

## Volunteers For 150th Anniversary AVMA Convention - Chicago

The response to the call for volunteers for AVMA's 150th Anniversary Convention in Chicago, July 19-23, 2013, has been outstanding. We still have many opportunities available for new volunteers and for those of you that have not responded to our previous emails. Be a part of this historic event and show our colleagues from all over the world how spectacular veterinarians in Illinois are. As a reminder, 10 hours of volunteer time gets rebate of AVMA registration and 4 hours of volunteer time for CVMA members gets a free CE day. How is that for a win-win? GIVE A LITTLE AND GET A LOT.

If you are interested in volunteering, email Dr. Sheldon Rubin at [petsvet3134@gmail.com](mailto:petsvet3134@gmail.com). Please put in the subject line "AVMA Convention".

## Join Us for ISVMA Lobby Day - April 17, 2013

Blizzard conditions resulted in the postponement of the Annual ISVMA Lobby Day in March. Because of the important issues and the lack of understanding about the veterinary profession and issues related to animal and public health and welfare in state, we have re-scheduled Lobby Day for April 17, 2013.

As a result of 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 April 17, 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...April 17, 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](mailto:info@isvma.org) or call (217) 546-8381.

## New York Times Article Rocks the Veterinary Profession

After an article in the New York Times aired the veterinary profession's faltering health on a national stage, leaders are uniting in the notion that problems exist and must be addressed in order

to maintain the profession's viability. [Read more...](#)

## **Pet Poisons From A to Z — 26 Common Items That Are Dangerous to Cats and Dogs**

It can happen to even the best pet owners. You turn around for one second and the dog is into the chocolate that was sitting on the counter, or the cat has discovered the Easter lily you thought was safely out of the way.

"We just don't realize how determined our pets are to eat the things they shouldn't," says Dr. Tina Wismer, DVM, medical director for the [ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center](#).

Of the more than 180,000 cases that the organization handled in 2012, most of them involved pets who'd ingested human prescriptions. "Many children with ADHD don't want to take their medications, so they leave pills on their plates, where pets can get at them," Dr. Wismer says. "Even nonprescription medications, such as ibuprofen, can be a problem because many brands have a sweet coating, so it's like candy for dogs."

As part of [National Poison Prevention Week](#) (March 17-23), Vetstreet has compiled an A to Z list of some common pet poisons that should be on your radar. This list is not all-inclusive, so for more information on these and many other toxins, check out the [ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center website](#) and talk with your vet. [Read more...](#)

## **Number of Pet Food and Treat Recalls Continues to Proliferate**

There have been numerous recalls and safety alerts about pet related products in the past few months. It is difficult to keep up with the list on your own! Fortunately, the FDA maintains a website with a [list of all recalled products](#).

Recalls – of which there are three types – are actions taken by a firm to remove a product from the market. Recalls may be conducted on a firm's own initiative, by FDA request, or by FDA order under statutory authority. [See the list of 2013 Recalls and Safety Alerts...](#)

## **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 [March Legislative Report](#).

## **Build the Importance of Preventive Healthcare with Partners for Healthy Pets Power Tools**

People have a special relationship with their pets, and most recognize that visiting a veterinarian enhances that relationship. But you see it every day in practice – pet owners who have been bombarded with incorrect and incomplete information and are confused about what's best for their pets. So much so that they may not follow your clinical advice, and may not bring their pets to critical preventive care appointments at all.

## **As a profession, we have a great opportunity to help pets and pet owners enjoy a longer and healthier life together**

Veterinary professionals work hard to provide the best possible care to pets so that they and their owners can enjoy long and healthy lives together. **Partners for Healthy Pets** was founded to help you make the preventive healthcare you provide even more powerful. We've developed tools and resources – available at no charge - that can help you build better relationships with owners and help them understand the value of preventive healthcare so that more patients can benefit from what you do best.

## **Individual practice involvement is key**

The **Partners for Healthy Pets Practice Resources Toolbox** was conceived to provide the

profession with a sound mix of information and materials that collectively elevate the level of preventive care offered across the country. Each of the tools and resources provide dynamic ways to reinforce a practice-wide focus on preventive pet healthcare. Used collectively, they can help healthcare teams enhance communications with pet owners about the value of and need for routine care and take preventive pet healthcare to an optimum level within your own individual practice.

### **Make the decision to be a voice for vitality...of the veterinary profession, of your practice, and of our nation's pets!**

It's easier than you might think:

- Adopt and widely communicate Preventive Healthcare Guidelines to pet owners through your newsletters, website, and within each preventive care visit.
- Focus on communicating the value and benefit of preventive pet healthcare to pet owners at all points of contact, from receptionist to technician to veterinarian.
- Use the tools and resources available from Partners for Healthy Pets to help find communication gaps, train staff, and gather new ideas that will compliment current programs and plans.

**Partners for Healthy Pets** is dedicated to ensuring that pets received the preventive healthcare they deserve through regular visits to a veterinarian and is committed to working with you to enhance the health of your patients and your practice. Learn more about Partners for Healthy Pets and explore the Resources Toolbox at [www.partnersforhealthypets.org](http://www.partnersforhealthypets.org).

### **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...](#)

### **Upcoming Regional Education Programs and Events**

*Click on the links for additional program information:*

- **Kankakee Valley VMA 2013 Spring Meeting** - The 2013 Kankakee Valley VMA Spring Meeting will be held on March 27, 2013 at Joliet Junior College, Weitendorf Agriculture and Horticulture Center, 17840 West Laraway Road, Joliet IL 60433. A [copy of the program brochure](#) can be downloaded from this website. *Online Registration has closed for this program.* You may register on-site. The registration fee includes the meeting and dinner.
- **Southern Illinois VMA 2013 Spring Meeting** - The 2013 Southern Illinois VMA Spring Meeting will be held on April 18, 2013 at the Ramada Inn, 6900 North Illinois, Fairview Heights, IL. A [copy of the program brochure](#) can be downloaded from this website. [Online registration](#) is also available. The registration fee includes the meeting and lunch.
- **Northern Illinois VMA 2013 Spring Meeting** - The 2013 Northern Illinois VMA Spring Meeting will be held on April 24, 2013 at the Tebala Shrine Center, 7910 Newburg Road, Rockford, IL. A [copy of the program brochure](#) can be downloaded from this website. [Online registration](#) is also available. The registration fee includes the meeting and lunch.

## About the Photo

The Smith's Longspur (*Calcarius pictus*) is a small sparrow-like bird is just over 6 inches in length, with an 11-inch wingspan. Breeding males have bold black and white markings on the head, with a distinctive white streak behind the eye and a smaller white patch on the black cheek. The chin, throat, breast, and nape are a rich, rusty tan; back is brown and tan with black streaks. White wingbars are most visible on birds in flight. As with other longspur species, the outer tail feathers are white, and also most readily visible in flight. Females are duller overall, with light streaking on the breast and sides, and lack the bold head pattern of the male. Most observers will see this bird in its winter plumage, which for both sexes resembles that of the female.

The breeding range of the Smith's Longspur includes some of North America's least accessible areas. On the map, it appears as a long, narrow band that stretches across the top of the continent, from the south shore of Hudson Bay in Ontario to the Beaufort Sea in northwest Alaska. Its summer home is the subarctic tundra, at the northern treeline. There is also a smaller disjunct breeding zone that stretches from northwest British Columbia, through the southwest corner of the Northwest Territories, and into southeast Alaska. The bird winters in the southern Great Plains from southern Kansas south to central Texas and northwest Louisiana, and from central Kansas and Oklahoma east to Tennessee and central Mississippi.

The species occurs in relatively low densities on its breeding grounds. Total population size is not precisely known, but the species is certainly not numerous. Data on long-term population trends are similarly mired in speculation. Some evidence suggests a possible decline in the density of the local breeding population around Churchill, Manitoba between the mid-1960s and the early 1990s, but this location comprises just a fraction of its total range.

The breeding grounds are at the edge of the forest-tundra transition. This area is characterized by low, stunted trees, wet sedge meadows, and isolated clusters of spruce, tamarack, and low heath shrubs. In the east, its breeding range lies near sea level, but in the northwestern portion it can be found in mountain passes as high as 3000 feet. In winter, it seeks out tundra-like conditions, i.e. flat, expansive areas with few trees and a wide view of the horizon. The southern Great Plains offers plenty of such habitat. Fields, pastures, airports, and low lakeshores are favored spots.

Smith's Longspurs move north across the Midwestern prairies, arriving on the tundra in numbers by the first week of June. In fall, they pass cross the plains of Manitoba and Saskatchewan in late August and September, and arrive on the Central Plains wintering grounds by late October or November. In winter, Smith's Longspurs generally congregate in large feeding flocks that may number over one hundred birds.

I photographed this male Smith's Longspur in McLean County during Spring migration in 1996. Birders from all over the country come to Illinois each spring for a chance to see this hard-to-find species. This bird is nearing full alternate (breeding) plumage and it a great sighting!

## Contact Us

Please feel free to forward this issue of the E-SOURCE to veterinarians that are not receiving ISVMA's electronic newsletter. Any ISVMA member may subscribe to the E-SOURCE for free.

If you wish to add your name to the recipient list, send an e-mail to [info@isvma.org](mailto:info@isvma.org) and ask to receive the E-SOURCE newsletter.

ISVMA values your membership and does not want to send you any unwanted email. If you would like to be removed from this member service, please email [info@isvma.org](mailto:info@isvma.org).