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## *Dr. Keith Harrison did house calls*

# Vet's price must have been right for past 47 years

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"I read this story where they said veterinary medicine was so important and I just thought it was an interesting field to get into," he said.

Growing up on the family farm, he also became quite comfortable being around animals.

After graduating from Belleville Collegiate Institute, he taught school at Potter Settlement north of Tweed for a year to raise enough money to attend Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph.

He completed the five-year program in 1954. He spent clinical internships with such veterinarians as Dr. Harry Burns of the Belleville Animal Hospital.

Harrison moved out west to begin his new life as a veterinarian.

He spent a year in Camrose, Alta. but returned to Roslin. He purchased a closed-down cheese factory from his father, renovated it and opened Harrison Animal Hospital in 1957.

"I enjoyed dealing with people because when you treat animals, you have to deal with people. There was always new things coming along in veterinary medicine so that it was never boring," Harrison said.

He said he could write a book about some of the unusual clients and circumstances he's had to deal with in 47 years as a vet.

He recalled how he had to treat a baby elephant once. Apparently, a Quinte-area farmer was planning on taking the animal to the Toronto Exhibition when it got sick.

Harrison treated it for a minor cold with a needle full of antibiotics.

The white mouse was his daughter's; it too needed antibiotics.

He remembers operating on a puppy and removing "a belly full of stones." The owner had spilled some cream on a gravel roadway and the puppy licked it up, stones and all.

"He wasn't the worst for wear," he said.

Harrison did house calls throughout his years in practice and one of the funniest requests was to treat cows who got drunk from eating apples.

"I'd have to give them intravenous and then they would have to sleep it off," he said.

Harrison always chuckles when he

recalls what one of his first clients ever told him.

"A farmer brought this dog in heat and I spayed it. The next day when he came in to pick it up, he looked at the \$6 bill and said I'll never last because that bill was highway robbery.

"Forty-seven years later, I was still practising. I guess I got the last laugh," said Harrison.