

EPITOME

February/March 2010, Vol. XLVIII, Number 4

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Committees: Blessing or Curse?

Lydia F. Gray, DVM, MA – ISVMA President, Board of Directors

In addition to kissing hands and shaking babies (oh wait, I might have that backwards), one of the most important duties of the ISVMA President is to appoint members to committees. And while this may seem like a fun and innocuous task, let me assure you it is anything but.

What could possibly go wrong? First, there are the committees themselves. Which ones are actually needed and which ones exist because, well, they have always existed. It may seem like a simple and straightforward task to do away with a committee that's no longer active or vital. But if you were serving on a committee, wouldn't you be offended if you learned the incoming President wanted to do away with your group because it's not considered vital anymore?

That leads me to the next quandary. Some members think serving on a committee is a one-year appointment while others think it's a lifetime commitment. Most think it's somewhere in between (three years, six years, etc.). The ISVMA President is faced both with contacting members who think they automatically ARE on a committee or are automatically OFF a committee. This is a problem.

Plus, the “job” of members who serve on a committee is to help the Association carry out vital duties (such as convention, legislation, and other strategic plan initiatives). Members who agree to participate in committee work can gain valuable leadership experience. It can also elevate their standing amongst peers. But serving on a committee also requires active participation and support for the Association mission.

As ISVMA President, I want to really focus on our committees. Working with the ISVMA staff and Board of Directors, we moved the committee appointment date away from the Annual Convention in November to January 1. We sent out letters to each current committee member—either inviting them to return or thanking them for their service—and asked for feedback on the previous year. We are still working on streamlining our committees (how they're appointed, where they integrate with staff, etc.), but this is a huge process that's going to take more than one year.

If you're on a committee, please be patient as we refine and focus the committee process. If you were removed from a committee, I hope we did it graciously and my apologies if it was a bumpy transition.

Thank You!

Thank you to the members of the ISVMA who volunteer their time and talents to this year's committees and task force. The list of the current committees and task forces (and their charges and members) can be found on the ISVMA website.

2010 ISVMA Committees

Audit & Finance
Education Planning
Legislative
Membership Services
Museum & History
Nominations & Awards
Publication Relations
Sponsorship

2010 ISVMA Task Force

CVT Roles & Responsibilities

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The ISVMA advances the well-being of the veterinary profession, animals, the public and the environment.

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EPITOME

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2010 ISVMA LOBBY DAY WITH A TWIST...

Peter S. Weber, MS, CAE – Executive Director



NEW STRATEGY – We are altering our strategy for the ISVMA Annual Lobby Day activities this year. The shortened legislative calendar makes it difficult to choose a day for ISVMA members to come to Springfield and make appointments with their legislators. Therefore, we are taking Lobby Day home!

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE? – Between now and March 24, 2010 we are asking ISVMA members to make an appointment to visit their state representative and state senator in their district offices. This makes it possible for more ISVMA members to participate because they can be flexible with their time and not have to miss a day of work to help support our grassroots efforts!

HOW DO YOU CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS? – ISVMA has made it easy for you to get your legislators' contact information. Visit <http://capwiz.com/isvma/home/>. In the middle of the page, there is a tool to find your legislators by simply typing in your address (practice and/or home). Once the results come up, you will see the names of your State Senator and your State Representative. Click on their names and you will find a lot of information about your legislator including a biography, contact information, committees on which they serve and bills they are sponsoring. The contact tab will provide you with addresses and phone numbers for their district offices.

Ideally, make an appointment to visit your legislators in her/his district office. If that is not possible, please try to at least talk to your legislators by telephone. Keep in mind that your legislators are working in Springfield on weekdays. Weekend appointments will most likely be held in their home district offices.

WHAT SHOULD YOU TALK TO YOUR LEGISLATORS ABOUT? – It is critical that we reach out to legislators this year - and it is all about the Veterinary Practice Act! ISVMA has filed a comprehensive amendment to the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act in the Illinois General Assembly. The amendment is contained in two identical bills introduced in the Illinois House of Representatives (HB5377) and the Illinois State Senate (SB3712).

ISVMA has prepared background information and position papers that you can share with your legislators. By visiting the ISVMA Members' Legislation page, you can download the following:

- *House Bill 5377 Position Paper*
- *Senate Bill 3712 Position Paper*
- *Detailed Analysis of Practice Act Changes proposed in HB5377 and SB3712*
- *Scope of Practice*
- *Response to Opposition from IAAOR*

LET US KNOW YOU PARTICIPATED – After visiting your legislators, please let us know how your meeting went by filling out a very brief participant survey at www.surveymonkey.com/s/N9JWXFH.



Thank you for your support and participation!

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PUBLICATION INFORMATION

Articles, contributions, classifieds, and display ads must be received by the 1st of January, March, May, July, September and November. The *EPITOME* is distributed as a member benefit on a bi-monthly basis to all ISVMA Members and to the University Of Illinois College Of Veterinary Medicine Library; Parkland Junior College Library; Joliet Junior College Library; Fox College Library; Rockford Business College Library; ISVMA Convention Exhibitors and Sponsors. DVM members receive printed issues unless a request is received in the ISVMA office for receipt of electronic copy in pdf format. CVT and DVM Students members receive issues electronically in pdf file format. A subscription for printed issues may be purchased at a cost of \$75 per year by CVT members and DVM student members. All others, a request for subscription may be forwarded to info@isvma.org. Past issues of the *EPITOME*, beginning with June/July 2004, are available to ISVMA members online at www.isvma.org. Articles originating in the *EPITOME* are available for reprint.

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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SPONSORS

Contributions from our industry partners are important to the success of the ISVMA. Join us in thanking and supporting the following companies whose financial assistance was instrumental to the success of the ISVMA's 2009 Annual Convention.

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University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine

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AVMA PLIT
Christian Veterinary Mission
PAWS
PVP
TransFirst Health Services

FAQ: Recordkeeping Answers Online in the ISVMA Library

SOURCE OF LAW

- Where can I find language of the law that mandates record keeping standards for veterinarians?

RELEASE OF RECORDS

- If a client asks for a copy of the animal's record, what are my obligations?
- I reported an animal abuse case and now the animal control people have called me, asking for copies of the animal's medical records. I'd like to know if legally I have to release the records.
- We recently had a phone call from the county animal control supervisor with a request to confirm information on a dog who is a regular patient of ours. This animal was reported for biting a person, and animal control needed to know if the animal was current on its rabies vaccination. We told animal control that this is part of the animal's medical records, and as such we could not release the information. We've been told that this is not accurate. What is the law in this instance?
- What if a client has not paid his bill? Can I withhold the records until I am paid for my services?
- Do I have a lien right that would allow me to retain the records of an animal treated by me until the owner pays the charges for that treatment?

CONFIDENTIALITY

- Should veterinary medical records be kept confidential?
- Can we release records of a patient if it is requested by the grandmother of our client?

RECORDKEEPING PROCEDURES

- Our office is going paperless. Do we have to keep Xrays?
- Do we have to keep our old paper files as well as the electronic records if our office is going paperless?
- What is the recommended use of white out in medical record keeping?

Recordkeeping Standards for Illinois Veterinarians

As Mandated by Illinois Law

Effective June 28, 2004, the state requirements for recordkeeping (Section 1500.50, Standards of Professional Conduct) were modified to provide a clear minimum recordkeeping standard.

When a complaint is filed against a veterinarian, medical records are almost always reviewed by the Veterinary Board during the disciplinary process. A patient record that contains little more than a list of pharmaceuticals administered and prescribed, with no notation of physical exam or diagnosis, is clearly below the standard of practice in the State of Illinois. It will be difficult for any veterinarian to defend his or her actions with insufficient records such as this. Even with the most convincing testimony, the medical record is the official confirmation of treatment and care.

Records for veterinary patients in Illinois must minimally include:

Patient History

patient and client identification
dated reason for visit and history
physical exam findings
any diagnostic testing
surgical procedures
therapeutic procedures
Necropsy when performed, must be recorded.

Medication Administered

date prescribed and dispensed
dosage/quantity
route of administration
directions for use
duration of treatment
Any changes in medications or dosages, even if transmitted electronically or telephonically.

Patient Record Maintenance

must be kept for a minimum of five years following the last treatment or examination
must be readily retrievable

To further complete patient records, the ISVMA suggests documenting client communication (including copies of signed consent forms), the veterinarian's recommendations for care - and whether or not these are accepted. For the highest standards in recordkeeping, veterinarians may review standards drafted by the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA).

It is critically important for veterinary practices to maintain proper medical records. Records reflect quality of practice and can be a veterinarian's best defense when a complaint is filed.

When Selling or Buying a Veterinary Practice

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Pet Foods with “Medicinal Purpose”

www.isvma.org/isvma_library/pet_foods.html

86 Ill. Adm. Code 130.2165 requires veterinary practices to: “... annually obtain a letter from the manufacturer representing that the animal food is only sold to licensed veterinarians. Provided that a veterinarian maintains this letter in his or her books and records, the Department shall consider the food to have a “medicinal purpose” for the period of one year following the date of issuance of the letter.”

The ISVMA has been given permission to collect the required letters from the food manufacturers and maintain them in our records for our member veterinarians. Recreated copies are maintained on the ISVMA website for use by members for documentation to support tax status.

In our files are itemized lists of food products available from:

- Hills Prescription Diet
- Iams Veterinary Formulas
- iVet Professional Formulas
- Purina Veterinary Diets
- Royal Canin Veterinary Diet

In order to assure the list of foods with a “medicinal purpose” is comprehensive, please report any foods sold to clients that are for sale only through veterinarians which do not occur on this list.

USDA Veterinary Accreditation Application Now Online

ISVMA OFFICES, SPRINGFIELD IL, Jan. 11, 2010 — The ISVMA has been instructed by the area U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) that the revised accreditation application for its National Veterinary Accreditation Program (NVAP) is available online. Additionally, their website has been updated to include a fact sheet with extensive information on the revised program, instructions on completing the application for currently accredited veterinarians, details on APHIS-Approved Initial Accreditation Training, your National Accreditation Number and other necessary information. www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap/

ACCREDITED VETERINARIANS MUST ELECT TO PARTICIPATE AND SELECT AN ACCREDITATION CATEGORY OR HIS/HER ACCREDITATION WILL EXPIRE.

If you have any questions about the NVAP, please contact your local Area Office or the NVAP Riverdale Staff:

Mailing Address: USDA/APHIS/VS
National Veterinary Accreditation Program
4700 River Road, Unit 64
Riverdale, MD 20737

Email: nvap@aphis.usda.gov
Telephone: Phone: 301-734-NVAP (6827) Fax: 301-734-3641
Website: www.aphis.usda.gov/nvap

The NVAP is a voluntary program; it is not mandated by the Federal Government. Accredited veterinarians participating in NVAP must carry out their duties according to the Standards for Accredited Veterinarian Duties in Title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR), Part 161

USDA Renews License for the Treatment of Feline Leukemia (FeLV) and Immunodeficiency Virus (FIV)

Murietta, CA. – (December 18th, 2009) T-Cyte Therapeutics, Inc. announced their conditional license renewal from the United States Department of Agriculture for Lymphocyte T-Cell Immunomodulator (LTCI). LTCI is the first and only approved treatment aid in the United States for cats infected with feline leukemia virus (FeLV) and immunodeficiency virus (FIV). LTCI is licensed and distributed by IMULAN BioTherapeutics; a US based veterinary immunobiology company. Conditional licenses are granted by the USDA for products which have passed safety and purity testing and where there is an emergency need or no other product available. LTCI is undergoing additional efficacy and potency studies.

About IMULAN:

IMULAN BioTherapeutics, LLC develops unique, precision immune regulating compounds for veterinary medicine. IMULAN is working on new treatment for a variety of feline diseases including stomatitis, canine atopic dermatitis, and cancer. For more information about IMULAN, please visit www.IMULAN.com.

About T-Cyte:

T-Cyte Therapeutics, Inc., a subsidiary of S-Cell Biosciences, is a San Diego area based biotechnology company that has identified and is developing an entirely new class of proteins that control critical stem cell functions. These proteins permit a subject to use its own “adult” stem cells to repair damaged or diseased tissue; thereby eliminating traditional cell based approaches. T-Cyte’s stromal cell-derived cytokines are targeted as therapeutic agents in the treatment of immune-related diseases, e.g. immunodeficiency and auto-immunity.

Sign Me Up!

Tired of too much paper? Receive your EPITOME by email each month. Contact the ISVMA office at info@isvma.org and let us know!

AVMA Emerging Leader's Conference

The 2010 Emerging Leader's Conference, held at the InterContinental Chicago from January 8-10, included workshops on many facets of leadership.

Applications for 2011

To qualify for a scholarship to attend the 2011 Emerging Leader's Conference, interested ISVMA members must have graduated within the previous seven years and been involved in organized veterinary medicine at some level. Applications are available from each of the seven governing regional presidents (contact information is in the box below), can be downloaded off the ISVMA website or can be obtained from the ISVMA office. The scholarship pays in full the registration fee for each regional representative. Travel related expenses for the meeting are reimbursed by each regional board.

ISVMA Regional Presidents:

Southern Illinois VMA
 President: Jennifer Ostrom, DVM
 618/664-0640 | jlibbra@hotmail.com

Central Illinois VMA
 President: Sean Snyder, DVM
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 ssnyder559@yahoo.com

Eastern Illinois VMA
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Mississippi Valley VMA
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Kankakee Valley VMA
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 815/686-2241 | heydoc@maxwire.net

Northern Illinois VMA
 President: Philip Fassler, DVM
 815/288-3394

Chicago VMA
 President: Yuval Nir, DVM
 708/652-1040 | vetserv@the-vet.net

AVMA Partners with ARCH for Haiti Earthquake Relief

Jan. 27, 2010 – A coalition of animal protection groups has arrived in Haiti to aid animals imperiled by the devastating Jan. 12 earthquake. The team represents the Animal Relief Coalition for Haiti (ARCH), which was formed specifically to deal with the Haiti crisis and which includes both the AVMA and American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF) as partners. The ARCH team has begun meeting with officials from the Haitian government as well as international agencies, such as the United Nations, to define the most pressing animal-related problems as well as identify long-term planning options. Among the concerns are possible outbreaks of zoonotic diseases such as rabies and leptospirosis.

Only about 20 percent of Haiti's estimated 500,000 dogs were vaccinated against rabies last year, according to ARCH officials. In addition, Haiti lacks sufficient medicine and vaccine to protect pigs, cattle, and other livestock against common illness, such as anthrax and pig cholera. "We are now at high risk of disease, which is why it is so important to start a vaccination campaign as soon as possible," said Dr. Michel Chancy, Haiti's Minister of Animal Production.

There has been no call for veterinary volunteers to help with the Haitian relief effort, nor for specific veterinary medical supplies, according to Dr. Heather Case, AVMA director of scientific activities and coordinator for emergency preparedness and response. The AVMA stands ready to organize the collection of specific veterinary supplies from U.S. donors, if necessary, Case said.

For ongoing updates, please follow the AVMA Veterinary Medical Assistance Teams (VMAT) on Twitter at [@AVMAVMAT](https://twitter.com/AVMAVMAT).

About ARCH Coalition

The Animal Relief Coalition for Haiti (ARCH) is jointly led by the World Society for the Protection of Animals (WSPA) and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) in partnership with over a dozen of the world's leading animal protection organizations.

Animal welfare organizations formed the Animal Relief Coalition for Haiti (ARCH) so that we could work together to bring aid to as many animals, and in as short a time, as possible. At present, ARCH partners include: International Fund for Animal Welfare, World Society for the Protection of Animals, American Humane Association, Best Friends Animal Society, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (UK), In Defense of Animals, American Veterinary Medical Association, American Veterinary Medical Foundation, Antigua and Barbuda Humane Society, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, United Animal Nations, Kinship Circle, One Voice, Swiss Animal Protection and Pefinder.com Foundation. ARCH members urge other animal welfare groups to join in the group efforts.

ISVMA's Emerging Leaders

The ISVMA awarded five of seven available regional scholarships. The following members attended this year's event.

Region I Southern Illinois VMA
 Dr. Wendy Probst

Region II Central Illinois VMA
 no attendee

Region III Eastern Illinois VMA
 Dr. Kimberly Burks

Region IV Mississippi Valley VMA
 Dr. Amy Graham

Region V Kankakee Valley VMA
 no attendee

Region VI Northern Illinois VMA
 Dr. Lynda Gould

Region VII Chicago VMA
 Dr. Jessica Miller

ISVMA Recent Graduate Representative
 Dr. Kelli Kramer

News and Notes

Red Flags Rule does not apply to lawyers; how about veterinarians?

A court recently ruled that a federal regulation requiring companies to develop identity-theft prevention programs does not apply to attorneys. Therefore, the regulation should not apply to health care professionals. That's according to a letter from the AVMA, American Medical Association, American Dental Association, and American Osteopathic Association to the chairman of the Federal Trade Commission.

The FTC issued the Red Flags Rule to implement provisions of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act of 2003 that require financial institutions and creditors to develop programs to prevent identity theft. According to an FTC press release from April 30, 2009, creditors "include professionals, such as lawyers or health care providers, who bill their clients after services are rendered."

On Aug. 27, the American Bar Association filed suit against the FTC, arguing that the agency exceeded its statutory authority in applying the Red Flags Rule to attorneys. On Oct. 29, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia granted a summary judgment in favor of the ABA. On Dec. 1, Judge Reggie B. Walton issued his full opinion. He wrote, in part: "The selection of 'financial institution' along with 'creditor' as the targets of the legislation implies that the FACT Act was created to apply to entities involved in banking, lending, or financial related business."

The AVMA, AMA, ADA, and AOA reviewed the court's decision. On Jan. 27, they sent their letter requesting that the FTC not apply the Red Flags Rule to health care professionals if the rule does not apply to lawyers.

The Making Work Pay Tax Credit

Most wage earners will benefit from larger paychecks in 2009 and 2010 as a result of the changes made to the federal income tax withholding tables to implement the Making Work Pay tax credit. However, some people may find that the changes built into the withholding tables result in less tax being withheld than they prefer.

If you're not eligible for the Making Work Pay tax credit, withholding changes could mean a smaller refund. A limited number of people, including those who usually receive very small refunds, could in some situations owe a small amount rather than receiving a refund. Those who should pay particular attention to their withholding include:

- Pensioners
- Married couples with two incomes
- Individuals with multiple jobs
- Dependents
- Some Social Security recipients who work
- Workers without valid Social Security numbers

An employee with multiple jobs or a married couple whose combined income places it in a higher tax bracket should consult the IRS withholding calculator (www.irs.gov/individuals/article/0,,id=96196,00.html). If necessary, submit a revised Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, to ensure enough tax is withheld. A resource provided by the IRS, "How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding?" (Publication 919 found online at www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p919.pdf), provides additional guidance for tax withholding including a special Making Work Pay worksheet.

Welcome New Members!

ISVMA would like to welcome the following 27 new members (who joined between December 1, 2009 and February 1, 2010). 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

Andrew Abshier, DVM; Alton IL
 Karen Bockelmann, DVM; Yorkville IL
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 Cassandra Fowler, DVM; Elgin IL
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 Nicholas Miller, DVM; Downers Grove IL
 Bonnie Redeford, DVM; Springfield IL
 Kathleen Ritzmann, DVM; Springfield IL
 Olivia Rudolphi, DVM; Noble IL
 Heather Smogorzewski, DVM; Peoria IL
 Donna Spector, DVM; Deerfield IL
 Janice Valenzuela, DVM; Palatine IL
 Jessica Wiehrdt, DVM; Belleville IL

CVT Members

Monaka Karnes, CVT; Marion IL
 Kyle McMorrow, CVT; West Peoria IL
 Michelle Ramker, CVT; Chicago IL

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.



The State We're in, and Our Focus on the Future

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

2010 U of I CVM CONTINUING ED OPPORTUNITIES

Basic Minimally Invasive Surgery:
Laparoscopy
March 20-21, Urbana, IL

Feline Dentistry Lecture & Laboratory
April 18, Chicago, IL

Veterinary Technician Conference,
April 24-25, Urbana, IL

New Implants for Old Problems:
SOP Locking Plate System and
Pancarpal Arthrodesis Using the
Castless PCA Plate,
May 15, Chicago, IL

Advanced Minimally Invasive
Surgery: Laparoscopy and
Thorascopy
June 5-6, Urbana, IL

Fall Conference for Veterinarians
September 9-10, Champaign, IL

VISIT THE VETERINARIAN'S PORTAL:

www.vetmed.illinois.edu/4dvms/

A resource page for practitioners only. Link directly to the information you need most. Looking for an expert to consult on a case? A key feature is the new Directory for Referring Veterinarians, a compendium of information about the College of Veterinary Medicine's clinical faculty, services, contact numbers, and more from the Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

With the financial woes of the state of Illinois in the headlines daily, I want you to know how our College is responding to these challenging times.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, we'll be returning 3.65 percent of our budget, and for the fiscal year beginning in July, we'll be cutting considerably more, likely around 10 percent, or \$2 million, though the final amount is still unknown.

What I do know is that our College is visionary, collaborative, and strong. We will manage the many changes ahead by staying focused on our priorities:

- Excellence in the DVM program
- Research with real-life medical applications
- Establishing a College presence in Chicago
- Ensuring that our facilities match our needs
- Informing public health policy through the University of Illinois Center for One Medicine, One Health

Above all, our top priority remains the quality of education for veterinary students—your future colleagues.

Last year, our College launched the Illinois Integrated Veterinary Professional Curriculum. The process of implementing this new program has been transformative for our College. Faculty members from the basic and clinical sciences have forged unprecedented collaborations in the classroom. Students have spent considerable time outside the classroom, experiencing veterinary medicine in immediate and diverse settings. Everyone involved has provided feedback to help us shape and improve the curriculum.

Last year we also opened the Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine, another major achievement for our long-term visibility and success in better serving animal owners and the veterinary profession in Illinois and recruiting students from underrepresented populations.

We accomplished these goals because of the bright minds and unwavering commitment of our faculty, students, and staff and because the Illinois veterinary community partnered with us. Those same resources will see us through the coming budget restrictions.

Thanks to the generosity and assistance of our alumni and friends, as of January we had raised \$32 million of our goal of \$35 million over the eight-year Brilliant Futures campaign, which ends in December 2011.

Now more than ever before, private support is vital for scholarships and fellowships for veterinary and graduate students, support for research and teaching initiatives, development of the new Clinical Skills Learning Center, improvements in facilities for the hospital and diagnostic laboratory, and outreach and recruitment programs in Chicago and elsewhere.

By putting us in touch with grateful clients who want to support what we do, and by making your own gift to further our mission, you can have a real impact on the future of veterinary medicine.

If you would like more information on our budget situation or would like to know how private giving makes a difference for students and the work of the College, please contact me at dean@vetmed.illinois.edu.

U of I College of Veterinary Medicine Open House!

Mark Your Calendars for a **NEW DATE and NEW TIME!**
Sunday, April 11 from 10 am to 4 pm

Important Information About Visiting the Open House:

Visitors who have been outside the United States after March 28, 2010 will be asked to check in at the Welcome Tent before entering the Veterinary Teaching hospital to assess whether they might pose a risk of spreading a foreign animal disease. This measure helps ensure the health and safety of Illinois animals and follows hospital policy.



As a spokesperson of the ISVMA, all Class Representatives are expected to carry out the following duties:

Coordinate campus activities with the ISVMA Board representative to the University of Illinois - College of Veterinary Medicine (Dr. Gregory Mauck).

Encourage classmates to participate in ISVMA sponsored activities (through email, speaking at meetings, etc.) - such activities include: ISVMA Board/student forum in September; responding to ISVMA surveys; participating in grassroots lobby activities; working with ISVMA to expand and revitalize the Mentoring program.

When the opportunity arises, speak to the importance of organized veterinary medicine and the role of ISVMA in preserving professional veterinary medicine in the State of Illinois.

Communicate with the ISVMA staff whenever there is an opportunity for ISVMA to provide a meaningful service or communication with student members.

Advocate for full membership in ISVMA within their class.

Have a quarterly meeting to discuss ISVMA activities and opportunities - invite the ISVMA Executive Director and/or ISVMA Board representative to the UI-CVM.

Read and become familiar with the important issues in Illinois veterinary medicine as expressed in the ISVMA Epitome and E-SOURCE publications.

Cooperatively develop a process for submitting a student column to the ISVMA Epitome newsletter. Identify authors, subjects and issues that will capture the attention and/or inform your fellow students.

ISVMA STUDENT CLASS REPRESENTATIVES

Nominations for First Year Representative opens March 1, 2010

Each year around mid-March, the ISVMA conducts an election for the First Year ISVMA Class Representative. The nominee must be a student ISVMA member, a first year class member and have an interest in becoming a leader in organized veterinary medicine. Students are allowed to nominate herself/himself for the position of First Year ISVMA Class Representative.

1st Year Class Representative - Class of 2013

The responsibilities for this position include the following duties:

- Upon election, shall send a letter of thanks to each student in their class that addresses the importance of your position and your commitment to organized veterinary medicine.
- The student representative shall actively seek out information on ISVMA and be able to communicate the importance and value of membership in the state veterinary medical association.

The commitment as Class Representative is for all four years of study in the Veterinary Medicine program. Each year has specific duties, with the potential of significant contribution to the ISVMA possible. In exchange for this commitment, the Class

See Student Representatives on page 10

Eat your corn... and fight the flu too

A team of researchers at Iowa State University is working to fight the flu with a diet-based vaccine. Their concept is to inject flu vaccines into the genetic make-up of corn to allow pigs and humans to eat their way to better health.

"We're trying to figure out which genes from the swine influenza virus to incorporate into corn so those genes, when expressed, would produce protein. When the pig consumes that corn, it would serve as a vaccine," said Hank Harris, professor in animal science and one of the researchers on the project. They hope to extend this research to humans when eaten in corn or corn-based foods such as corn chips, corn flakes and tortillas.

The advantages of this corn vaccine are many. If development goes as the researchers hope, the vaccine (ie corn) can be stored for a long time without losing its potency. Add the benefit that it's a grain grown for feed and food, there is no need to have the vaccine go through an extensive and expensive purification process which traditional vaccines must undergo. Traditional vaccines are made from animal culture or eggs that are in liquid form; they last only 1 to 2 years.

This concept is not unique to the ISU team. Researchers in Mexico genetically modified maize crops to create an edible vaccine for poultry against the fatal and contagious Newcastle Virus Disease. The genetically modified feed allowed chickens to produce antibodies against the virus and reduce the rate of deaths caused by the disease.

"The big question is whether or not these genes will work when given orally through corn," said Harris. "That is the thing we've still got to determine."

The project is funded by a grant from ISU's Plant Sciences Institute. It is a collaborative effort between Hank Harris, a professor in animal science, Brad Bosworth, an affiliate associate professor of animal science working with pigs, and Kan Wang, a professor in agronomy, who is developing the vaccine traits in the corn.

Student Representatives

Continued from page 9

Representative will be presented with an annual scholarship from the ISVMA in the amount of \$1,000 each year for a total amount of \$4,000 awarded over the four years as Class Representative. For all interested first year students, send an email to Executive Director, Peter Weber, at peter@isvma.org.

2nd Year Class Representative –

Andrew Kuster Hennenfent, Class of 2012

"I am pursuing a DVM/MPH to work in a federal or state public health agency after finishing school. Since becoming interested in public health I have been able to see the under-representation that veterinary medicine has in the legislative process. As a profession it is our responsibility to advocate our cause. This is a daunting task but one I feel prepared to give my best effort."

The responsibilities for this position include the following duties:

- Serves on the ISVMA Education Planning Committee to help develop the ISVMA Convention program. This is an exciting opportunity to help shape the ISVMA's signature CE event and participate in an ISVMA committee prior to serving on the Board of Directors.
- Attends ISVMA Board of Director meetings (without voting privileges) when the Third Year Class Representative is not available.

3rd Year Class Representative –

J. Charlie Deutsch, Class of 2011

"As a relatively small profession, we need strong leaders to represent us. We all come from different backgrounds and hold many different opinions, but we gain strength through voicing those opinions through the ISVMA. The veterinary profession benefits from the work ISVMA achieves."

The responsibilities for this position include the following duties:

- Serves as an ex officio member of the ISVMA Board of Directors with full voting privileges. With the opportunity to serve on the Board comes responsibility to read the Board packets, become familiar with the ISVMA Constitution and policies and procedures, and articulate the needs and interests of the students and school.
- Speaks to the first year students at orientation about the ISVMA Class Representative position and the election process (which will be held at the beginning of the second semester). Encourages candidates to begin learning about ISVMA and participating in ISVMA sponsored activities.
- Communicates back to fellow students about the important issues and opportunities they learn about as an ISVMA Board member.

4th Year Class Representative –

Katie Wycislo, Class of 2010

Katie grew up surrounded by an abundance of agriculture, livestock, companion animals, and wildlife and received her undergraduate degree in animal sciences from the University of Illinois. During her undergraduate research experiences Katie became highly interested in large animal theriogenology and the cattle industry. Her plans are to practice large animal/equine medicine.

The responsibilities for this position include the following duties:

- Encourages all fourth year students to attend and participate in the ISVMA Annual Convention and Job Fair. Develops a strategy to maximize both attendance and promote the importance of the experience to their classmates.
- Works with the ISVMA Executive Director to achieve 100% membership from the graduating class as first-year veterinarians.
- One year after graduation, writes a letter to their classmates encouraging them to both continue their membership in ISVMA and participate in a meaningful way (we lose approximately 25% of all recent graduates in their second year).

Employers Responsible for Reporting Work-Related H1N1

www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/index.html

According to a statement on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) website, employers are now expected to record cases of 2009 H1N1 illness in clinics/hospitals if all of the following requirements are met (per CPL-02-02-075):

- (1) the case is a confirmed case of 2009 H1N1 illness as defined by CDC;
- (2) the case is **work-related** as defined by 1904.5; and
- (3) the case involves one or more of the recording criteria set forth in 1904.7 (e.g., medical treatment, days away from work).

This recording criteria applies to all establishments covered by PART 1904 which includes the majority of veterinary practices. (www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owastand.display_standard_group?p_toc_level=1&p_part_number=1904)

Prior to this notice, 2009 H1N1 was not reportable. Seasonal flu illnesses remain non-reportable. Questions may be directed to Illinois' Regional or Area offices. www.osha.gov/html/RAMap.html.

OSHA Region 5 Office

230 South Dearborn Street, Room 3244
Chicago, Illinois 60604
312/353-2220

OSHA Illinois Area Offices

Calumet City Area Office

1600 167th Street, Suite 9
Calumet City, Illinois 60409
708/891-3800

Chicago North Area Office

701 Lee Street - Suite 950
Des Plaines, Illinois 60016
847/803-4800

Fairview Heights District Office

11 Executive Drive, Suite 11
Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208
618/632-8612

North Aurora Area Office

365 Smoke Tree Plaza
North Aurora, IL 60542
630/896-8700

Peoria Area Office

2918 W. Willows Knolls Road
Peoria, Illinois 61614
309/589-7033

Ketamine Hydrochloride Recall Reminder

In December 2009, the FDA issued a press release regarding a voluntary nationwide recall of Ketamine Hydrochloride Injection, USP CIII 100mg/mL in 10mL vials produced by Teva Animal Health, Inc.

This product had previously been recalled to the distributor level and was expanded as a result of an increased trend in serious adverse events associated with this product. Veterinarians who have this product in their possession are instructed to cease using the product immediately and return it to their distributor.

Ketamine Hydrochloride is a rapid acting, non-narcotic, non-barbiturate agent for anesthetic use in cats and for restraint in subhuman primates. This recall is being conducted as a result of an increased trend in serious adverse events associated with this product, including lack of effect, prolonged effect, and death and involves all lot numbers within expiration.

NOT ALL TEVA PRODUCTS are affected in the nationwide recall. To determine if ketamine products are part of the recall, do not just look for Teva on the product label, but look at lot numbers. Teva distributes this product under other labels, and the brand "Teva" will not be the determining factor when identifying what to return.

- If the lot number is 6 digits, this product is not part of the recall
- If the lot number is 7 digits, you need to return the product
- If the lot number starts with 5401, you need to return the product

Consumers with questions may contact 800-759-3664 from 8:00am – 5:00pm CST Monday-Friday.

Pet Airways adds three new destinations

On July 14, 2009, Pet Airways was ready for takeoff. This Pet Only clientele air travel company launched its twice a week flight schedule, once from the East Coast to the West Coast, and then back again, serving BWI Thurgood Marshall Airport (Baltimore/Washington DC), New York, Chicago, Denver and Los Angeles to prevent pets from having to travel as cargo. Their converted airplanes transport their passengers in a cabin with a pet attendant to check on the passengers throughout the trip.

By January of 2010, this fledgeling company announced the addition of three more destinations. Flights to and from Phoenix, Omaha and Atlanta can be booked starting January 30. These flights run less often and are offered only once a week, so travelers to these destinations may want to book early to ensure a seat for their pets.

ISVMA Members in the News:

The ISVMA is always looking for great human interest stories about its members. Got a great story to share? Let us in on it by emailing brenda@isvma.org or calling 217/546-8381.

Mahr Leads One Health Commission

The ISVMA wishes to congratulate its active member and former president, Dr. Roger Mahr, on the strides made due to his untiring efforts to connect the fields of human and animal medicine. The One Health Commission began as a proposal, the One Health Initiative, during his tenure as AVMA President in 2006. This initiative grew and was incorporated as a nonprofit organization, the One Health Commission, on June 29, 2009. It is fitting that this leader would be named the CEO of this multi-disciplinary group established to highlight the connection between human, animal, and environmental health.

"The convergence of human, animal, and environmental health dictates that we embrace the 'one health' concept now," Dr. Mahr said in a statement. "We live in a changing environment populated by humans and animals living increasingly interconnected lives. This creates unique health challenges which require integrated solutions and more collaboration across health science professions, academia, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and industry."

The One Health Commission is represented by the AVMA and American Medical Association, American Society for Microbiology, the Association of Academic Health Centers, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges, American Public Health Association, and Association of American Medical Colleges.

To stay up to date on One Health news, subscribe to the online One Health Newsletter by e-mailing OneHealth@doh.state.fl.us.

Dr. Sheldon Rubin Honored on Capitol Hill

(SCHAUMBURG, Ill.) January 13, 2010—Congressman Mike Quigley (D-Ill.) recently honored Dr. Sheldon Rubin on Capitol Hill for his service to his community as a prominent Chicago veterinarian.

"I rise today to recognize the long and distinguished career of Dr. Sheldon Rubin. This year, Dr. Rubin is retiring from the veterinary profession after over four decades of caring for and treating the animals of Chicagoland." Rep. Quigley said in front of the House of Representatives on Jan. 12. "He is a member of a vast number of respected professional organizations, including the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the American Animal Hospital Association and the Lincoln Park Zoo Medical Advisory Board.

"His endless pursuit to be on the forefront of veterinary medicine has earned him a myriad of prestigious awards, including the American Animal Hospital Association's Practitioner of the Year Award and a Lifetime Achievement Merit Award from the Chicago Veterinary Medical Association."

Rep. Quigley also lauded Dr. Rubin for promoting responsible pet ownership on local and national radio and television shows, including multiple appearances on "Oprah."

Dr. Rubin said that Rep. Quigley paid a surprise visit to his clinic, Blum Animal Hospital, in late December, and told him he would be receiving the honor.

"I was so surprised when Rep. Quigley showed up at the hospital. At the time, I was prepping for surgery. It's really overwhelming to know that the work I have done every day—and loved every minute of it—has impacted so many people so much," Dr. Rubin said. "I'm so proud to be a veterinarian, and I'm particularly proud that my work has reflected well on the profession. Throughout my career, I've always strived to act in a way and to perform services that would reflect well on the profession that I have loved so much."

Dr. Rubin has been an active member of the AVMA, serving in its House of Delegates, one of two governing bodies for the association, and also as an active member of its Council on Communications. His volunteer work has included opening up his clinic to video cameras to work on an informative video for the AVMA, teaching how to brush a pet's teeth.

"Dr. Rubin has been a true pioneer as a veterinarian, applying cutting edge technologies in the practice of veterinary medicine and also employing progressive management styles for his practice. I know he was using computers in his practice long before anybody else was," explains Dr. Larry R. Corry, president of the AVMA. "He's also a communications guru who has been influential in the AVMA for so many years. I really think he's a leader among leaders and serves as a great role model for all AVMA members."



Veterinarian Making a Difference in Afghanistan

Central Illinois veterinarian Tom Vermeersch has been in Afghanistan only about three weeks, but feels like he's already made a difference. Vermeersch, a public health veterinarian with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service in Beardstown, volunteered for a 13-month assignment in Afghanistan to help rebuild its agricultural sector. "Sometimes you can bring benefits to a government without realizing it," he said in a recent phone interview.

Vermeersch, who lives with his family in Springfield, is one of about 50 agricultural experts deploying to Afghanistan through early 2010, by which time the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service expects to have 64 agricultural staffers in the country. Vermeersch works with a team in Kunar Province. The VetCap team contacts Afghan veterinary associations that bring Afghan veterinarians to the villages. "They plan a day where people bring in their animals for deworming, tetanus shots, things like that," Vermeersch said. "It also gives the Afghan veterinarians face time with the villagers."

Afghanistan has animal diseases, notably hoof-and-mouth, as well as some public health issues, that prohibit export, he said. "I thought that if the government wants to start an eradication program for some of these diseases down the road, it needs to know how widespread these diseases are," he said. "I thought this would be a good time to get blood samples, determine how widespread the diseases are, and compile a database of where they are most prevalent." Vermeersch told the agricultural development team leader, who had him contact the head of the veterinarian association, who liked the idea.

"So I've had a part in something of important national impact," he said.

80% involved in agriculture

Vermeersch, whose Beardstown duties include supervising the people who do the meat inspection at the Cargill Meat Solutions plant, is at Forward Operation Base Blessing in Kunar Province near the Chiriak Valley and the town of Wanat in eastern Afghanistan, near the border with Pakistan. "Things change in Afghanistan,"

he said. "I may be here all year. I might be assigned to other places." Vermeersch describes his Afghan duties as this:

"The main thing is to implement an agricultural strategy, to develop a plan that will result in increased economic benefit to Afghanistan, to help with modernization," he said. "My title is agricultural expert, but it goes beyond that. It's working with people on an orchard project, a reforestation project, fertilization management, bringing in better seeds.

"It's a challenge to find the right thing to do at the right time. Our job is to build capacity so they can individually function and do things for themselves."

Eighty percent of Afghanistan's population is involved in farming or herding, even though only 12 percent of the country's land is arable and less than 6 percent is cultivated.

Vermeersch and his wife, Liz, will observe their 25th wedding anniversary in March, and they will be worlds apart. The couple has a son in Chicago, another in college and a 15-year-old in high school.

'A huge learning curve'

So why volunteer to go to Afghanistan?

"I've always wanted at some time in my life to do an international outreach like this," he said. "As I've gotten older, it's something I've wanted to do." He said a veterinary colleague from Iowa who went to Nepal in the early 1990s helped Vermeersch catch the bug.

"The USDA newsletter in July or August had a solicitation in there that said they were trying to get more USDA people involved in the reconstruction effort," he said. "It just intrigued me. I applied, and I was amazed at how quickly the whole thing went." He said his experience so far has been a bit dizzying.

"It's been a huge learning curve for me," he said. "I've been here three weeks, and I'm trying to learn so many people's names. I've met more than 100 military people and 50 key village elders. Just trying to match the names and faces and jobs has been a challenge."

There is Taliban activity near Forward Operation Base Blessing, but Vermeersch said he's "been pleasantly surprised at how safe I feel here," he said. "I'm always accompanied by soldiers if I go out, and we ride in armored vehicles. The armed forces do a wonderful job of protecting us."

Since 2003, the USDA has deployed 73 people for medium- and long-term assignments in Afghanistan and provided roughly \$229 million in food aid to the country.

By **TIM LANDIS** (tim.landis@sj-r.com)
THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

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American Heartworm Society will Hold Thirteenth Triennial Symposium on

“STATE OF THE HEARTWORM 2010”

In light of the increasing prevalence of heartworm among dogs and cats across the United States, the American Heartworm Society (AHS) will hold its thirteenth triennial symposium on the “STATE OF THE HEARTWORM 2010.” The Symposium will address issues surrounding this potentially fatal disease, which persists even as diagnostic methods advance, preventive therapies improve and disease awareness increases among veterinary professionals and pet owners.

To that end, the AHS Symposium will convene leading experts and engage them in discussions about the latest research findings and best clinical practices on heartworm. Confirmed speakers include Dr. Byron Blackburn of the Auburn University College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Claudio Genchi of the University of Milan, Dr. Clarke Atkins of North Carolina State University, Dr. John McCall of the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Julie Levy of the University of Florida College of Veterinary Medicine, and many more.

Speakers will address new developments in the areas of epidemiology, diagnosis, clinical disease, treatment and prevention of heartworm in dogs, cats, wildlife, and other animals. Specific seminars will speak to, among others, emerging issues in heartworm, new strategies for prevention and compliance, and potential tools for managing the epidemiological expansion of heartworm.

“As heartworm becomes increasingly prevalent throughout the country, it is critical that we, as veterinary professionals, come together to confront this trend and protect our cherished companion animals from this preventable disease,” said Dr. Sheldon Rubin, president of the American Heartworm Society.

The AHS Symposium will take place April 16-18, 2010 at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis TN. To register or to learn more visit www.heartwormsociety.org.

And Now, A Word From our Sponsors

As a means of saying Thank You to one of ISVMA's Platinum and Gold sponsors, we interrupt your regularly scheduled article with these special words from the American Heartworm Society.



USDA Announces New Framework for Animal Disease Traceability

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5, 2010—Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announced today that USDA will develop a new, flexible framework for animal disease traceability in the United States, and undertake several other actions to further strengthen its disease prevention and response capabilities.

“After concluding our listening tour on the National Animal Identification System in 15 cities across the country, receiving thousands of comments from the public and input from States, Tribal Nations, industry groups, and representatives for small and organic farmers, it is apparent that a new strategy for animal disease traceability is needed,” said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. “I’ve decided to revise the prior policy and offer a new approach to animal disease traceability with changes that respond directly to the feedback we heard.”

The framework, announced today at the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) Mid-Year meeting, provides the basic tenets of an improved animal disease traceability capability in the United States. USDA’s efforts will:

- Only apply to animals moved in interstate commerce;
- Be administered by the States and Tribal Nations to provide more flexibility;
- Encourage the use of lower-cost technology; and
- Be implemented transparently through federal regulations and the full rulemaking process.

“One of my main goals for this new approach is to build a collaborative process for shaping and implementing our framework for animal disease traceability,” said Vilsack. “We are committed to working in partnership with States, Tribal Nations and industry in the coming months to address many of the details of this framework, and giving ample opportunity for farmers and ranchers and the public to provide us with continued input through this process.”

One of USDA’s first steps will be to convene a forum with animal health leaders for the States and Tribal Nations to initiate a dialogue about the possible ways of achieving the flexible, coordinated approach to animal disease traceability we envision. Additionally, USDA will be revamping the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Animal Health to address specific issues, such as confidentiality and liability.

Although USDA has a robust system in place to protect U.S. agriculture, with today’s announcement, the Department will also be taking several additional actions to further strengthen protections against the entry and spread of disease. These steps will include accelerating actions to lessen the risk from diseases—such as tuberculosis—posed by imported animals, initiating and updating analyses on how animal diseases travel into the country, improving response capabilities, and focusing on greater collaboration and analyses with States and industry on potential disease risk overall.

More information on USDA’s new direction on animal traceability and the steps to improve disease prevention and control is available at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/traceability>.

Avoiding Census Scams

While the Census is a very important Constitutional mandate for apportioning representation in Congress and appropriating each community's fair share of taxpayer funded services, it is always important to be careful who you give personal information to. Here are a few things every American should know to avoid being scammed under the guise of the Census.

Identifying Census Takers

- All census takers carry official government badges marked just with their name. You may also ask them to show you a picture ID from another source (i.e. driver's license) to confirm their identity.
- Census Workers will NEVER, under any circumstances, ask to enter your home.
- If you have reasonable doubts a Census Taker is not who they say they are, you can call the Chicago regional Census Office to confirm their identity at (312) 454-2700.

Keeping your Information Safe

- All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of data they collect. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with anyone, including the IRS, FBI, CIA or any government agency.
- The easiest way to keep your information safe is to fill out your census form and mail it back right away. Also know that Census Takers will NEVER ask for ANY information to be submitted online or via email.
- No government agency, including the Census, will EVER initiate contact with you or ask for information via email.

Information originated from Congressman John Shimkus' online January 12, 2010 Newsletter.

HAS YOUR MAILING ADDRESS CHANGED?



State Law requires that DVMs share their change of address with the Department of Professional Regulation.

ISVMA needs to be updated when you move or change practices too!

Please take a minute to call 217/546-8381 or email us at info@isvma.org with your change of mailing address.

STATE OF THE
HEARTWORM
SYMPOSIUM

2010

AMERICAN



HEARTWORM
SOCIETY

Register Now for the American Heartworm Society's Thirteenth Triennial Symposium

April 16 -18, 2010 ■ The Peabody Hotel in Memphis

It's the premier heartworm meeting!

Learn everything known today about the pathophysiology, epidemiology, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of heartworm infection in dogs, cats, and other species. You'll also enjoy opportunities for discussion and networking.

World's foremost authorities on heartworm disease will blend practical information with cutting-edge research.

Get your ducks in a row at The Peabody!



Registration Is Open: heartwormsociety.org

What to Look for in Doggie Daycare

A client has called you and is interested in finding daycare for their dog. Does your clinic have a resource to guide your client? In a recent online Pet Column from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Kelly Ballantyne recommends asking the following to determine if the dog will be a good candidate for daycare. These qualities make the dog an inappropriate candidate:

- Dogs who have bitten another dog or person
- Dogs with a chronic illness
- Puppies under four months of age

Once determined a good candidate, Dr. Ballantyne suggests looking for the following when searching for a reputable doggie daycare facility.

- Do they have a thorough screening procedure for new dogs? This may include a phone and an in-person interview, as well as a short trial play session with the current daycare members.
- Dogs should never be left unattended.
- Good facilities will separate dogs into groups according to their play style.
- Owners should ask to visit the facility before enrolling their pet. If you notice anything that makes you feel uncomfortable, such as inappropriate discipline, you should go elsewhere.

Finally, she offers this last tip. "After starting daycare, if your dog is fearful or anxious upon returning to the facility, that is a good sign that you should not continue there."

Visit www.aces.uiuc.edu/news/stories/news5011.html to view the article in its entirety.

Pet Health Insurance Grows as Pets Live Longer and Healthier Lives

January 12, 2010 (Pittsburgh, PA) Pet Health Insurance in the United States and Canada is experiencing extraordinary growth and acceptance among pet owners and the veterinary profession. Though pet health insurance has been offered for over twenty-five years in the United States (and in Canada since 1989) recent double digit growth is due to pet owners wanting to be able to budget and pass off most of the high cost for unexpected accidents and illness. Over one million pets are estimated to now be insured, and according to research firm Packaged Facts double digit growth among the leading providers of pet health insurance is expected to continue.

There are many factors that have increased the life-span and improved health for pets. But one of the overwhelming factors appears to be the desire of today's pet owner to provide the same level of care they want and expect for themselves. Add this to advanced diagnostics, consistent well-pet or prevention visits to the veterinarian, quality nutrition and our pets now are realizing a longer, healthier and happier life.

Treatments once reserved for humans (or only available at University veterinary schools) are now being available in most metropolitan areas of North America. Access to veterinary specialists for pet care has increased and is growing faster than any other area of the practice of veterinary medicine. Just as with human health care, there are specialist in surgery, ophthalmology, dermatology, neurology, internal medicine, dentistry and more for our pets.

The following are a few of the thousands of the injuries, illnesses, and diseases that are now commonly treated for cats and dogs. Clearly, the treatments of these illnesses and diseases have become more affordable due in part to the support of pet health insurance. Some common conditions and illnesses:

- Allergies
- Intervertebral Disc Disease causing paralysis
- Cancer
- Hyperthyroidism
- Kidney Failure
- Diabetes
- Gastric Torsion (Bloat)
- Foreign Body Ingestion
- Cruciate Rupture (ligament tear in knee)
- Cataracts
- Fractures
- Heart disease
- Arthritis
- Viral and bacterial infections
- Even cuts, sprains and much more

Due to pet owners wanting the best, many in the veterinary profession are recommending that clients be informed of the advantages of pet health insurance. In-fact many veterinarians feel that pet health insurance will become the norm for pet owners wanting to be prepared for unexpected costly care.

According to Christopher J. Allen, DVM, JD, veterinarian, attorney, and practice owner of Endwell Animal Hospital, Endwell, NY, "I am a convert. I have disliked a number of aspects of the insurance industry ever since I was an insurance attorney in New York years ago. While it may appear to be a poor investment in some cases insurance is a vital and indispensable risk-management tool, without which modern business - and health care - would grind to a screeching halt. Today the veterinary profession must include pet health insurance as part of the practice protocol. This is the most effective means to manage and assure optimized overall care. Pet health coverage is no longer just for the unexpected injury, illness or emergency. Each client needs to be informed

*See **Pet Health** on page 17*

AAFP AND AAHA ANNOUNCE THE FELINE LIFE STAGE GUIDELINES

The American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) and the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA) are pleased to announce the release of the *AAFP/AAHA Feline Life Stage Guidelines*. Published in the January issue of the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery* and the *Journal of the American Animal Hospital Association*, the guidelines provide important information promoting appropriate wellness care for cats.

The Feline Life Stage Guidelines have been developed in response to alarming statistics reported in the *2007 American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) US Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook*. The Sourcebook showed that the number of cats kept as pets outnumber dogs, yet they receive significantly less veterinary care. Further studies have indicated that an inability to recognize signs of illness or injury is a key factor as to why cat owners are unaware of their cat's medical needs.

The concern of a stressful veterinary visit for both cat and owner has also been cited as a contributing deterrent to veterinary visits for cats. The guidelines offer practical strategies that veterinary practices can integrate into their daily routines to help alleviate common stressors and work more successfully with an anxious cat. The guidelines address healthcare recommendations specific to the lifestage of the feline patient, and emphasize educating clients about behavior and environmental issues that promote a healthy life style. Acting in partnership with cat owners about this information will further enhance the client - veterinary bond.

For more information about the *AAFP/AAHA Feline Life Stage Guidelines*, please contact AAFP at info@catvets.com / (800) 874-0498 or AAHA at Jason.merrihew@aahanet.org / (720) 963-4479. The guidelines are available online at www.catvets.com and www.aahanet.org.

The need for Feline Life Stage Guidelines was identified by the CATalyst Council, a national initiative to champion the cat in light of troubling statistics released by the AVMA regarding the level of health care for cats. The American Association of Feline Practitioners and the American Animal Hospital Association would like to thank Boehringer Ingelheim, Merial Ltd, Pfizer Animal Health and IDEXX Laboratories for their sponsorship of these guidelines and their commitment to help the veterinary community develop projects that will improve the lives of cats. AAFP and AAHA continue to work to promote excellence in feline medicine and to provide veterinarians with tools and strategies to provide the best care.

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Rand S. Wachstock, DVM
David S. Herring, DVM, DACVR
Co-founders of Radiocat

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60004

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Pet Health

Continued from page 16

of the potential benefits of pet health insurance as part of the overall strategy for the long-term, or life-span care of each patient. This not only increases the health of the pet, it certainly provides a healthier veterinary practice as clients and their pets maintain a longer and more rewarding client-veterinary relationship."

Surveys and research by the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the American Pet Products Association indicates that today most pets are regarded as members of the family. Over 60% of North American households have at least one dog, cat, bird, or other companion animal. Many have more than one. There are more than 75 million pet dogs in the U.S. and Canada and nearly 85 million pet cats. Projected 2009 pet expenditures for North America are over \$45 billion, of which \$25 billion will be spent on veterinary related care.

Founded in 2007, the North American Pet Health Insurance Association is committed to educating and promoting the values and benefits of pet health insurance to North American pet owners, the general public, and the veterinary industry. For more information, visit www.naphia.org or call 412-319-7730 / 412-908-9766.

Mark Your Calendar!

2010 ISVMA Wet Lab Program Seminars

June 13 - Chicago Suburbs
program led by **Stephen Juriga, DVM**,
Dipl AVDC Veterinary Dental Center
at River Heights Veterinary Clinic,
Oswego IL

June 27 - Springfield
program led by **Carol H. Akers, DVM**
Resident, Veterinary Dentistry,
University of Illinois, Urbana IL

*Watch for registration
information in the mail soon!*

Doing More with Less - Improving Staff Utilization

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

Improved staff utilization is a more critical element of successful practices now than ever before. Practices that want to become more profitable can no longer just count on fee increases to achieve this goal. Improved profitability and patient care must come from improved business practices. In addition, employees who are allowed to learn and grow and use more skills are generally happier in their jobs and more likely to stay with the practice than those who are only allowed to do less interesting tasks. Effective leveraging of employees is also critical to the productivity of the veterinarians and the practice as a whole. Veterinarians who delegate duties to appropriate staff members are able to see more clients and generate more gross revenue and profits. This increased profitability is essential to providing good quality medicine and surgery and to continual investment in team members in the form of increased salaries and benefits and increased continuing education.

In order to achieve optimal staff utilization, the practice must, first of all, have an owner or practice manager with a strong set of financial, managerial and HR skills—the title isn't enough. Financially successful practices are, almost by definition, well-managed practices. It used to be possible to have a successful practice without a great deal of business skills, but this is no longer true. Clients have higher expectations in both the medical and clients service arenas, veterinarians face increased competition, and the complexity of business regulation has increased.

Most people aren't born with a full set of good management skills. Just as it took training and practice to learn to perform an OHE, it takes similar dedication to become a skilled manager. One difficulty in veterinary medicine is that most veterinarians do not graduate from veterinary school with a solid grounding in business skills. Veterinary school

curriculums are already strained by the burgeoning amount of veterinary knowledge that needs to be passed on to students and most students didn't take business courses in their undergraduate years. Another difficulty is that many veterinarians aren't inherently interested in business management. They went to veterinary school to learn to practice medicine, not to be a business manager. Many practices have hired practice managers to take on the business side of the practice. However, not all managers have been given the training and resources they need to do their jobs well. Fortunately, these are correctable problems.

Management duties are handled differently in different practices depending on the size of the practice, the interests of the owner veterinarians and the money available to hire managerial help. In some

See *Doing More with Less* on page 19

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Doing More with Less

Continued from page 18

practices, the owner veterinarians do all of the management work either out of necessity or because they enjoy it. In other practices, the owners have hired a full-time, experienced practice manager with the result that the veterinarians primarily practice medicine. The owners make the high-level decisions, but leave day-to-day management to those paid and trained to do it. In other practices, management duties are divided between the owners and other individuals, including support staff, practice managers or associate veterinarians. As practices get bigger and as management duties become more complex, it becomes more necessary to have highly skilled, professional managers in place. Veterinarians will contribute more to the profitability of the clinic through the practice of medicine and surgery than by being managers.

While owners certainly don't have to be involved in the day-to-day management activities of a practice, it is critical that they provide vision and leadership to the business. In addition, they need to set the framework for the decisions to be made, direct and approve the overall activities, and support the management personnel in their responsibilities.

The practice must also:

- Have a detailed, understanding of the skills staff members must have to provide outstanding patient care and client service
- Hire effectively—find and keep the employees with the right skills and attitudes necessary to achieve the practice's goals
- Provide high quality, effective and ongoing training programs to both new team members as well as those who have been in the practice for awhile
- Have high levels of employee retention—revolving door employees aren't around long enough to be efficient and effective
- Design and implement efficient policies, procedures and systems for getting things done
- Schedule staff, appointments, and surgeries effectively and in synch with each other
- Delegate effectively—tasks should be done by the lowest level person who can do the job properly

- Monitor staff activities frequently—in most practices staff are always busy doing something—what they are doing, however, is the key point—is it the most important activity that should be done?
- Regularly review staff utilization metrics

Analyzing the number of support staff in comparison to the number of veterinarians is useful in determining how efficiently your practice is being run. A greater number of support staff will generally result not only in improved client service, but also in better leveraging of doctor time and skills.

Because the number of hours worked by veterinarians and staff members varies widely amongst practices, they are compared on a full-time-equivalent (FTE) basis. A full-time-equivalent veterinarian is assumed to be one that works 45 hours/week during an entire year. This figure is calculated for each practice by taking the total annual hours worked by veterinarians in the practice divided by 45 hours per week and then dividing that result by 52 weeks. For example, a three-veterinarian practice with an annual total of 6,240 hours worked by veterinarians, the FTE number of veterinarians would be 2.66 (6240 divided by 45 with the result then divided by 52.)

A full-time-equivalent support staff member is assumed to be one that works 40 hours/week during an entire year. This figure is calculated for each practice by taking the total annual hours worked by staff members in the practice divided by 40 and then dividing that result by 52 weeks.

The "right" number of staff people per veterinarian will vary in financially successful practices and must be analyzed closely in conjunction with profitability. It is very easy to increase the number of staff per doctor to a level which allows for an easier work environment but seriously erodes profitability.

Another more specific measure of staff and veterinarian productivity and efficiency is the average number of staff and doctor hours per transaction. Average staff hours per transaction are calculated by dividing the total number of hours

worked by all support staff members during a certain time period by the number of transactions incurred in that same time period. Average doctor hours per transaction are calculated by dividing the total number of hours worked by all doctors during the same period by the number of transactions incurred in that period. Average total hours per transaction are calculated by adding staff hours per transaction to doctor hours per transaction. As the name of the metric states, these results are averages for all transactions from the simplest sale of a bag of dog food to a long and complicated surgery. However, comparing these figures from period to period in your practice and to other practices can be very useful in determining areas for improvement.

Visit the NCVETI website for more information, including tools for comparing your staffing metrics to other practices, about staff utilization.

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.NCVETI.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 NCVETI'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.





IN HONOR OF /IN MEMORY OF

The IVMF welcomes contributions that are to celebrate an honor or life milestone as well as to memorialize a loss. Download a donor form from the ISVMA website at www.isvma.org/about_us/foundation.html to submit your memorial. Indicate who you are honoring on the form and give an address where the memorial can be sent.

IN MEMORY OF

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

Alley	PeeWee
Baby	Rudy
Beavis	Sadie
Chili	Sir Henry
Cody	Six
Molly	Zip

DONATIONS TO ENDOWMENT

At the start of this fiscal year on July 1, 2009, through February 1, 2010, the IVMF has received contributions totaling \$10,525. The ISVMA thanks those who have forwarded contributions.

To make a contribution to the Illinois Veterinary Medical Foundation (IVMF), a 501(c)3 charity, visit online at www.isvma.org/about_us/resources or call the ISVMA office at 217/546-8381 for a donor form. Your fully tax-deductible donation should be made payable to the Illinois Veterinary Medical Foundation and mailed to:

IVMF, c/o ISVMA,
1121 Chatham Road,
Springfield, IL 62704.

To make a contribution with a credit card, submit the IVMF donor form using your card information.

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 IDFPR 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

Which issue did it appear? The subjects addressed in the past year, along with the issue in which they appeared, follow. Some may appear twice as they fall into duplicate categories.

Interpretation of Practice Act

- Do we have to keep paper AND computer records of the same information if we are moving to a computerized recordkeeping system? (Oct/Nov 2009)
- What do I need to fulfill my CE requirement for license renewal? (Oct/Nov 2009)

Licensing: DVM, Professional Service, Controlled Substance, etc.

- What do I need to fulfill my CE requirement for license renewal? (Oct/Nov 2009)

Personnel

- What is the minimum age an employee can be to handle x-rays or x-ray equipment? (Oct/Nov 2009)

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

- What instructions do I give a client on how to properly dispose of unused pharmaceuticals? (June/July 2009)
- Does state law allow a veterinary clinic to obtain a DEA license for the purposes of purchasing, distributing, and prescribing controlled substances like human hospitals and clinics do? (Aug/Sept 2009)
- Why have the costs for a DEA license increased so dramatically since my last renewal period? (Aug/Sept 2009)

Recordkeeping and Release of Information

- Do we have to keep paper AND computer records of the same information if we are moving to a computerized recordkeeping system? (Oct/Nov 2009)

Spay/Neuter Regulations and Programs

- State of Illinois offers a low-cost spay/neuter program for IL residents. What are the details of the program? (April/May 2009)

Waste Disposal

- Can a used syringe (without the needle) be disposed of as general waste? (April/May 2009)

Obituaries —

"He who has done his best for his own time has lived for all times."

—Johann Von Schiller

The ISVMA office reports it did not receive notice of the death any member since the previous publication. Notices and obituaries are gratefully received and, when space is available, will be reprinted. Please call the ISVMA office at 217/546-8381.

E-Source News

What did YOU miss? 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. Email today at info@isvma.org to be put on the E-SOURCE distribution list. Remember to add info@isvma.org to your approved senders list to ensure delivery.

Your privacy is important to us. Any email address stays strictly confidential and is used only to conduct the business of the association. Lists are never shared or sold.

December 17, 2009, Volume VII, No. 15

- Revised USDA Veterinary Accreditation Program
- ISVMA Responds to Article on Animal Massage Therapy
- CDC Investigation Update: Outbreak of Human Salmonella Typhimurium Infections Associated with Contact with Water Frogs
- Dean Herbert Whiteley to Participate in Hockey Night - Please Vote in Poll to Determine What Kind of "Ice Time" He Gets!
- ISVMA Sponsored Practice Ownership Workshop and Hockey Night - Join Us January 23, 2010

December 22, 2009, Volume VII, No. 16

- Confirmed Case of H1N1 in New York Dog
- H1N1 Information from the Illinois Department of Public Health
- Employers Now Responsible for Reporting H1N1 Work-related Illness
- Dean Herbert Whiteley to Participate in Hockey Night - Please Vote in Poll to Determine What Kind of "Ice Time" He Gets!
- ISVMA Sponsored Practice Ownership Workshop and Hockey Night - Join Us January 23, 2010
- USDA Accreditation Reminder
- IRAs and Charitable Contributions

January 26, 2010, Volume VII, No. 17

- 3rd & 4th Year Veterinary Students: Apply Now for the CDC-Hubert Global Health Fellowship
- USDA Accreditation Reminder
- AVMF Partners with ARCH for Haiti Earthquake Relief
- Cutting Pet Meds Costs? Video Warns Pet Owners About Online Medicine Purchases
- Goats Find Home in Chicago Backyards
- Canine Compulsive Disorder Gene Identified in Dogs
- Dogs' Social Lives and Disease Risks - Tips for Canine and Human Safety



2010 Outstanding Veterinarian Awards

Nominate a colleague or classmate for the 2010 Outstanding Veterinarian Awards. Nominations open March 1, 2010.

Download the nomination forms from the ISVMA website at www.isvma.org or contact the ISVMA office at 217/546-8381 to have one forwarded to you!

THE ISVMA LIFE MEMBER PLAQUE

The ISVMA and Spinner Plastics have made available to ISVMA Life Members a stunning plaque to commemorate the significant milestone reached as a 35 year or more continuous supporter of their state association. This plaque features the ISVMA logo engraved in gold on a blue marbled plate and is mounted on an 8" x 10.5" solid wood back, along with the following proclamation:

ISVMA gratefully bestows
LIFE MEMBERSHIP
On
Veterinarians Name, DVM
In recognition of
35 years
of dedicated service
to the
veterinary profession



Orders are collected by the ISVMA office and submitted to Spinner Plastics as a group order three times annually. The next group order will be submitted on Monday, April 5, 2010.

The approximate price for the plaque is \$ 115.00 plus tax and shipping of approximately \$18.00. The total due will vary slightly depending upon the number of plaques ordered. ISVMA does not handle any of the financial transactions for the order and is responsible only for collecting and submitting the order to Spinner Plastics. Each order will be billed directly from Spinner Plastics, Springfield IL.

To place an order, or for questions, please contact Jill Blanton at the ISVMA office by calling 217/546-8381.

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 jmk@divservgrp.com
 888/494-7900

ISVMA Legislative Relationship Form

The ISVMA office and its Legislative Committee track relationships that helps organize contact with legislators. These contacts can help ISVMA's ability to influence laws, rules and regulations affecting the veterinary profession.

Do you have a relationship with an elected official? 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 Legislative Relationship form is online at www.isvma.org or can be forwarded by contacting the ISVMA at 217/546/8381.

The information you supply will be used solely by the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association; your personal information will never 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!

Did you know the following information is just a click away?

Visit www.isvma.org for Information at your Fingertips

Members Only Access to ISVMA Website

Click on **LEGISLATION** Tab for:

Legislative Action Center

- Use Capwiz-XC™ to increase grassroots participation by connecting to your elected officials
- Determine which elected officials represent your home and/or your business, and more.

Rules & Regulations

- Links to Illinois Division of Professional Regulation's website for licensee applications and forms
- Veterinary Practice Act Rules
- Veterinary Technician Rules
- Veterinary Sales Tax Regulation
- Archived issues of the Illinois Register

The Illinois Register is a published document that includes all PROPOSED rules and regulations. This is a good source for reviewing rules that are under consideration by state agencies.

Statutes and Administrative Rules Related to the Health and Welfare of Animals and the Public and Veterinary Medicine

- Animal Control Act
- Animal Disease Laboratories Act
- Animal Gastroenteritis Act
- Humane Care for Animals Act
- Humane Euthanasia in Animal Shelters Act
- Humane Slaughter of Livestock Act
- Illinois Bovine Brucellosis Eradication Act
- Illinois Bovidae and Cervidae Tuberculosis Eradication Act
- Illinois Diseased Animal Act
- Illinois Equine Infectious Anemia Control Act
- Illinois Pseudorabies Control Act
- Illinois Public Health and Safety Animal Population Control Act
- Illinois Swine Brucellosis Eradication Act
- Illinois Swine Disease Control and Eradication Act
- Livestock Management Facilities Act
- Poultry Inspection Act
- Trichinosis Control Act
- Veterinary Medicine & Surgery Practice Act of 2004
- Certified Veterinary Technicians

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

ISVMA Bill Tracker

Legislators & Legislation

ISVMA Legislative Relationship Form

Login Reminder to Access the Member Center

Your user name and password is tied to your member information and all members are defaulted for access by entering:

Username: JDoe (initial of first name AND full last name)
Password: 12345 (ISVMA member number) *Login is case sensitive.*

Don't like your username and password? Personalize it! Once you are logged in, you may personalize your username and password to whatever you prefer.

Visit www.isvma.org for Information at your Fingertips

Members Only Access to ISVMA Website

Click on the **LIBRARY** tab for:

FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions

Here are just a few of the many questions and answers listed online.

- **BUSINESS PRACTICES:** Is this non-compete clause of my contract too narrow?
- **LICENSURE:** What do I need to renew my license?
- **RECORDKEEPING:** How long do I have to keep veterinary records?
- **SHARPS REMOVAL:** Are you compliant with EPA regulations for PIMW/Sharps removal?
- **PRESCRIBING MEDS:** What do I do if my client obtains an online prescription without my permission/signature on the Rx?

EPITOME

- Electronic copies of ISVMA's print newsletter from June/July 2004 to present

E-Source

- Copies of ISVMA's electronic newsletter from December 2003 to present

ISVMA Public Relations Committee Information Series

- Pet Obesity
- Rabies
- Tick-borne Diseases

Important Resources – Downloadable pdf documents

- 2010 List of Reportable Diseases Mandated by Illinois Law
Diseases that must be reported to the Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare, Illinois Department of Agriculture
- Pet Foods with "Medicinal Purpose"
Confirmation of food products that are only sold to licensed veterinarians, which will then be considered by the Department of Revenue to then have a "medicinal purpose" and exempt from retail sales tax when part of a VCPR.
- Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Veterinary Personnel (2008)
- Model Infection Control Plan for Veterinary Practices, 2006
- The Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control (2007)

Fact Sheets

- Fact Sheet on the ISVMA Amendment to the Revenue Code

White Papers on Issues of Interest and Importance to Illinois Veterinarians

- Current Regulations on Sales Tax Application for Veterinarians
A downloadable word file of Section 130.2165 which describes the requirements for a "service transaction" and defines the tax liability that results from these transactions. Also described are the circumstances under which Retailers' Occupation Tax liability and Use Tax liability are incurred by veterinarians.
- The Scope of Veterinary Practice: A Model for Regulating Animal Medical Treatments by Non-Veterinarians
A downloadable word file of a report Prepared by the Coalition on the Scope of Veterinary Practice in November 2004
- ISVMA Position Paper on Breed Specific Legislation? **Your fact sheet is not dated.**

Did You Know...

The ISVMA is 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.

Numbers You Need

Potentially Infectious Medical Waste Haulers

Illinois EPA

Beverly Albarracin

217/524-3289

beverly.albarracin@illinois.gov

DVM or CVT License Processing or Renewal - Illinois Dept. of Finance and Professional Regulation

Average hold time when calling either one of these numbers is 30 minutes. The lines are for all IDFP 70 professions/over 270 different licenses. Best time to call is 8:30 am or between 4:00-4:30pm.

■ License Maintenance Unit

217/782-0458

For questions pertaining to an active license

■ Technical Assistance Unit

217/782-8556

For questions regarding new applications

Animal and Animal Product Import and Export Information/ Veterinary Accreditation Program USDA APHIS

Area Office for Illinois

217/547-6030

MEMBER SERVICES

CE Recordkeeping - ISVMA is a designated recorder of veterinary continuing education (CE) credit in Illinois; we can validate member approved hours to the Department during an audit, if requested. Send the ISVMA copies of earned CE certificates by fax, mail or email and we'll retain these copies for the four years required by regulation, retrievable upon request of the member.

Legal Consultation - ISVMA offers, for no charge, access to white papers in our legal reference library to members. If an issue involving interpretation of a veterinary law or accompanying regulation has not been researched, ISVMA has retained Legal Counsel to provide a complimentary initial consultation.

Substance Abuse - Want help but don't know where to go? The ISVMA offers to its members a resource that can direct you to the help you want, the help you need. All calls are kept confidential and never go through the ISVMA office. Available 24 hours. Callers are contacting a helpline. 1-800-215-4357.



Looking Ahead to
Future ISVMA Convention Dates:

2010 - Lombard
First week in November
November 5-7

2011 - Peoria
Second week in November
November 10-13



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.

Course modules are designed to enhance knowledge and increase clinical skills as well as provide continuing education credit. Modules offered are in:

- ◆ Pain Management
- ◆ Ophthalmology
- ◆ Clinical Small Animal Dentistry
- ◆ Diagnostic Imaging
- ◆ Cytology
- ◆ Parasitology
- ◆ Emerging Diseases

The Office of Public Engagement will grant continuing education credit upon successful completion of courseware assessment, ranging in earned hours of 0.5 to 3 hours per module.

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.

CALENDAR

MARCH 2010

- 24 **INTERNAL MEDICINE - THE ROLE OF FAT AS AN ENDOCRINE ORGAN**
HAMBURGER UNIVERSITY; Oak Brook, IL. 6 hours CE; 630/325-1231.
- 20-21 **BASIC MINIMALLY INVASIVE SURGERY: LAPAROSCOPY**
U OF I COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE; Urbana, IL. No previous training in minimally invasive surgery is needed. Registration is open to veterinarians and their technicians. Technicians must register with a veterinarian; 217/333-2907; ope@vetmed.illinois.edu.
- 18 **IMMUNE MEDIATED HEMATOLOGIC ABNORMALITIES IN CATS AND DOGS**
CHICAGO CENTER FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE; Chicago, IL. 217/333-2907; ope@vetmed.illinois.edu.

APRIL 2010

- 4 **SOUTHERN ILLINOIS VMA SPRING MEETING**
RAMADA INN FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS; Fairview Heights, IL.
Topic: "Tick Borne Disease and Zoonoses". Register online at www.isvma.org
5.5 hours CE; imadvm@dishmail.net.
- 7 **KANKAKEE VALLEY VMA SPRING MEETING**
JOLIET JUNIOR COLLEGE, WEITENDORF AGRICULTURE; Joliet, IL. 3.0 hours CE; For DVM and CVT. Topic: "Sense and Cents of Canine Rehabilitation in Your Practice." Register online at www.isvma.org. 815/882-2000.
- TBD **CENTRAL ILLINOIS VMA SPRING MEETING.** ssnyder559@yahoo.com;
evenings at 217/698-0280.
- 11 **OPEN HOUSE**
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE; Urbana, IL.
- 14 **CANINE & FELINE CARDIOLOGY**
HAMBURGER UNIVERSITY; Oak Brook, IL. 630/325-1231.
- 15 **EASTERN ILLINOIS VMA SPRING MEETING**
UNIVERSITY OF IL COLLEGE OF VET MED; Urbana, IL. 8 hours CE. 217/586-2297.
- 15 **AN EVENING OF ONCOLOGY: INDICATIONS FOR RADIATION THERAPY TARGETED THERAPY FOR CANCER - WHAT ARE THESE TK INHIBITORS ALL ABOUT?**
CHICAGO CENTER FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE; Chicago, IL. 217/333-2907 or ope@vetmed.illinois.edu
- 18 **FELINE DENTISTRY LECTURE AND LABORATORY**
CHICAGO CENTER FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE; Chicago, IL. 217/333-2907 or ope@vetmed.illinois.edu
- 24-25 **VETERINARY TECHNICIAN CONFERENCE**
U OF I COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE; Urbana, IL. 217/333-2907 or ope@vetmed.illinois.edu.
- 28 **NORTHERN ILLINOIS VMA SPRING SEMINAR**
TEBALA SHRINE CENTER; Rockford, IL. 6 hours CE. Two program tracks. Veterinary Program: Clinical Dermatology and Veterinary Technician Program: Small Animal Dentistry. 217/546-8381.

MAY 2010

- 9 **END OF LIFE COMMUNICATION**
CHICAGO CENTER FOR VETERINARY MEDICINE; Chicago, IL. 217/333-2907 or ope@vetmed.illinois.edu.
- 12 **PRACTICE MANAGEMENT**
HAMBURGER UNIVERSITY; Oak Brook, IL. 6 hours CE. 630/325-1231.

NOVEMBER 2010

- 5-7 **ISVMA 128th ANNUAL CONVENTION**
WESTIN YORKTOWN; Lombard, IL. 217/546-8381; www.isvma.org

POLICIES FOR ADVERTISING

Deadlines

Issue	Deadline
December/January	November 1
February/Marc	January 1
April/May	March 1
June/July	May 1
August/September	July 1
October/November	September 1

Targeted mailing date is first week of issue date.

Display Ads:

Rates

\$300	Quarter page (Horiz. 4-3/4" W x 3" H)
	Quarter page (Vert. 2-1/8" W x 6" H)
\$500	Half page
\$600	Two-Thirds page
\$900	Full page

Technical specifications

File format requested - .jpg, pdf, tif. For two color ads, you must provide artwork with the PMS Reflex Blue separated in an .eps or .pdf format. Screens accepted; no bleed.

Forwarding instructions

Submit by email to brenda@isvma.org or mail on disk to ISVMA, 1121 Chatham Road, Springfield IL 62704. ATTN: Brenda Weber.

Classified Ads:

Rates

ISVMA Members pay a discounted rate of \$50.00 for first 40 words, \$0.35 each additional word plus a complimentary posting on the ISVMA website. Non-Members pay a rate of \$75.00 for first 40 words, \$0.45 each additional word plus an additional fee of \$20.00 for placement online. Exception for unemployed, ISVMA member DVM: may place a "Seeking Employment" ad free of charge for up to 6 months.

Publication

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. 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 217/546-8381; or mail, Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, 1121 Chatham Road, Springfield IL 62704. ATTN: Jill Blanton.

CLASSIFIEDS

VETERINARY RELIEF

1998 graduate with over 3 years small animal relief experience is ready and available to serve you statewide! Resume and references available upon request. Andrew Abshier, DVM. Ph: 618/433-1308, Fax: 618/433-1308 or andrew.abshier@gmail.com.

Small Animal Relief Veterinarian with over 12 years of practice experience available throughout Illinois. Please contact me either by e-mail at amstaff66@sbcglobal.net or cell at 618/363-8140.

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.

Small animal medicine/ surgery / emergency relief veterinarian available for DuPage and Cook Counties. Will also consider other areas in the state. Available 7 days per week. Please contact Dr. Rosemarie A. Niznik at (cell) 630/915-0156 or drroseniznik@gmail.com.

IN-STATE OPPORTUNITIES SEEKING VETERINARIANS

Full-time small animal associate position available in progressive, well-established hospital in affluent Northern Chicago suburb. We are a team-oriented practice that focuses on quality client and patient care. No after hours emergency. New graduates are welcome! We offer a fun, relaxed work environment and competitive salary with benefits. Apply to: animalhospital1@hotmail.com.

Timbercrest Veterinary Service is a modern progressive mixed animal practice in Atlanta IL. We are seeking an associate veterinarian. The majority of the team member's time would be spent practicing small animal medicine. Large animal opportunities would exist if candidate so desires. Please contact Dr. Miller via email at miller@timbercrestvet.com or at 217/648-5800.

Our Veterinary Team is looking for a long term veterinarian who fits the mission and unique environment of our three progressive, fast-growing, full-service hospitals. We have an excellent clientele who demand only the best medicine/surgery for their pets. The right addition to our team will thrive on client contact, client education, and thorough, preventive and diagnostic medicine. We pride ourselves in involving all staff in decision-making allowing them to influence and improve the quality of workplace and the practice. We have a complete in-house lab, x-ray, ultra sound, anesthetic monitoring equipment, tonopen, ECG, and more. Our hospital also offers

boarding and grooming. We have a good staff/dr. ratio with enthusiastic, educated, well-trained members to support you. We offer excellent compensation and benefits package. Please submit resume and cover letter to: Tiffany N. Fleming, Corporate Administrator, Peoria Area Veterinary Group, 2815 West Townline Road, Peoria IL 61615.

FT/PT Veterinarian with at least 2 years experience wanted for two doctor small animal practice. Located in the northwest Chicago suburbs. Family first environment. Benefits including IRA, CE, health insurance for FT. Rated benefits available for PT. Send resumes ATTN: Dr. Koryn Swearingen at drmeow@sbcglobal.net.

Associate veterinarian wanted for a part-time mixed animal position in Illinois near the Quad Cities. The 1 1/2-2 veterinarian practice primarily services small animal, food animal and equine. Ownership potential. Contact Dr. Gary Kampmann at gjkampmann@frontiernet.net or 309/738-3732.

Associate veterinarian (full- or part-time) wanted for multi-doctor practice in Lemont, a far southwest Chicago suburb. Practice is near I-355 extension. Contact Chris Johnson, DVM by email at johnson8877@sbcglobal.net, cell 630/542-5130 or clinic phone 630/257-5121.

We are growing! Banfield the Pet Hospital has Chief of Staff and Associate Veterinarian positions available in Chicago and the suburbs. Excellent benefits and compensation provided. Inquiries kept confidential. Contact Chris Brown at rewardingcareers@banfield.net or at 503/922-5283.

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.

Two Postings for One Price!

The purchase of a classified ad with the ISVMA gives you two times the exposure. Your ad appears online as well as in print. Call to place an ad at 217/546-8381 or purchase online at: www.isvma.org/classifieds/index.html.

Associate wanted for a multi-doctor practice in Naperville. Modern facility with modern equipment. Great clientele. Overnight patient monitoring. Large case volume, medical and surgical. Large amount of orthopedic work. Looking for someone to join our team approach to veterinary medicine. Board Certified veterinary practitioner on staff. 4 day work week. Salary starting between \$65,000-\$75,000. Please contact Leslie by email at napervilleanimalhospital@yahoo.com or at 630/355-5300.

Got a heart for surgery? Opportunity for a full-time practitioner to join our team in South Elgin IL! Work in a state-of-the-art facility with a friendly staff and long term clientele. NO EMERGENCY. Send e-mail for details to: kenlyn_vass_cvc@sbcglobal.net.

St. Charles Veterinary Clinic is looking for a full-time veterinarian to join our dedicated, diverse, progressive team of doctors and staff. We are a well-equipped, well-staffed, AAHA-accredited hospital that provides a positive, enriching, progressive work environment. Competitive salary, benefits including health insurance and Simple IRA with match. Mail, fax or email resume to ATTN: Dr. James Miles, 530 Dunham Rd, St. Charles IL 60174; 630/584-0416; stcvetclinic@sbcglobal.net.

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 specialized imaging. Each specialty department is headed up by a board certified veterinarian, who also sponsor our prospering veterinary internship program. Support staff of 100 includes technicians, technician assistants, receptionists and administrative personnel. The medical center is equipped with a wide range of diagnostic and monitoring equipment to

include ultrasound with color flow Doppler, video endoscopes, fluoroscopy, CT and MRI digital imaging. We have a well-equipped in-house laboratory and provide on-site blood banking. AERC maintains a strong commitment to continuing education. Providing CE to our community as well as to our staff is a fundamental part of our core values. As an associate emergency veterinarian you will have the opportunity to continue to grow your career by participating in CE at our veterinary center and offering CE to the referring community. We are in search of experienced, energetic, emergency veterinarians that enjoy practicing emergency medicine, and insist on practicing high quality medicine in a fast-paced environment. Our veterinarians celebrate the human-animal bond and can successfully blend what is in the best interest of both the patient and the client. Applicants must have excellent communication skills, be responsive to the referring veterinarians and possess a diverse skill set to handle a busy, and often complicated emergency caseload. To learn more about employment opportunities with AERC and our outstanding compensation and benefits package, please contact Sheri Rothschild at 847/564-3109. Email your CV and questions to her at srothschild@aercenter.com or fax to 847/564-9604. Visit our website at: www.aercenter.com.

Why not combine high-quality medicine, a stimulating career and great quality of life? Due to our continued expansion we have Associate Veterinarian and Chief of Staff positions available in St. Louis MO, and Springfield and Champaign IL. Excellent compensation and benefits provided. Contact Chris Brown at 503/922-5283 or rewardingcareers@banfield.net.

PRACTICE PERSONNEL

CVT Position. Seeking a part-time/full-time licensed veterinary technician to join our practice. We are a progressive 2 1/2 doctor, 3 CVT small animal practice. We have a well-trained staff, new facility, and friendly clientele. We are located in Huntley IL, a northwest suburb of Chicago. Visit our website at www.huntleyvet.com. Please fax resume to 847/669-5911 or for questions contact Kristin by phone at 847/669-5888 or fax at 847/669-5911.

Veterinary Hospital Manager - Eastern Iowa Veterinary Specialty Center of Cedar Rapids (www.eivsc.com) is searching for a dynamic, enthusiastic professional to lead our doctors and staff. This is a tremendous opportunity for the right individual. Our new manager must understand team dynamics and have extraordinary people skills. Our hospital provides advanced veterinary care 24/7 so the manager must be flexible with their schedule. The position requires 38-45 hours per week and will include some weekends and evenings. Prior experience in veterinary practice management is required. We offer authority along with responsibility, tremendous support,

a salary according to experience and a great benefit package. Contact Alyce D'Amato, CVT, CVPM by email at adamato@horizondvm.com or by phone at 920/882-4301, fax at 920/831-4113.

PRACTICES FOR SALE IN-STATE

Greater Rockford Area-Stephenson County. Well-established, one DVM, small animal practice with great real estate. Practice and real estate for one year's gross! Great cash flow! Contact Dr. Ken Ehlen, Simmons & Assoc. Midwest Inc; 877/322-6465 or via email at simmons@simmonsmidwest.com.

Well-equipped, progressive, growing, one-two veterinarian S.A. practice with R.E. grossing 750K. Located between Bloomington and Chicago. Call George Sikora at TPSG Veterinary Practice Sales; 419/945-2408; email George@tpsgsales.com.

SERVICES

Veterinary Hospital Design and Construction - What is possible? How much will it cost? And how to start? We can help answer these questions with: facility planning including complete cost budgets, site evaluation to determine feasibility and cost, design and construction. Renovations, additions, tenant build-outs, and new construction. For a complementary consultation contact JF McCarthy, MBA, CFM; 708/547-5096; joe.mccarthy@jfmccarthyconstruction.com.

Ownership opportunities - Asset Growth Systems links buyers with practices needing to transition ownership. Confidential searches are executed for veterinarians seeking an initial ownership opportunity and for practice owners wishing to expand. Services include search, market analysis, financial planning, negotiation and securing financing. For a confidential discussion please contact Kyla Lombardo at AGS; agsystems1@yahoo.com or 708/383-9200.

Income Tax Reduction - Current income taxes reduced and cash flow increased with COST SEGREGATION, an IRS approved method particularly effective for veterinary hospitals. For information or complementary consultation contact Joe McCarthy, MBA, CFM; via email at joe.mccarthy@jfmccarthyconstruction.com or at 708/547-5096.

We offer disability insurance formulated for you with true own-occupation coverage; Professional Overhead Expense to reimburse your expenses and keep your practice up and running if you become disabled; and Disability Buy-Out for partnerships. Call today for a complimentary consultation. Eileen J. Prus, CLU, RHU; 800/774-0684; e.prus@att.net.

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- Complete the form at left using your credit card and fax your donation to the ISVMA office at 217/546-5633.



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Looking Ahead to
Future ISVMA Convention Dates:

2010 - Lombard
First week in November
November 5-7

2011 - Peoria
Second week in November
November 10-13

Come to One!
Come to All!

CHICAGO SUBURBS:

June 13 program will be led by
Stephen Juriga, DVM,
Dipl AVDC Veterinary Dental Center at River
Heights Veterinary Clinic, Oswego IL

SPRINGFIELD:

June 27 program will be led by
Carol H. Akers, DVM
Resident, Veterinary Dentistry,
University of Illinois, Urbana IL

**2010 ISVMA Continuing Ed Wet Lab
Program Replaces Spring Seminars!**

The ISVMA is excited to announce a new meeting format! January introduced a Family Friendly CE program. This June brings Hands' On CE with a Dental Wetlab program being offered both in the Chicago suburbs AND in Springfield.

This program is group oriented. Whether it's the whole team who signs up or the CVT or DVM flying solo, it will be a great fit for all staff who attend.

Here's an idea of what topics the daylong program will include:

- ◆ Dental Extractions & Pain Management
- ◆ The professional teeth cleaning and periodontal examination
- ◆ Dental Radiography
- ◆ Interpretation of dental radiographs
- ◆ Periodontal Examination and Charting
- ◆ Identification of Oral Pathology:
- ◆ Stages of Periodontal disease: Recognition and Compliance Strategies
- ◆ Marketing/Compliance Strategies: (Do what to my pet's teeth?)

Watch for registration information to come in the mail soon!