
Sponsorship

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



As of the 33rd annual contest, held in 2024, a total of 560 essays have been entered with 114 prizes awarded.

Our goal is to have one or more essays submitted by students from each veterinary college in the United States, Canada, and West Indies every year.

ENTRY DEADLINE

15 April 2025

The purpose of the history essay contest is to encourage veterinary students to research, write about, and appreciate the rich heritage of their profession.

All essays are reviewed and evaluated anonymously by a panel of three or four blinded AVMHS judges.



American Veterinary Medical
History Society

For more information or questions, contact:

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J. Fred Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest

**Because History Has a Lot To Tell Us
About Our Profession and Ourselves**

Dr. J. Fred Smithcors (1920–2006) was the founder of AVMHS and widely considered the “Dean of American Veterinary Historians.”



The AVMHS Student Veterinary History Contest was established in 1991 in honor of Dr. Smithcors’ pioneering interest in teaching veterinary students about the history of their profession.

American Veterinary Medical
History Society

<https://www.avmhs.org>

J. Fred Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest

Eligibility

- All students currently enrolled in a DVM/VMD program at any veterinary college in the United States, Canada, or the Caribbean are eligible.
- Students may submit more than one essay each year but cannot be awarded more than one prize each year.
- Students who have submitted essays in previous years (and/or won a prize) continue to be eligible until graduation.

Prizes and Benefits

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|-----------|---------|
| 1st Prize | \$1,200 |
| 2nd Prize | \$1,000 |
| 3rd Prize | \$800 |
| 4th Prize | \$500 |

All participants receive a complimentary, one-year membership in AVMHS, which includes two issues of *Veterinary Heritage*, AVMHS's semi-annual journal.

Winning essays may be published in *Veterinary Heritage*, which also offers students a publication credit.

Submission Guidelines

- Manuscript pages should be numbered and double-spaced in 12-point Times Roman (or equivalent), including the reference list. Do **not** include your name or school on manuscript pages.
- Essays should be no more than 3,500 words (exclusive of graphic material and references).
- Essays must be original work, with accurately cited sources.
- Complete an entry form, listing a **permanent** address.
- Email PDFs of your entry form and essay (attached as separate files) to the Committee Chair by **April 15, 2025** (midnight).
- Retain your original Word document for possible future publication in *Veterinary Heritage*.

For more detailed guidelines, the entry form, and more info, visit

<http://avmhs.org/essay-contest>

Suitable Topics

Essays should have a clear historical subject, be rigorously researched, and tell an interesting story. Only historical and veterinary topics will be considered.

Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Development of treatments, diagnostic techniques, surgery, and/or research
- Diseases
- Biologicals or pharmaceuticals
- Instruments
- Species emphasis
- Public health issues
- Legislation
- Biographical information (deceased individuals only)
- Veterinary colleges and institutions
- Veterinary medicine in literature, art, or society



Past winning essays are listed on the AVMHS Web site.