

Don D. Farst, DVM  
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**FAMILY STATUS:**

Married to Jan Rae Harber Farst  
Children: Julie Kaye Smith  
Jenny Lynn Moore  
John David Farst

**EDUCATION:**

Primary Education and High School - Zanesville, Ohio, Public School System.  
Graduated 1959.

College Undergraduate - The Ohio State University, College of Agriculture. 1959 -  
1961.

Veterinary College - The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine.  
Graduated 1965 with Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

July 2015 – Present – **Retired**

March 2007 to July 2015 - **Clinical Practice of Veterinary Medicine, Relief Veterinarian.** Part time clinical veterinarian for multiple mixed practices including small animals, equine and exotics and consulting for **Gladys Porter Zoo, Brownsville, Texas.**

March 1974 to January 2007 - **Managing Director. Gladys Porter Zoo, Brownsville, Texas.** Responsible for the overall management of a world class zoo with 1600 specimens and supervising over 120 employees. Duties included liaison with Valley Zoological Society, acting as both chief executive and chief financial officer, fund raising, relief zoo veterinarian, serving as secretary of Valley Zoological Endowment with current assets of \$16.5 million, and representing the Gladys Porter Zoo to the public and world zoo community.

July 1970 to March 1974 - **Associate Director and Zoo Veterinarian, Gladys Porter Zoo, Brownsville, Texas.** Responsible for managing day to day zoo operations with an emphasis on the animal collection, exhibits, and animal health. Assisted the zoo director with financial planning and management, exhibit construction liaison, and personnel management.

May 1969 to July 1970 - **Zoo Veterinarian and Mammals Curator, Columbus Zoological Gardens, Columbus, Ohio.** Responsible for animal health program for entire zoo collection and overall management of the mammal collection and personnel.

October 1969 to July 1970 - **Teaching Associate, The Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine, Department of Preventive Medicine, Columbus, Ohio.** Taught senior veterinary students a short course on exotic animal medicine and had each senior student on a rotating basis at the Columbus Zoo for one week of clinical experience.

June 1965 to May 1969 - **General Practice of Veterinary Medicine, Franklin and Grove City, Pennsylvania.** Worked in a two person general veterinary practice with two offices that were twenty-two miles apart. The practice was 70% small animal and 30% large animal and we covered 1,500 square miles in our ambulatory practice.

June 1962 to May 1964 - **Part time Zoo Animal Attendant, Columbus Zoological Gardens, Columbus, Ohio.** While attending veterinary college I worked summers and week-ends as a mammal keeper and assistant in the zoo veterinary hospital.

#### **CURRENT PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES:**

International Rhinoceros Foundation  
Board Member Emeritus  
Kerrville (Texas) Veterinary Medical Association (KVMA)  
Valley Zoological Endowment  
Board of Directors  
Valley Land Fund - Honorary Director  
Medina United Methodist Church  
Finance Chairman  
World Association of Zoos and Aquariums (WAZA)  
Honorary Member

#### **PAST PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC ACTIVITIES:**

American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA)  
Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association (PVMA)  
American Association of Zoo Veterinarians (AAZV)  
Board of Directors  
Editor of The Journal of Zoo Animal Medicine 1973-1979  
American Association of Zoological Parks and Aquariums (AZA)  
Board of Directors - President 1979-1980  
Wildlife Conservation and Management Committee - Chair 1992-1994  
Conference Evaluation Committee - Chair  
Ethics Board - Chair 1990-1991  
Animal Health Committee - Chair 1973-1979 & 1981-1987  
Conservation Strategy Task Force

Exotic Game Ranch Task Force  
Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES) -  
Technical Advisor for United States Department of Interior at conferences in  
Switzerland (1977) and Costa Rica (1979)  
International Rhinoceros Foundation  
Board of Directors and Secretary  
International Species Information System (ISIS) -Board member  
American Red Cross - Board of Directors, Franklin, Pa.  
Tip of Texas Orchid Society - Board of Directors and President  
Rotary Club of Brownsville - Board of Directors and President - 1979 - 1980  
Rio Grande Valley Veterinary Association (RGVVA)  
Kiwanis  
Elks  
French Creek Valley Kennel Club  
Texas Appaloosa Horse club - Board of Directors  
Southmost Texas Health Facilities Finance Agency - Board member  
Grace Lutheran Church - President Church Council 1983-1984

**PERSONAL INTERESTS:**

Bonsai  
Photography  
Vitaculture & Enology  
Aviculture  
Orchid Culture  
Lapidary and Silversmith Work