



Colleagues or Competitors

Are you worthy colleague or a darned competitor? Despite the chuckles it often induces, there is considerable import in that one simple question that we too often overlook.

"So what if we are competitors?" you ask. Let's think of what might happen if we were to "chuck this colleague set-up." In the first place, if we were all to be in competition with one another, that spirit would start in the professional schools. No longer would we have the close knit Division of Veterinary Medicine that exists in our colleges and universities. No longer would the almost fraternal bond exist between the students—not only within the classes, but also between the classes—that results in a comradeship that is manifested throughout our professional school study. Yes, even the honor system as it is practiced in many of our schools, would not be able to function.

What about after we graduate and launch upon our professional careers? Would the situation change? No, it would not. After we graduate we not only are striving to get our education, but also to support our wives and families and maintain our standing in the community. It would be in the field that the competition attitude would be at its worst. The situation would go beyond the stage of just not associating with our neighboring veterinarians and into the

price-cutting, dirt-throwing state. It would be another case of "dog eat dog" and if a practitioner didn't "go along with it," it might mean moving to another location or even leaving the field of veterinary medicine.

And what would happen to advancement in the field? You are exactly right—our advancement would come to a standstill. Who would want to increase our knowledge, develop new techniques and treatments, or to further the profession in any way when that advancement would be used by the practitioner, not to aid in the saving of life given by God, but simply to further his own greedy ambitions. No longer would we have the great research stations, educational institutions or even the meetings where veterinarians may get together for entertainment and to learn of the new developments in the field.

Why can't we all pull together as colleagues and by so doing, keep our standards, morals and ethics high? Let's at least keep, and try to better, the present situation in which a practitioner can seek and receive aid from a colleague in order to bring the case to a successful termination.

Let's all try to be colleagues and not competitors!!

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