

## O B I T U A R Y



CLAES - HENRIK WILHELM GERHARD REINHOLDTSSON REHBINDER

9.11.1938 – 26.3.2005

Claes Reh binder, lord, and professor in pathology at the National Veterinary Institute (SVA) in Sweden, has died on the 26th of March 2005.

Claes was born on the 9th of November 1938 in Skövde, County of Västergötland, Sweden. He studied veterinary medicine at the Royal Veterinary College in Stockholm where he graduated in 1968. Working as a veterinary practitioner in Arvidsjaur, northern Sweden, he got in contact with reindeer husbandry. A request from a reindeer herder for 20 tubes of eye ointment awoke Claes' interest in eye infections in reindeer. This led him into research and further to a doctoral thesis on keratitis in reindeer in 1977.

Claes continued his research, along with a post as a pathologist at the National Veterinary Institute in Stockholm and later in Uppsala. He published numerous scientific papers on wild animal health and parasites in reindeer and other Nordic cervids. In 1987 he became the professor of pathology at the National Veterinary Institute. Beside his interest in deer, he was engaged in the health and welfare of laboratory animals as well as dogs. On these topics he published several scientific papers, as well. For many years, he was engaged in educating pathologists in Africa, Asia and South America.

When the former Government Veterinary Officer, DVM Magnus Nordkvist, retired in 1988, Claes filled the gap and became the "veterinarian of reindeer science" in Sweden. He was a respected authority among reindeer herders as well as among colleagues. In the book *Ren och rensjukdomar* ("Reindeer and reindeer diseases"), published in 1999, much of his knowledge is collected. When listening to Swedish reindeer herders (and veterinarians) discussing reindeer health, you repeatedly recognise Claes' words and expressions.

Claes was a strong character, unforgettable for anyone that met him. He was a superb and most entertaining storyteller. Many of us have listened to the story about his climbing Kebenekaise, the highest mountain in Sweden, in suit and bowler hat – among all the other stories he amused us with. He loved challenges and he was a true sportsman, a devoted hunter and an excellent master of fencing.

We will remember Claes as dynamic and determined, always standing up for what he thought was right, as well as an entertaining, captivating, great and trusty friend.

*Birgitta Åhman*

*Margareta Stéen*

*Sven Nikander*

