

Charles Louis Davis

1897-1970

Charles Louis Davis was born in New York City on December 26, 1897. When he was 3 years old his family moved to Denver, Colo., upon the recommendation of the family physician, for it was suspected that his father, Isaac, had tuberculosis, and Denver's climate could help him. There the elder Davis established a small grocery store. Charlie was one of 10 children and the entire family lived in the back of the store.

He graduated from Colorado State University's veterinary school in 1921 despite a short stint in the U.S. Cavalry during World War I. Because of his father's problem with tuberculosis, Davis had a lifelong quest to study and assist in learning more about that and other diseases, especially through pathology. His first job as a veterinarian was with the United States Bureau of Animal Industry in 1922. From 1922 to 1924, he served in Wisconsin and Michigan on programs for the eradication of tuberculosis.

He became known for taking pathology samples from U.S.-inspected slaughterhouses and sharing with colleagues. His first article published in a peer-reviewed journal was in 1932. That was the year he published the book *Neoplasms of Domesticated Animals* and joined the laboratories of the Pathology Division of the USDA's Bureau of Animal Industry in Denver, where he remained until 1950 except for a short stint in the Army Veterinary Corps during World War II.

In 1948 Davis was one of the charter members who founded the American College of Veterinary Pathologists.

In 1956, Davis retired from the USDA after 35 years of federal service. The following year he joined the staff of National Jewish Hospital in Denver as a research veterinarian and consultant in pathology. He served in that capacity until his death in 1970.

The C.L. Davis Foundation for the Advancement of Veterinary and Comparative Pathology is a 501(c)(3) organization. According to the organization's Web site (www.cldavis.org), the Foundation presents more than 30 "highly acclaimed annual symposia, seminars, or workshops in Africa, Australia, India, Europe, South America, and the United States." There also are special symposia, such as the one on equine herpesviruses, held in 2007.

The Foundation established 12 independent study centers in the United States, and each center contains "4,000 glass microscope slides of lesions in diverse animal species. Each case is documented and the specimens are cataloged so that they can be searched by disease entity, organ system, or species."

The Foundation also has international independent study centers at the Royal Veterinary College in London, University of Belgrade in Serbia, Cayetano Heredia University in Lima, Peru, Chonnam National University in Gwangju, Korea, The Himachal Pradesh Agricultural University at Palampur, India, The University of The Philippines at Los Baos, and the Faculty of Veterinary Science, Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand.

"The inventory of these seven centers consists of over 300 hours of illustrated lectures of the faculty of the Foundation recorded on 155 DVD disks," noted the Web site. 🐾

