

## Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine

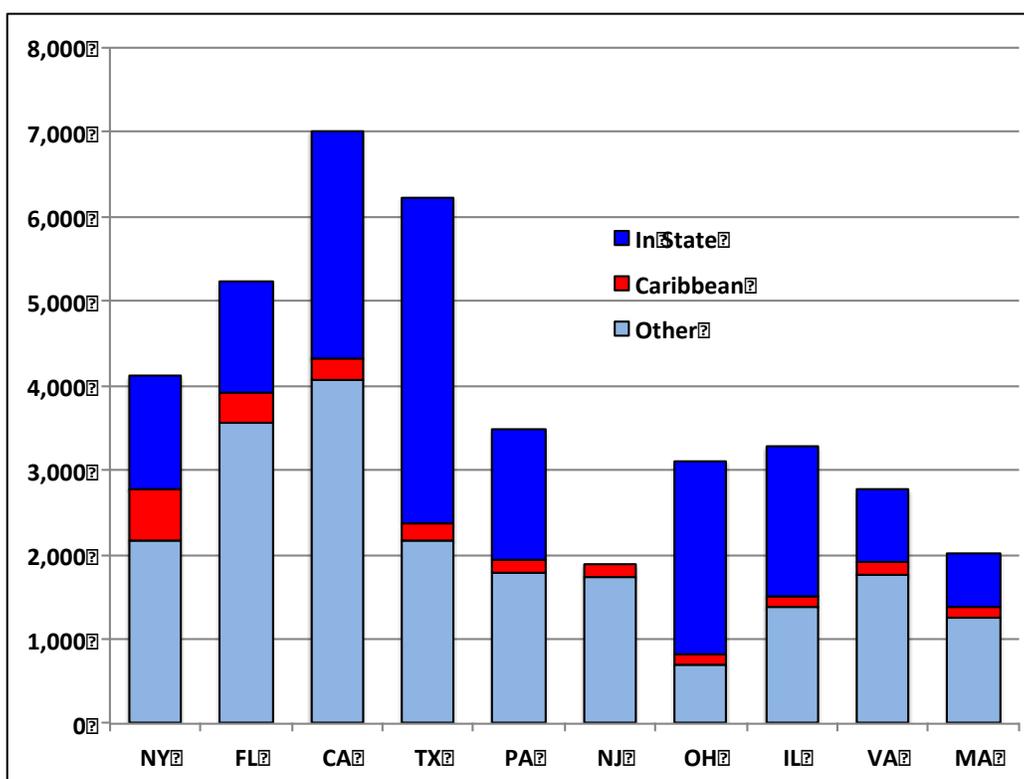
# Distribution of Ross and St. George's Universities DVM Graduates in the United States

By Dr. Donald F. Smith

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Over 3,800 AVMA-member veterinarians have graduated from Ross University in St. Kitts and from St. George's University in Grenada since 1985 and 2003, respectively.<sup>1</sup>

As of this posting, 58% percent (2,224) of these AVMA member-veterinarians reside in the seven most populous states in the country (California, Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Ohio), plus the three eastern states of New Jersey, Virginia and Massachusetts. The actual number is considerably higher because, as for other colleges, a significant number of graduates (often from the more recent classes) do not list any personal or professional information on the AVMA member site, and therefore we do not know where they reside and work.



*Number of AVMA-member veterinarians from the ten states with the greatest number of Ross and St. George's graduates. Also shown are numbers of graduates from the respective in-state college and other colleges.*

The graph above shows the AVMA-member Ross and St. George’s graduates from the ten states where they are most numerous, ordered from the highest (New York), to the tenth (Massachusetts). Using New York State as the example, Caribbean graduates, shown in red, comprise 15.1% of the state’s veterinarians. Cornell graduates (the *in-state* college for New York) comprise 32.4% of the total of 4,100 veterinarians, and slightly over half are graduates of neither Cornell nor the Caribbean schools.

The total number of AVMA-member graduates from these ten states is shown in the following table, along with the number of graduates from the two Caribbean colleges, the veterinarians from the respective in-state colleges and graduates from other colleges.

	<u>Total</u> <u>Vets</u>	<u>Carib</u> <u>Grads</u>	<u>In-state</u> <u>Grads</u>	<u>Other</u> <u>Grads</u>
NY	4,110	619	1,330	2,161
FL	5,241	354	1,336	3,551
CA	7,008	251	2,680	4,077
TX	6,231	190	3,867	2,174
PA	3,480	154	1,545	1,781
NJ	1,884	150	0	1,734
OH	3,106	134	2,281	691
IL	3,277	133	1,760	1,384
VA	2,762	129	862	1,771
MA	2,025	110	654	1,261

In the absence of demographic data indicating the residence of the Ross and St. George’s students prior to matriculation, it is not possible to draw conclusions as to the proportion of veterinary graduates returning to their home state after receiving their DVM degrees. That deserves further examination.

The author is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Ross University.

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<sup>1</sup> Approximately 75% of these veterinarians are from Ross as it is the older school and has more graduates each year than St. George’s. An additional 12 AVMA-member graduates of the University of the West Indies between 1998 and 2011 are not included in this study as that college is not accredited by the AVMA.

**KEYWORDS:**

- Ross University
- St. George’s University
- Caribbean Veterinary Colleges
- West Indies

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TOPIC:

Caribbean veterinary colleges

LEADING QUESTION:

Where do the graduates of Ross and St. George's reside in the US?

META-SUMMARY:

Most Ross and St. George's DVMs reside in the most populated states in the United States.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

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 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.