THE CODE OF HONOR
OF THE PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS OF THE
COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE AND BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES
AT COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
SPRING 2010

Dear Class of 2014,

Congratulations and welcome to Colorado State University! You are now part of a professional community that extends beyond Colorado State University and includes students, professors and veterinarians, all of whom have adopted a code of honor. Veterinarians, by choice, adhere to high professional standards which are evident in the principles of trust, respect and honor that permeate our profession. The Code of Honor of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at Colorado State University was established in 1907, with the entrance of the first PVM class. The Code of Honor has been not only a long-standing tradition, but also a cherished contribution to our education process at CSU. The invaluable character traits of trust and morality that you bring with you are the foundation of respect on which our profession is built. The Code of Honor relies on these traits to foster an open, comfortable academic environment and to promote personal development through the enforcement of self-reliance. Please take the time to look over the following handouts. You may also visit the college’s website at:

http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/cvmbs/CurrentPVMStudentInfo.htm

Click on “Code of Honor” under “PVM Policies & Guidelines” to locate the most up-to-date version of our complete Code of Honor. We look forward to having you as part of our community and welcome you as a student in the Professional Veterinary Medical Program at Colorado State University.

Sincerely,
The Honor Board Members and fellow PVM students

HONOR CODE FACT SHEET

All veterinary students are required to abide by the rules within the Code of Honor, and since ignorance of the rules does not justify breaking them, it is highly suggested that all students read the Code carefully. However, because the Code of Honor is written in legal language and a large portion of it deals with the formation, responsibilities, and procedures of the Honor Board, this fact sheet was developed to give the student a quick and easy guide to the general rules:

• All students enrolled in the Professional Veterinary Medicine Program at Colorado State University are required to sign a document stating that they will conduct themselves in accordance with the Code of Honor while they are students in the PVM program. When a student signs and accepts an offer of admission, it serves as their pledge to abide by and uphold the Code.

• The Code of Honor was adopted in 1907 by the first veterinary class at Colorado State. It has since gone through multiple revisions. The complete and most up-to-date version of the Code can be found at http://www.cvmbs.colostate.edu/cvmbs/CurrentPVMStudentInfo.htm under “Code of Honor.” A copy of the most recent version can also be found in the PVM Handbook that you will receive at orientation.
• The Code of Honor will be upheld by an Honor Board composed of a freshman representative, a sophomore representative, a junior representative, two senior representatives, a secretary from the sophomore class, a chairperson from the junior class, the immediate past chairperson, the president of SCAVMA, a faculty advisor and a representative from the Dean’s office.

• If there is a suspected violation of the Code, it is to be reported to a class representative who will then report it to the Honor Board chairperson. The violation will then be handled by the Honor Board following the procedures outlined in the Code of Honor.

• The specific rules that apply to PVM students are listed in Article III of the Code of Honor, under “Standards of Honor”. A summary of these rules follows, however, these are abbreviated and not intended to be an all-inclusive list:

1. It is each student’s responsibility to know and abide by the attendance policy for each course.

2. Students may not receive help on any examination from any source other than the professor in charge of the exam (unless the professor has specified an open book and/or open classmate exam). Students should not discuss any aspect of an exam while the exam is in progress, even if they have completed it.

3. It is the student’s responsibility to find out from their professors what resources they are allowed to use on each assignment before using any resources, including classmates.

4. Students may not use old exams from a class for study purposes without the consent of the professor or course coordinator. Additionally, if the professor or course coordinator has consented to the use of old exams, copies of the exams must be made available to the entire class.

5. Students may not duplicate or copy in any manner any examination or assignment without the instructor's consent.

6. Once a student has begun an exam, he/she must finish it and turn it in by the end of that exam period.

7. No student is to behave in a dishonest, deceitful, fraudulent, or illegal manner while involved in veterinary-related activities sanctioned by Colorado State University.

8. Students must maintain professional conduct while at school, in class, in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and while participating in school-related activities so as not to disrupt their classmates nor disparage the reputation of the PVM community.

9. Students must report to a class Honor Board representative any suspected violation of the Code of Honor. Failure to do so will be considered a violation of the Code of Honor.

10. Any student who has been accused of a violation of the Code of Honor may not harass, slander, or threaten any student, witness, or faculty member involved in the case.

11. Every case brought before the Honor Board will be held in the strictest confidentiality. It is a violation of the Code of Honor for any Board member or party involved with the case to break said confidentiality.

12. Students must avoid violating, or even the appearance of violating, these standards of honor so as not to compromise themselves or their classmates.
HONOR CODE CASE EXAMPLES
The following are some examples of cases that have been presented to the Honor Board in past years. Only the type of infraction has been copied, while all other details are fictitious.

Case #1
One night after work Katharine H. returned to the freshmen cubes for a book she had forgotten. As she entered her cube, she noticed that there were two tests face up on Clark G.'s desk. At first glance, the tests looked like the anatomy test that everyone had taken last week. These tests had just been handed back for review, and were due back to the professor the next morning. Katharine noticed that both exams looked exactly the same, including the name of the student. However, she was tired, and so she simply picked up the book she came for and left.

Several weeks later, after the grades for the anatomy final were posted, Roy R. heard Clark G. brag about the extremely high grade he had received on the final exam. When someone asked Clark how he had received such a high grade when he hadn't even been in lab that much, Clark grinned and said he had his sources. Over beer that night, Roy and Katharine were discussing how many credits of D one was allowed before being kicked out. They began talking about Clark and his amazing grade. Several things started to sound fishy about the whole situation.

Questions:
1. Does this sound like an Honor Code violation? Does this sound like it appeared to be a violation?
2. Would you report this to your Honor Board representative?
3. How would you report it?
4. Do you know what you (as Katharine and Roy, or as Clark) would be required to do if the violation was reported and went to a full Honor Board session?

Case #2
Phoebe, Joey, and Chandler, are all good friends in their freshman year of veterinary school. In their neurobiology, students are required to complete four homework assignments. When these assignments were handed out, the professor made it very clear that they were to be completed individually, and not in a group. After the first two assignments had been turned in, Phoebe overheard Joey and Chandler discussing who was "going to do the next one." Phoebe asked what they were talking about and was told it "wasn't anything." On the morning that the third assignment was due, Phoebe arrived at the cubes early to type her assignment, and found Joey already using the computer. Phoebe asked Joey why he was there so early and was informed that "Chandler hadn't gotten the thing done in time." Phoebe glanced over Joey's shoulder and saw that he was typing the neurobiology homework assignment that was due that day. Phoebe also noticed the paper Joey was typing from had Chandler's name on it.

After much soul-searching and meditation, Phoebe approached Monica, her class Honor Board representative and told her what she had overheard and seen. Monica asked Phoebe to write down her observations and submit them confidentially. Once Monica received the written report, she contacted the Honor Board chair, Rachel. Monica, Rachel and Dr. Geller (the Honor Board faculty advisor) met to discuss the situation. They agreed that Rachel would discuss the situation with the professor involved and that they would call a meeting of the full Honor Board to decide how to proceed. The Honor Board met to discuss the possible infraction and voted to go to special session. During the special session the Board agreed that Chandler and Joey had violated the Code of Honor. A letter outlining the Board’s decision was sent to Joey and Chandler and a report of the infraction was sent to the Dean. The letter also warned that a copy of the letter would stay in the Honor Board’s files until they graduated and that any future infraction could result in their dismissal from the PVM program. Phoebe was also informed that the other students were found in violation of the Code of Honor.

Questions:
1. What article, sections, and paragraphs of the Code of Honor were violated?
2. Do you agree with how this situation was handled?
3. What would be involved in a full Honor Board special session?
Case #3
Satchel and Fungo have been study buddies since freshman year. Lately, Fungo had noticed that Satchel seemed distracted. When Fungo asked him about it, Satchel replied that he is just tired and stressed about the radiology group homework assignments. Fungo is in a different group than Satchel, but hasn't been having much trouble with the assignments, as his group works very well together. One night, Fungo is working on the computer when Satchel and his radiology group enter the computer lounge to work on their assignment. Since Fungo’s group has already finished and submitted it, he feels no qualms about continuing to work. During the following discussions, Fungo notices that Satchel has been made the secretary and has been one of the few to contribute. It also seems that Bucky, another student in the group, isn’t contributing anything worthwhile but is giving Satchel a very hard time. The group finishes before Fungo does and leaves. When Fungo finally finishes, he finds Bucky and Satchel still in the parking lot with Bucky physically pushing Satchel around. When Fungo interrupts, Bucky says they were, “just having a good time” and that “it was nothing”.

Fungo starts asking other classmates about their opinion of Bucky. He finds several students who admit that Bucky had been threatening to turn them into the Honor Board on false charges, and others who were threatened with physical violence. At this point, Fungo decides to present a written report to his Honor Board representative, Rob. The Honor Board decided to take this possible infraction to a full special session.

Questions:
1. What part of the Honor Code is involved in this infraction?
2. Would you feel that Bucky’s behavior constitutes an Honor Code infraction and therefore should be reported?
3. If the answer to #2 is “yes,” are the people who witnessed Bucky’s behavior previously in violation of the Honor Code because they did not report it (in the strictest interpretation of the Code)?
4. What if there had been no physical violence in this case? Would Bucky’s behavior still constitute an Honor Code infraction?