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## Built on the Shoulders of Veterinary Giants: Bud

BY: DR. STEVE JOSEPH, KCVMA HISTORIAN

Since the first livestock show in 1899, the American Royal has relied on the skill and expertise of veterinarians. For 50 plus years Dr. Robert “Bud” Hertzog has been a veterinary cornerstone for this Kansas City institution.

The Lee’s Summit native was involved in 4-H and FFA as a youngster. He showed livestock at the Royal and later competed on the livestock judging team at MU. Growing up on a dairy farm, his family was close to their local veterinarian, Dr. H.C. Ashby (’44 Michigan State), whom he credits with encouraging him to go to veterinary college. “When I graduated from MU CVM in 1956 I came back to Lee’s Summit and practiced with him,” says Hertzog. The 93-year-old Dr. Ashby lives in Idaho.

Soon after graduation Dr. Hertzog started working with livestock and equine shows at the Royal. Today, he heads the Lee’s Summit Veterinary Hospital, a ten practitioner facility. He has served as the Kansas City Zoo veterinarian in Swope Park and is a consultant for the facility.

Not only has Dr. Hertzog served as the Royal staff veterinarian for decades, he has also volunteered countless hours mentoring students from MU and KSU through the Veterinary Scholars Program. The program is an example of the Royal’s mission in action: supporting youth and education and preparing young leaders for careers in agriculture.

The Royal’s nationally recognized livestock and equine shows offer veterinary students the unique opportunity to work alongside veteran practitioners providing care to some of the nation’s highest quality animals and exhibitors. They check health certificates, evaluate animals for infectious, contagious or communicable diseases and assist in the treatment of sick or injured animals. The opportunity to build professional networks with veterinarians, livestock and equine breeders and exhibitors is critical to the scholars’ professional development and future in a practice in the region.

The American Royal will celebrate Dr. Hertzog’s years of service, the history of veterinary medicine in Kansas City and the veterinary corridor stretching from KSU to MU with an exhibit in the American Royal museum. The exhibit is in the planning stages.

One final comment, Dr. Hertzog and his classmate, the late Dr. Gerald Johnson, are two veterinarians who have had a great influence on my life and career and those of countless veterinarians. For all of us, I thank them for their guidance and encouragement.

*Special thanks to Kristi Larson, Director of Education for the Royal, and MU’s Dr. Ron Cott for their help in preparation of this article.*

