



Dr. Greg Bach loves to go on long bicycle rides and work in his garden in his free time. His big dream is to grow an 800 pound pumpkin! As a small boy his dream was to be a veterinarian. After applying to veterinary school 4 times, and being declined 4 times, he decided it was time to seek another path. He began working for the Kentucky of Agriculture as a technician testing cows for brucellosis in western and central Kentucky. However fate stepped in. While testing cows in the Bardstown area, the Veterinary Medical Officer, Dr. Carlin Phippen, encouraged him to apply to Auburn Veterinary School again. In Dr. Bach's case, the fifth time was the charm. He was admitted to Auburn Veterinary School in the fall of 1981 and he says that his years at vet school were the best four years of his life. He and his classmates experienced the times as one big family. The Class of 1985 grew and worked together to achieve their dreams. If you have the opportunity, ask Dr. Bach about his final vet school interview and how he responded to the question, "Why didn't you get accepted to vet school before?"

After graduation, Dr. Bach worked in a mixed animal practice for 4 years before going out on his own and opening a clinic in Northern Kentucky. He has been a solo practitioner working in a mixed animal practice for the past 28 years. During a typical day, he will see small animal appointments and a few soft tissue surgeries in the morning followed by more appointments in the afternoon. One unique thing that differentiates Dr. Bach from other veterinarians in Kentucky is that he is the primary veterinarian for the Creation Museum and the Ark Encounter. These two places have different exotic animals including camels, zebras, kangaroos, yaks, a zorse and a zonkey. Dr. Bach can go from a cat dental in the morning to a local farm in the afternoon and then to see a camel or a zebra. His is truly a mixed animal practice!

One of Dr. Bach's most memorable cases involved a tractor trailer hauling a load of steers on the interstate. The tractor trailer turned over and Dr. Bach was called in, at 5:00am, to sort through the carnage. After euthanizing over 50 steers by himself, he then went to his clinic for a full morning of appointments tending to the needs of dogs and cats.

Dr. Bach feels that veterinary medicine has changed significantly in the past 30 years. Technology has grown exponentially. Specialty practices (including heart and surgery specialists) and more advanced medical products are commonplace. Dr. Bach is concerned that some of the ongoing changes in the veterinary profession may hold uncertain futures. Very few veterinary students choose to go into large animal practice and most seek out small animal or specialty clinics. The current market being what it is and the rising cost of veterinary school could make it almost impossible for a solo practitioner in his position to make a profitable living. Dr. Bach worries that this leaves farmers struggling to find a veterinarian in their area.

Practicing medicine with strong values, ethics, and Christian faith have served him well in the past 32 years with his clients and patients. He still loves his job and is happy to go to work at 7:15am each day. When asked if he would do it all again in present day conditions, he said he would seriously ponder the decision but would still decide to become a veterinarian. He is dismayed to see the decline of participation in local veterinary associations and wishes that new veterinarians would still take time to come together in fellowship.

Dr. Bach is definitely an asset to the local community, serving both large and small animals and the exotics also! Visit his website at www.bachvet.com Thank you Dr. Bach for your unique contributions to the Kentucky Veterinary Family.

Presented by the KVMA Public Relations Committee.