

Author, Author!

Dr. Swaim's new book provides some serious *smiles*

What do you get when you cross a crocodile with an octopus?

The answer: an entertaining book full of anecdotes and life lessons by Dr. Steve Swaim, DVM 1965.

The stories in his new book, "I Wanna See A Veterinarian," combine literary devices and literal experiences to create a charming collection of carefully crafted chronicles throughout his time as a student at K-State, practitioner in Wichita, service member in the U.S. Army, practitioner in Denver and veterinary professor at Auburn University.

"Over the years, my veterinary students encouraged me to write a book with the colloquialisms and similes that I would put in my lectures," Dr. Swaim said, who taught for 37 years. "I told them I needed to concentrate on writing the scientific material required by the university. Following retirement, I was again encouraged to write such a book."

Having moved back to his family farm near Wichita after retiring,


Dr. Swaim completed his book in 2010 and published it with a Coffeyville, Kan., publisher, Tanos books.

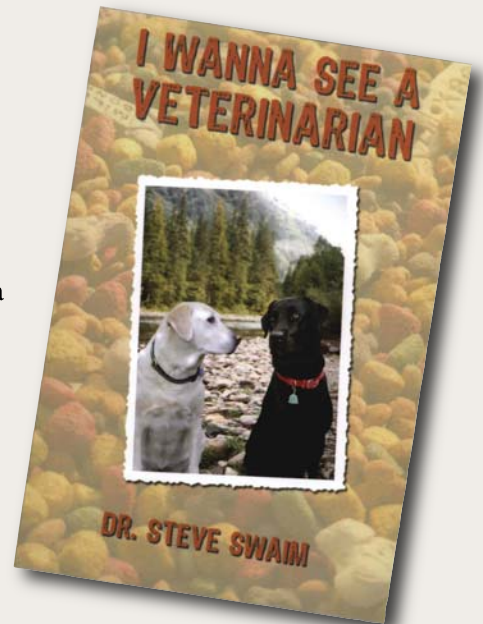
In the book he recounts stories about learning Starling's Law in his first-year class, a cattle pregnancy examination that broke up a classmate's engagement, efforts to administer a pill to a chimpanzee and performing a face-lift on a crocodile. Some of these encounters were, as Dr. Swaim says, as graceful "as an octopus falling out of a tree" or "a pig on roller skates," while others may have you pondering whether "a one-legged duck swims in a circle."

"I enjoyed remembering the events that are contained in the book and the process of writing them," Dr. Swaim said. "Some of the stories are definitely examples of trauma plus time equal humor."

The book contains several episodes of Dr. Swaim's time in veterinary school at K-State, so some of his classmates may recognize themselves or the events.

"I Wanna See A Veterinarian" is available on Amazon.com and a copy is available at the Veterinary Medical Library, call number SF613.S93 A3 2010.

Dr. Swaim also wrote a textbook, "Small Animal Bandaging, Casting and Splinting Techniques," with Dr. Walter Renberg, K-State associate professor of small animal surgery, and Kathy Shike, veterinary technician at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. The book was announced at NAVC in January. 



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