

OBITUARY

Professor Evert Lagerweij (1932–2022)

The veterinary anaesthesia community mourns the death of a legend, Professor Evert Lagerweij, Honorary Fellow of the Association of Veterinary Anaesthetists (AVA) and Honorary Member of the European College of Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia (ECVAA) who passed away on 26 September 2022 in Bunnik, The Netherlands, at the age of 89 years.

Professor Lagerweij received his veterinary degree in 1959 from Utrecht University where he worked as an assistant in the Clinic of Veterinary Surgery of the Veterinary Faculty before moving to the Veterinary Faculty of the University of Zurich, Switzerland. After returning to the Utrecht University, he obtained in 1968 the Diploma in Veterinary Anaesthesia (DVA) from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, UK, as the first DVA in continental Europe. He was granted a PhD in 1973 from Utrecht University. He became a Full Professor in 1980 and his inaugural speech addressed the topic of suffering in animals. Professor Lagerweij served as Head of Veterinary Anaesthesiology of the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences at Utrecht from 1975 to 1994, during which time his section gained international recognition.

In 1991, Professor Lagerweij hosted the 4th International Congress of Veterinary Anaesthesia (now known as the World Veterinary Anaesthesia Congress; WCVA) at Utrecht. He served as President of the AVA during 1994–1998, and was one of the six established European specialists in veterinary anaesthesia who were considered ‘grandparents’ of the ECVAA, formally registered in May 1997 in The Netherlands. He was Chairman or Vice-Chairman of several university and national committees. Professor Lagerweij retired as Professor Emeritus from Utrecht University in 1994 after a long and distinguished career. After his retirement, he continued to attend AVA and WCVA meetings on a regular basis.

Evert liked to travel in his small car through almost all countries in Europe in the company of his wife Elske. Above all, he was a long-time enthusiast of water sports, and sailing his own boat in company of family and friends was his great passion. He was a member of the Nederlandsche Vereeniging van Kustzeilers (Dutch Association of Coastal Sailors) and served for about 12 years as Commissioner and Secretary on the board. He also served as Chairman of the board of the Koninklijke Nederlandse Watersportverbond (Royal Dutch Watersport Association) from 1986 to 1993 and was awarded honorary membership in 1993.

We are grateful for the contributions that Evert Lagerweij made to veterinary anaesthesia and we will remember him for his professional and constructive discussions, his jovial sense of humour and many good times with him during our AVA social events.

Conflict of interest statement

Authors declare no conflict of interest.

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