



Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM

May 13, 1950 - May 24, 2026

On Sunday, May 24, 2026, Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM, age 76, known by most as “Doc Rod”, died at the Good Shepherd Care Center in Versailles surrounded by his loving family. Rodney was born on May 13, 1950, at St. Joseph’s Hospital in Boonville, Missouri, to Billy and Dorothy Chapman. He was a lifelong resident of Versailles, Missouri, and a man whose kindness, dedication, and compassion touched countless lives throughout his community.

As a young boy, Rodney wanted to be a veterinarian. He loved all animals, especially large ones. He enjoyed horseback riding and collecting Chevy classic cars. Rodney attended Versailles schools graduating from Versailles High School in 1968. He was involved with Boy Scouts of America, where he earned his Eagle Scout degree. Later he continued his education at the University of Missouri, Columbia, with a Bachelor’s of Science degree in 1972. He attended graduate school for a year before beginning his Doctorate in Veterinary Science. He graduated with his Doctorate in 1977 and began practicing veterinary medicine with Leo Rohlfing, DVM, in Hermann, Missouri. He devoted his life to veterinary medicine and became one of the area’s most respected veterinarians. In 1980, Rodney fulfilled his dream by opening his own veterinary clinic in Versailles, where he worked tirelessly caring for animals and mentoring many aspiring veterinary professionals throughout the years. His knowledge and passion for the profession earned him numerous

awards and recognition, and he was often invited to return to MU as a guest speaker for veterinary classes.

Rodney was a proud lifetime member of the Missouri Veterinary Medical Association, where he was honored as a member of the Hall of Fame. In 1995, he became president of the MVMA. He was also chairman of the MVMA advisory committee to The College of Veterinary Medicine, member of the Missouri Volunteer Veterinary Corps, 2019 President of Missouri Veterinarian Trail Riders Association, and 2000 MVMA Veterinarian of the Year. He supported MVMA every year by volunteering at the State Fair. He was also a faithful member of the Versailles United Methodist Church.

Rodney was a blessing to his family, friends, clients, and the entire community. Anyone who knew Rodney loved him for his gentle spirit, warm heart, and genuine love for all animals. Whether helping a family care for a beloved pet or offering guidance to young professionals entering the field, Rodney always gave his time generously and with compassion.

Outside of his work, Rodney enjoyed life to the fullest. If he was not caring for animals, he could often be found enjoying trail rides with close friends or attending car shows with his brother. He especially treasured time spent with his family and adored his nieces and nephews and their families, sharing with them his lifelong love of animals and the outdoors.

On November 14, 1998, Rodney married Cheryl Salmons, who survives at the home. Also surviving are his brother, Kirk (Donna) Chapman of Versailles; his sister, Pamela (Danny) Murdock of Versailles and his sister-in-law, Debby Favazza of Barnett. Additionally, surviving are his nephews, Kane and Lance Chapman; Heath (Dawn) Murdock and their sons Trace and Reese; Ryan (Kim) Murdock and their daughters Raegann and Brenna, extended family members, dear friends, colleagues, and the countless clients whose lives he

touched throughout his forty-five year career.

Rodney was preceded in death by his parents, Billy and Dorothy Chapman; his grandparents, Lee and Annabel Chapman and Kenneth and Gladys Goodman and his in-laws, Bill and Patricia Salmons.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, May 30th, at 12:00 p.m., at the Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home in Versailles with Pastor Pati Robertson officiating. The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Saturday, at the funeral home. Inurnment will be held at a later date in the Versailles Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions be made to the MVMA (Missouri Veterinary Medical Association), at 2500 Country Club Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109 in Rodney's honor.

Arrangements are under the direction and care of the Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home of Versailles.

Previous Events

Visitation

MAY 30. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Versailles Chapel
207 North Monroe St.
Versailles, MO 65084
(573) 378-4655

Funeral Service

MAY 30. 12:00 PM (CT)

Kidwell-Garber Funeral Home - Versailles Chapel
207 North Monroe St.
Versailles, MO 65084
(573) 378-4655

Tribute Wall

JQ

“ Pam, so sorry to learn of Rodney’s passing. He was a character with his striking facial hair and his twinkling eyes. Always a smile and a kind word. Sending blessings to all of you.

Jill (Chibley) Quigley - June 05 at 10:31 AM

JM

“ John & Paige Meyer lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM



John & Paige Meyer - June 04 at 01:34 AM

NL

“ Nathan Lofland lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM



Nathan Lofland - June 03 at 01:25 AM



“ I was a veterinary school classmate of Rodney's and am truly sorry to hear about his passing. I remember his infectious smile and trademark mustache. He was always friendly, jovial and kind. Veterinary school was a challenging time and knowing him was one of my joyful memories.

Karen Morris - June 01 at 09:39 AM



I was known at the time as Karen Fenton, DVM

Karen Morris - June 01 at 09:40 AM

CD

“*Rodney was an incredible person. He will be missed. Thoughts and prayers to family and friends.*”

Charlie Daniels - May 31 at 08:38 PM

JP

“*Jo Papen lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*”



Jo Papen - May 30 at 12:35 PM

H(

“*Holly Martin (Harleman) lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*”



Holly Martin (Harleman) - May 30 at 09:45 AM



“*Steve-Peggi Sargent lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*”



Steve-Peggi Sargent - May 30 at 08:59 AM

LH

“ Praying for the family ! He was always a pleasure to speak to and was a joy to have him as my neighbor (next to At Your Service Auto Sales & Accessories). I will miss seeing his green Dodge veterinarian truck drive by as I have missed seeing it since the veterinarian clinic closed. God Bless .



Leon Horning - May 30 at 08:23 AM

JT

“ Cheryl - Sending prayers and thoughts at this time. Dick and I always enjoyed and appreciated our friendship with Rodney. Joyce

Joyce Taylor - May 30 at 12:08 AM



“ 175 files added to the album LifeTributes



Kidwell-Garber Funeral Homes - May 29 at 06:26 PM

WI

“ *Willa.stfford lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



Willa.stfford - May 29 at 06:17 PM

RM

“ *Rachel C.G Martin lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



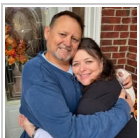
Rachel C.G Martin - May 29 at 05:08 PM

SD

“ *Shelia Taylor, D.V.M. lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



Shelia Taylor, D.V.M. - May 29 at 01:08 PM



“ *I will miss Dr. Chapman coming into the office for visits while in Jeff. I will remember him always being kind, gentle and caring and of course smiling! His stories were great to listen to and I will miss him. My prayes are with his family and friends.*

Michelle Gentges - May 29 at 01:02 PM

RF

“ Robin Ferguson lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM



Robin Ferguson - May 29 at 11:55 AM

KG

“ I have known Rodney most of my life. Lived next door to his sweet Grandma Annabel and spent so much time there. He is literally one of the kindest men I have ever been blessed to know. Heaven gained an angel and he will be missed so much.



Kelly Gramke - May 28 at 08:44 PM

BF

“ Doc Rod very compassionate human being and vet. My Son's horse several years ago foaled and the foal was huge. Poor thing couldn't nurse and we had to call Rodney out to help. He came during daylight hours and left in the dark he was there for hours trying to save my Son's colt. My Son knew it was going to be expensive and he was prepared for that. That horse was my Son's responsibility so he was prepared for the vet bill. When he received the bill not only was he shocked but we were as well. \$35 was the entire bill. Doc Rod was there for hours and tried numerous things and administered medicine. My Son did lose the colt. She just could not be saved but God Bless Rod Chapman he tried, and tried. This 13 year old boy was so grateful to Rodney for all he did. This showed him the LOVE Rodney had not only for the animals but compassion for the people he helped. Rodney could of charged my Son alot of money and by all means he should have he worked hard with this colt but his heart was guiding him his love for those he served. R.I.P. Doc Rod you will be missed deeply by this Community.

Bonnie Fields - May 28 at 06:36 PM

HD

“ Though I did not know him well, our paths crossed in veterinary medicine a few times. I met Rodney at some of our district meetings and animal health update gatherings. He was, of course, someone you could pick out from across the room with his famous facial hair. I never saw him without a smile on his face - that is something to be remembered for in of itself. And like the animals we care for, veterinarians are in tune with how someone feels to be around, independent of words. Rodney exuded warmth and compassion; the animal world will be missing a caretaker and friend with his passing.



Haley Dingfelder, DVM

Haley Dingfelder, DVM - May 28 at 05:13 PM



“ David White lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM



David White - May 28 at 05:07 PM



“ Dawn Lehman lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM



Dawn Lehman - May 28 at 04:37 PM



Rodney was the most compassionate vet and person. I often thought of him after moving away from Versailles and was in need of a Vet, wishing he was near by to call on. Prayers to his family and God's peace and comfort be with you. 🙏🌸🙏

Dawn Lehman - May 28 at 04:40 PM



“ Cindy Hall Smith And Walter Smith lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM



Cindy Hall Smith and Walter Smith - May 28 at 04:24 PM

MC

“ Marion & Jennifer Connell lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM



Marion & Jennifer Connell - May 28 at 04:18 PM

GA

“ Gene & Joyce Anderson lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM



Gene & Joyce Anderson - May 28 at 03:47 PM

PC

“ Patricia Chism lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM



Patricia Chism - May 28 at 03:09 PM

GA

“ One of the very best!



Ginger Arment - May 28 at 01:47 PM

KH

“ *Kathy Hintt lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



Kathy Hintt - May 28 at 01:22 PM

KH

I am so sorry for your loss! My condolences for the family, prayers 🙏

Kathy Hintt - May 28 at 01:23 PM

DM

“ *I have called on veterinarians for most of my professional life. One person always stands out; Rodney Chapman. Rodney was a veterinarian's veterinarian. He truly cared about animals and always did. We will miss him.*

Dennis and Charleen Meyer

dennis meyer - May 28 at 01:05 PM

MP

“ *Mancil And Peggy Porter lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



Mancil and Peggy Porter - May 28 at 01:01 PM

JS

“ *Joan Shepp lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



Joan Shepp - May 28 at 11:42 AM

TJ

“ *Terry & Monica Jones lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



terry & Monica Jones - May 28 at 11:26 AM

PA

“ *Patricia lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



Patricia - May 28 at 10:33 AM

DH

“ *Deanna Hodges lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



Deanna Hodges - May 28 at 10:25 AM



“ *Bill Teresa Wiecken lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



Bill Teresa Wiecken - May 28 at 12:14 AM



“ *I met Rodney in 1978, and what a great guy he was to know. He will always hold a special place in my heart. My sincere condolences to his wife and the Chapman family.*

Robin Hess - May 27 at 09:58 PM



“ *Bill And Kathie Blomberg lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



Bill and Kathie Blomberg - May 27 at 09:53 PM



Rodney was a great guy. We always enjoyed visiting with him. He was very sincere and genuine

Bill and Kathie Blomberg - May 27 at 09:56 PM



Bill and Kathie Blomberg

Bill and Kathie Blomberg - May 27 at 09:57 PM



“ *Dr. Chapmen was a dear friend of my grandpa and he is one of the reasons I became the veterinarian I am today. I will forever be grateful for his friendship and mentorship. I always loved running into him at MVMA events and keeping him up-to-date of all things happening as a new graduate in veterinary medicine. His laughter and kindness will be dearly missed. Thank you for everything Doc. Hopefully you are enjoying some nice cars and good horse trails. Your memory will live on in all of those lives that you have touched while you were here with us. - with love, Alyssa Shelby (Thomas) MU CVM Class of 2017*

Alyssa Shelby - May 27 at 06:43 PM



“ *TENESSA REHMER lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



TENESSA REHMER - May 27 at 11:03 AM



“ *Michele Miller lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



Michele Miller - May 27 at 10:28 AM

RW

“ *Rich Williams lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



Rich Williams - May 27 at 05:54 AM

RS

“ *I have known Rodney nearly all my life. When I heard he was going to Vet School I was not surprised. His dedication to the animals he attended to and the humans he comforted went above and beyond. He always answered the call, no matter the hour or how long he had been on call. He was the epitome of a veterinarian and one that will never be replaced. Our best to his wife, sister and brother, and the extended families. Ray E. Sousley and Family*

Ray E Sousley - May 26 at 11:28 PM

MG

“ *Marleen Gerber-Baker lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



Marleen Gerber-Baker - May 26 at 10:51 PM

KD

“ *Kimberly M Davidson lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM*



Kimberly M Davidson - May 26 at 08:46 PM

DF

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Rodney's wife brother and family. He will be truely missed! Narrs

Dean Narr Family - May 26 at 07:01 PM

DM

“ The families are in our thoughts and prayers.



David Debbie Mccollom - May 26 at 06:53 PM

DN

“ Dean And Victoria Narr lit a candle in memory of Rodney Kent Chapman, DVM



Dean and Victoria Narr - May 26 at 06:50 PM

DN

“ We first met Rod about 25 yrs ago and from the first meeting Dean and I knew he was one of a kind. He was so funny , personal and all round Great guy also The Best VET we'd ever had or seen. No mattered where we traveled everyone said yep Rodney Was the Best and he was. Rodney will truely be missed and never be forgotten! Dean & Victoria

Dean and Victoria Narr - May 26 at 06:48 PM

RF

“ Rodney was a friend and outstanding Veterinarian 🐾. His compassion for those he served was beyond belief! Prayers for his remaining family to find comfort and peace 🙏
🐾



Ray & Patty Forrest - May 26 at 06:18 PM

GS

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Gene J Schoenhoff - May 26 at 04:16 PM

DP

I served on many boards and committes with Rodney. He was always positive, happy, and a peace maker ❤️❤️ Dave Prigel SW Missouri

David A Prigel - May 26 at 06:50 PM

RM

I've known Rodney literally all my life. He was a dear friend and one of the kindest persons I've ever known. He was "Uncle" Rodney to my girls. He'll never be forgotten and always loved. To all his family, may you eventually find peace in your hearts.

Rachel (Huff) Manzelli

Rachel Manzelli - May 27 at 02:15 AM



Rodney was the best vet I knew, he was very kind and compassionate., and cared deeply for his patients and their owners. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family. .

Sheri DeJarnette - May 27 at 07:48 AM



What a bunch of fellers!

Ken Skouby - May 29 at 02:19 PM