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## 2025 J.F. SMITHCORS STUDENT VETERINARY HISTORY ESSAY CONTEST

— *GUIDELINES FOR ESSAY SUBMISSION* —  
*DEADLINE JUNE 5, 2025*

### Eligibility

- Students must be enrolled in an AVMA-accredited veterinary school; if studying abroad, students must be a citizen of the United States or Canada.
- Students are eligible for only one award each year, although they may submit more than one essay for consideration.
- Students who have previously won a prize or submitted an essay in past years continue to be eligible until graduation.
- Only original essays will be accepted. Essays must not have been published elsewhere before submission, or submitted for publication elsewhere after submission.

### Essay Content

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
- Veterinary practice and profession in general
- Public health issues
- Legislation related to veterinary medicine
- Veterinarians or veterinary medicine as portrayed in literature, art, or society
- Biographical information (limited to deceased individuals)
- Veterinary colleges and institutions

### Essay Preparation and Format

- Essays must be typed and double-spaced (including the references) in 12-point Times New Roman or similar font.
- The maximum essay length is 3,500 words, exclusive of references, illustrations, maps, etc. Please list the word count at the end of your essay.
- All sources must be referenced, including sources of all images (eg, photos, illustrations, maps), even if you took the picture or drew the illustration yourself.
- If you incorporate direct quotes or other exact sentences or phrases, use quotation marks and include the specific page number(s) in the reference citation.
- Format all reference citations consistently and, preferably, according to the National Library of Medicine guidelines. For examples, see [www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform\\_requirements.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/bsd/uniform_requirements.html)
- Acceptable references include journal articles, books, reports, newspaper pieces, or other authoritative material. Wikipedia is NOT an acceptable reference source.
- NOTE: You may wish to read some tips and advice from a past multiple winner and former contest chair to help you in writing your essay (separate document on AVMHS website).

## Submission Process

- Fill out the entry form completely, sign, and date. A completed entry form is required for each essay being submitted.
- *NOTE:* List your name and school affiliation on the entry form only. Do NOT include your name or school on your essay. This is important for the blinded review process.
- Email your completed entry form and essay as separate PDF attachments to the Essay Contest Committee Chair (info below) by **June 5, 2025** (midnight).
- The Committee Chair will confirm receipt by email within 3 days of your submission. If you do not receive such confirmation, please follow up to ensure that email transmission was successful.
- Retain a Word version of your essay for possible future publication in *Veterinary Heritage*.

## Essay Evaluation

- Essays undergo blind review by a panel of veterinary judges.
- The judging process takes approximately 8 weeks and possibly longer depending on the number of essays submitted. Announcement of winning essays is anticipated late August/early Sept 2025.
- Evaluation criteria include the following main areas:
  - Historical interest and relevancy
  - Scientific merit, considering accuracy and obvious errors
  - Writing quality, at both the organizational and paragraph/sentence levels
  - Research documentation and references

## Contact and Questions

### Essay Contest Committee Chair

Susan E. Aiello, DVM, ELS  
susan@words-world.net  
937-499-0100

Please contact the Committee Chair for any questions on submission or any other aspect of the contest.

***Thank you for your interest in veterinary history!***

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**www.avmhs.org**

**avmhs.info@gmail.com**