

## **Prof. Dr Piet Wiepkema: Honorary Member**

**S**ome time ago the ISAE Council decided to appoint Professor Piet Wiepkema as an Honorary Member of ISAE. A conference held in Wageningen in April this year on the occasion of his retirement provided an opportunity to present the certificate to Piet and to comment on our reasons for the appointment.

First of all Piet is an eminent scientist, active for a very long period in the area of animal behaviour and physiology. He has played an important role in bridging the gap between pure and applied ethology. When he moved to the Agricultural University in Wageningen he became active in the area of applied ethology but kept in contact with scientists in pure ethology and physiology. At Wageningen he presented a model which was helpful in explaining and understanding animal welfare problems. With his model he had an essential influence on the further development of applied ethology into an adult science. His influence on this development seems to be underestimated. Piet Wiepkema was involved in applied animal behaviour research both directly and indirectly, and on both a national and international basis. The retirement conference gave a good impression of his comprehensive influence, including work on laying hens, sows, veal calves, rabbits, fur animals and zoo animals. Many scientists in the Netherlands and from many other countries collaborated with him, often by spending some time in Wageningen. Piet always had a keen interest in learning about the ideas and experience of other scientists and presented his own ideas without any hesitation; often such discussions with Piet resulted in the next step in scientific development!

Piet has also served ISAE well, at a stage when it was still the SVE. In 1985 he was President, and he organized an excellent summer meeting in Wageningen in the same year.

In appointing Piet Wiepkema as an Honorary Member, the ISAE Council wishes to honour his scientific work and to underline his essential influence in the development of applied ethology into an adult science.

After the conference Piet and Janny Wiepkema invited a group of his students and close friends to join their family for a very nice dinner. It was good to see that there were several ISAE members at this occasion!

*Herman Wierenga*