



Jewish Vets in Germany between 1918 and 1945 In Memory of Our Colleagues

by Georg Möllers and Johann Schäffer

In 1998 there were only about a dozen of Jewish veterinarians known who practised within Germany's 1920 borders between 1918 and 1945. Today we know of 133 Jewish vets. Most of them had their roots in merchant families, especially livestock dealers, and worked as general practitioners in the countryside.



**Jewish Veterinary Officers
of Worldwar I: from the left**

**Moriz Kahn
Alfred Schwarz
Julius Zanders
Bruno Türkheimer**

To be „Jewish“ did not concern until January 1933. Compared with human medical professionals (10,9 %), the number of Jewish veterinarians was low. With 1,6 %, however, their proportion still was twice the percentage of the whole German Jewish population (0,77 %) in 1933. Right with the beginning of the National Socialistic rule Jewish veterinarians were exposed to different forms of harassment by Nazi organisations or individual persons in decisive positions. Soon after, on April 7th 1933, with the so-called *Gesetz zur Wiederherstellung des Berufsbeamtentums* (law for the restoration of civil service), the prosecution took on an official quality. The *Reichstierärztekammer* (chamber of veterinary medicine) was very eager to Aryanize the German veterinary service. Many of the Jewish veterinarians who were still in Germany in November 1938 were arrested after the pogrom of November 9/10th and kept in several concentration camps for about one month. The few students who had already started their studies in 1933 still could make their exams in Germany, but they did not get a licence. From 1933 on, it was nearly impossible for Jewish students to enter veterinary schools. Based on the *Reichsbürgergesetze* (known as *Nürnberger Gesetze*), on January 31st 1939 all Jewish veterinarians in Germany lost their licence (*Approbation*).



f. I.: Dr. Moriz Kahn, murdered 1943 Auschwitz; Abraham Höxter, murdered 1943 Theresienstadt; Dr. Richard Kantorowicz, † 1946 Berlin; Dr. Alfred Schwarz, † 1946 Chicago; Dr. Julius Zanders, † 1945 Quito; Dr. Hermann Blumenfeld, † 1957 Israel



I.: Dr. Julius Zanders, Mrs. Meta Z., son Bert in Quito;
r.: Dr. Paul Stern, Mrs. Henny, son Hans in Bue. Aires



Hand out of the restored doctoral cert to Mrs. Ruth Cussel/Shatnay by President Dr. Gerhard Greif and Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Sallmann, Jerusalem 2/2004

Fifty-five Jewish vets managed to emigrate in time. Nineteen German Jewish Veterinarians died in concentration camps and ghettos. Two are known to have committed suicide, as they could no longer bear the persecution by the National Socialists. Until 1997, there was no academic act of appreciation or rehabilitation of German Jewish veterinarians. In most of the known cases the withdrawal of academic degrees was cancelled in a general, impersonal way, if at all. In 2003, the *Tierärztliche Hochschule Hannover* (University of Veterinary Medicine Hannover) posthumously restored the doctoral grades of Dr. Hermann Cussel and Dr. Paul Stern in an academic celebration - more than 60 years after they had been negated by an academic commission of the same School.