



## Dr. Roger J. Neil

January 9, 1938 - April 3, 2024

Dr. Roger J. Neil, age 86, of Kearney, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at his home. A gathering to celebrate the life of Dr. Roger J. Neil will be on Thursday, April 11, 2024 at the Gail & Michael Yanney Pavilion at Yanney Park from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Memorials received by the family will be designated in the future to a small animal health research organization. Please visit [www.hlmkfuneral.com](http://www.hlmkfuneral.com) to leave a tribute or message of condolence. Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services in Kearney are in charge of arrangements.

Roger was born on January 9, 1938 in Lexington, NE to Lloyd and Mary Ann (Weaver) Neil. He received his DVM from Colorado State University and began a lifelong career as a veterinarian. Roger owned and operated Hilltop Pet Clinic and also Happy Tails Pet Lodge for many years. He also worked with thousands of dogs while teaching Canine College classes, often with his faithful demo dog companion, Brady. Roger was united in marriage to Marla Bouton on December 31, 1982.

Surviving relatives include his wife, Marla of Kearney; son, Eric Neil of New Haven, CT; daughter, Susie Aistrope of Richland, MO; grandchildren, Zoe Wright-Neil, Zellie Smith, Lulie Power, Railan Aistrope, Bill Aistrope, Lila Neil; great grandchildren, Spencer Smith, Roger Smith; brother, Paul Neil

Roger was preceded in death by his parents; twin brother, Roy Neil

# Previous Events

## Gathering and Celebration

APR 11. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

Gail & Michael Yanney Pavilion  
2020 West 11th Street  
Kearney, NE 68845

# Tribute Wall

CS

“ To Marla & Family,

*So very sorry for your difficult loss. Dr. Neil was a wonderful, kind, & caring vet who helped our family so many times with our precious pets. We could always count on him.*

*Dr. Neil impacted many lives with his expert knowledge and devotion to animals. He was one-of-a-kind and a true legend. We are forever grateful and will remember him always.*

*With deepest condolences,  
Larry & Cyndi Schroeder*

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**Cynthia Schroeder** - April 28, 2024 at 12:46 PM

KW

“ to the family of Dr. Neil,

*Woking for Dr. Neil was one of the greatest joy and pleasure I had. Being around all the pets and people meant the world to me and it was a great honor. Will miss an exceptional veterinarian, a wonderful boss, and a great friend. Will be missed dearly !!!*

*With all the appreciation in the world, Kate Walker*

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**kate walker** - April 15, 2024 at 02:36 PM





“ 1 file added to the album Memorial Video



**Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services** - April 11, 2024  
at 04:01 PM

JS

“ Dear Roger, you were a friend to all,  
especially the creatures great and small. Your  
kind words, gentle voice and competent,  
compassionate hands touched so many lives.  
Thank you for everything, for your friendship  
and enriching our lives. You will be missed! With love, Jodi & Roger  
Traphagan.



**Jodi Sowl** - April 10, 2024 at 10:16 PM

DT

“ Marla and Family ,  
I am so very sorry for your loss and to hear of Roger's passing.  
I am immensely thankful for Roger's mentorship and the positive  
impact he has had on my life and career as a DVM. I have many  
fond memories of working at Hilltop Pet Clinic during high school  
and college . Roger's patience, wisdom and encouragement were  
immeasurable .  
Roger will be missed by both human and all those feathered and  
furred.  
With deepest sympathy ,  
Dawn Lomicky Todd and Family

**Dawn Todd** - April 10, 2024 at 08:14 PM

SS

“ Marla, Please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers at this time. Doug and Sylvia Stutzman

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**Sylvia Stutzman** - April 10, 2024 at 05:11 PM

CL

“ To have known Roger is to have lived a greatly enriched life. We have had so many memorable shared experiences and adventures together. Roger always carried with him a great sense of humor and a zest for life that embraced it with an appreciation of all of its ironies and contradictions as well as its joys. He was a wonderful example of how to live life well, and you couldn't spend a lot of time with him without some of it rubbing off on you. I know the celebration of his life will be filled with lots of memorable, fun, funny, and meaningful moments shared with him. I can just hear him taking after his mother and saying, "Oh I wish I could be there!"  
Steve and Cherie Loudon

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**Cherie Loudon** - April 10, 2024 at 01:22 PM

ML

“ To the family of Roger,

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you celebrate a life well-lived.*

*With love and sympathy,  
Mary Ellen Lantis and family*

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**Mary Ellen Lantis** - April 10, 2024 at 10:15 AM

KR

“ Marla: My prayers are for you, at this difficult time. You & Roger made square dancing a lot of fun in the 1990's! Your hard work contributing to a compassionate and successful business in Kearney was SO much more than "the sum of your parts". What a brilliant, but down-to-earth veterinarian he was. My sympathy.



Kathy Campbell RN - April 09, 2024 at 05:36 PM

WS

“ Neil/Aistrope families, we are very sorry for your loss and to hear of Roger's passing. What a blessing to have had our lives and paths cross in that very special community of Kearney, Nebraska. We had good times and sad times and lots of laughter through it all. As you celebrate this amazing man who touched so many lives and made a difference to each of us, may you find joy in seeing him in each of you. Knowing Susie and Eric years ago, I guarantee the goodness was passed along. Roger was most definitely greeted by our Lord and a host of family and friends - the two legged and four legged and all the other critters he indulged in trying to save for all of us who just couldn't say goodbye. Hugs to you all! (The Will and Mary Ellen Lantis families)

Wendy Soulek - April 08, 2024 at 02:25 PM

FF

“ Roger was loved not only for his love of animals but also as a friend to so many. He cared for all of our family's four legged family members during their lifetimes and their journeys to the Rainbow Bridge. Thank you, Roger, for the conversations, the loving care to us and our pets and being the good man you were.

Fred George family - April 07, 2024 at 04:43 PM

SW

“ So sorry to see this. He always took the best care of my cats, missed him when he retired.

Sharon Wiedel - April 05, 2024 at 02:10 PM

CS

“ Connie S. purchased the Cheeseboard Gourmet Gift for the family of Dr. Roger J. Neil.



Connie S. - April 05, 2024 at 01:35 PM

DS

“ This is such sad news. Dr. Neil was my favorite veterinarian. When I lived in Kearney from 1975-1988 he took care of my cats and dogs. We both purchased German shepherds from the Baldwins--the dogs were brothers, his was Grimm (if I remember correctly) and ours was Goliath. Grimm lasted longer than Goliath and when we had to put Goliath down at 3 yrs of age, we ALL cried even though for some reason Goliath had decided that men in white coats were dangerous so he had to be muzzled when he was brought in--any women were okay but not Dr. Neil which made all of us very sad knowing his love for those dogs! It was more than once that I made a special trip from Holdrege to Kearney just so my cat would be seen by Dr. Neil! I am grateful to have known him and privileged to have him doctor my animals! Connie Streeter

Don & Connie Streeter - April 05, 2024 at 01:27 PM