

Eulogy: Spencer B Friedman



Spencer Friedman passed away in San Diego, California on 20th May 2021 after a short illness. He was 88 years old and had lost his wife, Ivy in October 2019 after 58 years of marriage. Spencer graduated in 1956 in the same class as Gavin Thompson, Anton Lubbe, Peter Davies, Izzie Bacher and Chris Marlow. When I was a young child, I met Spencer at his one-man practice in Florida Hills. When he, Brian Shaw and Arthur Simon formed a partnership and started the Florida Veterinary Hospital on Ontdekkers Road, I spent every possible moment helping out at the hospital. Spencer was a fantastic mentor to me and even after he and his family left South Africa for Israel and then USA, we corresponded regularly.

Spencer was one of the first veterinarians to perform spinal surgery on dogs in South Africa. He presented his surgical approach and results at the 3rd Annual Congress of the SAVA, Witwatersrand Branch on 9th June 1972 and then at other congresses and meetings. He published "The Surgical Approach to Canine Intervertebral Disc Disease" JSAVA 44(4): 421-431 in 1973.

During his retirement, Spencer remained active and fit by walking his dogs, riding his bike, swimming and corresponding with family and friends all over the world. He will be sorely missed by all these people but especially his children Cliff, Janet, Brad, Roger and grandchildren.

Ken Pettey