

## Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine

# Women Veterinarians Making a Difference, Part II

By Dr. Donald F. Smith  
March 14, 2014

March is Women's History Month. For veterinarians, it provides an opportunity to pause and reflect on the struggles women faced in gaining access to the profession before the mid-1970s; and the challenges they face even to the present to be involved in many aspects of the leadership of profession.

For the past year, I (and others) have written here and elsewhere on the subject of women veterinarians in general, and more specifically, women's leadership. This is part 2 of a listing and brief overview of some of these stories in the hope that this compendium will serve as a resource and an inspiration for women and men alike. (Part 1 was posted yesterday, March 13, 2014)

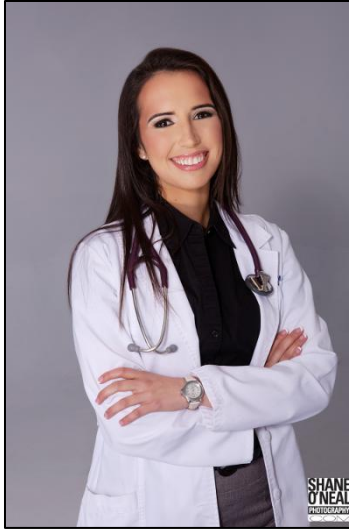
### ***Stories of Women's Leadership in Organized Veterinary Medicine***

Dr. Eva Evans graduated less than two years ago from the University of Tennessee. Despite her busy life in clinical practice, she is already involved with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) as a member of the Political Action Committee Policy Board. She is considered a role model and mentor for other young women seeking to influence the profession through organized veterinary medicine.

- Smith, Donald F. A Path to Leadership for a New DVM: The Story of Dr. Eva Evans. *Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine*. September 29, 2013.

Though a relatively recent graduate, Dr. Karen Bradley is a well-respected small animal veterinarian. She is also the AVMA House of Delegates member from Vermont, and is the founder and president of the Women's Veterinary Leadership Development Initiative (WVLDI).<sup>1</sup> Dr. Bradley is recognized as one of the most influential women leaders in the profession and is featured in the following story, "Five Days in July."

- Smith, Donald F. Five Days in July: Catalyzing a New Wave of Women's Leadership in the AVMA. *Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine*. July 29, 2013.



*Eva Evans, DVM, Member AVMAPAC, AVMF<sup>2</sup>*  
(Photo provided by Dr. Evans, 2013)

Also a small animal practice owner, Dr. Andrea Dennis-LaVigne will assume the presidency of the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association this spring. She is active not only in the veterinary profession, but also in community service, most notably as a governor appointee to the Board of Trustees of the University of Connecticut.

- Smith, Donald F. A Tuskegee Graduate to Lead the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association. *Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine*. February 10, 2014.

Dr. Linda Tintle also practices in the northeast and recently served as her state's association president. She is a strong advocate for practice ownership, as she emphasizes in this story from last August.

- Tintle, Linda. New York President Challenges the Empire State's Veterinarians. *Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine*. August 25, 2013.

Through changes in policy and creative educational opportunities, Iowa Veterinary Medical Association advocates and promotes women and recent graduates to leadership positions in its state organization. Some of their programs are jointly administered with Iowa State University.

- Smith, Donald F. Veterinary Leadership in Iowa. *Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine*. December 12, 2013.



*Dr. Linda J.M. Tintle, Past President, New York State Veterinary Medical Society*  
(Photo provided by NYSVMS, 2012)

At a national level, the profile of AVMA leadership positions demonstrates an unequal representation of women amongst the colleges of which they are alumnae. Some colleges, notably Iowa State University and Washington State University, have alumnae in greater numbers than colleges like University of California, Davis, or Ohio State University.

- Smith, Donald F. AVMA Leadership by Gender and College of Graduation. *Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine*. November 7, 2013.

### **Women's Veterinary Leadership Development Initiative, and Courses in Women's Leadership**

The WVLDI has organized and supported several educational programs in the last few months and has exciting plans for the next 12 months. Sponsors of the WVLDI include the [American Veterinary Medical Association](#) (AVMA) and [CEVA Animal Health](#).

- Smith, Donald F. Western Veterinary Conference Hosts Women's Leadership Symposium. *Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine*. March 3, 2014.

A successful women's leadership development course for students at Cornell was held on March 1st. Thirty-five first-, second-, and third-year students attended the six-hour Saturday program that featured guest speakers from New York, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

- Smith, Donald F. Veterinary Students are Stepping Up for Women's Leadership Training. *Perspectives in Veterinary Medicine*. January 12, 2014.



*Attendees and instructors at the first student course  
on Women's Leadership in Veterinary Medicine  
Cornell University, March 1, 2014  
(Photo by the author)*

**Acknowledgement:** With thanks to the directors of the Women's Veterinary Leadership Development Initiative, led by Drs. Karen Bradley (President), Stacy Pritt (Vice President), and Douglas Aspros (Secretary-Treasurer).

---

<sup>1</sup> [Women's Veterinary Leadership Development Initiative](#).

<sup>2</sup> [American Veterinary Medical Foundation \(AVMF\)](#). Website.

**KEYWORDS:**

Women Veterinarians  
Women's History Month  
History of Veterinary Medicine  
Women in Veterinary Medicine  
Women's Veterinary Leadership  
Women's Veterinary Leadership Development Initiative  
American Veterinary Medical Association  
American Veterinary Medical Foundation  
Dr. Eva Evans  
Dr. Karen Bradley

---

Dr. Andrea Dennis-LaVigne  
Dr. Linda Tittle  
Iowa Veterinary Medical Association  
Iowa State University  
Washington State University  
Cornell University  
Class of 2012  
University of Tennessee  
AVMAPAC  
Centennial Hills Animal Hospital  
CEVA Animal Health  
Dr. Douglas Aspros  
Dr. Stacy Pritt

TOPIC:

Women in Veterinary Medicine

LEADING QUESTION:

What role does the Women's Veterinary Leadership Development Initiative play in developing leadership?

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.