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DR. ERHARD FRANZ KALETA

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About the cover

DR. ERHARD FRANZ KALETA (1939-2021)

Dr. Erhard Franz Kaleta was born on April 18, 1939 in Haldensleben, Germany. He studied veterinary medicine in Hannover and Vienna and completed his Dr. *medicinae veterinariae* and Dr. *habilitatus* theses at the Hannover University of Veterinary Medicine, Germany. His research interests focused on virology, immunology, diagnosis, and control of major avian diseases. In 1982, he became professor and director of the Institute for Poultry Diseases and Hygiene in Poultry Farming at the Justus-Liebig University Giessen. With great dedication and enthusiasm, Prof. Kaleta devoted himself to academic teaching, conveying scientific and practical knowledge to the next generation of scientists. The author of this short biography, a former graduate student of his, recalls his openness and willingness to support new experiments proposed by the student by saying “Ja, machen Sie mal,” which literally translates to “Yes, go ahead and do it.” Under his supervision, more than 200 doctoral theses and one habilitation thesis were successfully completed. He published more than 300 articles related to avian diseases in peer-reviewed and other veterinary journals. Furthermore, he edited and contributed to several textbooks on diseases of poultry, pet birds and European wild birds. He organized numerous national and international conferences; most memorable were the symposia on infectious bronchitis and avian pneumo-viruses that he and Dr. Ursula Heffels-Redmann organized in the castle of Rauischholzhausen. For three days, about one-hundred scientists from all over the world were sequestered in the castle to discuss poultry virology. Because the castle is surrounded by farmland, i.e. there is no option for escape, science was discussed throughout the day and until late into the evenings in the bar in the basement. Conversations were only interrupted by classical chamber music performances by music students and professors of the Giessen University. Prof. Kaleta was a member of various scientific national and international societies including the German and European “Chemical Disinfection” commissions, the scientific advisory board of the Federal Research Center for Virus Diseases of Animals, the Association for Species Protection, Bird Keeping and Bird Protection, and the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) in Paris. He also served as the President of the World Veterinary Poultry Association (WVPA) from 2001 to 2005. On his initiative, the Association for the Promotion of Bird Medicine Giessen was founded. In 2009, the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Leipzig awarded him the title of Doctor *honoris causa*. We remember Prof. Kaleta as an innovative, inspiring and supportive colleague. Avian Diseases wishes to acknowledge the German Branch of the World Veterinary Poultry Association and Dr. Thomas Redmann for providing the cover photo and some of the information.