

Join Us for ISVMA Lobby Day - February 27, 2013

The lack of understanding about the veterinary profession and issues related to animal and public health and welfare in state government can sometimes lead to bad public policy. Additionally, with the 2012 election, there was a massive turnover in the legislature. There are many new members and old members representing new districts. This, combined with an uncertain economy and continuing issues such as health care, make this a difficult time for everyone.

- What if the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act was amended to limit the scope of practice and allow non-veterinarians to diagnose and provide non-surgical treatment to animals?
- What if the new legislature considers adopting a professional services tax to help close the growing budget deficits?
- How will the profession be impacted if the growing cost of a doctoral in degree veterinary medicine results in declining enrollment or graduates with debt loads they cannot afford at any salary?
- Who can own a veterinary clinic in Illinois? Help the ISVMA pass the Veterinary Practice Ownership Law!

Veterinary professionals have the chance to overcome these concerns and tell their stories at the Ninth Annual ISVMA Lobby Day on February 27, 2013. Please join your colleagues and advocate for the issues that impact all veterinary professionals.

Don't worry if you've never lobbied before or if you are intimidated by the process. ISVMA staff and lobbyists will conduct a briefing/training session and will be in the Capitol all day to assist you.

Without our voice in the halls of the Capitol, the results could be ...frightening.

SAVE THE DATE...February 27, 2013 at the 9:00 a.m. at the Hoogland Center for the Arts in Springfield, IL.

If you wish to participate or receive additional information please send an email to info@isvma.org or call (217) 546-8381.

Ovarian Cancer Symptom Awareness Organization Partners with Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association to Launch First-Ever Veterinary Outreach Program



Chicago, Ill – January 29, 2013-- The Ovarian Cancer Symptom Awareness Organization (OCSA), in partnership with the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA), gathered on Friday, January 25 to launch the OCSA Veterinary Outreach Program (VOP).

Dr. Kurt Klepitsch, pictured on the left with Dr. Brenda Jones, anxiously launched the first in the Veterinary Outreach Program on January 25 at the Gateway Veterinary Clinic in St. Charles.

With strong engagement and support from the Illinois Department of Public Health, the VOP is a first-ever collaboration with veterinarians that is designed to open new channels of communication and raise awareness about the silent and often-ignored symptoms of ovarian cancer. More than 45 people attended the reception including dignitaries from the Fox Valley region as well as community and veterinarian industry leaders.

"This event marks the beginning of an alliance that will ultimately boost all of our abilities to

educate women and their families about the silent symptoms of ovarian cancer. We look forward to working as a team to raise awareness so early detection is commonplace, and to ultimately help save lives," said Vallie Szymanski, co-founder and executive director of OCSA.

The reception was held in St. Charles at the Gateway Veterinary Clinic to recognize, Dr. Kurt Klepitsch, DVM, the clinic owner, as the first official VOP partner. Dr. Brenda L. Jones, deputy director, Illinois Department of Public Health delivered a letter on behalf of Governor Quinn to offer his support and encouragement to move the program forward.

The launch featured a ribbon cutting with Alyssa Paulsen, the Miss USA 2012 Ambassador, as well as remarks from the following community, government and industry leaders:

- Vallie Szymanski, co-founder and executive director of OCSA
- Peter Weber, executive director of the ISVMA
- Dr. Brenda L. Jones, deputy director, Illinois Department of Public Health
- Dr. Roger Mahr, DVM, OCSA Advisory Board Member and CEO of the One Health Commission
- Linda Cohen Wassong, founder of The Puccini Foundation, which is dedicated to the education and funding of comparative oncology programs.

Other notables in attendance were Chris Lauzen, chairman, Kane County Board; Mayor Kevin Burns, City of Geneva; Dr. Ron DeHaven, DVM, executive vice president, American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and Dr. Clyde Dunphy, DVM, president, Illinois Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA).

The VOP has already begun spreading throughout Illinois with several clinics in line to join the fight against ovarian cancer.

ABOUT OCSA

The Ovarian Cancer Symptom Awareness Organization is a Section 501 (c) (3) charitable organization. Donations to OCSA are deductible as a charitable gift. If you should have any questions concerning tax deductibility, please consult your tax adviser. For more information visit www.ovariancancersymptomawareness.org.

Veterinary Career Partnership Program (VCP)

Are you interested in a way to give back to students and the profession by sharing your experiences and knowledge with a student partner as he or she goes through school and heads into the real world of veterinary medicine?

I'm writing to let you know about the new Veterinary Career Partnership Program (VCP), a mentoring program being launched by the University of Illinois Veterinary Medical Alumni Association. Other sponsors include the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, the Illinois Student Chapter of the American Veterinary Medical Association, and the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association. The goal of this program is to match students with veterinarians who practice in the field of medicine that interests the student and in a preferred area of the state or country. This partnership should help the student with the everyday grind of attending vet school and provide wise counsel regarding career decisions.

To participate, simply fill out the survey at the following link: go.illinois.edu/VCP_VetPartForm. We anticipate having more students than mentors, so if you are willing to take on more than one, please indicate that on the survey.

Once you have been matched, you will be sent the student's contact information. We have also designed guidelines, expectations, and action steps to ensure that the partnership gets off to a great start. You can read these important recommendations and tools on the Veterinary Medical Alumni

Association website at go.illinois.edu/VCPP_Program.

We hope to start matching in early February. The survey shouldn't take you more than five minutes (there are no essay questions!), so please complete it as soon as you can. The registration will always stay open for new students, for new veterinarians, and for those who choose to join at a later date.

Thank you in advance for your interest in participating.

JB Bruederle, DVM
President, Veterinary Medical Alumni Association

February is National Pet Dental Health Month



February is National Pet Dental Health Month, and the AVMA has a new video that focuses on periodontal disease and preventive dental care. For more information on National Pet Dental Health Month, including links to videos, podcasts, and more, check out the AVMA website: <http://bit.ly/1137eGI>

Also, be sure to join the AVMA's Pet Dental Health Month event here on Facebook. You can find it by clicking on the "Events" tab near the top of the page.

ISVMA Monthly Legislative Report

In an effort to keep ISVMA members more aware of Illinois politics and legislative and regulatory actions that impact their practices, ISVMA publishes a monthly legislative report. Please read the [February Legislative Report](#).

Salmonella Outbreak Linked to Hedgehogs Sickens 20 People

The CDC announced that an outbreak of *Salmonella typhimurium* has affected 20 people in eight states since December 2011. Fourteen of the victims reportedly had contact with hedgehogs, four were hospitalized with the infection and one died. The CDC noted that many of the victims are children and recommended adults monitor children who handle hedgehogs and ensure they wash their hands promptly. [Read more...](#)



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New Rodenticide Without Antidote Alarms Pet Toxicology Experts

The new toxin of choice for rodenticide manufacturers, bromethalin has no test (except necropsy) to detect its presence -- and no antidote. The rapid onset of bromethalin poisoning leaves veterinarians little time for error. [Read more...](#)

Is Veterinary Care Really That Expensive?

Is veterinary care really as expensive as people think? Share this article with your clients to explain how pet care is actually reasonably priced -- especially when compared to human care! [Read more...](#)

People Foods to Avoid Feeding Your Pets

Chocolate, Macadamia nuts, avocados...these foods may sound delicious to you, but they're actually quite dangerous for our animal companions. Our nutrition experts have put together a handy list of the top toxic people foods to avoid feeding your pet. As always, if you suspect your pet has eaten any of the following foods, please note the amount ingested and contact your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at (888) 426-4435. [Read more...](#)

About the Photo

Wilson's Plover is a medium plover with gray-brown upperparts and cap. The underparts are white except for black upper breast band. The head has white forehead patch edged in black and white eyebrows joining above bill. The wings are dark with white stripes visible in flight. It has a white tail with faint brown central strip and dark tip.

Wilson's Plover breeds in the U.S. along the Atlantic coast from Maryland to Florida, and along the Gulf Coast from Florida to south Texas. It spends winters along both coasts of Florida and along the coast of south Texas. It is resident throughout Central America and the Caribbean to northern South America. Wilson's Plover's preferred habitats include open sand or shell beaches and tidal mudflats.

Interesting Facts:

- Wilson's Plover is named for early ornithologist Alexander Wilson, who collected the type specimen in May 1813 at Cape May, NJ, where this species is (and was) only a rare visitor.
- There are no known trends in populations. The species is listed as threatened or endangered in some states. The primary threat to the species is beachfront development.
- They will resort to feigning injury, such as a broken wing, to distract potential predators.
- A group of plovers has many collective nouns, including a "brace", "congregation", "deceit", "ponderance" and "wing" of plovers.

I photographed this Wilson's Plover along the Atlantic Coast of Florida in the winter of 1996.

Contact Us

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