



## Dr. Mike Mitchel

July 25, 2015

Mike MITCHEL, DVM, 65, of Plant City, died on July 25, 2015, and was greeted at the gates of heaven by many of the cats and dogs that he had cared for and comforted over his forty year career in veterinary medicine. Mike was raised, along with his sister Caren Mitchel, by his parents Mark and Betty Mitchel in Fair Lawn, NJ. In 1968, he graduated from Fair Lawn High School, where he was a star golfer. Next, Mike attended the University of Miami, where he met his best friend and lifelong companion in the adventures of life, Sue McCarthy Mitchel. Mike served in the U.S. Air Force, then attended the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, where at graduation he earned the outstanding surgeon award. Mike opened Suncoast Veterinary Clinic in 1981 in Valrico and later Mobile Pet Medic serving clients in east Hillsborough County and west Polk County. Throughout his career, Mike was much respected by his clients and employees for his compassion, generosity, the quality of care he provided to his patients, and his high ethics. Mike was both a scientist and an artisan. He loved supporting his beloved daughter, Sarah Rae Mitchel, and Durant H.S. Thespians by crafting props and scenery for their theatrical events. Mike was also renowned in Plant City for his Halloween and Christmas yard displays which included many handcrafted items, and which attracted thousands of viewers. Additionally, during his later years, he enjoyed singing at nursing homes and charity events. Mike also loved boating on his Grand Banks trawlers, anchoring out and rafting with friends for family vacations. Recently retired, Mike and Sue were able to fulfill

their dreams of cruising to Norway, Alaska, and the Panama Canal, and camping in Maine. Mike will be sorely missed by his family, his neighborhood, and his profession. Donations may be made in Dr. Mike Mitchel's memory to Best Friends Animal Society. Expressions of condolence at [www.HopewellFuneral.com](http://www.HopewellFuneral.com)

# Cemetery Details

## **Hopewell Memorial Gardens**

6005 County Road 39 South  
Plant City, FL 33567  
(813) 737-3128  
[office@hopewellfuneral.com](mailto:office@hopewellfuneral.com)  
<https://www.hopewellfuneral.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ Hopewell Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Dr. Mike Mitchel



Hopewell Funeral Home - October 19, 2015 at 03:45 PM

CT

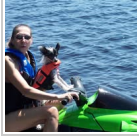
“ To Sue & Family, I just recently was made aware of Mike's passing. I send my heartfelt condolences to each of you. It's been many years since I walked into Suncoast Clinic as a NY transplant to interview as a position as a Veterinary Tech. Mike & Marge hired me & to this day I still share my fond experiences working there. I was "spoiled" by the knowledge, expertise & cutting edge technology that was a primary concern to best help all the animals that came through those doors. Upon eventually returning to NY I could not find another practice that came close to the standard of care they provided. Very proud to be a part of that while it lasted & many fond memories. So sorry to read about his passing. My best to you always, Chrissy

Chrissy Torrance (Enzor at the time) - March 01, 2016 at 05:44 PM



Thank you, Chrissy. So nice to hear from you. Appreciate your kind words. I know Mike always enjoyed working with you.

Sue Mitchel - March 21, 2016 at 08:49 AM



“ Dear Sue, I just received the current issue of JAVMA today and read of Mike's passing. Please accept my sincere condolences. I cannot imagine the magnitude of your loss. Having worked side by side with Mike over 12 years at Suncoast Veterinary Clinic, I feel gratitude for having worked with such a brilliant diagnostician and surgeon during that time. I learned so much from him. And he also truly embraced allowing me to spread my wings so that I could practice avian and exotic animal medicine during that time. I have many wonderful memories from my years at SVC, and I will always remember Mike's incredibly wry wit and often off-beat sense of humor. Dr. Marge Wissman (and Bill Parsons)

---

**Marge Wissman** - February 29, 2016 at 06:38 PM



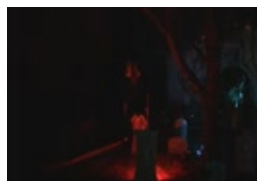
Hi, Marge. Thank you for writing and sharing your appreciation. Those were great years together. You and Mike provided such excellent veterinary services while having such a good time. I always enjoyed walking into the practice after work each day to hear what adventures you folks had had. Please contact me on Facebook, I would love to be back in touch with you.

---

**Sue Mitchel** - March 21, 2016 at 09:04 AM

KW

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall

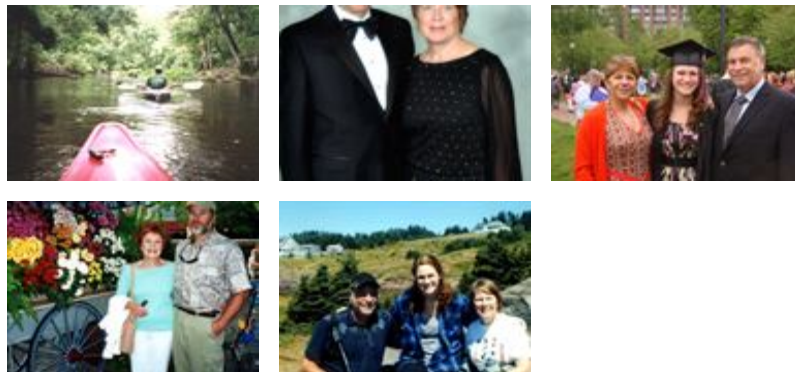


---

**Kevin Micheal Wise** - December 28, 2015 at 12:45 PM



“ 45 files added to the album LifeTributes



Hopewell Funeral Home - October 19, 2015 at 03:43 PM

PS

“ Dear Sue, I was innocently looking for a person's obituary details when I saw Dr. Mitchel's funeral notice by accident! As I sit here, trying to come to grips with the passing of your husband, I am heartbroken. Dr. Mitchel took care of all my many "rescue" animals throughout the past several years. He was always so gracious and kind. I knew he talked of his family and I knew he was looking forward to retiring. I just wish he could have had a lot more time to enjoy what he had worked so many years of his life for! My deepest condolences and may your love and memories of Mike bring you and your family comfort and strength. Dr. Mitchel will never be forgotten!

Polly Simpson - August 31, 2015 at 03:13 PM

AF

“ Aloyo Family lit a candle in memory of Dr. Mike Mitchel



Aloyo Family - August 19, 2015 at 10:59 PM

SR

“ Sue, I was so shocked and saddened to read about Mike's untimely passing. Words fail me right now. I hope you can find strength and solace in God to help you through this season of pain and grief.

*Take care of yourself,  
Steve Roberts*

---

**Stephen Roberts** - August 03, 2015 at 11:03 AM

JH

“ Dear Sue,

*I want to extend my deepest sympathy to you and your family for the untimely loss of "Dr. Mike" -- as I called your husband. Many of my animals - both dogs and cats - were his patients over many years and always received the best of care and compassion.*

*In Oct. 1990, I also adopted a kitten from Suncoast Clinic. It had recently been found by one of the clinic's staff wandering in the middle of St. Cloud Ave! Dr. Mike had just had to euthanize one of my cats due to kidney failure. When I returned to the office a few days later to settle the balance of my bill for him, a member of the office staff (I believe her name was Tammy) said to me, "Mrs. Hamblin, are you planning to get another kitty?" and I replied "Probably". With that, another staff member rapidly left the front desk and moments later reappeared from a backroom carrying the MOST ADORABLE tabby kitten!! .... it was love at first sight, and you can guess who went home with me that day for the next 14 years of his life!.*

*Another memorable incident (which I 'may' have already told you about while you were accessing your safe deposit box at Valrico State Bank, where I worked for 20 years), involved a little buff colored cocker spaniel, named Amy, who I'd just recently adopted. I'd brought her to Dr. Mike to get shots and to be spayed. He said, "Sorry, but she's in heat right now, so please bring her back and 3 weeks" .. BUT ... just two days before her scheduled return appt for surgery, she suddenly went into labor and "gifted me" with 7 adorable little pups!! I called Dr Mike, and was quite honestly just a bit upset as I queried him, "Can't you tell the difference between a dog in heat and one that's about to have 7 puppies!!" He very calmly explained - to my complete satisfaction and relief - that it WAS VERY DIFFICULT to detect the puppies if "you weren't specifically looking for them" .... which he hadn't been, since neither of us had reason to suspect she was pregnant AND at that time they'd have been about the size of marbles. I hope you'll enjoy these little*

*memories ... I've chuckled about them many times over the years.  
...especially the one about Amy.*

*Had hoped to see you again at a visitation service, but understand that all services will be private. Once again, my heartfelt condolences for your loss. Mike was a really nice man and a VERY GOOD VET, so I'm sure he'll be sorely missed by many people and animals alike....and, my little Amy was probably one of those who greeted him at heaven's gate.*

*Most sincerely,  
Judy Hamblin (plus Capt. Chubbs, Foster, Pug, and Amy)*

---

**judy hamblin** - August 02, 2015 at 03:01 PM

PS

*Sue and Sarah, we are so sorry and saddened to hear about your loss. Our prayers are with you two.*

*Patty, Lee, Lisa, Stephanie and Gunner*

---

**patty Smith** - August 03, 2015 at 11:39 AM

RJ

*Sue and Sarah, our hearts ache for you during this sorrowful time. We knew your dear husband and father through both his love and caring for animals via Mobile Pet Medic, and through his joy of sharing his magnificent Dept. 56 displays. Wishing you and your family God's peace and love.*

*Sincerely, Richard (Dick) and Toni Jaeschke*

---

**Richard (Dick) and Toni Jaeschke** - August 09, 2015 at 08:26 AM