



PHOTOGRAPH | CATHERINE BISHOP

LARRY LAWRENCE, Ph.D.

1952-2009

Larry Lawrence poses with Izzy, a horse used often in nutrition and exercise physiology studies at Kentucky Equine Research.

A nutritionist's role at Kentucky Equine Research (KER) involves a multitude of responsibilities. The core duties include development and execution of relevant research, interaction with the world's premier feed manufacturers, and effective transference of knowledge to horse owners across the globe. Larry Lawrence, Ph.D., KER's senior equine nutritionist, embodied all of these attributes in spades.

It is with great sorrow that KER announces Larry's death. He passed away on December 13, 2009 after a long battle with cancer.

Lawrence joined KER in 2002, when he accepted the responsibilities of leading the KER technical staff and providing support for the company's stateside and international clients. "I had the pleasure of knowing Larry for over 25 years," said Joe Pagan, founder and president of KER. "I will always remember Larry as a superb horseman, a talented nutritionist and a friend. Larry had a rare gift that allowed him to communicate complex nutritional principles in terms that horsemen could understand. His contribution to equine nutrition and KER has

Larry Lawrence touched innumerable lives, both human and equine. Without a doubt, horses and horsemen all over the world have benefitted from his unselfish contributions to the equine nutrition industry.



PHOTOGRAPH | MARK LLEWELLYN

Larry's work at Kentucky Equine Research took him to many places. His expert opinion was sought when a new group of research horses was procured at a central Kentucky sale.

been substantial and he will be truly missed."

Prior to joining KER, Larry held positions at the University of Florida, Washington State University, and Virginia

Tech. His tenure at Virginia Tech as the extension horse specialist was especially dear to Larry because of his work with young people. As much as he relished the opportunities at Virginia Tech, the appeal of a research-oriented position lured him to KER, and for that choice, his friends and coworkers at KER are most grateful. Lawrence received his undergraduate degree from West Georgia College, his master's degree from the University of Georgia, and his doctorate from the University of Florida. His studies focused on mineral metabolism and bone physiology in growing horses.

Kathleen Crandell, Ph.D., a KER colleague, admired Larry long before either signed on to work at KER. "As an eager and information-thirsty graduate student at Virginia Tech, I used to wander into Larry's office with the most difficult nutrition questions. If he could not answer them immediately, he would have a response in a day or two. I think he enjoyed the challenge. This rapport continued even after my studies took me north to Virginia Tech's Middleburg Agriculture Research and Extension Center, where he would visit to work on some of his research. We had lively discussions on all sorts of horse topics: nutrition, reproduction, and all aspects of horsemanship," reminisced Crandell.


One of Larry's responsibilities was to keep in contact with in-house specialists at various Team Member manufacturing facilities. He was

unquestionably one of the go-to people when these individuals had specific questions about nutrition and how it affected horse health. Cindy Dell, longtime equine specialist at CFC Farm & Home Center, was the recipient of much welcome advice from Larry.

"When I needed help understanding a complex nutrition topic, Larry was always a wealth of knowledge, and it was certain to be the best information. His enthusiasm for equine nutrition and growth-related problems was wonderful to experience. It is rare these days, when everyone is so busy and our time is so valuable, to find someone willing to give you all you need. Larry helped me immensely along the way," remembered Dell.

Another aspect of Larry's work at KER involved direct dialogue with horse owners, who were often clients of Team Members. One such owner is Denise Rugen, who profited from not only Larry's depth of knowledge but also his compassion and love of horses.

"Because of Larry, I have a beautiful three-year-old filly. Larry was instrumental in seeing that my mare Maude had an uneventful pregnancy. Maude had health and breeding issues, and Larry never failed to answer my numerous e-mail messages or phone calls with his expert nutritional advice. I will always think of Larry when I think of Maude and her filly, and silently thank him from the bottom of my heart. Without Larry's involvement, I don't think I would have two happy, healthy horses today," said Rugen.

Larry Lawrence touched innumerable lives, both human and equine. Without a doubt, horses and horsemen all over the world have benefitted from his unselfish contributions to the equine nutrition industry. 



Reprint Courtesy of Kentucky Equine Research, Inc.

3910 Delaney Ferry Road
Versailles, KY 40383
Phone: 859-873-1988
Fax: 859-873-3781
Order Department: 888-873-1988
www.ker.com
info@ker.com