
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 556 essays have been entered with 115 prizes awarded.

Past winning essays are listed on the AVMHS Web site.

ENTRY DEADLINE

5 June 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.

Essays undergo a blinded review process by a panel of three or four AVMHS judges.



American Veterinary
Medical History Society

For more information or questions, contact:

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Chair, AVMHS Essay Contest Committee
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J. Fred Smithcors Student Veterinary History Essay Contest 2025

**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

- Students must be currently enrolled in an AVMA-accredited veterinary school.
- Students must be a citizen of the United States or Canada.
- 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

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 similar), 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.
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- Complete an entry form, available at <https://avmhs.org/essay-contest>
 - Email PDFs of your entry form and essay, attached as separate files, to the Committee Chair by **5 June 2025** (midnight).
 - Retain your original Word document for possible future publication in *Veterinary Heritage*.
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Essay Evaluation Criteria

- Historical interest and relevancy
 - Scientific merit
 - Writing quality
 - Research documentation and references
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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
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