

EPITOME

February/March, 2009, Vol. XLVII, Number 4

IN THIS ISSUE:

- ▶ Death of Missouri Man Serves as Reminder of Rabies Danger
- ▶ 2009 Outstanding Veterinarian Awards
- ▶ Vet Training Combines Hands-on, Online Learning
- ▶ 2009 ISVMA Spring Seminar Series
- ▶ ISVMA Lobby Day is April 1
- ▶ Legislative Update
- ▶ Help Update our Grassroots Network!
- ▶ Weathering the Economy

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- ▶ March 21 in Hoffman Estates, IL
- ▶ March 22 in Willowbrook, IL

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The Challenge

Sheldon B. Rubin, DVM – ISVMA President, Board of Directors

Forty years ago I held up my right hand and recited the following:

Being admitted to the profession of veterinary medicine, I solemnly swear to use my scientific knowledge and skills for the benefit of society through the protection of animal health, the relief of animal suffering, the conservation of livestock resources, the promotion of public health and the advancement of medical knowledge.

I will practice my profession conscientiously, with dignity and in keeping with the principles of veterinary medical ethics.

I accept as a lifelong obligation the continual improvement of my professional knowledge and competence.

While I followed this oath to the best of my ability these last 40 years, I am finding that others outside the profession are attempting on a regular basis to prevent me and my fellow veterinarians from fulfilling our life's ambition. The veterinarian has always been respected as the "keeper of the flock", the compassionate one, the rational, smart member of community boards and, most importantly, the person children looked up to when it came to animal issues. I am dismayed over what has been happening to us over the last few years and am fearful that if we don't stand up to assert our expertise, we will lose our honored spot in society. We are confronted by some of the "welfare-humane-rights" groups almost on a daily basis. The vocal minority they represent is making their voices heard and while what they have to say is not always true, the way they say it pulls at the heartstrings of uninformed lawmakers and the public.

I have always thought that being involved with local humane societies was a way to show we care as veterinarians and readily offer our volunteer services to direct proper vaccination programs, feeding guidelines, and sanitation for the often overcrowded facilities. We have, as a profession, helped develop spay/neuter programs aimed at the poor while at the same time realizing that we are giving up part of our daily income. After all, what is the most common surgery general small animal practitioners do? Spay/neuter, of course. But we have gladly helped and felt good about making a dent in the over-population problem.

Despite all of the gratis work we have done, we have always been asked to give more. Most of us do this without pomp and circumstance and again feel it in our hearts to do the right thing. I am sure it would be difficult to find another profession that has given back to society more than veterinarians. Unfortunately, we haven't told our story and while we don't want a pat on the back, we deserve some respect and recognition for what we have done.

Unfortunately, some organizations outside the profession feel that they are the "chosen animal guardians" and have moved in their own direction to change legislation to meet their self-made goals. These groups seem to ignore the veterinarian in writing laws and, even more troubling, have the ability to spend thousands and sometimes millions of dollars lobbying to get their agenda passed.



ARTICLES IN THIS ISSUE:

Death of Missouri Man Serves as Reminder of Rabies Danger	4
2009 Outstanding Veterinarian Awards	4
VET Training Combines Hands-on, Online Learning	5
2009 ISVMA Spring Seminar Series ..	5
ISVMA Lobby Day is April 1	10
Legislative Update	13
Help Update our Grassroots Network!	13
Weathering the Economy	16

CONTRIBUTING AUTHORS

AVMA House of Delegates Representative George Richards, DVM	6
Dean's Column, University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine Herbert Whiteley, DVM	8
ISVMA Executive Director Peter S. Weber, MS, CAE	3
ISVMA President Sheldon B. Rubin, DVM	1

DEPARTMENTS:

Classified Advertisements	25
Continuing Education	25
E-SOURCE news	24
ISVMA Member Services	23
New Member Welcome	3
News and Notes	7
Obituaries	21
In Memoriam	21
Readers' Forum	22

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DEADLINES FOR SUBMISSION

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MATERIALS FOR SUBMISSION

Text documents should be in Word format. Pictures should be approximate in size for inclusion, formatted as a .pdf or .jpg file, and preferably in black and white. Submissions sent as e-mail should be forwarded to brenda@isvma.org as an attachment. To submit material by mail, include a printed copy of all text and/or artwork, accompanied either by computer disk (3½") or CD.

The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or modify material as deemed necessary to accommodate the publication format. Authors will be notified if the submission is deemed inappropriate. Material submitted will be filed unless other arrangements are requested. Opinions expressed by the authors will be their own and not necessarily those of the ISVMA.

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ONLINE ACCESS

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Submit changes in writing to the ISVMA at 1121 Chatham Road, Springfield, Illinois 62704. Changes will also be accepted by e-mail at jill@isvma.org.

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Advocacy by the Numbers

Using the Power of Individuals to Influence Legislation

Peter S. Weber, MS, CAE - Executive Director

In today's legislatures, there are more advocates—professional and grassroots—than at any other time in the nation's history. The increasing numbers of advocates, and the many new ways technology allows messages to be delivered to legislators, are contributing to an information overload in state and federal legislatures. Getting through the gauntlet of information and making your message get attention is critical to the success of any advocacy effort.



A well-organized grassroots advocacy campaign is one of the most effective ways of reaching legislators. For any advocacy program to be effective in the legislative environment described above, an organization must develop an effective network of grassroots advocates who can speak to elected officials as voting constituents.

ISVMA has been working for five years to develop an effective grassroots advocacy network. This network is a group of like-minded people brought together around common goals who share information and develop plans of action. ISVMA grassroots advocates must understand not only the basics of working with legislators and their staff, but also realize how larger legislative and political events may influence the ISVMA legislative agenda. For instance, ISVMA may introduce bills and amendments that, in normal circumstances, would not be the focus of its legislative program. However, when other organizations introduce bad bills to address real problems, ISVMA is forced into a position to minimize the impact of bad public policy ideas and their advocates.

ISVMA members leverage technology in order to more effectively communicate with each other and public policy makers. We use the power of association to identify professionals who share our objectives and make our advocacy job less daunting. The ISVMA Legislative Action Center (<http://capwiz.com/isvma/home/>) has a list of all of the legislation on which ISVMA is working and simple forms that can be used to contact your own legislators by telephone, email or mail. All you need is your address to identify the legislators that represent you – and those legislators want to hear from you! Your expertise and experience can help them make informed decisions on issues related to the health and welfare of animals and the public.

The fundamental goals of the ISVMA Grassroots Advocacy Network are:

Unite: We unite veterinary professionals who share common goals. Most likely, concerned veterinarians in your community have little or no idea what other veterinarians are doing to advance the interests of the profession. The ISVMA grassroots network seeks to bring these people together.

Educate: Information is made readily available to educate grassroots network participants on key issues affecting the profession. Our ability to quickly and effectively communicate vital information to our network members, and then their ability to communicate to the legislators that represent them is the key to our success.

Strategize: Action alerts develop and present plans of action to accomplish specific goals. When you get an email from ISVMA calling our network to action, please respond!

Motivate: Our grassroots network must motivate ISVMA members to action and make it easy for them to participate. You can participate at whatever level you are comfortable – sending an email, visiting a legislator in their district office, calling a legislator on an important issue or participating in the ISVMA Lobby Day.

The Fifth Annual ISVMA Lobby Day is April 1, 2009 in Springfield. It is a very fun day of networking and effective grassroots lobbying. ISVMA staff and lobbyists brief participants and help them make contact with their own legislators. Everyone that has participated enjoys feeling like an "insider" for a day and they always come back! If you are interested in joining us for the ISVMA Lobby Day, please send me an email at info@isvma.org.

Welcome New Members!

ISVMA would like to welcome the following 40 new members (who joined between December 17, 2008 and January 31, 2009). Please help us spread the news about the many benefits of membership in ISVMA – where dues are an investment that pays tremendous dividends!

DVM Members

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The Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association 2009 Outstanding Veterinarians Awards

The Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association is looking for outstanding veterinarians whose dedication to their field deserves special recognition. We're looking for individuals whose fervor to care for and attend to their patients' needs is rivaled only by his or her willingness to serve in organized veterinary medicine.

The ISVMA invites you to nominate a candidate! The awards are the Erwin Small First Decade Award and the Veterinary Service Award.

Qualifications include:

The **Erwin Small First Decade Award** recognizes a graduate of a veterinary college who has been practicing veterinary medicine for less than ten years. Additionally, they must have supported the goals and mission of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association through leadership and/or participation in programs approved by the ISVMA.

The **Veterinary Service Award** is a meritorious award designed to honor those giving special attention to, or promotion of, the human-animal bond in Illinois as well as demonstrating outstanding work as an Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association member.

The ISVMA Awards Committee is currently taking nominations through August 31, 2009, but don't wait for the deadline to forward your nomination form. Contact the ISVMA office for a form or download one from the website at www.isvma.org. Winners will be notified in October 2009 and will be presented with their award at the ISVMA's Annual Convention in Peoria November 13-15, 2009.

Recent Death of Missouri Man Serves as Reminder of Rabies Danger

This article is the first in a series on key animal and public health issues. Compiled by the ISVMA Public Relations Committee, with the support of Dr. Connie Austin, Illinois Public Health Veterinarian, this informational piece was created for ISVMA members to use in educating their clients. To download a copy of this article, and to access other printable resources on the subject of rabies, visit the Members Center on the ISVMA's website at www.isvma.org. Click on "ISVMA Library" at the top of the page and look for the links under ISVMA Public Relations Committee Information Series.

A deadly virus struck close to home in December, when a 55 year-old Missouri man died of rabies from a bite of an infected bat. Under the assumption that the bat did not carry rabies because it survived three days after the bite, he released the bat from his home and did not seek rabies post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) until his symptoms started. Unfortunately, this mistake proved fatal. The rabies death was the first in the state of Missouri since 1959.

What is rabies and how is it transmitted?

Rabies is a viral infection of the central nervous system, usually contracted from the bite (specifically saliva) of an infected mammal. Exposure may occur if the animal's saliva enters an open cut or mucous membrane (nose, mouth, eyes).

How widespread is rabies?

The disease is found in all states except Hawaii, as well as in Canada, Mexico and most other countries around the world. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) revealed that there were approximately 3.5 cases of human rabies in the United States each year between 1990 and 2004.

The last reported case of human rabies in Illinois was in 1954. However, in 2007, 435 people were reported to have had a possible exposure to rabies. For 81 percent of these persons, their exposure was to a bat. This risk does not seem to be lessening. In fact, the identification of rabies in animals is on the rise in Illinois, where more than 100 bats tested positive for rabies in 2008.

What animals are at risk for rabies?

High-risk species for rabies in Illinois include bats, skunks, raccoons, fox and coyotes. Additionally, cats, dogs and livestock can get rabies if unvaccinated. On the other hand, many small mammals, such as chipmunks, gerbils, guinea pigs, hamsters, mice, rabbits, rats and squirrels, rarely get rabies. Birds, fish, insects, lizards, snakes and turtles never acquire this virus.

See **Rabies** on page 20

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ISVMA Spring Seminar Series -

Expanded Program Offerings for Practice Owners/Managers and Veterinary Technicians/Assistants

ISVMA is excited to announce the 2009 Spring Seminar Series! This is the first license renewal cycle in which veterinarians must obtain 40 hours of CE and veterinary technicians must obtain 15 hours. Therefore, we have expanded our program and we are offering concurrent sessions for veterinary practice owners/managers and veterinary technicians/assistants.

The practice owner/manager program is called, "Hard Times Management: Improving Your Hospital in a Recessionary Time." The presenters include Christine A. Merle, DVM, CPA, CVPM; Judy Jennings, MBA; and a representative from a top accounting firm.

The veterinary technician/assistant program will be presented by Mr. Angel Rivera CVT, VTS (ECC). He will speak on a number of topics including: Veterinary Nursing: Ethics and Professionalism; 20 essential tools of monitoring, diagnostics and assessments to use in the critically ill ICU patient; Basic Patient Parameter Assessment (Triage); and How to become an indispensable part of a winning team and increase practice profitability through the appropriate use of staff.

The 2009 ISVMA Spring Seminars will be offered at three locations:

- ▶ March 14 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Springfield, IL
- ▶ March 21 at the Stonegate in Hoffman Estates, IL
Program ONLY for practice owners/managers. No veterinary technician/assistant program is being offered at this location.
- ▶ March 22 at the Holiday Inn in Willowbrook, IL

Registration opens at 8:30am, program begins at 9:00am and the day ends at 3:30pm.

Full program information (including course descriptions, speaker bios, directions and schedule) is available on the ISVMA website. Attendance earns 6 hours CE.

Register online today or call the ISVMA office at 217/546-8381 for a registration form.

Please register early! Seating is limited for each venue and paid registrations will be counted on a first come-first served basis.

ISVMA Appreciates



and



for their generous sponsorship of our Spring Seminar Series.

The support of our sponsors allows ISVMA to offer this excellent continuing education program at a substantially reduced registration rate.

Vet Tech Training Combines Hands-On Online Learning

Haley Jorgensen, Published August 1, 2008

The online veterinary technician program at Moraine Park Technical College (MPTC) in Wisconsin is only in its third semester, but it already has a lengthy waiting list.

Still, it wasn't easy to get a traditionally face-to-face program to work online. The college did so out of necessity, said Pete Rettler, campus and community partner for MPTC's West Bend and online campuses.

Despite an industry craving for vet techs, MPTC didn't have the brick-and-mortar space to offer a face-to-face program. To make it work online, the college collaborated with technical specialists, instructors, area veterinary clinics and hospitals, as well as the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Worldwide Instructional Design System (WIDS).

An advisory board of educators and professionals in the veterinary field worked with "vet tech" instructor Laura Lien to develop the program curriculum, along with other industry collaborators. While students were to take theory courses online, all hands-on skills were to be practiced and mastered at partnering veterinary clinics.

One of just nine accredited programs of its kind in the nation, the vet tech program—accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities (CVTEA)—currently has 33 enrolled students and a 72 percent retention rate.

A unique component of the program is that students videotape themselves performing various tasks while at partnering clinics. They then upload the videos to a file transfer protocol (FTP) site provided by MPTC. From there, MPTC instructors download the videos and assess students' performance.

"It is important to offer both face-to-face and online courses and programs whenever possible," Rettler said. "Online isn't for everyone because some people

See Vet Tech Training on page 18

AVMA Update

George Richards, DVM – ISVMA
House of Delegates Representative

AVMA Annual Meeting

Are you planning to attend the AVMA's 145th Annual Convention from July 11 – 14, 2009? Registration opened January 15. Take advantage of a price break during advance registration period and register early. The reduced rates apply when your registration is postmarked or completed by April 13.

Questions or comments about AVMA items?

Contact either AVMA representative: Dr. George Richards, Delegate, at (217) 443-0333, grichards15@insightbb.com or Dr. Shelly Rubin (Alternate Delegate) srubin3134@aol.com at (773) 327-4446.

Request for Information: Compounding Pharmacies That Collect Illinois Sales Tax

ISVMA would like to compile a list of compounding pharmacies that are registered in the State of Illinois to collect state "sales" taxes. If you use a compounding pharmacy that collects the tax and remits it to the state, please let us know at info@isvma.org.

Save the Date For Convention

If you mentally mark off the first week-end in November, please be aware that the 2009 dates are a slight departure from the past.

The convention will be held the second week-end in November.

The 127th ISVMA Annual Convention will be held on November 13-15 at the Peoria Convention Center.

AVMA Urges Veterinarians to Support National Animal Identification System

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is showing its strong support for the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) by urging veterinarians to actively participate in the system and utilize the new Veterinarian's Toolkit.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (USDA-APHIS) Veterinarian's Toolkit is an online resource developed by veterinarians for veterinarians. It provides a myriad of information including a detailed guide to how NAIS works and resources to help communicate its importance and benefits to producers.

"The AVMA fully supports a national livestock identification system. This toolkit will help ensure that both veterinarians and producers are on the same page when it comes to protecting our nation's livestock," says Dr. Ron DeHaven, Chief Executive Officer of the AVMA. "We're asking veterinarians, particularly those working with livestock, to become involved in the NAIS program, to register their own hospitals in addition to their premises and animals, and also to encourage their clients to register their animals and premises. No one carries more credibility with animal owners than veterinarians."

A Veterinarian's Toolkit includes factsheets and "conversation-starter tips" to help veterinarians inform their clients about the NAIS and why it is so vitally important to our national security. The online toolkit will be updated by USDA-APHIS and provides links to other relevant resources.

The NAIS is designed to help producers and animal health officials respond quickly and effectively to animal health events in the United States. NAIS utilizes premises registration, animal identification, and animal tracing to locate animals that may have been exposed to disease and remove from suspicion animals that are not a threat.

"The NAIS is an essential tool for tracking down all animals impacted by a disease outbreak," Dr. DeHaven explains. "A disaster is not the time to start planning, and we can't afford to wait until the next disease outbreak to participate in this critical national identification program."

For more information about the NAIS, visit www.usda.gov/naais. For more information about the AVMA and its programs, please visit www.avma.org.

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News and Notes

New Web Site Gathers Pesticide Incidents Involving Animals

The National Pesticide Information Center has developed a Web site for veterinarians to report pesticide incidents involving animals.

The Web site is for the use of veterinarians only. It can be accessed at www.avma.org/animal_health/reporting_adverse_events.asp. The reporting site was developed by the NPIC with input from the AVMA Clinical Practitioners Advisory Committee and the AVMA Council on Biologic and Therapeutic Agents.

The site was designed to capture the optimal amount of relevant information while providing a form that is quick for busy practitioners to fill out. Several pieces of information are required, the most important of which is identification of the pesticide product, preferably by the Environmental Protection Agency registration number located on the label. If the registration number is not available, the veterinarian may enter the product name and active ingredient.

The data will be evaluated by the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs. Most of the reports of more severe pesticide-induced incidents the agency receives are neurologic or dermatologic in nature. The reports vary in quality and in information reported. It is expected that reports received from veterinarians will help to better characterize the incident reports presently received by the EPA.

Reports generated from this new database will also be provided to the AVMA.

Emergency Backup System for Veterinary Records

An ISVMA member is developing an emergency records management system to protect records from fires, floods, storms and anything else that might destroy them. Visit www.emergencypetrecords.com to learn about the system.

This member wishes to collect information from Illinois' veterinary community and asks primary care veterinarians for their opinion regarding this type of system. The website (www.emergencypetrecords.com) includes a link to a survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=wd_2fOLsblTr2_2fUjljoAfqgQ_3d_3d. Input on this survey will help determine whether there is sufficient interest from private practice veterinarians for this type of system.

NCSL Issues Horse Welfare Resolution

Courtesy AVMA

At their annual Fall Forum in Atlanta, Georgia on Dec. 11-13, 2008, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) approved a resolution urging the U.S. Congress to oppose legislation that would restrict marketing, transport, processing, or export of horses, to recognize the need for humane horse processing facilities in the United States, and not to interfere with state efforts to establish facilities.

NCSL is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories, and also lobbies Congress on behalf of state legislatures.

The resolution was co-sponsored by State Rep. Sue Wallis of Wyoming and State Rep. Dave Sigdestad of South Dakota. Rep. Wallis is a Vice Chair of the Agriculture and Energy Standing Committee at NCSL. "I am especially pleased," said Wallis, "that the strong support of this resolution will allow our NCSL staff the ability to lobby on Capitol Hill with factual, accurate, and compassionate information about the horrific unintended consequences of certain proposed federal actions that would deprive livestock owners of private property rights and thwart state efforts."

FDA Revokes Order Prohibiting Extralabel Use of Cephalosporin

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is revoking the order prohibiting the extralabel use of cephalosporin antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals. The agency is taking this action today so that it may fully consider the many substantive comments it received on the order of prohibition.

The order, which was to take effect on November 30, 2008, would have changed 21 CFR 530.41 to list cephalosporins as prohibited from extralabel use in food-producing animals. It was originally announced in the Federal Register on July 3, 2008 with a 60-day comment period and a 90-day effective date for the final rule; however, on August 18, 2008, the agency extended the comment period to November 1 to allow adequate time for interested persons to submit comments, thus delaying the implementation of the rule until November 30, 2008.

The agency received many substantive comments on the order of prohibition, and therefore, in order for FDA to fully consider the comments, the agency has decided to revoke the order. As a result, the order of prohibition will not take effect on November 30, 2008. Neither the order nor the change to § 530.41 that would have listed cephalosporins as prohibited from extralabel use will take effect on November 30, 2008. If, after considering the comments and other relevant information, FDA decides to issue another order of prohibition addressing this matter, FDA will follow the procedures in 21 CFR 530.25 that provide for a public comment period prior to implementing the order.

Did You Know...

The ISVMA is now on Facebook

The name of the Facebook Group is:
ISVMA - Illinois State Veterinary
Medical Association.

Check us out at:

www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=44863330632



Illini to Lead College's Chicago Center

Herb Whiteley, DVM - Dean, University of Illinois - College of Veterinary Medicine

Construction is in full swing on our new primary care teaching facility, located at 2242 West Harrison in Chicago's Medical District. You can follow our progress online at vetmed.illinois.edu/chicago.

As that work moves forward, we have already built a team of talented Illini who will be ready to provide leadership and service when the University of Illinois Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine opens this spring.

Dr. Rosemary LoGiudice will serve as interim director, overseeing not only the clinic but also the recruiting and outreach aspects of the new Center. Rosie is well known to many of you as the 2001-2002 president of ISVMA and a current member of the College's alumni board.

After being in private practice for 20 years—she owned the Country Care Animal Hospital in Manhattan, Ill.—Rosie took on the role of director of membership and field service for AVMA in 2001. We're fortunate to harness her enthusiasm for the profession and the College in our new Center.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to provide students with primary care veterinary experiences," she says. "To be

comfortable in private practice upon graduation, students need to experience the day-to-day operations in a fast-paced clinical setting in addition to acquiring a knowledge base at the College and Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana. I'm excited to help chart the course of this new program and make it a model for other veterinary schools to emulate," she adds. "Plus I'll get to wear orange and blue every day if I want to. What could be better for an Illini?!"

Another Illini already on the Center staff is **Dr. Tracey Davis Hlede**, a 2006 graduate of the College who most recently worked as an associate veterinarian at Pulaski Animal Hospital. In addition to providing primary care clinical services, she will develop the Center's recruiting program focused on Chicago students from underrepresented populations.

"My goal is to see students gain confidence and strategic skills to always practice the highest quality of medicine, no matter where they go!" she says.

Dr. Kelly Morgan, a 2005 graduate of the College who works as an associate veterinarian at Carlson Animal Hospital in Oak Park, Ill., will join the Center team this summer. Kelly has recently begun a behavior residency program with Dr. John Ciribassi, so in addition to providing primary care clinical services she will be offering behavior consultations at the new Center. She's eager to improve students' knowledge of behavior medicine.

Our newest Illini, 2008 graduate **Dr. Jason Doukas**, will come aboard this summer after completing a small animal rotating internship at the Matthew J. Ryan Veterinary Hospital at the University of Pennsylvania.

Rounding out the initial staff are **Rosemary Burke**, assistant director of business and client services, and **Kelsie Dolezal**, lead veterinary technician. Rosemary has served as the director of service operations at Crothall Services Group in Wheeling, Ill., and as the assistant director of patient access services at UI Medical Center in Chicago. Kelsie will provide general and advanced paramedical technical assistance and nursing care. She will also train other technicians and veterinary students. She has worked at Animal Medical Center of Chicago and at Rush University Comparative Research Center in Chicago.

Please join me in welcoming our new team. If you have any comments or questions, contact me at dean@vetmed.illinois.edu.

Awards & Scholarship Celebration Date Change

Planning to attend the U of I CVM 2009 Awards & Scholarships Celebration on campus? Please note the ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 2.



Architect's renderings of the new Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine primary care clinic.

Clinical Trials Offer Hope for the Future

The University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital has posted online their ongoing clinical trials:

Rehabilitation

- The Effect of Body Condition on Postoperative Recovery in Dachshunds with Intervertebral Disc Disease Treated with Surgery and Aggressive Physical Rehabilitation
- Evaluation of the Effects of Deramaxx® and Rehabilitation on Hindlimb Function in Lamé Juvenile Dogs with Canine Hip Dysplasia

Oncology

- Chemotherapy and NSAIDS in the Treatment of Canine Osteosarcoma
- Funded Study: Treatment for Canine Appendicular osteosarcoma Pulmonary Metastases with a Rapamycin

Orthopedic

- Noninvasive Canine Arthritis Treatment Clinical Trial
- Clinical Trial on Diagnosis and Treatment of Radio-Ulnar incongruity in Large dogs with Medial Compartment Elbow Disease

Small Animal Internal Medicine

- Canine Blastomycosis
- Feline Chronic Renal Failure Study

Dermatology

- Treatment of dogs with atopic dermatitis.

For clients who are interested in sending their pet for study, animals enrolled in clinical trials do not stay at the hospital, but live with their owners as they normally would. In addition, it is not uncommon for patients enrolled in a trial to have expenses reduced or completely covered. Information about the trials listed above can be found by visiting www.vetmed.illinois.edu/vth, and clicking on the "clinical trials" link along the left.

What Do I Do Now?

When a New Hire Does Not Pass the NAVLE

You are a practice owner and have hired an excited and eager new graduate to complete your roster of DVM's. In addition to their enthusiasm and their diploma, each new grad needs to bring an essential component with them: verification that they have passed their North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE). Every year, to the frustration of both recent grads and employers, these newly graduated doctors of veterinary medicine must wait to perform their jobs as doctors until they learn whether they have passed this final exam. For some, the frustration becomes even greater when they learn they have not passed.

While they were enrolled as students at an accredited veterinary college, these recent graduates were allowed to perform certain tasks that are considered the practice of veterinary medicine. This is due to an exemption in the Illinois Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act for:

Veterinary students in an accredited college, university, department of a university, or other institution of veterinary medicine and surgery engaged in duties assigned by their instructors. (225 ILCS 115/4)

Upon graduation, the above exemption no longer applies. Once finished with their education program, the graduate is an unlicensed doctor of veterinary medicine that is treated under Illinois state law like any other unlicensed person. They cannot diagnose patients, perform surgery or make prescriptions – even under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian. They are, in effect, restricted to activities that are outlined in another exemption to the Practice Act for:

An employee of a licensed veterinarian performing duties other than diagnosis, prognosis, prescription, or surgery under the direction and supervision of the veterinarian, who shall be responsible for the performance of the employee. (225 ILCS 115/4)

It is important to clarify that the unlicensed graduate cannot take the title of a veterinary technician.

Announcing the Eighth Annual Doodle for Wildlife:

New Date, New Location

This year's Doodle for Wildlife, benefiting the Wildlife Medical Clinic, will be held March 7, 2009, at the new I Hotel on the University of Illinois campus. Save the date and stay tuned for more details.

Want to help make "Eight" great? Sponsor an experience package or vacation getaway. For information contact Heather Nelson-Zorn at 217/265-0210, hpnelson@illinois.edu.

EIVMA Spring Meeting to Host Job Fair at U of I - CVM

WHO is this for?

This Job Fair is open to veterinary clinics and hospitals seeking graduate and soon-to-be-graduate veterinarians for employment.

WHAT does it cost?

Each clinic that has a registrant for the EIVMA meeting can participate for NO CHARGE! There is a small fee of \$25 assessed for any clinic or hospital to participate if not registered to attend the EIVMA meeting. For DVM or soon-to-be-DVM participants, there is no charge to participate.

WHEN will the event be held?

The Job Fair will be held in the evening on Thursday March 12 from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm in conjunction with the EIVMA Annual Spring Meeting.

WHERE will it be located?

Interviews will be held at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine campus in the Veterinary Services Basic Sciences Building.

HOW do I participate?

For both the employer and potential employee, email Dr. John Penning at jpenningdvm@gmail.com and be sure to include your name, contact information, plus day(s) and time(s) you are available for interviews. Dr. Penning will follow up to coordinate all the particulars.

Letter Writing 101 Good Luck! Thank you! And other things to say.....

Please take a few minutes to send a letter of congratulations or good luck to your state legislators. This is a great way to maintain or develop a positive working relationship with your elected officials.

ISVMA has created a sample email for you to send from the ISVMA Legislative Action Center. Customize the email subject line and message so that it is unique and personal. The software program ISVMA uses will automatically send this email to the legislators that represent the address you have put into the system (most likely your home or practice address).

Already, there have been many bills introduced that are related to the health and welfare of animals. This is going to be a VERY BUSY legislative year for ISVMA and you can help by either continuing a positive relationship with your legislators or developing one by sending an email to them wishing them good luck and offering to assist them if they have any questions about legislation related to animals or public health where you can be a resource.

Several times during the next few months (while the legislature is in session) you will receive notices from the ISVMA asking you to contact your legislators on specific bills and issues. We will always provide a sample email for you to send or talking points if we ask you to call your legislators. You can always edit any of the information we send and the customization (both the subject line and the message body) helps make the email communication more effective.

Do we have your email address? Email us today at info@isvma.org to be on the ISVMA's electronic distribution list. Worried about your privacy or spam? Any email address you share with the ISVMA office stays strictly confidential and is used only to conduct the business of the association.

ISVMA LOBBY DAY IS APRIL 1 Save the Date to be in Springfield!

The ISVMA Board of Directors and Legislative Committee invite you to participate in the Fifth Annual ISVMA Lobby Day in Springfield on Wednesday, April 1, 2009.

No previous lobbying experience is required to be part of this annual event. ISVMA staff and lobbyists provide a comprehensive orientation and training session for participants before they go to the Capitol to meet with their legislators. The training session will begin at 10:00 am at the ISVMA Offices. Lunch will be provided by the ISVMA for all participants.



Brochures created by the ISVMA office on key issues will be provided. Talking points on these key issues will be thoroughly reviewed in the training session. At your meetings, these handouts can then be left with your legislators for their reference. Remember to bring your business card too for distribution so your elected official will remember who to contact on issues related to animal and public health and welfare. Illinois' elected officials need to remember that DVMs should be their first source of expert advice when making decisions on issues related to the veterinary profession and the health and welfare of animals and the public. Many legislators are not aware of the critical role veterinarians play in public health and protection.

ISVMA staff and lobbyists will also be at the Capitol all day to assist anyone that needs additional information or support.

"We must work quickly to build strong relationships between veterinary professionals and legislators prior to ISVMA opening the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act for amendments and renewal. ISVMA may open the Practice Act as early as 2010, so the 2009 legislative session is our last chance to build the relationship capacity we need to fend off organizations that would seek to limit the scope of practice and otherwise diminish the profession through hostile amendments to our Practice Act."

--Peter Weber, ISVMA Executive Director

There is no such a thing as too many participants! All ISVMA members are encouraged to be part of this essential activity. Every year the Legislative Committee sets a goal of having at least 100 participants, with the ideal turnout to include at least one veterinarian from each of the 119 state legislative districts!

Participate in this year's Lobby Day and you will wonder why it took so long to join the event! So far, every veterinarian that has attended in the past returns again for each succeeding year. You'll enjoy the experience **and** feel an overwhelming sense of satisfaction for the contribution you will have made to your profession.

If you would like to participate, please RSVP by March 25, 2009 by completing the participation form on the next page and fax the information to the ISVMA office at 217/546-5633. If you prefer, the information can be forwarded by email to info@isvma.org. A Lobby Day Packet with all necessary information will be forwarded to you.

2009 ISVMA LOBBY DAY

Springfield, Illinois

April 1, 2009

Participation Form

 I AM PLANNING TO ATTEND. TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO DO!

ISVMA Member name _____

Clinic _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Email: _____

Please include your email address. Important event information will be forwarded by this method first, fax second.

Fax number: _____

Daytime phone: _____

Names of Representative/Senator (If known. The ISVMA office can provide this information if unknown.)

Cost to attend: No Charge to participate.

Time: Start at 9:00am and will end at approximately 2:00pm

Lunch: No Charge; Provided by the ISVMA

 I CANNOT ATTEND; HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE INFORMATION. TELL ME HOW THIS WORKS!

ISVMA Member name _____

Clinic _____

Address _____

City, State Zip _____

Mail or fax form back to office by March 25, 2009 so a head count for our lunch can be made.

Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association
* 1121 Chatham Road * Springfield IL 62704 * FAX 217.546.5633



2009 LEGISLATIVE RELATIONSHIP FORM

Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association

1121 Chatham Road, Springfield IL 62704

Ph: (217) 546-8381 Fax: (217) 546-5633

Email: info@isvma.org

The ISVMA would like to know if you have a relationship with an elected official in Illinois State Government or federally in the Illinois Congressional Delegation. Your feedback allows us to organize effective contacts with legislators who have significant influence on laws, rules and regulations affecting the veterinary profession. Your information will be used solely by the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association; your personal information will not be shared with anyone else.

Your Name _____

Daytime Phone _____

Email _____

Please check this column to indicate you have a relationship with:	Official	Official's Name	Nature of relationship (i.e. client, friend, family, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Illinois Governor		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Illinois Constitutional Officer		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Illinois State Senator		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Illinois State Representative		
<input type="checkbox"/>	US Senator		
<input type="checkbox"/>	US Congressman		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Key Staffer		

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Legislative Update: Bills Impacting Veterinary Medicine in the Current Illinois General Assembly

Reprinted from the E-SOURCE, Volume VI, No. 13

Amidst the thousands of bills introduced in last year's Illinois General Assembly, there were many on which the ISVMA represented its members through oral and written testimony, direct lobbying of legislators and Constitutional Officers, negotiations with sponsors and advocates, and through the use of our grassroots advocacy network in which more than 1100 veterinarians and students supported our lobbying efforts by contacting their legislators.

These are just a few of the bills that were worked on during the two-year General Assembly:

House Bill 1951 - Would have required a veterinarian to provide a client to whom a prescription drug is dispensed with a client information sheet that sets forth certain information about the drug at the time of dispensation.

Disposition: ISVMA convinced the state representative sponsor of the legislation that implementation and application of his proposal could have negative consequences not intended by his desire to elevate the definition of informed consent. As a result, he agreed not to call the bill for a vote in committee.

House Bill 4391 - Would provide that licensed prescribers may not knowingly prescribe medications, including veterinary prescriptions, for a patient by fax, telephone, Internet, or other electronic means unless the patient has been physically examined by the prescriber or has been given a documented patient evaluation, the prescriber and the patient have discussed treatment options and the risks and benefits of treatment; and the prescriber has maintained the patient's medical records. Would provide for certain exemptions.

Disposition: This bill was originally introduced by human medical associations and covered all medical professions except veterinary medicine. ISVMA consulted with the sponsor and proponents and the legislation was amended to include veterinary medicine. With the support of ISVMA and its grassroots advocacy network, the legislation was overwhelmingly approved by the Illinois House of Representatives. HB 4391 was not called for a vote in the Illinois Senate because of a dispute between the Governor and the House Speaker that will be described below. ISVMA will reintroduce the legislation in January 2009 when the new General Assembly convenes.

House Bill 4166*

House Bill 4162*

House Bill 4489*

House Bill 4489 (amendment)

**as introduced*

Underscoring the ongoing issues related to the ban on euthanasia of unwanted horses for the purposes of human consumption, these bills would provide that no person may transport any horses in a vehicle or trailer with two or more levels, with one on top of the other. HB 4489 was amended to repeal the 2007 law that makes it unlawful to slaughter a horse if the meat is to be used for human consumption.

Disposition: ISVMA supported the restrictions on transportation of horses in "double-decker" trailers. House Bill 4162 did pass in the Illinois House of Representatives but was not called for a vote in the Senate. It was another victim of the dispute between the Governor and House Speaker.

Help Update Our Grassroots Network! Legislative Relationship Form

The recent elections resulted in a number of new faces in the Illinois General Assembly and some of the familiar faces are taking on new roles. The Illinois State Senate has two new leaders: Senator John Cullerton (D-Chicago), the new Senate President, and Senator Christine Radogno (R-Lemont), the new Senate Minority Leader.

ISVMA needs to know if you have a relationship with an elected official in the Illinois General Assembly, an Illinois Constitutional officer, member of the Illinois Congressional Delegation or a key staff person. Examples of relationships include:

- ♦ Client (next to family, this is as good as it gets)
- ♦ Attend same church
- ♦ Belong to same organizations (i.e. Rotary, Lion's Club, Shriners, etc.)
- ♦ Children attend school together
- ♦ Classmate, friend, neighbor
- ♦ Served together on a committee, board, or project team

The ISVMA has a Legislative Relationship form (on facing page) that helps the ISVMA office and its Legislative Committee track relationships that can help organize contacts with legislators and elevate our ability to influence laws, rules and regulations affecting the veterinary profession. The Legislative Relationship Form can be faxed, mailed or can also be found online at www.isvma.org/legislation/legislative_relationship_form.html.

The information you supply will be used solely by the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association; your personal information will not be shared with anyone else.

Have you submitted your Legislative Relationship Form once already? Please complete it again so any outdated information can be corrected!

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Dr. Steve Dullard (ISU 1986)
Chair, Region V

Dr. John Spence (ILL 2001)
Region I

Dr. Clyde Dunphy (ILL 1974)
Region II

Dr. Gregory Mauck (ILL 1986)
Region III

Dr. Allen Barclay (ILL 1979)
Region IV

Dr. Craig Wardrip (PUR 1978)
Region VII

Dr. Justin Brown (ILL 2001)
At-Large

Dr. Matthew Bussan (ILL 2004)
At Large

Dr. Matthew Nelson (ILL 2002)
At Large

Dr. Marva Davis (VMR 1987)
IL Veterinary Licensing Board

Ms. Emily Wheeler (ILL 2009)
Student Representative

Legislative Update

Continued from page 13

The amendment to House Bill 4489 resulted in a debate on the welfare of unwanted horses that no longer can be sold to plants in the United States that slaughter and process the horses for human consumption. Concerns over the proliferation of unwanted horses will likely result in similar legislation being introduced again in 2009.

House Bill 4843 - Would create the Illinois Veterinary Loan Repayment Program Act to provide incentives to veterinary students to pursue careers in underserved areas of the profession (i.e. agricultural animal health, food safety, public health, or regulatory medicine). Loans would be provided to four veterinary students in each class at the University of Illinois for up to 20K per year for up to four years. Preference will be given to Illinois residents.

Disposition: This bill was a legislative priority for the ISVMA in 2008. It unanimously passed the Illinois House of Representatives and was referred to the Illinois Senate for a vote that would send it to the Governor for final approval. Unfortunately, this bill was yet another victim of the dispute between the Governor and House Speaker. It will definitely be reintroduced in January 2009 with the full support of ISVMA.

House Bill 5076 - Provides that any person, including without limitation any licensed veterinarian in Illinois or any other state or territory in the United States, who in good faith provides emergency care or treatment without fee to an injured animal, or an animal separated from its owner due to emergency or disaster, is not liable for civil damages as a result of his or her acts or omissions in providing or arranging further care or treatment, except for willful or wanton misconduct. Further provides that the statute of limitations for a violation of the act is two years.

Disposition: This was one of the very few bills that escaped the perils of the leadership dispute that stalled most legislation in 2008. It was signed into law by the Governor on 8/20/2008.

Explaining the Legislative Dispute That Stalled Most Legislative Proposals in 2008

Most bills that become law are dependent upon rules being promulgated by a regulatory agency (under the authority of the Governor) for the implementation of the law. During the 2008 legislative session, a dispute over rules making authority has a negative impact on nearly all legislation. Among the bills that stalled in the legislative process as a result of the political in-fighting were two initiatives of the ISVMA - the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program Act (HB4843) and the Internet Prescribing Prohibition Act (HB4391).

Every bill requires approval from both the House of Representatives and the Senate before it can be sent to the Governor for final approval. When a bill is introduced in the House it is assigned a House Bill number (i.e. HB4843). If a bill is introduced in the Senate it is given a Senate Bill number (i.e. SB1234). The bill must pass the chamber of origin first and then be sent to the other chamber for approval.

Bills considered in the House of Representatives in 2008 were blocked by the Speaker of the House (using his considerable power) unless they included a "rules amendment"

See Legislative Update on page 15

Support the ISVMA Political
Action Committee!
Help our Legislative
Committee by making out
your check and mailing
your contributions to:

ISVMA PAC
1121 Chatham Road
Springfield, IL 62704

To bring forward a suggestion for change, contact any of the following:

- ISVMA Legislative Committee Member
- ISVMA Executive Director Peter S. Weber
- ISVMA Board of Directors Regional Representatives.

If you are unsure who your representative is, turn to page 2 where there is a complete listing for all seven regions. You can also look online at www.isvma.org and open the "About the ISVMA" link.

Legislative Update

Continued from page 14

that took rule-making authority away from the Governor. In other words, bills weren't passing the House without this politically-motivated amendment that pitted the House against the Senate President (who declined to consider bills with the the House "rules amendment") and the Governor.

All bills with the "rules amendment" passed by the House and referred to the Senate were blocked by the Senate President who refused to allow a vote on bills with the amendment attached. Senate bills that were sent to the House were amended to include the "rules amendment" and were then returned to the Senate for concurrence and the Senate would then refuse to accept the House amendment and caused the bills to languish.

ISVMA initiatives were among many hundreds of bills that were stalled in this manner. The Illinois General Assembly adjourned and we were left with no recourse. Unfortunately it appears the political climate among the legislative leaders and the Governor will preclude any further progress on stalled legislation this year. Neither the House nor the Senate will recede from their political agendas with regard to authority over the rule-making process. Therefore, ISVMA will likely have to wait until January 2009 and the next legislative session to advance our strategic legislative initiatives.

Meanwhile, the players and the field of play are changing. Senate President Emil Jones has announced his retirement and the Senate will be electing a new leader that may or may not be as politically aligned with the Governor as was Senator Jones. Additionally, the substance of the "rules amendment" is being challenged in the courts. Regardless of any political obstacles that are present in 2009, the ISVMA will be re-introducing the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program Act and the Internet Prescribing Prohibition Act. We also plan to offer a Pet Lemon Law and some other legislation in preparation for the next renewal of the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act.

ISVMA LOBBY DAY Save the Date to be in Springfield!

Who:

ISVMA Members!

When:

April 1
9:00 am to approximately
2:00 pm

Where:

Springfield, IL

Why:

To make veterinarians the first source of expert advice when lawmakers are making decisions on issues related to the veterinary professions and the health and welfare of animals and the public.

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Weathering the Economy

Karen E. Felsted, CPA, MS, DVM, CVPM, CEO-National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues

Early this summer, Advanstar Research Services did a survey of veterinarians in which they asked them "How concerned are you about the state of the US economy?" About 25% reported they were extremely concerned, 46% were very concerned and 28% somewhat concerned. In July of this year, Wells Fargo/Gallup polled small business owners and found that 25% thought we were already in a severe recession with another 45% saying they thought we were in a mild recession. Almost 60% predicted the economy wouldn't recover until the latter part of 2009 or even later. The news continues to get worse this week with the Dow dropping below 8000 for the first time in recent memory and the big 3 auto companies begging for handouts. Who knows what things will look like by the time you read this?

Veterinary medicine has always been considered somewhat recession proof, but is that true today? The National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues (NCVEI) has released the Economy Tracker, its newest financial resource for veterinary practices. The Economy Tracker is designed to measure the impact of the economy on veterinary medicine by comparing gross practice revenue, transactions and average transaction charge (ATC) between 2008 and 2007. Approximately 250 practices have already entered their data and revenue growth in companion animal practices has averaged about 5% in each quarter of 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. This is less than half of the growth seen in practices in the last several years.

In order to access more detailed comparisons, your practice need only enter their monthly revenue and transaction information for 2007 and 2008. In addition to revenue changes, the Economy Tracker will also help your practice understand why the revenue is changing by analyzing transaction and ATC growth. Ultimately information will be available by practice type (companion animal, equine, etc) and for various demographics (region, state, etc.) A detailed "Recommended Treatment" section discusses strategies for successfully weathering the economic downturn.

So what are some of those strategies? When times are good, practices can have

some inefficiencies and still have healthy earnings. Maybe the doctors don't produce as much as they could or the staff spends some of their time doing things that aren't really necessary. But no one worries about it too much because the bottom line is still good. However, when times are bad, this layer of fat can have serious consequences. The practice must work harder at promoting revenue growth and controlling expenses and productivity is essential. There has never been a time when it is more important to run your business efficiently and productively.

First of all, you must understand your practice's true operating profitability—i.e. what's left over after you subtract all normal and necessary operating expenses from the revenues. Gross revenues by themselves are a poor predictor of profitability. Unfortunately, none of the standard financial or management reports a practice usually gets, even when properly prepared, gives you an accurate calculation of true operating profitability. See the "What's my bottom line" tool on the NCVEI website for help in calculating this number.

A lack of profitability either comes from revenues that are too low, expenses that are too high, or a combination of the two. The Economy Tracker also shows whether your revenue is changing because of a change in the number of transactions in your practice or the ATC or both.

If the number of transactions has declined, you will want to focus on getting more people into the practice more frequently.

First of all, focus on the clients you already have:

- Review your medical records to determine where you're not doing such a good job in making appropriate recommendations to clients. For example, do you see that in 50% of the annual wellness exams, no fecal is performed?
- If you don't already own it, get a copy of "The Path to High Quality Care" from the American Animal Hospital Association (www.aahanet.org.) This book summarizes the results of the 2002 Compliance Study performed by AAHA with an educational grant by Hill's Pet Nutrition and gives practical tips for improving pet care in your practice. Better pet care leads to improved revenue and improved profitability.
- Train your doctors and staff to better communicate to clients the value of what you do. Not everyone is born with great communication skills but they can be acquired. See the NCVEI Communication Tools and the section called "Can you Communicate Effectively" for help in this area.

In order to bring more new clients into the practice, review your marketing plan.

- Make sure every client who comes to see you has a great experience—this makes them more likely to refer you to their friends and colleagues.

See Weathering on page 17

When Selling or Buying a Veterinary Practice

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Veterinary practice brokers focused on the highest success and growth of fellow veterinary professionals

Online Database Checks Economic Health of U.S. Veterinary Practices

The National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues wants to know how veterinary practices are faring in these troubled economic times, and you can help.

The NCVEI is asking U.S. practices to provide a snapshot of their financial health by using the new Economy Tracker Tool on the NCVEI Web site (www.ncvei.org). By obtaining ongoing monthly revenue and transactions that began in January 2007, the commission hopes to get a sense of how U.S. veterinary practices are doing in 2008 compared with 2007. "What we're trying to do is get a feel for whether revenue is changing due to the troubled economy, and less people are coming in or they're spending less," explained Dr. Karen E. Felsted, NCVEI chief executive officer.

The commission began collecting data in September. So far, data indicate revenue for U.S. veterinary practices grew an average of about 5 percent in July 2008 compared with July 2007 but dropped to less than 1 percent growth from August 2007 compared with August 2008, according to Dr. Felsted. Fewer clients were visiting veterinarians, she added, but they aren't decreasing how much they spend when they do visit.

There isn't enough information yet to break down results according to practice size, region, and the like, but Dr. Felsted hopes enough data will be collected to do so, once word of the Economy Tracker Tool gets out. The tool is the only mechanism collecting real-time data of veterinary practices. The NCVEI tools are available free of charge to anyone who is a member of the AVMA or American Animal Hospital Association.

The NCVEI is asking U.S. practices to provide a snapshot of their financial health by using the new Economy Tracker Tool on the NCVEI Web site, www.ncvei.org.

Weathering

Continued from page 16

You can't market what you don't have.

- Review your outreach efforts—yellow pages advertising, practice website, participation in community events. Are you getting the most out of your efforts?

If the problem in your practice is a decline or lack of growth in your average transaction charge, consider these suggestions:

- As discussed above, focus on client compliance and communication. These strategies will help improve ATC as well as transactions.
- Review your fees - it's not uncommon to see a practice that hasn't increased fees in two years or has only increased a few of them by a small percentage.
- Lack of attention to discounts and missed charges can also impact the ATC. Even a small amount of

See Weathering on page 18



We're All In This Together!

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As the ISVMA approved partner program, our team is available to assist you with questions about pricing, servicing, or compliance issues and every ISVMA Member receives a **FREE** program comparison and cost analysis!

Contact an ISVMA-TransFirst Team Member directly
(800) 577-8573 or ISVMA@TransFirst.com
 We look forward to becoming your partner in 2009 and helping your office through this economic crunch.




Vet Tech Training

Continued from page 5

are not comfortable in that environment. But online learning does allow many more people the chance to participate in college classes."

The shortage of skilled veterinary technicians in Wisconsin prompted MPTC to develop the program. At the time, Madison Area Technical College was the only college in the state to offer a vet tech program, and it was solely on campus.

As part of its assessment of the state's needs for vet techs, MPTC conducted a survey that showed 75 percent of participating veterinary practices had a "strong need" for vet techs, said Josh Bullock, an institutional research and quality improvement partner. Researchers projected that there would be more than 420 new vet tech positions in Wisconsin during the next four years.

Vet tech jobs were already the sixth fastest-growing career path in the state requiring a two-year degree and the fourth-fastest growing in the nation, Bullock said.

Every course in the vet tech program has online components, and some are entirely online, said Lien, who created the curriculum with help from software developed by WIDS.

Because the software generates documents such as syllabi, learning plans and assessment tasks in HTML, it works seamlessly with MPTC's online platform, making online delivery simpler and more consistent, college officials said. The software was also used in the

See Vet Tech Training on page 19

Weathering

Continued from page 17

products or services given away by well-meaning doctors or missed by team members can significantly decrease revenue and profitability.

It is more important than ever to control your expenses in difficult economic times when revenue may be softer than usual. Focus on the most significant expenses first:

- Inventory control, is of course, vital to every practice and this is an area in which small changes can significantly impact profitability. Keep your inventory lean and mean.
- Review staff efficiency. A doctor's work life may be much easier and more personally rewarding with 3 techs trailing behind him or her during the day, but does this doctor actually produce more revenue with this additional support staff? Several NCVEI tools can help you improve in this area—see "Are you trying to do it all yourself?" and other related tools in the Human Resources section.
- Review doctor efficiency. The work life expectations of owners, associates and staff have changed dramatically in the past ten years. Productivity isn't always as high as it should be due to a decline in work hours or because the practice prides itself on being a "high touch" practice—spending more than the usual amount of time with clients. Practices can successfully operate this way but if there is not a strong correlation between the amounts paid to staff versus their work contributions or a correlation in the fees charged to clients versus the time spent with them, then profitability will suffer. Several NCVEI tools can help you see how your practice is doing in this area—see "Who is the top dog in my practice?" and other related tools in the finance section.

In addition to the big expense areas outlined above, good expense management is about paying attention to the details. Everyone laughs at the classic image of a practice owner who scurries around turning out the lights or fretting over how many paper towels are used, but reasonable frugality is key to expense management. How many Starbucks coffees need to be bought for the staff each week? Is it reasonable to offer health insurance at no cost to the employee? Is an outside cleaning service necessary or could that work be done by the kennel staff? The answers for each practice will be different, but most practices have areas in which money is being spent unnecessarily.

We're going to have to work harder now than ever to keep our practices on track, but veterinary medicine will weather this storm. Our profession offers something that people value and that's what we have to focus on and communicate to clients.

The National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues was founded in January 2000 with a mission of raising the economic base of veterinary medicine. A wide-ranging group of benchmarking, pricing and communications tools are available, free of charge, at www.NCVEI.org. The Commission is a not-for-profit organization governed by a Board of Directors representing the three founding organizations: American Veterinary Medical Association, American Animal Hospital Association and the Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges. Funding is provided by members of the NCVEI's Sponsor Council that includes Merial, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Veterinary Pet Insurance, Fort Dodge Animal Health, Bayer Animal Health, CareCredit, Simmons Educational Fund and the Western Veterinary Conference.

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Your CE requirements for license renewal just doubled!

ISVMA has high quality education programs, so I can support my state association AND enjoy a CE experience that I can use in my practice.

ISVMA meetings are affordably priced and accessible. I don't have to pay for airfare, expensive hotels, and other related travel costs.

The Challenge

Continued from page 1

So where are veterinarians in this picture? To some we have been erased as if we never existed. We are not asked to sit down at a table with all of the stakeholders to try to work out solutions for a problem related to animal health and welfare. We are not always asked by legislators for our opinion before they vote on new laws because we as a profession don't have millions of dollars to lobby with. In Chicago we are dealing with a Mandatory Spay Neuter ordinance that the authors drafted to imply that by mandating spay and neuter we will solve all the problems of dog fighting, children mauling, backyard breeders (puppy mills), and still save the city money. The absurdity of this premise is overwhelming.

The problem is that the proponents are lobbying the alderman with false facts and figures and convincing them that all of Chicago's animal problems will be solved. The facts as they exist from statistics gathered from Chicago Animal Shelter Alliance (CASA) tell us a different story. Adoptions in Chicago are way up, numbers of animals being turned in to the shelters are way down, and most important, the euthanasia rate as measured per thousand human population is one of the lowest in the country. There were 19,000 animals euthanized in Chicago in 2007 and better than 65% of them were euthanized because of health, behavior, or age ... not "just because". No one wants to euthanize an animal just because there is no room for them, and this just does not occur.

The ordinance's proponents, backed by the Humane Society of the United States, had to go outside Chicago to bring dogs in for adoption. Finding cats for adoption in Chicago is not a problem and most cat euthanasia were feral cats, i.e. not owned.

Statistics show that voluntary spay neuter has worked in Chicago and with the veterinarians volunteering their time and the large humane shelters that are open-door facilities (Anti-Cruelty, Animal Welfare, Chicago Animal Care and Control) having large free to low cost spay neuter (voluntarily) clinics, close to 45,000 animals were surgically altered last year.

But what about the maulings on the street, the backyard breeders and the dog fighting? These are people problems, not over-population problems. We as veterinarians don't usually see the backyard breeders, the dog fighting dogs, or the puppy mill dogs in our clinics.

While spaying and neutering changes behavior, new research has supported later spaying and neutering in many breeds. If the ordinance passes the city will spend hundreds of thousands of dollars administering the law, experience a decline in revenue from license fees and, most importantly, experience a drop in rabies vaccinations from those that are afraid to bring their intact dogs to the veterinarian.

The point I am making is that the veterinary profession was never asked to discuss the problems raised by the proponents of mandatory spay/neuter (if they exist) and offer science-based evidence for a solution. How can we stop this disregard for our experience and position in society? We (you) need to make your story known to your clients and your legislators. ISVMA is working very hard to catch up and make veterinarians the "go-to" people for animal related issues. The AVMA has made great headway in that direction with their outstanding communications division. While we can't spend millions of dollars, we can give expert advice and assert our position as the authority on issues related to animal health and welfare.

Let's hope the welfare groups can work together with us so that the millions that are spent on lobbying our legislators can be instead spent to save animals.

Vet Tech Training

Continued from page 18

accreditation process to document that AVMA standards were met.

MPTC developed two sets of assessment scoring guides. The instructor used one when assessing student videos, and the clinic supervisor used the other one. The college put special emphasis on engaging learners online with "synchronous" and "asynchronous" activities. Asynchronous activities include discussion threads and e-mails; synchronous activities are lessons completed by students and the instructor simultaneously while online.

"The vet tech program uses online synchronous methods to capture students' attention and reinforce collaborative learning," Lien said. For example, to help vet tech students learn to take X-ray images of animals, a synchronous virtual classroom provides digital images, interaction and discussion simultaneously.

"To shoot an X-ray image of an animal's body part, students need to know anatomical landmarks and select the right machine setting," Lien said. "So we put the digital images online and asked the students what was wrong with them and how to correct them. Everyone interacted at the same time, which helped the students realize what was lacking in their knowledge."

As with any online program in which assessing hands-on work is necessary, logistics and technology come into play. In the case of MPTC, students are required to practice hands-on procedures multiple times at participating vet clinics before videotaping themselves for instructor assessment.

"People in the veterinary practice are not the evaluators; that must be done by the faculty," Leff said. "But the people in the veterinary practice need to confirm completion of the coursework."

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Regional Associations: An Excellent Networking Opportunity

In addition to the many benefits provided by your state veterinary association, Illinois has seven regional associations to afford you networking opportunities on a "close to home" scale.

Region 1 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS VMA

Annual Dues: \$ 25.00
President: Jennifer Ostrom, DVM
Greenville Veterinary Clinic
Greenville, IL 62246
618/664-0640
jlibbra@hotmail.com

Region 2 CENTRAL ILLINOIS VMA

Annual Dues: \$ 25.00
President: Sean Snyder, DVM
White Oaks West Animal Hospital
2801 West White Oaks Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
217/698-0280
ssnyder559@yahoo.com

Region 3 EASTERN ILLINOIS VMA

Annual Dues: \$ 15.00
President: William Bradley Cooper, DVM
East Lake Hospital for Animals
3180 North Vermilion
Danville, IL 61832
(217) 446-3010

Region 4 MISSISSIPPI VALLEY VMA

Annual Dues: \$ 0.00
President: Dana Miller, DVM
Miller Veterinary Service
17295 East 2100 Street
Atkinson IL 61235
309/936-7622
dgmiller@theinter.com

Region 5 KANKAKEE VALLEY VMA

Annual Dues: \$ 35.00
President: Alan Whitman, DVM
Whitman Veterinary Clinic
Piper City, IL 60959
815/686-2200
heydoc@maxwire.net

Region 6 NORTHERN ILLINOIS VMA

Annual Dues: \$ 5.00
President: Robert Ebbesmeyer, DVM
New Hope Veterinary Clinic
German Valley, IL 61309
815/362-3151

Region 7 CHICAGO VMA

Annual Dues: \$ 200.00
President: Yuval Nir, DVM
Cicero Animal Hospital
Cicero, IL 60650
708/652-1040
vetserv@the-vet.net

Rabies

Continued from page 4

Rabies is an increasing threat to cats; in fact, the number of reported feline cases of rabies in the United States far exceeds that of all other domestic animals. Even indoor cats are at risk, as many rabid bats are found inside homes.

What are the signs of rabies in an animal?

The first sign of rabies is usually a change in the animal's behavior. A common misconception is that an animal with rabies must be "foaming at the mouth". A more typical presentation would be difficulty walking, a general appearance of sickness or a change in the animal's normal behavior. A rabid animal usually dies within one week after showing signs of the disease.

What are the signs of rabies in people?

Rabies virus can have an incubation period that lasts an average of 40 days in people before symptoms of fatigue, fever and headache appear. Damage to the nervous system typically appears a week later, with symptoms that can include hallucinations and seizures. Eventually rabies will cause respiratory or cardiac arrest and is fatal if not treated early.

What if a pet is exposed to a rabid animal?

If a pet has been in a fight with another animal, consult with your veterinarian. A vaccinated pet may need a booster dose of rabies vaccine as soon as possible. Unvaccinated dogs or cats exposed to an untested or rabid bat are recommended for euthanasia (or alternatively 6 months quarantine) to protect the family from any potential exposure to rabies.

What if a person is exposed or bitten by a rabid animal?

Wash the wound thoroughly with soap and water and seek medical attention immediately. The local health department or the county animal control office also should be notified immediately.

Many people receive bites from bats when they attempt to capture the bat in their home themselves. Place a container over the bat and close the door to that room but do not attempt to pick up the bat. Additionally, do not release the bat from the home until local authorities determine if the bat needs to be tested. The majority of bats (93 to 97 percent) will test negative for rabies, but if a bat is untested it has to be assumed to be rabid.

If an apparently healthy domestic dog, cat or ferret bites a human, it must be captured, confined and professionally observed for 10 days following the bite. If the animal remains healthy during this period, it would not have transmitted rabies at the time of the bite. There is no reliable observation period established for non-domestic animals. If a person is bitten by a non-domestic animal and it is available for testing, testing should be done immediately. If an animal suspected of having rabies cannot be observed or tested, or if it tests positive for rabies, treatment of the individual with PEP must begin immediately.

What can people do to protect themselves and their pets from rabies?

- Do not feed, touch or adopt wild animals or stray dogs or cats.
- Dogs and cats need to be up-to-date on their rabies vaccinations. Vaccinated pets are buffers between rabid wildlife and humans. Consult with your veterinarian about when your pet needs to be vaccinated.
- Do not allow pets to roam free. Obey leash laws.
- Do not attract wild animals to your home or yard. Store bird seed or other animal feed in containers with tight-fitting lids. Always feed pets indoors. Make sure garbage cans are tightly capped. Board up any openings to your attic, basement, porch or garage. Cap chimneys with screens.
- Encourage children to immediately tell an adult if they are bitten or scratched by an animal. Teach children not to approach or to touch any unknown animal.
- Report all animal bites to the local animal control. State laboratories will test any high-risk animal for rabies if it has exposed either a person or a domestic animal.

The CDC has an information sheet on bat-related rabies, how to handle encounters with bats, and how to "bat-proof" your home. Find it online at www.cdc.gov/print.do?url=http%3A/www.cdc.gov/RABIES/bats.html.

Illinois Veterinary Medical Foundation

Contributions to the Illinois Veterinary Medical Foundation (IVMF), a 501(c)3 charity, are used to provide grants, scholarships, financial contributions and assistance in support of veterinary education, charitable entities, capitol improvements, and operational funds for the specific purpose of enhancing Veterinary Medicine.

Your secure donation can be made online at www.isvma.org.

Or, if you prefer a paper form, call the ISVMA office at 217/546-8381 or download one from the ISVMA Website at www.isvma.org/about_us/resources/IVMF_Donor_Form_2007.pdf.

When using the form, a memorial may be indicated. Please be certain to indicate your preferred means of payment: credit card, check or invoiced for payment.

Your donation is fully tax-deductible and should be forwarded to the Illinois Veterinary Medical Foundation:

IVMF
c/o ISVMA
1121 Chatham Road - Springfield IL 62704

Obituaries

Dr. Charles S. Thorpe, 85, of New Baden, IL, died Wednesday Jan. 21, 2009, at St. Joseph Hospital in Breese, Ill.

Charles S. Thorpe was born April 3, 1923, in Millerville, Alabama to Charles F. and Ella (nee Nelson) Thorpe.

After graduating high school, Dr. Thorpe served in World War II as an Army Combat Engineer. After returning to the family farm he decided to attend Auburn University, where he graduated as a Doctor of Veterinarian Medicine. Dr. C.S. Thorpe, DVM opened his private practice in 1954 in New Baden and continued to practice until the fall of 2008.

He was a member of Zion United Church of Christ in New Baden, Alpha Psi Fraternity, 50+ year member of the Illinois State Veterinarian Association, American Veterinarian Association, Trenton VFW Post 7983, New Baden American Legion Post 321, and was a past member of the New Baden Lions Club. He was an avid Wesclin sports fan.

Surviving are his wife, Frances, nee Groennert, Thorpe, whom he married on Aug. 8, 1954, in Nashville, Ill.; a daughter, Dr. Charissa (Dr. Robert Klinsky, O.D.) Thorpe, O.D. of New Baden; two granddaughters and his beloved dog, Roxie; and numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on January 23, 2009 at Zion United Church of Christ in New Baden. Memorials may be made to the Zion United Church of Christ Building Fund. Expressions of sympathy can be sent to www.mossfuneralhome.com.

Dr. James Wellington Harry Neil, age 82, of Ottawa, IL, passed away Sunday, January 11, 2009 at his home.

James Wellington Harry Neil was born July 24, 1926 in Lucan, Ontario, Canada to Harry and Pearl (Whiteford) Neil. He married Janyce Martin November 18, 1950 in St. Thomas, Ontario. She preceded him in death February 15, 1990. He later married JoAnn M. (Nelson) Richardson on July 23, 1992.

Dr. Neil served in the Canadian Army from 1945-46. He graduated from the University of Toronto Veterinary School in 1951 and worked as a veterinarian in Ottawa from

The Illinois Veterinary Medical Foundation

DONATIONS TO ENDOWMENT FUNDS

From the start of the fiscal year on July 1, 2008 through **January 1, 2009**, the IVMF has received contributions totaling \$14,200. The ISVMA thanks those who have forwarded contributions.

IN MEMORY OF

The IVMF welcomes your memorial contributions. Use the donor form to indicate who you are honoring and to give an address where the memorial can be sent.

The ISVMA thanks the Animal Medical Clinic of Springfield for their contributions in memory of the lives of the following pets:

Nala	Elsie
Kodi	Ebb
Lucy	Holly
Taylor	Lancelot
Vesta and Rhea	Fighf
Maji	Schling
Heidi	Little Callie, Minnie,
Brutus	Princess, and OK
Raisin	Just One
Missy	Trixie
Tyler (Peanut)	Isabel
Missy	Sam
Sora	Gracie
Sandy	Shelly
Willie	Ilisabe
Toby	Le Meu
Big Guy	Domino Mateo
Butch	Tornado
Joe	Lady Bea
Tiny	Isabella
Mr. Belvadere	Trouble
Star	Missy
Tiger	Laura
Dexter	Tango
Spyke and Azul	Smokey
Pumpkin	Bubby
Zeus	Patches
Shyameki	Abby and Namoi
Max	Shadow
Rusty	Lilly
Madeline	Rasta
Tanj	Bruno
Abagail and	
Archibald	

See *Obituaries* on page 24

READERS' FORUM

These Q and A originate from issues that come to the ISVMA office from our members. The answers are thoroughly researched by the ISVMA staff; when necessary, questions are referred to our legal counsel or the ISVMA's liaison to the IDFPB Licensing Board for their reply. Resources outside those previously mentioned are always cited for reference.

Got a question that you need help answering? Email us at info@isvma.org. We're here to assist you. Take advantage of this terrific member service!

A YEAR OF READER'S FORUM TOPICS

The ISVMA office repeatedly hears "I read this in the Readers' Forum and can't find it. What issue can I find this in?"

Listed are the subjects addressed in the past year (from the December/January 2008 issue to the December/January 2009 issue) along with the issue in which they appeared. Some may appear twice as they fall into duplicate categories.

Abandoned Animals

- If we follow all that the Practice Act specifies about abandoned animals, and the animal has not been claimed, do we have to destroy the animal? (*April/May 2008*)

Certified Veterinary Technician

- Does the Practice Act allow for a very experienced, and very capable, certified veterinary technician working in our practice to carry out any dental procedures? (*Dec/Jan 2008*)

Legal Liability and Legal Responsibilities/Requirements

- A client is challenging our hospital policy: We will not sell heartworm preventative without having run a heartworm test for the animal. They are refusing the test and demanding we sell them the heartworm preventative. Are we within our legal rights to withhold selling them the medicine? (*April/May 2008*)
- If I am a relief veterinarian working in a small clinic for an extended period of time where I am the only DVM on staff, is it permissible for me to purchase controlled substances for use at this clinic with my own DEA license? (*Feb/Mar 2008*)
- Can we treat an animal if it is brought in by the grandmother of our client? (*Dec/Jan 2008*)

Interpretation of Practice Act

- If we follow all that the Practice Act specifies about abandoned animals, and the animal has not been claimed, do we have to destroy the animal? (*April/May 2008*)
- There are certain instances when the need to fill a prescription is for a farm or ranch to treat multiple animals. In many cases these animals are without names. In this case, what constitutes a patient name for an animal? Would "herd" be an acceptable name? (*Feb/Mar 2008*)
- A neighboring DVM called our office to request that we fill a prescription request for his client who lives much closer to our clinic than to his. We have never seen the client and want to know if we are legally allowed to fill this prescription. (*Dec/Jan 2008*)
- Does the Practice Act allow for a very experienced, and very capable, certified veterinary technician working in our practice to carry out any dental procedures? (*Dec/Jan 2008*)

Microchipping, Proof of ownership

- If a client brings in a "stray" that we subsequently discover is a microchipped animal, is there anything that legally requires us to contact the microchip company? If we do not contact the microchip company, can we legally continue to treat the animal? (*Dec/Jan 2008*)

Prescriptions, Rules and Regs on Rx, DEA, Online Pharmacies

- Is it legal to give a refund to a client who wants to return a prescription medicine purchased, but not used, from our clinic? (*April/May 2008*)

- Additional information to clarify the question: Is it legal to give a refund to a client who wants to return a prescription medicine purchased, but not used, from our clinic? (*Oct/Nov 2008*)
- How should a client dispose of unused medicine(s)? (*Oct/Nov 2008*)
- Can medicine of the same brand and strength for dosage, but from different lots and different expiration dates, be combined for dispensing? (*Oct/Nov 2008*)
- If I am a relief veterinarian working in a small clinic for an extended period of time where I am the only DVM on staff, is it permissible for me to purchase controlled substances for use at this clinic with my own DEA license? (*Feb/Mar 2008*)
- Am I required to keep my Controlled Substance logs for the DEA on paper or may I use a computer to document the disbursement of controlled substances? (*Feb/Mar 2008*)
- There are certain instances when the need to fill a prescription is for a farm or ranch to treat multiple animals. In many cases these animals are without names. In this case, what constitutes a patient name for an animal? Would "herd" be an acceptable name? (*Feb/Mar 2008*)
- A neighboring DVM called our office to request that we fill a prescription request for his client who lives much closer to our clinic than to his. We have never seen the client and want to know if we are legally allowed to fill this prescription. (*Dec/Jan 2008*)

Important ISVMA Member Announcement

In the August/September 2008 and October/November 2009 issues of the *EPITOME*, it was announced that Federal Check Recovery, Inc., changed their name to FedPayUSA. This ISVMA sponsored provider for members seeking protection from check fraud and loss from bad or dishonored checks has made important changes in their service and corporate structure to better serve their clients.

A message from Dr. Billings Chapman, CEO of FedPayUSA:

We have recently sold the processing and recovery portion of our business to Federal Payments, LLC—a Colorado based company on the cutting edge of this aspect of the business. The transfer of all our enrolled accounts from our platform in Memphis to Colorado has often been awkward and arduous. During the transition, there has been many a slip and more than a few mistakes.

The reason it was important to make this change is to give better, quicker more reliable service to our clients in the long run. Our previous processor did not have the capabilities to immediately deposit funds into a client's account upon recovery. There are banking laws that require a holding period to allow the check writer a "challenge period" to try and reverse the recovery. This drastically slows the funds from being forwarded to the client.

When the transition is complete they will be able to immediately, electronically deposit a member's funds upon recovery. This will save literally months of delay and restore funds quickly. With these changes we will now be able to concentrate all our efforts on better serving our clients' needs and to outreach and serve more associations with these important solutions.

If, during this transition period, you have questions or any problems, please call Paul Lufkin at 1-877-354-8844 and every effort will be made to correct and speed up the process so you experience a higher level of service and protection.

I cannot express the honor it is to serve our existing enrolled ISVMA members, and to be available to provide the most customized payment protection available for the rest of the membership that may be feeling stress during these economic times. Please bear with us. We are almost there.



FedPayUSA is a recommended vendor for the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association and is endorsed by more than 70 associations and business organizations nationwide. Dr. Billings Chapman is a retired economics professor and CEO of FedPayUSA.



The University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine offers a Web-based continuing education program specifically developed for busy veterinarians. Veterinary Education Online (VEO) delivers professionally developed university-level courseware in an interactive environment.

The cost is just a fraction of typical CE courses, can be taken at any time and at your own pace. Visit the VEO homepage at www.cvm.uiuc.edu/veo/ or call the Office of Public Engagement at 217/333-2907.

How to Login to the Member Center

Username Field =

Your Last Name (Ex. Smith)

Password Field =

Your Birthday (m/d/year)*

*Note: when entering your month and date, DO NOT include zeroes if your month or date is a single number. DO include the slashes. Example: 4/7/1962

ISVMA Sponsored Programs

(updated January 2009)

The ISVMA has an expanded list of sponsored programs intended to improve the bottom line for veterinary practices. Take advantage of the following to save money and/or staff time for more productive work for the practice.

TransFirst Health Services

Provider of transaction processing services and payment technologies tailored for veterinarians.

René Buzicky

ISVMA@TransFirst.com

1-800-577-8573 ext 160

FedPayUSA

Recovery of dishonored checks.

Recover 100% of collected check's face value.

Perry Fischer

perry@fedpayusa.com

info@fedpayusa.com

Existing clients: 573/256-6540

New clients: 573/256-6541

Diversified Services Group

Licensed collection agency that recovers delinquent receivables.

Jerry Kane

jmk@divservgrp.com

888/494-7900

Sign Me Up!

Tired of so much paper?
We'll send you an email each month and forward your copy of the *EPITOME* in pdf file format instead of a paper copy. Just contact the ISVMA office via email at info@isvma.org.

E-Source News

An important member benefit the ISVMA offers is the E-SOURCE online newsletter. Information in an E-SOURCE might not appear in an EPITOME. To stay informed on all issues from the ISVMA we must have your current email address on file.

Did YOU miss out? Email today at info@isvma.org to be on the E-SOURCE distribution list; please add info@isvma.org to approved senders list to ensure delivery. The ISVMA values your privacy. Any email address stays strictly confidential and is used only to conduct the business of the association. Lists are never shared or sold.

Headlines from the past 3 issues include:

December 12, 2008 Volume VI, No. 18

- ISVMA Lobby Day Rescheduled for April 1, 2009
- Bovine TB Case Traced to Indiana Farm
- Plague Found in Cat in New Mexico
- FDA: Ban on Animal Antibiotics Called Off
- Advancing Our Federal Legislative Agenda in Tough Economic Times
- Request for Information: Compounding Pharmacies That Collect Illinois Sales Tax
- EPA, AVMA Team Up on Animal Pesticide Exposure Database

January 2, 2008 Volume VI, No. 19

- Illinois Chosen to Simulate Livestock Disease Outbreak
- AVMA Releases State Legislative End of Year Report
- Please Plan to Attend the ISVMA Lobby Day on April 1, 2009

January 19, 2008 Volume VI, No. 20

- ISVMA Spring Seminar Series - Expanded Program Offerings for Practice Owners/Managers and Veterinary Technicians/Assistants
- APHIS Confirms CEM Exposure or Infection in 130 Horses
- NCSL Issues Horse Welfare Resolution
- New Lincoln Park Zoo Initiative to Focus on Animal-Human Relationship
- Veterinary Technician Membership
- Veterinary Technician Member Benefits

Obituaries

Continued from page 21

1951-1953. He practiced in St. Thomas from 1953-1954 and returned to Ottawa and built and operated the Ottawa Veterinary Hospital from which he retired in 1998.

He was a lifetime member of the American, Illinois, and Chicago Veterinary Medical Associations as well as the Northern Illinois Veterinary Medical Association. He also belonged to the International and Fox Valley Safari Clubs, Christ Episcopal Church of Ottawa, and the Omega Tau Sigma veterinary fraternity. He was a member of the Occidental Masonic Lodge #40, was a 32nd degree Mason with York and Scottish Rites and was a member of the Mohammed Shrine Club and the Benevolent Protective Order of the Elk's Lodge 588 in Ottawa.

Surviving is his wife, JoAnn; children, Cherokee Ann Neil of Bradenton, FL and Martin James (Regina) Neil of Medford, NJ; step-children, Julie (Nicholas) Tabor of Ottawa, Mara Long of Lake Forest, Kristen (Paul) Borth of Glenview and Laura (Nathan) Utz of Chicago; grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held January 15, 2009 at Christ Episcopal Church of Ottawa with Fr. John Crist officiating. A second visitation was held Saturday January 17 in Ontario, Canada followed by a graveside service in St. James Cemetery in Clandeboye, Ontario. Memorial contributions may be directed to Christ Episcopal Church of Ottawa.

Readers' Forum

Continued from page 22

Recordkeeping and Release of Information

- Am I required to keep my Controlled Substance logs for the DEA on paper or may I use a computer to document the disbursement of controlled substances? *(Feb/Mar 2008)*
- Can we treat an animal if it is brought in by the grandmother of our client? *(Dec/Jan 2008)*
- What is the recommended use of white out in medical record keeping? *(Dec/Jan 2008)*

Waste, PIMW, Recycling

- What are the regulations on disposing of the fixer and developer that are used in our dip tanks when developing x-rays? *(Oct/Nov 2008)*
- My client has a diabetic pet. What instruction do I give them on disposing of their used sharps? *(June/July 2008)*
- How can used/discarded sharps and syringes used in connection with the care and treatment of animals be recycled? *(Aug/Sept 2008)*
- What are my legal responsibilities for disposing of used sharps when the clinic is a small quantity generator (less than 50 pounds of used sharps each month)? *(June/July 2008)*
- Is Stericycle really the ONLY facility who can dispose of sharps? *(Aug/Sept 2008)*
- Where can I obtain a current list of permitted PIMW facilities in Illinois? *(June/July 2008)*

Notices and obituaries are gratefully received and, when space is available, will be printed. Please call the ISVMA office at 217/546-8381.

CALENDAR

MARCH 2009

- 4-5 MISSISSIPPI VALLEY VMA 105th ANNUAL CONFERENCE - PAR-A-DICE HOTEL; East Peoria, IL.** 12 hours CE. For **speakers/topics** visit online at www.isvma.org/about_us/region4.html or contact Dr. Michael Thomas at 309/444-2311.
- 11 FELINE MEDICINE - HAMBURGER UNIVERSITY; Oak Brook, IL.** Chicago VMA continuing education seminar. Mike Lappin, DVM, PhD, DACVIM will present the most current information on Feline Infectious Diseases - 6 hours CE. For information call the CVMA at 630/325-1231.
- 12 EASTERN ILLINOIS VMA SPRING MEETING - UNIVERSITY OF IL COLLEGE OF VET MED; Urbana, IL.** 8 hours CE. Topic is canine and feline dentistry (lectures and wet labs). For information contact John Penning, DVM at 217/586-2297.
- 14 ISVMA 4TH ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR SERIES - HILTON GARDEN INN; Springfield, IL.** Program for the entire veterinary staff; expanded to two programs – one for practice owners/managers, **one** for veterinary technicians and assistants. Christine Merle, DVM, MBA and Judy Jennings, MBA will lead the program for owners/managers “Hard Times Management: Improving Your Hospital in a Recessionary Time.” Sponsored by Matsco. Mr. Angel Rivera CVT, VTS, (ECC) will speak on emergency and critical care topics in the technicians’ sessions. Sponsored by Pfizer. 6 hours CE. Seating limited to 100 registrants; registrants counted on a first paid-first served basis. Register online at www.isvma.org or call the ISVMA at 217/546-8381 for a registration form.
- 21 ISVMA 4TH ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR SERIES - STONEGATE; Hoffman Estates, IL.** Program ONLY for practice owners/managers. **No veterinary technician/assistant program is being offered at this location.** Register online at www.isvma.org or call the ISVMA at 217/546-8381 for a registration form.
- 22 ISVMA 4TH ANNUAL SPRING SEMINAR SERIES - HOLIDAY INN; Willowbrook, IL.** Program for the entire veterinary staff. Register online at www.isvma.org or call the ISVMA at 217/546-8381 for a registration form.
- 26-27 SMALL ANIMAL TOXICOLOGY SHORT COURSE - U OF I COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE; Urbana, IL.** For information, contact the Office of Public Engagement at 217/333-2907 or ope@vetmed.illinois.edu.

APRIL 2009

- 2 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS VMA SPRING MEETING - RAMADA INN FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS; Fairview Heights, IL.** The day will begin at 9:00am and finish at 4:00pm. Attendance qualifies for 5.5 hours CE. For information contact Dena Heflin, DVM at imadvn@dishmail.net.
- 4 UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE OPEN HOUSE - Urbana, IL.** Over 40 exhibits and demonstrations revealing the breadth of knowledge needed for success in the veterinary field. Visit online at www.cvm.uiuc.edu/openhouse/ or call the College Public Service office at 217/333-2907.
- 15 CENTRAL ILLINOIS VMA SPRING MEETING.** For information contact Sean Snyder, DVM at ssnyder559@yahoo.com or by phone at 217/698-0280.
- 15 PRACTICE MANAGEMENT - HAMBURGER UNIVERSITY; Oak Brook, IL.** Chicago VMA continuing education seminar. Karl Salzseider, DVM, JD will present a 5-part seminar on practice management issues facing the veterinary profession. Program provides 6 hours of CE. For information contact the CVMA at 630/325-1231.
- 22 KANKAKEE VALLEY VMA SPRING MEETING - JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE, WEITENDORF AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE CENTER; Joliet, IL.** Speaker is Karen L. Campbell, DVM, MS, DACIM, DACVD who will be presenting Clinically Relevant Dermatology The day will begin at 4:00pm and finish at 7:30pm. 3 hours CE. For information contact John M. Ehrhardt, DVM at 815/882-2000.
- 29 NORTHERN ILLINOIS VMA SPRING MEETING - TEBALA SHRINE CENTER; Rockford, IL.** Dr. Ralph Hamor with the U of I CVM will be speaking to DVMs on topics on ophthalmology. Technician program is also offered with topic TBA. 6 hours CE. Contact Gene Gambrel, DVM for information at 815/262-2941.

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1995 Illinois graduate will provide relief services to small animal clinics in Macon and surrounding counties. Saturdays work well for me. References available on request. Contact Donna Maxwell, DVM at 217/864-9697 or drdonnamaxwell@msn.com.

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Animal Clinic of Romeoville is looking for a full-time or part-time Veterinarian to join our progressive, well-established and busy three doctor team. You should be passionate about practicing high quality medicine, have great communication skills and enjoy working in a

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To be considered for this opportunity, please submit your resume and cover letter to: Mindi Hanna, Human Resource Manager-Email: mindi.hanna@yahoo.com.

Associate veterinarian wanted for a progressive, 4-doctor, AAHA-certified practice in McHenry, IL (approximately 60 miles NW of Chicago). We are a well-equipped and team-orientated facility. No after hours emergency duty. New graduates are very welcome. Come

join our team in a growing community that's close enough to Chicago to enjoy what the big city can offer and far enough away to have many outdoor recreational opportunities. Phone Dr. Michael Dunn, Lakeland Animal Hospital at 815/385-6925.

Naperville Illinois-Top Compensation package. Would like to find a veterinarian who is especially interested in orthopedics and or endoscopy. Please call Dr. Kilburn – 630/983-5551.

Wanted full- or part-time veterinarian for AAHA hospital in Ottawa, IL. Experience preferred. Five day work week, competitive salary with fringes, emergencies handled by an emergency hospital. We practice modern, progressive companion animal medicine in a relaxed atmosphere. Call Dr. Clayton at 815/434-0363 or fax resume to 815/434-0381, Attn. Dr. Clayton.

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Deadlines:

All artwork must be submitted March 15, 2009 for inclusion in the April/May 2009 issue. Targeted Mailing Date: First week of April.

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File format requested - .jpg, pdf, tif.
2 color (black and reflex blue) option; screens accepted; no bleed.

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Submit by email to brenda@isvma.org or mail on disk to ISVMA, 1121 Chatham Road, Springfield IL 62704. ATTN: Brenda Weber. We will confirm by sending you a faxed contract for your signature.

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Any classified ad purchased, after confirmation of payment, will be posted both on the ISVMA website at www.isvma.org and the next available edition of the "EPITOME." Webpage ad will run through the end of the "EPITOME" publication date in which it will appear. All ads and cancellations must be submitted in writing or email by March 15, 2009 for inclusion in the April/ May 2009 "EPITOME." Targeted Mailing Date: First week of April. Please read your ad the first time it runs. If there are errors, notify us immediately. ISVMA liability is limited to the first issue of publication.

Forwarding instructions

Submit online, www.isvma.org; by email, jill@isvma.org; fax 217/546-5633; or mail, Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, 1121 Chatham Road, Springfield IL 62704. ATTN: Jill Blanton. We will confirm by sending you a faxed contract for your signature.

Established, AAHA-certified, 10-doctor practice seeking dedicated, team-oriented associate veterinarian. We offer the latest in treatments and equipment. 67 service-oriented employees offer compassionate quality care. Contact Dr. Robert Dann, 3219 N. Clark St., Chicago IL 60647, email hr@blumvet.com.

Experienced veterinarian wanted for a two-doctor small animal hospital in Schaumburg, IL. Join us in a relaxed, friendly environment with great clientele. No emergency duty. Potential buy-in for the right individual. Contact Dr. Rick DeCraene at 847/895-5911, fax 847/895-5996 or rcrdsb@wowway.com.

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Part-time associate wanted for small animal hospital in Paxton, IL. We are looking for a second veterinarian with an interest in surgery to join our friendly, fun loving staff. Paxton is a small, close knit town 30 minutes north of Champaign/Urbana and 90 minutes south of Chicago. Possible full-time work in future for right person. We offer a flexible schedule, competitive salary, and benefits package. Please contact Dr. Kim Bunag at 217/379-3800 or fax resume to 217/379-3053.

AAHA well-equipped small animal/exotic practice seeks easy-going, third associate. Good communication skills essential. Flexible schedule includes some evenings and some Saturdays. No emergencies. Great support staff. Salary and benefits competitive. Long term association desired. Practice in northwest suburb of Chicago. Contact Dr. Block: fax 847/520-4124, email CCAH13@gmail.com.

Why not combine high-quality medicine, a stimulating career and great quality of life? Due to our continued expansion we have associate veterinarian positions available in Forsyth, Springfield, and Champaign, IL. Excellent compensation and benefits provided.

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We are growing! Banfield The Pet Hospital has Chief of Staff and Associate Veterinarian positions available in Chicago and the suburbs. Several of the associate positions are reserved for new graduates, and include our mentorship program!

Inquiries kept confidential. Email Dr. Sue Martin at sue.martin@banfield.net, or call 815/436-4293.

Prairie State Veterinary Clinic in Orland park is looking for a F/T or P/T veterinarian to join our busy small animal practice in the SW suburbs. Our new clinic is well equipped and we have a well-established practice with wonderful staff and clients. Check us out at flemingvet.com. We offer a competitive salary and benefits, and Orland Park has been rated a Top 100 City for the last 2 years by Money Magazine. Call Dr. Fleming at 708/349-3331 or fax your resume to 708/745-5143.

Part-time/full-time position available in 3-doctor small animal/equine practice. Located in McHenry County IL, about 1 hr northwest of Chicago. Our facility is 5 yrs old, features in-clinic bloodwork, dental suite & ultrasound. Equine practice is 100 % ambulatory. We also do small animal house calls. Come practice high quality medicine & surgery with emphasis on client communication. You will not be bored. Email: donna.nolen@petvetac.com.

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Emergency Veterinarians: Animal Emergency and Referral Center currently has opportunities to join our emergency practice as an emergency veterinarian. We are one of the Midwest's premier 24 hour emergency, critical care and specialty referral practices. Located in Northbrook IL, (a northern suburb of Chicago) our emergency and critical care practice services the greater Chicago area. Our specialty referrals come from as far away as Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Ohio and of course, throughout Illinois. Our veterinary services include 24 hour emergency medicine and specialty referral services of internal medicine, orthopedic and soft tissue surgery, cardiology, neurology/neurosurgery, radiology, and

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Speaker: Mr. Angel Rivera CVT, VTS (ECC)

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