will miss you my friend. May God bless his family to carry on.

Gerald L Stokka - April 09, 2019 at 11:30 AM



“ David Ure and Family ----- Sorry to hear about your loss. Our prayers and thoughts here are with you all.

Bob Mancuso Jr and Family
Omaha, Nebraska

Bob Mancuso Jr - April 09, 2019 at 10:15 AM



“ I had the great privilege of knowing Dave(Pigman, Piggy) Van Metre as we were teammates at Cornell as well as roommates(best Summer of my life). I have yet to meet anyone who was more impressive and unassuming at the same time. Dave was the perfect combination of confidence, intellect, achievement, compassion, grace, generosity and Humor! In short he was what we all wanted to be when we grew up!!

God Bless the entire Van Metre Family and much love and prayers!!

Tony Baker

Tony Baker - April 09, 2019 at 09:32 AM



“ I met Bo a few times, but did not know him well. I helped out Dave and Carol for over 20 years in their Omaha home, so I of course heard all about him, his wife Robin and their handsome sons. It was with great sorrow I read about his passing and my thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family. Please let me know if you need anything from me in Omaha.

Elaine Beberniss Gamble

Elaine Gamble - April 09, 2019 at 09:07 AM



“ I'm so sorry to hear about Dave, he was a mentor for me early in my career. I still hear him remind me never to forget the individual animal exam in herd medicine. He was a great teacher, he touched the lives of so many young veterinarians including me. He will be missed by many. Tara Donovan

Tara - April 08, 2019 at 01:03 PM



“ My heart aches for your family. Dr. Van Metre’s passion and joy helped me find my way and become the practitioner I am today. I wish there was more I could say or do. He will never be forgotten.
Brett Setser

Brett Setser - April 07, 2019 at 09:33 PM



“ So sorry for your loss of Dave. I was a veterinary technician and worked with Dave at the Kansas State veterinary hospital. Dave was a genuine kind, compassionate veterinarian and friend. So happy that he was blessed with a wonderful family! Will keep you all in my prayers. Sharon Tucker

Sharon Tucker - April 07, 2019 at 09:15 PM



“ Prayers for the Van Metre family. Dave will be missed tremendously.

Dr. Patty Scharko - April 07, 2019 at 09:11 PM



“ Dr. Patty Scharko lit a candle in memory of David Copley Van Metre



Dr. Patty Scharko - April 07, 2019 at 09:07 PM