

## History of the Contest

This essay contest was established in 1991 in honor of **Dr. J. Fred Smithcors** (Cornell 1945), AVMHS co-founder as well as noted teacher, researcher, historian, author, and publisher.

Its purposes are to encourage veterinary students to research, write about, and appreciate the rich heritage of their profession.

Serving as its first chair for more than eight years, **Dr. Robert R. Shomer** was instrumental in organizing the contest and obtaining initial corporate support. For 15 years until about 2010, the prizes were funded by **Merck & Company** which also contributed copies of the *Merck Veterinary Manual* to all entrants.

Since 2012, grants from the **Donaldson Charitable Trust** have made it possible to award four prizes in honor of **Dr. Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence**, twice AVMHS president and former essay contest judge.



**2023**  
**32nd Annual Essay Contest**  
**All Entries must be received by**  
**15 April 2023**

As of the 31st annual contest held in 2022, a total of 507 essays have been received with 106 prizes awarded.

Our continuing goal is to have one or more essays submitted by students from all of the veterinary colleges in North America each year.



**American Veterinary Medical History Society, Inc.**

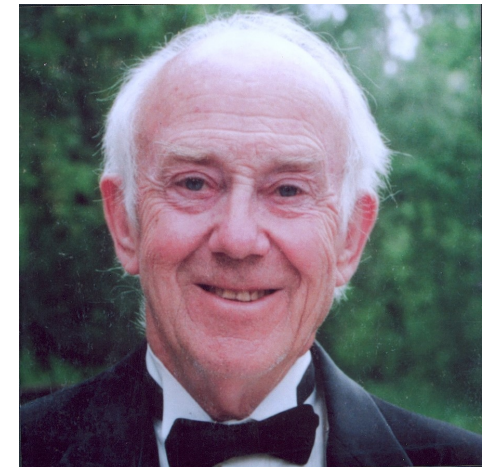
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## J. Fred Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest

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Because History Has A Lot To  
Tell Us About Our Profession  
And Ourselves



**American Veterinary Medical History Society, Inc.**

[https://www.avmhs.org/  
essay-contest](https://www.avmhs.org/essay-contest)

# Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest

Students currently enrolled in a D.V.M. program at any veterinary college in the United States, Canada, and West Indies are encouraged to submit one or more essay manuscripts to this annual contest sponsored by the American Veterinary Medical History Society.

The Dr. Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence cash prizes include: **\$1,200, \$1,000, \$800,** and **\$500** for the top four entries.

All essays will be evaluated anonymously by a panel of three or four blinded AVMHS judges.



All participants will receive a free, one-year membership in the Society that includes two issues of AVMHS's semi-annual journal, *Veterinary Heritage*.

Dr. Elizabeth Atwood Lawrence

The AVMHS reserves the right to publish meritorious essays in its journal.

More than one essay may be submitted each year, but only one prize will be awarded per individual per year. Candidates who have previously submitted essays and/or won a prize, continue to be eligible until graduation.

## How to Submit an Essay

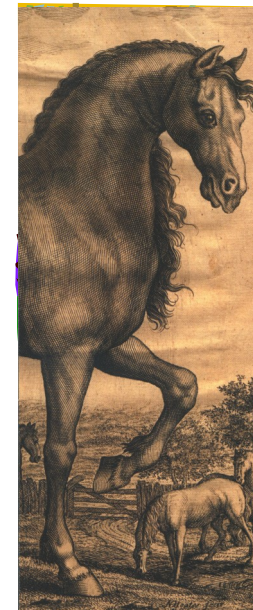
Detailed guidelines for eligibility, topic suggestions, essay evaluation criteria, and other submission information, as well as an entry form can be found on the AVMHS Web site at <http://avmhs.org>

- Numbered pages should be typed, double-spaced in 12-point Times or equivalent font, including the bibliography.
- Papers should be approx. 5 to 15 pages long, but not more than 3,500 words (exclusive of illustrations, maps, photos, and references). [Do not include your name or school on manuscript pages]
- Complete an entry form that includes a permanent address.
- Attach pdfs of your essay manuscript and entry form as separate files in an email message to Dr. Littlefield by April 15, 2023 (midnight).
- Retain an original Word copy for your files and possible future publication in *Veterinary Heritage*.

## Guidelines for Submission

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 (deceased individuals only); — Veterinary colleges and institutions; — Legislation; — Public health issues; — Veterinary medicine in literature, art or society.



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

Find a list of past winning essays and topical arrangement on the AVMHS Web site.

For more information, questions, or comments, please contact:

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