**Dr. Harold Gonyou**
BSc. University of Guelph, 1974
MSc. University of Alberta, 1977
PhD. University of Saskatchewan, 1980
Adjunct professor, University of Saskatchewan, University of Melbourne

# International Society for Applied Ethology, Honorary Fellow

**A short biography of Dr. Harold Gonyou, written by Joe Stookey in August 2011**

Dr. Harold W. Gonyou received the Honorary Fellow from the International Society of Applied Ethology in 2011.

Harold W. Gonyou was born January 12, 1952 in Chatham, Ontario, Canada. His interest in the science of animal production began while growing up and working on the family farm in southern Ontario. He majored in Animal and Poultry Science at the University of Guelph and after receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in 1974, he moved to the University of Alberta in Edmonton, Alberta to pursue his Master of Science in Animal Physiology. Upon completion of his MSc degree in 1977 he was accepted into a PhD program at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon. There, under the mentorship of Dr. Ray Stricklin, Harold studied feeding behaviour of feedlot cattle and investigated the orientation of cattle to the sun during extreme winter conditions.

His interest and expertise in animal behaviour led him to a faculty position at the University of Illinois in 1980. At Illinois he advanced through the ranks to full Professor, while actively engaged in research, graduate and undergraduate teaching and extension activities. He left Illinois in 1992 to lead the applied ethology research efforts at the Prairie Swine Centre in Saskatoon, SK until he retired in 2011. He was an adjunct Professor with the University of Saskatchewan during his tenure with the Prairie Swine Centre, as well as an adjunct Professor with the University of Melbourne.

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During his career he mentored and graduated 9 PhD and 10 MSc students and published over 100 referred journal articles, numerous book chapters and coauthored the book, 'Socal Behaviour in Farm Animals' with Dr. Linda Keeling. He and his students studied all major farm species (poultry, swine, sheep, cattle, and horses), and covered topics ranging from maternal and social behaviour, to use of space, equipment design and animal welfare. His research involved questions on crepuscular behaviour patterns, kinship and aggression, tolerant social behaviour, human animal interactions, animats, personality types in animals, thermoregulation, causation of stereotypic behaviours and how to best express space requirements.

During his career Dr. Gonyou taught a variety of courses from introductory animal science, environmental management, and animal production, but his greatest contribution has been to instruct over 750 students in farm animal behaviour and animal welfare. His courses were always popular due to his humble confidence, his dry sense of humor and his extensive knowledge and passion for the field of applied animal behaviour and animal welfare. It was during Dr. Gonyou's career that the field of animal behaviour came to be seen as important in animal science departments and within the animal industries within North America. No doubt his leadership, research, teaching and extension played an important role in that development.

To develop his understanding of animal behaviour he became active in the International Society for Applied Ethology, eventually becoming the first North American elected as its president, and later serving as editor of the discipline's international journal, Applied Animal Behaviour Science. His career took him to six continents and 20 countries, and returned him to Canada to focus on applying his expertise to pig production.

He is noted for his scientific approach to anticipate and solve specific livestock industry issues. These have included the study of feeding and drinking behaviour, leading to better equipment designs and management that reduce waste-causing behaviours around feeders and drinkers. His study of social behaviour was directed towards large group housing for growing/finishing pigs and the need for the swine industry to consider group housing of gestating sows. He used allometric principles to determine space requirements for growing/finishing pigs and sows in stalls and he developed a stressful handling model to assist research programs addressing the incidence of non-ambulatory pigs at market. Dr. Gonyou's research efforts have made him a champion for the need to better apply and understand animal behaviour in order to be efficient and create welfare appropriate production of food animals.

He has been the recipient of the Andrew Fraser Award for Contributions to Animal Welfare, presented to him by Canadian Farm Animal Care Trust and the Award for Technical Innovation in Enhancing Production of Safe Affordable Food by the Canadian Society of Animal Science.