

## ISVMA Holds Annual Lobby Day

Today, ISVMA members gathered in Springfield to visit their legislators and help rebuild the ISVMA grassroots political network after the substantial turnover in the Illinois House of Representatives and Senate. The feedback from Lobby Day participants was excellent. More than 30 legislators took time to talk with their constituent veterinarians and were very grateful that they came to offer their expertise on issues related to animal and public health and welfare.

We hope you will join us for Lobby Day in 2014!

## Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act Renewal Passes House

Earlier this afternoon, House Bill 2517 (Hurley - Welch) unanimously passed the Illinois House of Representatives. This bill, which amends the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004 (225 ILCS 115/) is supported by the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA). The bill must now be adopted by the Illinois State Senate and then be sent to the Governor for final approval.

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation (IDFPR) proposes numerous technical amendments and changes to make the administration of the Act consistent with other bills regulated by the agency.

The bill also amends the Regulatory Sunset Act by extending the repeal date of the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004 from January 1, 2014 to January 1, 2024.

## Volunteer Positions Still Available at the 150th AVMA Annual Convention

The AVMA 2013 Convention is quickly approaching. The planning committee needs anyone interested in volunteering to sign up by 4/30/2013.

If you haven't already done so, please be sure to contact Dr. Shelly Rubin ([petsvet3134@gmail.com](mailto:petsvet3134@gmail.com)) by the deadline to ensure your spot as a volunteer. There are many volunteer opportunities available, with time commitments ranging from 90 minutes to 5 hours. And, remember, volunteers are granted reimbursed AVMA registration fees as compensation for 10 hours of volunteer time. Only a few of these reimbursed volunteer slots remain.

Veterinarians and technicians are encouraged to sign up.

## Help Ensure that Veterinarians Can Provide Complete Care to Their Animal Patients

ISVMA strongly encourages you to contact your Congressmen to urge them to support The Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act of 2013 (H.R. 1528). Please use the following link to let Congress know about your support for this bill that will allow veterinarians to provide complete care to their animal patients! [Contact your Congressman by linking to the AVMA CapWiz site.](#)

## More Pet Food Recalls - Check the Entire List of FDA Pet Food/Treat Recalls

There have been numerous recalls and safety alerts about pet related products in the past few months. In the last several days, Breeder's Choice, a Central Garden & Pet company, issued a voluntary recall for a single batch of Active Care Biscuits-Healthy Dog Treats due to mold discovered in one of the lots of dog biscuits. Also, Virbac issued a voluntary recall for six lots of their heartworm preventive, Iverhart Plus Flavored Chewables, due to a failure to meet stability specifications during the life of the product.

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](#). For more information on the newest recalls and a comprehensive list of recalls, bookmark the link above. 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...](#)

### **New Vaccine Available for Bone Cancer**

Osteosarcoma (bone cancer) is most commonly seen in large and giant breed dogs. It is an aggressive cancer that frequently affects the long bones and despite limb amputation and chemotherapy many dogs die from the cancer that spreads to their lungs.

Researchers at the University of Pennsylvania's School of Veterinary Medicine are now evaluating a new vaccine for dogs that have been diagnosed with osteosarcoma. If your dog has recently been diagnosed with bone cancer or is currently undergoing chemotherapy for bone cancer he/she may be eligible for vaccination.

You can contact the Principal Investigator of the study, Dr. Nicola Mason directly at: [nmason@vet.upenn.edu](mailto:nmason@vet.upenn.edu) or by telephone at: 215 898 3996.

### **AVMA Explains Recommendations on Internet Practice**

Texas veterinarian Ronald Hines is suing in federal court to change state laws prohibiting him from diagnosing and recommending treatment for animals via the Internet. Rules in Texas and other states that are based on model regulations from the AVMA do not allow online veterinary practice. AVMA President Dr. Douglas Aspros said technology may one day allow some safe practice of veterinary medicine online, but not yet. "The rules are not there to protect the vet," Dr. Aspros said. "They're there to protect the patient."

[Read more...](#)

### **About the Photo**

Yesterday morning, as I entered the ISVMA headquarters, a familiar song of spring resonated from the trees in the yard. A spright Yellow-throated Vireo was anxiously calling as he gleaned insects from the leaves of a tall oak tree.

The [Yellow-throated Vireo](#) (*Vireo flavifrons*) is a large, colorful vireo and a strong, though slow-paced, singer. It moves sluggishly, which combined with its camouflaged coloration, can make it difficult to locate high in the leaves of the tall shade trees it favors. The yellow-throated often cocks its head as it surveys its surroundings or methodically searches for insects.

The bright yellow spectacles, throat, and breast of this vireo are distinctive. Its wings are dark gray, with 2 bold, white wing bars. The crown and back are olive, rather bright, contrasting with a gray rump. Immature plumage is similar to that of the adult but paler yellow, sometimes with a slightly buffy throat.

It is a fairly common songbird species. It breeds in deciduous and mixed deciduous-coniferous habitats. It migrates a long-distance (trans-Gulf migrant). It is an early spring migrant, with arrivals in southern states mid-late March, mid April farther north, early May in Great Lakes. Fall migrations are from August-September (migrants noted as early as late July). The latest records are from mid-October in northern and middle latitudes, early November in south. In the winter, it migrates to the tropical lowlands of Central America, Bahamas, and Caribbean to northern South America. It is more scarce in United States than the numerous reports would suggest. Most reports are misidentified pine warblers or yellow-breasted chats.

### **Contact Us**

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