Dr. Donald F. Smith had a passion for the importance of the history of veterinary medicine in order to understand present and future opportunities in the profession. This passion was reflected in his teaching, writing, and his two collections, *An Enduring Veterinary Legacy* [https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/11807](https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/11807) and *Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine*.

Dr. Donald F. Smith grew up in Canada and attended the Ontario Veterinary College with the intent of practicing bovine medicine. After receiving his DVM with distinction in 1974, he enrolled in a one-year internship at the University of Pennsylvania’s New Bolton Center, remaining there for a large animal surgical residency.

He first came to Cornell in 1977 as an assistant professor of surgery after which he was called to the mid-west in 1982 for an associate professorship in large animal surgery. There he joined a small group of faculty who founded the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Returning to Cornell five years later as Chair of the Department of Clinical Sciences and later as Associate Dean for Education, Dr. Smith oversaw the establishment of a new veterinary problem-based learning curriculum introduced in 1993. He then served as Associate Dean for Academic Programs.

As ninth dean of the College (1997-2007), he reorganized the College’s departmental structure and led the resurgence in research and expansion of clinical programs. Under his leadership the Cornell University Hospital for Animals expanded in terms of specialty services and caseload and the New York State Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory became a nationally-recognized regional center for bio-security related to animals and public health.

Upon rejoining the teaching faculty in 2007, Don established a vibrant research and educational program in veterinary history and public policy.
An Enduring Veterinary Legacy, his collection of first-person oral history interviews with veterinarians who began their careers during the 1930s and 1940s, is a national veterinary treasure. In addition, Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine, his collection of stories covering broad aspects of the veterinary profession, attracted followers from around the world. These stories were originally posted as a blog for Veritas and now retained in Cornell’s eCommons institutional repository.

Don was a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) and a member of the National Academy of Practices.

In the year preceding his death on October 29, 2016, Dr. Smith co-authored two books, Leaders of the Pack: Women and the Future of Veterinary Medicine to be published in Spring 2017, and Pathways to Progress, a history of American veterinary colleges and schools, released in March 2016 in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC).

Mini-Bio

Dr. Donald F. Smith, Dean Emeritus of the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, had a passion for the value of the history of veterinary medicine as a gateway for understanding the present and the future of the profession. Throughout his many professional roles from professor of surgery, to Department Chair of Clinical Sciences, Associate Dean of Education and of Academic Programs, and Dean, he spearheaded changes in a veterinary curriculum, clinical services, diagnostic services, and more. He was a diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and a member of the National Academy of Practices. Most recently he played a major role in increasing the role of women in veterinary leadership. Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine is one of his projects where he was able to share his vast knowledge of the profession.