

# Untiring veterinary care

**Walter Stephen "Brick" Smith**

Veterinary surgeon

**Born:** August 9, 1910; Tocomwal, NSW

**Died:** January 19, 2006; Adelaide

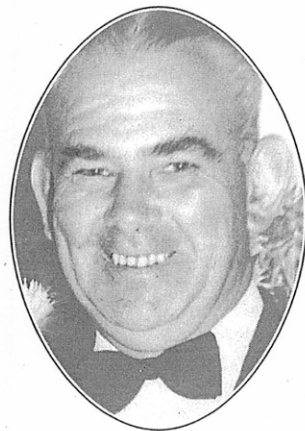
**W**ALTER "Brick" Smith was a prominent veterinary surgeon who made significant contributions to SA and his profession. Born in Tocomwal, NSW, he was educated at Hay Memorial High School and the University of Sydney. He graduated BVSc in 1932 and commenced his professional working life with the Tasmanian Department of Agriculture.

He spent three years in Tasmania before moving to SA as government veterinary officer and also as lecturer in veterinary hygiene and allied subjects at Roseworthy Agricultural College.

During World War II, he attained the rank of major and the post of deputy assistant director of hygiene with the 1st Armoured Division and the 3rd Australian Infantry Division.

After the war, he returned to the Department of Agriculture in SA and became deputy chief inspector of stock in 1952 and chief inspector of stock in 1955. At his retirement he was also chief government veterinary surgeon.

The years immediately before and after World War II were lean ones for the veterinary profession in SA; its numbers were small, and its value to the primary industry of the state was not adequately recognised in high places. The remarkable improvement in the following years was largely due to the faith and energy



of Brick Smith and a small band of professional colleagues, to whom he characteristically gave much of the credit.

However, it was principally through Brick's own untiring efforts that SA was able to boast a harmony and integration of animal health services, private practice, and laboratory services which were the admiration of all other states.

He was the inspiration behind the highly successful campaign for the control and eradication of footrot in sheep. Other notable contributions he made

were in the areas of eradication of pul-  
lorum disease of poultry and pleuro-  
pneumonia of cattle.

He also gave notable service as chair-  
man of the Stock Medicines Board, as  
chief inspector of apiaries, and to the  
Veterinary Public Health Committee of  
the National Health and Medical Re-  
search Council.

He was active in Australian Veterinary  
Association affairs for many years, serv-  
ing as a member of Divisional Com-  
mittees and the Australian Veterinary  
Association Council. He was elected fed-  
eral president of the Australian Veteri-  
nary Association in 1965-66. In 1971, one  
of the highest honours in the veterinary  
profession was conferred on him when  
he was invested as a Fellow of the  
Australian Veterinary Association. Fel-  
lowships of this nature are reserved for  
veterinarians who have given outstand-  
ing service to their profession and Brick  
Smith was the first South Australian to  
receive this honour.

After his retirement in 1973, he con-  
tinued to play a part in Association  
affairs researching the history of veteri-  
nary services in SA.

He is survived by Una, his wife of 71  
years, children Jim, Helen and Sue, five  
grandchildren, nine great grandchildren,  
and one great great-grandchild.

Information for this obituary was supplied by  
Walter Stephen Smith's family and the Aus-  
tralian Veterinary Association.