

Celebrating
CVM 100
1916-2016
Years



**VETERINARY MEDICINE
& BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES**
TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY



It was 1886, and Texas had a problem. Texas, the nation’s leader in livestock production, was experiencing a disturbing number of cattle deaths. What is now known as Texas Cattle Fever was “fatal in every instance,” according to the Texas State Historical Association. However, at the time, the cause of the deaths was a mystery. Guided by nothing but speculation, the states along Texas’ cattle trails passed quarantine laws. In 1885, Kansas completely outlawed driving of Texas cattle into its state.

Texas was being closed off, its cattle were dying, and the state’s economy was in peril.

What could be done? The U.S. Department of Agriculture knocked on doors of Texas A&M—then A&M College of Texas—to find out.

It was at A&M College of Texas that Dr. Mark Francis, founder and first dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, discovered that Texas Cattle Fever—the illness killing Texas’ cattle—was spread by ticks, and he developed an immunization against the disease.

“A prominent legacy of the College of Veterinary

Medicine & Biomedical Sciences in Texas is that it was born from the cattle industry,” said Dr. Eleanor M. Green, the Carl B. King Dean of Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences. “As a result of his work and service to the cattle industry, veterinary medicine was deemed to be deserving of its own college—and the rest, as they say, is history.”

The School of Veterinary Medicine opened at A&M College of Texas at the recommendation of Pathologist H. J. Detmers, as explained in the centennial book, *Serving Every Texan Every Day*, published by the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences.

Though the A&M College of Texas had been teaching courses in the subject since 1880, it did not yet formally offer veterinary education. In fact, according to the CVM’s centennial book, there was so little veterinary education nationwide in the mid-19th century that many cattlemen would ask their local druggists and chemists for guidance in treating their sick animals.

In 1888, when the first Department of Veterinary Science was created at A&M College and Francis—who

TIMELINE INFORMATION
COURTESY OF THE COLLEGE
OF VETERINARY MEDICINE &
BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES AND ITS
CENTENNIAL BOOK, *SERVING
EVERY TEXAN EVERY DAY.*



1880
First veterinary courses taught
at AMC by Dr. D. Port Smythe

1893
Veterinary classes taught
in hospital

START HERE

1888
First trained veterinarian, Dr. Mark
Francis, arrives in College Station

1899
Francis part of team to discover
vaccination for Texas Cattle Fever

was the school's first trained veterinarian—arrived to teach, the educational potential the school created would change Texas agriculture forever. Though, at the time, that potential might not have been apparent.

The new department was housed in a single classroom, measuring about 14 feet by 16 feet. CVM's collected history shared this description from Francis: "There were no laboratories or equipment for this work... At the end of the school year [June 1889] the adjoining room became vacant and was assigned to us as a classroom. In this unsuitable place we toiled for 15 years." The first building built for veterinary education was a frame barn, in which Francis did much of his research on the cattle deaths.

Thus, in September 1916, the School of Veterinary Medicine at A&M College of Texas officially opened with 13 students on the roster. (Visit tx.ag/vetschool1916 to see a scan of *The Battalion's* report of the CVM's planned grand opening.)

In the 100 years since that banner opening day, the CVM has become "one of the largest and best CVMs in the nation and world, ranking sixth in the world and third in the nation," Green said.

THE CVM's CURRENT IMPACT

The Texas A&M University System recently announced partnerships to expand veterinary education, research, and undergraduate outreach into several regions of Texas through four system universities as part of the "Serving Every Texan Every Day" initiative. This initiative focuses on increasing the number of underrepresented minorities entering the veterinary profession and enlarging the pipeline of rural-based veterinarians to better serve the livestock industry as well as deer and wildlife interests. The partnerships are between the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and West Texas A&M University, Prairie View A&M University,



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5 THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT DEAN ELEANOR M. GREEN

Learn more about the CVM dean at tx.ag/EGreen

- 1 She is the first female dean of the CVM and one of only four women in her graduating class at Auburn University.
- 2 It was her love for horses and animals that led her to pursue veterinary medicine.
- 3 She serves as president of the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges. She served as president of three national organizations: American Association of Equine Practitioners, American Board of Veterinary Practitioners, and American Association of Veterinary Clinicians.
- 4 She was inducted into the National Cowgirl Hall of Fame in 2013.
- 5 "I am passionate about striving for excellence in all we do. I am passionate about constantly ensuring an inclusive climate in which everyone—faculty, staff, students, clients, constituents, visitors, and the animals—feels welcome, accepted, comfortable and appreciated in every interaction," she said.



1916
School of Veterinary Medicine opens



1918
Francis Hall, first home of the veterinary school, opens

1920
First Aggie graduates receive DVM degrees



1966
Dr. Sonja Oliphant-Lee '65 graduates as first woman to receive DVM degree

1970
Biomedical Sciences program initiated

CVM Centers and Institutes

- Center for Cell and Organ Biotechnology
- Center for Educational Technologies
- Diagnostic Imaging and Cancer Treatment Center
- Michael E. DeBakey Institute for Comparative Cardiovascular Science and Biomedical Devices
- Schubot Exotic Bird Health Center
- Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care Center
- Texas A&M Institute for Preclinical Studies
- Winnie Carter Wildlife Center

For more information plus a list of research and service labs, visit tx.ag/CVMCenters

Texas A&M University-Kingsville, and Tarleton State University.

One of the CVM’s ongoing efforts to better serve Texas and the world is the Texas A&M One Health initiative. One Health addresses societal needs through advances in science, technology, and translational research emerging from programs that span college and departmental boundaries. In 2015, five Grand Challenge One Health research projects were awarded funds. One of the projects studies Chagas disease—a devastating cardiac disease of humans and dogs. In South America, the disease has been reported in cattle and pigs, potentially creating an economic threat to Texas. This transdisciplinary team is working together with public health officials to assess the distribution and determinants of disease across the landscape and to generate innovative solutions to the problems of Chagas disease in the Americas.

Beyond One Health, the CVM’s research has had wide impact. The CVM’s Texas A&M Institute for Genome Sciences and Society functions as a virtual institute to unite genome scientists with researchers who study the social, economic, and ethical consequences and impacts of genomics technology, as well as bioinformatics scientists who conduct research on how to analyze and manage large datasets like those generated by high-throughput genomics experiments.

The CVM continues to drive innovation, create strong collaborations, and transform the college through determination and excellence in education.

Another collaboration is the Texas A&M Equine Initiative, which joins the CVM and the Texas A&M College of Agriculture. “It has been described by many as the number one equine program in the nation,” Green said. The CVM is part of many of the university institutes, including genomics, neuroscience, reproduction, toxicology and more, Green said.

The college’s impact is global, though: “The CVM literally affects the lives of every Texan every day,” Green said. The college trains veterinarians and treats animals at the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital. It conducts research and applies its findings to advance both animal and human health—and when disaster strikes, it deploys its Veterinary Emergency Team and helps communities develop emergency and disaster preparedness plans.

“There are many reasons to celebrate the centennial of the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences,” Green said. “I am most excited about celebrating the successes of the past 100 years and charting a highly successful future.”

For more on the Texas A&M One Health Initiative, visit onehealth.tamu.edu. For more on the CVM’s centennial celebration, visit vetmed.tamu.edu/cvm100.



1999
A steer is cloned



2002
Equine Pavilion completed



2002
A cat is cloned



1970
Dr. James L. Courtney '67 is first African American to receive DVM degree—he was also one of the first African Americans to receive a bachelor’s degree from A&M.

2001
A pig and goat are cloned

VETERINARY EMERGENCY TEAM

The Texas A&M Veterinary Emergency Team deploys by request of the state to respond to animals' needs in disaster situations. Launched in 2010, it was the first veterinary emergency team at a veterinary school. It is tasked with deploying the "largest and most sophisticated veterinary medical disaster response team in the country, developing and providing cutting-edge emergency management education, development of new knowledge in emergency preparedness education and response, and building on the legacy of service that is at the heart of Texas A&M University," according to tx.ag/vetteam.

MAJOR DEPLOYMENTS

- 2011** Bastrop County wildfires
- 2013** Fertilizer plant explosion in West, Texas
- 2014** Dallas, Texas, to care for Bentley, a dog whose owner, Nina Pham, had contracted Ebola
- 2015** Wimberley, Texas, to support Blanco River flooding search-and-rescue efforts



The CVM requires its fourth-year students to take a disaster rotation on the Veterinary Emergency Team. This photo was taken in 2015 when the team deployed to support members of Texas Task Force 2 in San Marcos during the Memorial Day floods.

THEN & NOW

In 1889, the small barn on the left below was built for Dr. Mark Francis as his dissection room. It was the first A&M building constructed for veterinary studies, according to the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences and its centennial book, *Serving Every Texan Every Day*.

Compare the first construction project to the most recent—at bottom right is an artist's rendering of the Veterinary & Biomedical Education Complex set to open in 2016. It is one of the largest construction projects on campus.

More on the new construction at tx.ag/vetschool.



2005

First horse cloned in North America born at A&M

2014

Ground broken on \$120 million Veterinary & Biomedical Education Complex

2003

A deer is cloned

2011

Grand opening for Diagnostic Imaging and Cancer Treatment Center

2015

Ranked 6th in world and 3rd in U.S.