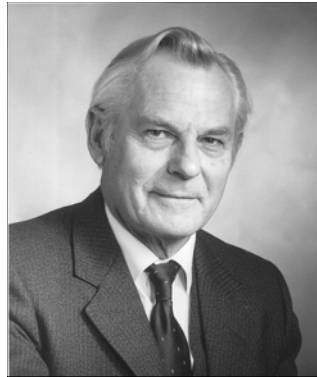


Dr. Ingvar Ekesbo

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine
Honorary Associate, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Doctor of Philosophy
Honorary Doctorate
Professor Emeritus

International Society for Applied Ethology, Honorary Fellow



A short biography of Ingvar Ekesbo by Bo Algers, 2005

Ingvar Ekesbo was awarded an honorary membership in the International Society for Applied Ethology in 1993.

Born on a farm in 1928, Ingvar Ekesbo's interest in animals was stimulated very early. He got his veterinary degree in 1955, PhD in 1966 and became professor in animal hygiene in 1970. His research interest has been in the connection between animal environment and animal health. From 1960 - 66 he undertook the first comprehensive epidemiological mapping-out of health risk factors in cattle herds. Later, together with other scientists in the institute, he extended the work to sows-piglets, slaughter pigs and poultry. He has initiated and performed studies of health and behaviour in relation to single risk factors such as noise, early weaning of piglets, keeping of pigs in darkness, etc.. Ingvar Ekesbo saw already in the 1960s the potential for using ethological methods to study the interaction between animal environments and animal health and welfare. He established early contacts with Professor Eric Fabricius at the Stockholm University. In order to better understand and biologically explain the epidemiological associations he was discovering, he initiated ethological research at the department of animal hygiene in the 1970s, which led to a chair in ethology at the department in the late 1980s. He has emphasized the necessity for efficient disease prevention to know each link in the causal chains behind common animal diseases. Ekesbo could see very early on, the importance of having a broad international network and in 1972 he became a member of the Society for Veterinary Ethology (SVE, now International Society for Applied Ethology). He became a member of Council 1973 and served as president 1977-78. He hosted the SVE annual meeting in Skara in 1978 and together with colleagues he arranged and hosted a joint congress with ISAH (International Society for Animal Hygiene) and SVE in Skara in 1988. Throughout his career, Ekesbo was untiringly advocating for the importance of

using behaviour studies to understand the nature of farm animals and to reveal the extent to which they could adapt to different housing conditions.

Ekesbo served as an expert in the Swedish delegation in the Council of Europe's ad hoc Committee for a Farm Animal Welfare Convention (1972-76). He then became the Swedish representative and expert for the Swedish government in the Council of Europe's Standing Committee for Farm Animal Welfare 1979-1998, where he was the elected chairman from 1979-86 and 1st vice chairman from 1986-1998. In this work, he stressed the importance of describing the natural needs of farm animals in the CoE regulations.

The current (2005) Swedish animal welfare law is based on a written proposal from 1986 prepared by Ekesbo at the pointed request of the Swedish government. Ekesbo has been given a number of awards such as the Swedish Animal Welfare Association's gold medal for research (1970); By the Kiel University, Germany, the Justus von Liebig prize for research, ordained by A. Toepfer Stiftung (1975); By the University of Munich, Germany, the Felix Wankel Prize for Animal Welfare Research (1989); Swedish Farmers' Slaughter Association award (1993); The Eurogroup Gold Medal for research and for considerable service in the Council of Europe's Standing Committee for farm animal welfare (1998); The Swedish Government's gold medal "Illis quorum meruere labores" for his research and contribution to improved animal health and welfare, nationally and internationally (1998).

Ingvar Ekesbo has been in emeritus since 1993.