

American Veterinary Medical History Society (AVMHS)

J. Fred Smithcours
Student Veterinary History Essay Contest

Guidelines for Submission

Eligibility:

Students must be currently enrolled in a doctorate of veterinary medicine (D.V.M.) program in the United States, Canada, or West Indies.

Students may submit more than one manuscript for consideration, but only one prize will be awarded per individual per year.

Students who have previously won a prize or submitted an essay in past years continue to be eligible.

Essays must not have been published elsewhere prior to or following submission (original manuscripts only will be accepted).

Format:

Papers should be typed and double spaced in 12-point Times New Roman or equivalent font. Handwritten submissions will not be accepted.

Please double space all of your paper – including the bibliography!

Papers must be approximately 5 to 15 pages in length but should not be more than 3,500 words long (exclusive of references). Please include a word count at the end of your paper.

You may include illustrations and/or maps as these will not count in the page/word limit. Please cite your sources if you include a photo or other illustrations or a map (even if you drew it yourself).

Please follow normal research paper preparation guidelines, such as: always cite your sources and include a bibliography that is appropriately formatted.

If you include a direct quote, you must provide the exact page number to the cited source by using parenthetical references or footnotes/endnotes.

If you must incorporate exact sentences or phrases, use quotation marks. Frequent or excessive paraphrasing of “copy & pasted” content is discouraged.

For detailed information on reference style, please consult a recent issue of *Veterinary Heritage* or *JAVMA*. You may find the *Chicago Manual of Style* helpful in formatting your paper and bibliography.

Please note that Wikipedia is NOT an acceptable source for these essays, but you can use journal articles, books, reports, newspaper pieces, or other authoritative materials consulted in electronic format.

Submission:

One completed entry form should accompany each essay manuscript you submit.

Please do NOT include your name or your university/college anywhere within the paper itself. As received, papers are assigned the next consecutive number. This assures objectivity as the papers undergo blind review by the four judges (e.g., the judges will not know your name or college). List your name and college affiliation on the entry form only.

Submit your essay and entry form electronically, or by surface mail. They must be received by midnight of the date due.

Send an email to the Essay Contest Committee Chair and attach a pdf of your essay manuscript along with a pdf (or Word document) of a completed entry form. You will receive an email confirmation of receipt.

AVMHS reserves the right to publish in whole or in part any submitted essay.

Criteria for Essay Evaluation:

Only historical and veterinary topics will be considered. Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Development of treatments, techniques and/or research
- Instruments
- Biologicals or pharmaceuticals
- Diseases or surgery
- Species emphasis
- Biographical information (limited to deceased individuals)
- Veterinary colleges and institutions
- Legislation
- Public health issues
- Veterinary practice and profession in general
- Veterinarians or veterinary medicine as portrayed in literature, art or society

You may find the list of titles of past essay winners and subject arrangement helpful in choosing a topic. Both of these lists are posted on the essay contest page of the AVMHS web site.

Winning essays will be notable for proper use of grammar, spelling, and syntax as well as historically relevant and interesting content and coherent structure.

Winning essays will be rigorously researched and have clear historical subject and argument, and will be written in a way that stimulates the reader's interest.

Writers should keep in mind that they are telling a story.

If you have questions about selecting a topic, submission and judging process, or any other aspect of this essay contest, feel free to contact the Contest Committee Chair at any time.

See also some tips and advice compiled by a past multiple winner and former contest chair to help you in composing your essays. These are included in a separate document.

Good Luck and Have Fun ... while you learn more and gain in-depth knowledge about an aspect of your new profession.

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