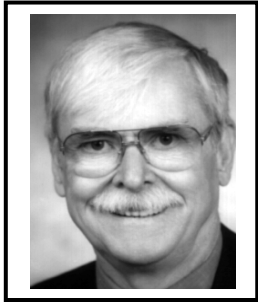


## **Tom Mulligan, DVM, FAVD, DipAVDC**



Tom Mulligan died May 2, 2010.

Tom grew up in Zanesville, Ohio, spent time with the Coast Guard and then in sales, and then changed his career, graduating from UC - Davis Veterinary School in 1968. Tom was an intern at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital, Boston.

In the early 1970's, Tom met Chuck Williams at AAHA meetings. Tom got caught by Chuck's interest in dentistry, and became passionate about dentistry as a result of a weekend at Chuck's house with Mark Tholen

(dental consultant at the AMC, NY, NY).

Realizing that there was little or no education in veterinary dentistry at most of the veterinary schools at that time, and that most practitioners' knowledge of the subject was extremely limited, "C.E. Seminars" was formed by the "gang of four" (Tom Mulligan, Gary Beard, Peter Emily and Chuck Williams), with the generous support of Gerry Selin of Henry Schein Co. CE Seminars presented many courses including wet-labs, with Pete and Tom usually on the west coast (which is where the story of the gun in the carry-on bag came from – in the San Diego airport, Tom yelled "Have I got all the slides?" as Pete was lead away from the security check area). CE Seminars was sponsored by the American Animal Hospital Association, and introduced thousands of veterinarians to the possibilities of dentistry.

Tom was a founding member of the American Veterinary Dental Society. The early discussions with ABVS about forming a dental specialty were conducted by Chuck and Tom, and resulted in the formation of the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry, of which Tom was a Founding Fellow – the By-Laws were crafted by Chuck and Tom over a beer (or two) at Tom's vacation home in San Philippe, Baja Mexico. Soon thereafter, in 1988, Tom was one of eight veterinarians who formed the Organizing Committee of the American Veterinary Dental College, whose early meetings were highlighted by "beast feasts" from Chuck's well-stocked freezer.

Tom practiced in San Diego for many years, and he trained Brook Niemiec at his practice, and Brook took over the practice.

In notes on DipVDig following Tom's death, several Diplomates commented on Tom's personality. Always positive and always with a joke to tell; a straight arrow who was always willing to tell it like it is; a friend who fully understood the meaning of friendship; demanding as a teacher but always supportive, so the effect was inspiring.

Tom was an avid fisherman - the legendary fishing stories were retold at Tom's Irish wake, which was attended by Peter Emily and Chuck Williams.

As well as a road-warrior on the dental CE trail, Tom authored dental articles, and was co-author of a textbook on veterinary radiology. Tom has a secure place in the history of veterinary dentistry as a result of his knowledge of and enthusiasm for dentistry and his skills as a teacher. He will also be remembered as a fine role model, as a veterinarian and as a friend. He will surely be remembered for the stories and picture sets he shared with us on DipVDig – if you have

archived all the DipVDig articles, use the Search function, insert Mulligan and read on if you want to have a good chuckle. Tom would no doubt be happy knowing that his pithy offerings on serious topic strings and the jokes and images he forwarded to DipVDig could form his epitaph. Tom was a family man to the core, the father of Mike, Sean and Tim, and step-dad to Steve and Laurie. He and Mary, Tom's second wife, happily shared their love of many grandchildren in their blended family.

Your AVDC colleagues will miss you, Tom.