March 31, 2006

To: Professor Amy Sayre-Roberts  
From: BTW 250-A1_06-01, Chase Connor, Somaiya Shakil, & Ming-Tao Tsai  
Subject: Group 1 Project Proposal

For our project, we have decided to focus on the ethics involved with veterinary department at U of Illinois. We’ll cover topics such as historical background of animal care laws and how they have changed over time. We will compare the regulations care of large vs. small animals and non-patient vs. patient animals in their LSR. The Veterinary department as well as the actual clinic follows ethical guidelines and standards while promoting animal health and welfare. Before we get further in our research, we have to focus on three main issues: Format for presenting the findings, Information/Documents vital to our project, and Obstacles to overcome.

Format for Presenting our Findings
We will be presenting our information with PowerPoint and possibly a skit. The PowerPoint will be used to display the vital information dealing with ethics in general. We will give our audience an idea of what they will see in the skit. The skit, on the other hand, will have one of us act as the interviewee and the other as the interviewer(s). Rather than just keeping it professional and dull, we will make it comical by using various pictures. This in return will the keep the audience focused and entertained. The entire presentation will consist of the PowerPoint presentation, skit, visuals, historical timeline of the rules and regulations of animal care, etc.
Another tactic we will use to keep our audience with us is that we will give them informational handouts. These will cover topics such as how to care for pets, what to do in cases of emergency, who to call, etc.
At the end of the presentation, a question and answer session will be held. This is just so everyone is clear on our information presented.

Information/Documents Vital to our Project
We will prepare questionnaires for our interviewees. So far the questions we have prepared are as follows:
Questions for vet student(s):
  o In your opinion, how are the animals treated?
  o How much animal usage is required for educational purposes?

Questions for professor(s):
  o What do you emphasize in your VP 630 class?
  o How did you put your syllabus together? How do you decide on what’s important?
  o Do you ever feel like a student isn’t prepared enough? How do you handle such a situation?
  o Do you ever feel unethical while using animals in your demonstrations? Do you have non-patient animals in your facility? How do they get the non-patient animals?
  o According to AFMA, 44% of non-patient animals die in LSR. How are these animals dealt with?
  o How do you feel about the use of animals in middle/high school anatomy classes?
  o How do you deal with experimental errors? What effect does this have on educational material?
  o What alternatives are used besides animals?

We will make use of web sources such as Vet Med Library, Division of Animal Resources, Champaign County Humane Society, and Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC).

The non-web sources will include Protocol Forms, Vet Report, and Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals.

We will also compare and contrast standards used in non-university animal facilities and UIUC vet clinic. One of the many methods we will use for comparing will be the use of pictures. We will take actual photographs of where the animals are kept and the animals themselves. Another thing we will look into is how the guidelines of animal care differ. Next, we will compare and contrast the information collected from the interviews, web and non-web sources.

Obstacles We Must Overcome
We faced obstacles at the start of writing this proposal. Initially, we were confused as to what to talk about here but we overcame by putting our ideas together and having a better grasp of what to include. Our first meeting was at the computer lab in the union and the only available computers were the Macs. We are not accustomed to Macs and this was definitely an issue. However, at the next meeting, we made sure that we found a PC. Also, this week all of us have a very busy schedule so getting together was a bit rough. We overcame this by each of us doing bits and parts alone and then putting everything together.

Future obstacles include finding credible and cooperative interviewees. We have contacted many people already but haven’t heard from most yet, and others say they don’t have anything to do with live subject research. We think this might have to do with the terminology and from now on we will use the phrase “animal care and research” instead of live subject research. To get around this, we will have to contact more people. We’ll use this strategy when finding written material as well so that we can weed out the insufficient sources and still have enough for our project.

Another obstacle is making sure all group members are on the same page. We want this paper flow so we should utilize I-labs to store even partially completed assignments. This way we can familiarize ourselves with each other’s writing styles and offer each other constructive criticism. We should be sure to contact each other right away in case of unexpected events.