



John Markus Koch

June 20, 1946 - September 28, 2018

John Markus Koch, 72, passed away on September 28, 2018 at St. Francis Hospital after a brief illness. He served as a veterinarian in Cape Girardeau for 48 years and will be greatly missed by his family and friends in the community.

He was born in Van Nuys, California on June 20, 1946 to Markus and Doris (Geske) Koch. He grew up in Sikeston, MO with his brother Tim and sister Becki. He was active in Trinity Lutheran Church, where his father served as a Minister. He played sports throughout his time at Matthews High School and graduated as Salutatorian in 1964. He attended college at the University of MO-Columbia and graduated from the School of Veterinary Medicine in 1970. He then moved back to Southeast Missouri to start practicing veterinary medicine. John married his wife, Judy Ann Throckmorton on June 26, 1971 in Columbia, MO. They have three sons, James, Jeffrey, and Jonathan. He dearly loved spending time with his children and grandchildren. His family was the light of his life.

John was a man of faith and had been active in the church since childhood. John and Judy have been members of St. Andrew Lutheran Church since 1971. He served in multiple capacities over the years and was president of the congregation from 1987-1988.

Dr. Koch had a life-long fondness for animals, which was apparent to all those around him. Animal lovers knew him for making many house calls and late-night emergency visits over the years. He opened Cape Small Animal Clinic in

September 1974. He had an interest in Orthopedic Surgery and made it a focus of his practice. He operated the clinic for 43 years before turning it over to Dr. Brian Heuring in January 2018. Dr. Koch continued to practice there until shortly before his death. He was president of the Humane Society in Cape Girardeau for many years. He served as president of the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association from 1990-1991 and was honored as Missouri Veterinarian of the Year in 1995. He also authored the "Ask the Vet" column in the SE Missourian for many years.

He had many diverse interests, including painting, gardening, fishing, photography and woodworking. In recent years, he completed a fellowship in woodworking and taught classes on wood engraving at various programs throughout the Midwest. He loved sports and avidly followed the St. Louis Cardinals and Missouri Tigers. He served in many community organizations, and was passionate about the Rotary Club, where he had perfect attendance for over 40 years. Despite his recent illness, he gave a speech to the local chapter just three weeks before his death.

John's family was his proudest accomplishment. He is survived by his wife, Judy; son James (Heather) of Columbia; son Jeffrey (Julie) of Cape Girardeau; son Jonathan of Columbia; grandchildren Sawyer, Peyton, Grant, and Brett of Cape Girardeau, John and Joseph of Columbia; mother Doris, brother Tim (Nellie) Koch, and sister Becki Koch of Sikeston; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins. His father preceded him in death.

The visitation will be on Tuesday, October 2, 2018 from 4-7 pm at Ford and Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home. The funeral will be at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, October 3, 2018 at St. Andrew Lutheran Church. Burial will follow at Cape County Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials or contributions be made to St. Andrew Lutheran Church, the Humane Society, or Autism Speaks.

Cemetery Details

Cape County Memorial Park Cemetery

2315 Highway 61 North
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1909
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Previous Events

Visitation

OCT 2. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Ford & Sons Mt. Auburn Funeral Home
1001 N. Mt. Auburn Rd.
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 334-1313
info@fordandsonsfuneralhome.com
<https://www.fordandsonsfuneralhome.com/>

Service

OCT 3. 1:30 PM (CT)

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
804 N. Cape Rock Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

Tribute Wall

AD

“ *It has been six years since you have been gone, Dr. Koch, and not a day goes by that I don't think of you. I still hope when I go to Cape Small, that I will see you. In my mind, I see you there everywhere I look. I feel close to you when I am there. You were like a brother to me, and a hero. You will never be forgotten* ❤️.



Amy Lee Day - September 28, 2024 at 11:34 AM

AD

“ *Amy Lee Day lit a candle in memory of John Markus Koch*



Amy Lee Day - September 28, 2022 at 06:42 PM

AD

“ *Amy Lee Day sent a virtual gift in memory of John Markus Koch*



Amy Lee Day - September 28, 2022 at 06:42 PM

AD

“ Amy Lee Day lit a candle in memory of John Markus Koch



Amy Lee Day - May 31, 2022 at 03:12 PM

AD

thinking of Dr. Koch so much recently. Need his help, guidance and wisdom. very much lost lately. love you, my brother.

Amy Lee Day - May 31, 2022 at 03:13 PM

AD

Thinking of Dr. Koch so very much. We miss him badly. I can not believe it has been four years. (: . Our little Missy passed away one week ago today. Dr. Koch, you will never be forgotten, we love you so much!

Amy Lee Day - September 28, 2022 at 06:41 PM

AD

“ Amy Lee Day lit a candle in memory of John Markus Koch



Amy Lee Day - September 27, 2021 at 03:01 PM

AD

“ Tomorrow will be three years since you left us and went to heaven. I think of you every day, and oh, the times we have needed you for one of our babies! I still have not come to terms with your death. I never will. One time, our male dog, Rascal, had gotten himself into a bad situation. it was a 'Guy" thing. It was after hours, so you had to come back to the clinic. On our way there, I told my boy friend, Bruce, not to make a joke about what was wrong with our dog, because you were a gentleman. When you saw Rascal, you told us he would be fine. You were trying not to laugh, and you were wincing at Rascal's problem. Next thing I knew, you and Bruce were kind of whispering and laughing! Then Bruce asked you "Rascal should be under by now, right?" You checked, and you were giving him only oxygen... We were all laughing out loud by then. Of course, You fixed Rascal right up, and he was fine. I miss you so very much, you will always be my brother, and I love you.
Amy Lee Day

Amy Lee Day - September 27, 2021 at 02:59 PM

AD

“ It has been two years since God called you home. And I still selfishly ask God why you had to go. Your life on earth was far from finished. I pray for your amazing, sweet wife and family everyday. We all miss and need you. Our animals need you. I am still lost, sometimes I still can not believe you are gone. You were an amazing man, and you are forever in our hearts and on our minds.
With Love,
Amy Lee Day

Amy Lee Day - September 28, 2020 at 01:53 PM

AD

“ *Amy Lee Day lit a candle in memory of John Markus Koch*



Amy Lee Day - September 28, 2020 at 01:42 PM

AD

“ *Amy Lee Day lit a candle in memory of John Markus Koch*



Amy Lee Day - November 25, 2019 at 04:19 PM

AD

I think of our beloved Dr. Koch every day. I think about, and pray for his family every day. And I still cry every day.

Amy Lee Day - November 25, 2019 at 04:20 PM

DB

“ *Skilled hands. Caring heart. Perfect vet.
Diana and Abigail Rose (his patient)*

Diana Blackwell - October 06, 2018 at 12:53 AM

LP

“ I just learned of Dr. Koch's passing today. He was not only my vet for over 40 years, he was also my friend. I remember one Christmas Day when he met me at the clinic to treat a kitten with pneumonia. That kitten lived to be a very old cat. I will miss his kindness and compassion to me and my pets. It was a privilege to know this fine man. My heartfelt sympathy to his family. There will never be another one like him.

Lois Prater - October 04, 2018 at 03:30 PM

CO

“ Dear Becki and Mrs. Koch,
I am so sorry to hear of your loss. My prayers and thoughts are with you during this difficult time.
Cheri Schlitt Olson

Cheri Olson - October 03, 2018 at 08:15 AM

MT

“ Dear Judy, Jim & Heather, Jeffrey & Julie, Jonathan, and grandchildren,

We are deeply sorry for your huge loss of such a wonderful man, husband, father, and grandpa. You all have been and will continue to be in our prayers. May God help you find peace in the coming days and know that you are loved by so many people.

With love,

Tom and Mary (Turek) Schanuel and children

Mary & Tom - October 02, 2018 at 05:08 PM

GL

So sorry to hear about John, I didn't know him very well but I went to School with Tim and Becky. Mrs. Doris Koch, I will be praying for all your family and may God give you comfort to you all and May God Bless you.

Glenda Lomax - October 02, 2018 at 08:55 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John Markus Koch.*



October 02, 2018 at 03:47 PM

AD

“ *To the family of Dr. Koch, I send my deepest sympathies. I have far too many memories to write here..45 years worth of memories. One of my favorites is. About three months ago, Dr. Koch was bragging about his wife, Judy. He said when she left her job, the company had to hire three people to take her place. He loved his family dearly. May God Bless you all. With deep sympathies
Amy Lee Day*



Amy Lee Day - October 02, 2018 at 01:43 PM

DC

“ *Dexter Veterinary Clinic purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of John Markus Koch.*



Dexter Veterinary Clinic - October 02, 2018 at 10:09 AM

JS

“ Dr. Koch had been our vet for so many years. When he walked into a room, standing so tall with his wire rim glasses and his white coat, you just knew everything was going to be ok. We love you and will miss you. Teresa and Julian Steiner

Julian Steiner - October 02, 2018 at 09:49 AM

AD

Those are words I looked for. Those words say it all. When Dr. Koch walked into the room, I knew everything was going to be okay, one way or another.

Amy Lee Day - November 25, 2019 at 04:16 PM

NW

“ I worked at Pass Pets in the mall about 30 years ago, Dr. Koch would come in and check out the pets for us. He was always a very pleasant man.
So sorry for your loss.

Nancy Williams - October 02, 2018 at 03:39 AM

BL

“ So sorry to here of John's passing. My family went to church with the Koch's at Concordia Lutheran Church in Sikeston. My parents, Bernard and Betty Johnson, and my sisters, Kathy, a couple of years younger than John, Jane, about Becky's age and and me, Bernita, around Tim's age remember the family very well. God's blessing on each of you as you deal with the loss of John.

Bernita (Johnson) Leadbetter

Bernita Leadbetter - October 02, 2018 at 12:56 AM

DM

“ Many doctors could tell the same story as mine. While he was very special to me, I'm sure that I don't stand out among his many admirers. John was leader, mentor, colleague and friend to me for 39 years. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word, an icon in our profession, and one of the finest men I have ever known.

Some years ago, when he was president of our association, he would have occasion to address the group. I cannot imagine him having ever taken on a task without doing everything possible to be prepared, conscientious to a fault. Thus, when he knew he would be speaking, I think he must have consulted the "toastmaster's handbook" to be sure to do a good job. I think this because, while he was clearly uncomfortable with it, he "opened with a joke". While he certainly had a sense of humor, stand-up comedy was not his *métier*.

I have often referred my clients and patients to Dr. Koch for those complicated orthopedic surgeries at which he was so skilled. When they asked about him, I replied, "You can absolutely trust his skill and his integrity. The only bad thing I can say about the man is that he can't tell a joke. If that's the worst you can say about a man, he's a pretty good man."

I was shocked and saddened to learn of John's death. It has been a privilege and pleasure to have known him.

Dr. Everett Mobley - October 01, 2018 at 10:09 PM

HH

“ We will really miss him as a *RESPECTED* member of our profession! We at Hicks Animal Hospital are SO sorry for your lose!

Hicks Animal Hospital - October 01, 2018 at 07:04 PM

WI

“ Our sincerest condolences for the family. Dr Koch was a wonderful person and customer many years. . . The Water Doctor Inc.

Water Doctor Inc. - October 01, 2018 at 03:30 PM

DR

“ Dr. Koch has been part of my cat Maggie’s life ever since I brought her home nearly nine years ago. He pulled her out of a dire situation this last summer for which I am so grateful. He is an amazing veterinarian—the best I have ever had. His love for the pets he cared for was visceral. We all felt it; our pets felt it. He will be very much missed.

Debrah Raschke

Debrah Raschke - October 01, 2018 at 01:17 PM

FA

“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



Faye C Amschler - October 01, 2018 at 11:24 AM

FA

“ *Judy and Family, you have our deepest sympathy on your great lost. We have know Doc John from his early days of black power shooting with the Beaver Bend Swamp Rangers. He also took care of one of our dogs, when she needed surgery. He was a wonderful man and doctor. May God be with you and the family in the days ahead.*
Zeno and Faye Amschler.



Faye C Amschler - October 01, 2018 at 11:22 AM



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John Markus Koch.*



October 01, 2018 at 09:59 AM



“ *Tropical Tribute Spray was purchased for the family of John Markus Koch.*



October 01, 2018 at 09:41 AM

HB

“ To the family of our Veterinarian, Dr Koch: we had used his services up through this past summer for all our animals through the years. He always treated them & us with utmost respect. Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time and know now is when your faith has to be strong. May the Lord God of all creation be near you at this time & may you not grieve or mourn his parting but remember him for who he was and those he helped throughout his long career.



Our deepest condolences, Larry Dean & Harryette Miller Burnette

Harryette Miller Burnette - October 01, 2018 at 08:58 AM

DB

“ Since 1974 he has been our family vet for four generations; he helped save so many lives of our furkids and helped send them to Rainbow Bridge when it was time for them to go. We always remember he had bad knees, but it was because he would get down on the floor with your pet, if that is what was most comfortable for them. He always helped any pet in need and took in many strays; he also did so much work for the Humane Society. Dr. Koch was always so loving and generous and kind to both animals and their owners. We are so sorry he didn't get to enjoy his retirement longer. We remember how he talked about his grandkids and loved spending time with them. We know Dr. Koch was greeted by so many dogs, cats and other animals when he crossed over and met them at the Rainbow Bridge.

We send our deepest condolences to the family and will be forever grateful for all he did to help so many of our pets. Godspeed, Dr. Koch, rest in peace.

*Sincerely,
Deborah & Bob Bessette*

Deborah Bessette - October 01, 2018 at 08:17 AM

LB

“ In 1973, when we got our first dog whom we called Kaycee, we took her to Sky View and there met a young vet named John Koch who treated our puppy. When we learned he had started his own practice, we went with him. After more than 45 years, he was still our vet, and he saw a parade of 11 dogs over four generations and cared for each one (and us!) with gentle patience and extraordinary skill. We knew that, for health reasons, he was scaling back on how much he worked, but the news of his death has hit us very hard. To observe that he was a good man and a good doctor does not even come close to describing how much he meant to us. He was our friend. One quick story that illustrates his unsurpassed care of animals and the humans who loved them. When Kaycee was at the end of her life, I (Leon) caught up to John at Rotary and asked if maybe he could come to our house to put her down. He came that afternoon and put her to sleep in her own bed. We all cried, including John. Weeks later I asked John at Rotary about the bill for his services. "No," he said, "that was my last act of love for sweet Kaycee." We both teared up again. As Patricia has noted, the world is a less kindly place with him gone.

--Patricia and Leon Book

Leon Book - October 01, 2018 at 07:30 AM

AD

Dr. Koch did the same for my mom. He drove 60 miles round trip to euthanize mom's beloved dog Lou, an airdale terrier..and wouldn't let her pay him for that.

Amy Lee Day - October 02, 2018 at 01:51 PM

LB

“ Dr Koch was a very patient, kind and skilled vet. He was so calm and articulate in his explanations and in the treatment of our pets. Once we found a white kitten and brought her in for a checkup. She jumped from the exam table to his white coat shoulders where she sat for a brief moment, then she leaped to the high windowsill. He took it all in stride with humor. When my young tortie cat swallowed a ribbon he helped treat her and assured me with “You never know what these little mouths will get into.” He had a tender heart for animals. They were very fortunate to be under his care. We will miss his gentle voice.

Louise & Donald Bodenheimer - September 30, 2018 at 10:02 PM

PH

“ Dr. Koch took such wonderful care of our dear Buffy. I will never forget when Buffy became deathly ill one year on Christmas Eve. I had to call Dr. Koch at home, and he met us--on Christmas Eve--at the office, to get Buffy started on intensive care that doctored him back to health. His care was always above and beyond--from the heart! Well done, good and faithful Dr. Koch!

Pat Heckert - September 30, 2018 at 09:43 PM

SP

“ John was our Vet for many years.
He loved cats and even took one of my kittens and every year they had a birthday party for him.
I will miss him fro a far.

sally Pool - September 30, 2018 at 09:08 PM

JD

“ Jeff our sincere condolences on the loss of your father. He took care of our pets for many years. Once, while trying to vaccinate our collie pup for distemper, she jumped and he vaccinated me instead. He called later to see if I was OK and my husband told him I was out chasing cars. We had many a laugh about it through the years. He was a good man.

jJoyce Daniels - September 30, 2018 at 08:04 PM

LP

“ Cape West Rotary and Rotary District 6060 Governor Linda Puchbauer will miss John's smiling face every Thursday at our Rotary meetings.

Linda Puchbauer - September 30, 2018 at 07:53 PM

VE

I had the privilege of working for Dr. Koch several years. I always had the utmost respect for him and his medical skills. My prayers to the family.

Vicci Eaton - September 30, 2018 at 09:45 PM

CA

“ Dr. Koch meant the world to us and to so many clients and friends. He was truly a generous, gifted doctor and one of the kindest people I have ever known. We were immensely blessed to know him and send prayers for comfort to his family. He is simply irreplaceable.

Caroline Austin - September 30, 2018 at 07:28 PM



“ *He is the best vet I have ever had and when I moved to Florida in 1996 I would call him to ask for advise on my cats. I always said that if I could afford it I would take my cats to Cape for veterinary care. He was truly loved and will be truly missed.*

Phyllis Wilcox - September 30, 2018 at 07:04 PM

PW

“ *Phyllis Wilcox lit a candle in memory of John Markus Koch*



Phyllis Wilcox - September 30, 2018 at 06:59 PM

FM

“ *Dr Koch has been my vet since he opened been by side with the loss of several cats and several dogs. There will never be a vet that can even attempt to fill his shoes. He has been there with my dog needed him. My heart goes out to his entire family. He was very special person and definitely chose the correct career. It is our loss. God Bless his family. Frances Pulley Myers*

Frances Myers - September 30, 2018 at 06:58 PM



“ *Pretty Please was purchased for the family of John Markus Koch.*



September 30, 2018 at 06:20 PM

LA

“ Dr. Koch was my Veterinarian for over 35 years. He helped me through some very difficult times in my life. He was a wonderful, compassionate man. My heart goes out to his family who he spoke of often and fondly. I will miss him dearly.

Linda Alberson

Linda Alberson - September 30, 2018 at 06:02 PM

JF

“ I'm very sorry for your loss. He has been my fur babies doctor for many years. He was very compassionate and will be missed.

Julie Fiehler - September 30, 2018 at 05:42 PM

EF

“ He cared for every one of our pets for as long as I can remember with such loving care for them and for our family. What a loss for the community and his family and friends. He worked with passion but with compassion and that is rare to find. Sending much love and prayers for all that loved him and that he touched.

Eric Norman Family

Eric Norman Family - September 30, 2018 at 05:01 PM

ND

“ I didn't know John, but I just heard he saved Mac the Pitbull and other doggies when it was quite dangerous to himself.

The world has lost a kind and good soul.

My condolences to the family and his loved ones.

Nikita Devan - September 30, 2018 at 02:42 PM

BE

“ *He was kind and soft-spoken to our dogs and so kind to us when their time came, a shining example for caregivers, both human and animal.*

Beverly - September 30, 2018 at 02:34 PM

RW

“ *My thoughts and prayers are with you all. He was the kindest person and a wonderful vet.*

Robin Williams - September 30, 2018 at 02:24 PM

RP

My heart aches for Dr. Koch's Family during this time. Dr.Koch was such an amazing person and Veterinarian, he will truly be missed by all that new him, My Deepest Condolences. God Bless!

Rhonda Poe - September 30, 2018 at 03:57 PM

GF

I had the privilege of knowing Dr. Koch since before he opened Cape Small Animal Clinic. He has been my Vet all of these years. John was an amazing person and Veterinarian and will be terribly missed by everyone. My deepest sympathies to all of his family. Gretchen Fee

Gretchen Fee - September 30, 2018 at 04:55 PM

KG

My first meeting with John and Judy was on a bus trip. I don't remember where. Then later, on a Mediterranean Voyage where I left all my camera gear on the airport shuttle. John came to my rescue by sharing his photos with me for a DVD project I had planned. In the short time that I new John, he was a good role model for me and many other men. John may your soul rest in peace. May the hope of the risen Christ give comfort to John's family. Ken and Joyce Gibbar

Ken Gibbar - October 02, 2018 at 02:27 PM