

Practice Act Extended Ten More Years by Illinois General Assembly

[House Bill 2517](#) has unanimously passed both the Illinois House of Representatives and the Illinois Senate and awaits final approval from Governor Patrick Quinn. This important bill extends the Illinois Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act for ten years.

The Illinois Constitution requires that all professional licensing acts be reviewed every ten years. A "sunset" date is then established in each professional practice act to require the legislature to consider amending and/or renewing the act in another ten years.

The ISVMA introduced and passed a comprehensive amendment to the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act in 2010. The changes in that amendment allowed ISVMA to work the the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to pass a sunset date renewal in 2013 with only technical amendments. This strategy allowed for a new ten year renewal without having to debate hostile amendments to our Practice Act that would reduce the scope of practice.

The renewal of the Practice Act is very good news for the profession - particularly since it was passed without having to negotiate changes that would be harmful to the profession and the health and welfare of the animals and public that we serve.

TAKE ACTION - Tell Your Senators to Support the Veterianry Medicine Mobility Act!

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

U.S. Senators Jerry Moran (R-Kansas) and Angus King (I-Maine) introduced this week the [Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act \(S. 950\)](#). This bipartisan legislation will allow veterinarians to legally carry and dispense controlled substances to protect the health and welfare of the nation's animals, ensure public safety, and safeguard the nation's food supply.

Last month, veterinarians and U.S. Reps. Kurt Schrader (D-Ore.) and Ted Yoho (R-Fla.) introduced companion legislation, H.R. 1528 and we asked you to contact your Representatives to voice your support for this issue. More than 10,000 of you took action.

We need your support again. Tell your U.S. Senators TODAY that veterinarians must be able to legally carry and use controlled substances for the health and welfare of the nation's animals, to safeguard public safety and to protect the nation's food supply.

We encourage you to contact your Senators and urge them to co-sponsor the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act. This legislation amends the [Controlled Substances Act](#) (CSA) which currently prohibits veterinarians from transporting controlled substances to treat animal patients outside of their registered locations.

[Veterinarians treat multiple species of animals in a variety of settings](#). Unfortunately, the CSA makes it illegal for veterinarians to take and use controlled substances outside of the locations where they are registered, often their clinics or homes.

This means that it is illegal for veterinarians to carry and use vital medications for pain management, anesthesia and euthanasia on farms, in house calls, in veterinary mobile clinics, or ambulatory response situations.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), which enforces the law, has informed organized veterinary medicine that without a statutory change, veterinarians are in violation of the CSA and cannot legally provide complete veterinary care. The DEA has already notified veterinarians in some states that they are in violation of the law.

Tell your Senators that veterinarians need to legally be able to transport controlled substances to the locations of the animal patients, not only for the health and welfare of the nation's animals, but

for public safety. [Support S. 950, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act, NOW.](#)

Postal Service Releases Top Dog Attack City Rankings

Illinois Ranked Second in States with Most Dog Bites

As a prelude to National Dog Bite Prevention Week (May 19-25), the Postal Service released its dog attack city rankings today and urged pet owners to help reduce the incidence of dog bites to letter carriers. [Read more...](#)

AVMA Offers Expert Tips to Reduce Dog Bites...No Matter Where Your Hometown Ranks

(SCHAUMBURG, Illinois) May 15, 2013—National Dog Bite Prevention Week (May 19-25) is a perfect time to remind everyone that while there are more than 70 million nice dogs in America, any dog can bite. And in some cities and states, this message is even more important ... because, unfortunately, they rank high as locales in which people get bitten most often.

"During National Dog Bite Prevention Week especially, the AVMA reminds people that, while any dog can bite, most dog bites are preventable through proper training and restraint of dogs, and an understanding of canine behavior. Understanding how dogs behave and how to behave around dogs could save countless people from the serious physical and emotional consequences of a dog bite," explains Dr. Douglas G. Aspros, president of the AVMA. "Dogs are wonderful, intelligent and loyal creatures, but they depend on responsible owners to teach them how to behave around people. Dog owners should work with their veterinarian to reduce the risk that their dog might bite."

State Farm® publishes an annual list of the top ten states with the most claims for dog. The 2012 list includes: [Read more...](#)

Veterinary Outreach Program Continues to Spread

Veterinarians don't just hear about their four-legged friends' symptoms. Pet owners share their own health concerns with veterinarians, putting these diversified doctors in a unique position to help, representatives say.

Elmhurst Animal Care Center became the second veterinary practice in Illinois to roll out to the public a unique new partnership designed to help humans stay healthy along with their pets.

Veterinarians across the country have found that when clients bring their pets in for treatment, they often ask the vet about their own health. Peter Weber, executive director of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, said this gives vets a unique opportunity.

"Veterinarians are important to the health of your pet, but they also are very important to public health," he said to the crowd gathered at Elmhurst Animal Care Center. "We anticipate veterinarians will become public health advocates on issues like heart disease, diabetes and other common issues that affect clients."

But a very specific goal of the new partnership is to reduce the number of women who die of ovarian cancer, Weber said. To that end, Elmhurst Animal Care Center is partnering with the Ovarian Cancer Symptom Awareness Organization's Veterinary Outreach Program. [Read more...](#)

Additional story links:

<http://www.dailyherald.com/article/20130506/business/705069913/>

<http://elmhurst.patch.com/events/elmhurst-animal-care-center-celebrates-10-years-new-partnership-for-womens-health>

<http://www.dailyherald.com/calendar/#/event/1051304>

It is Time to Pay ISVMA Membership Dues

ISVMA members can pay their dues online with a VISA or MasterCard. This added convenience is available through the [ISVMA Member Center](#).

1. When you click on the link, you will be asked to login to go to your account. If you have forgotten your username and/or password, click on the reminder link and the information will immediately be delivered to your email address.
2. Once you have logged in, you will see a link called "Member Renewal" in the floating orange box on the right hand side of your screen. Click on that link to pay your dues.

When you pay your dues, please notice that you can make an additional contribution to the Veterinary Medicine Political Action Committee (VMPAC). This PAC supports the lobbying activities of the ISVMA and, with the significant turnover in the legislature, we will need more PAC funds to help our members get to know their legislators better by attending fundraisers paid for by the PAC.

Do You Have an Associate and/or CVT That Is Not an ISVMA Member?

ISVMA membership continues to grow and we set new membership records every year. We want all veterinarians and CVTs to join 3000 of their colleagues and become an ISVMA member today! Please encourage your colleagues to take a moment and fill out the [online membership application](#) and pay your dues with your VISA or MasterCard.

Do you know about ISVMA's tremendous success lobbying state government on your behalf? Have you seen the new Epitome magazine that is mailed to every DVM and CVT member? Have you participated in ISVMA's high quality, affordable and accessible CE programs? Has your practice saved money through one of our sponsored benefit programs?

Your support and participation are greatly appreciated. If you know a colleague or associate that is not a member of ISVMA, please encourage them to join also! Some of the benefits of membership are listed on the [ISVMA website](#).

About the Photo

The [Eastern Kingbird](#) (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) is among the easiest of American birds to identify, being gray to black above with a clear white breast, and a tail with a prominent white band across its tip. Kingbirds are quick, witty and are well known for their aggressive nature. The Latin word Tyrannus means "tyrant, despot or king", referring to their aggressive defense of nests and mates, and their domination of other birds. During the breeding season they can often be seen chasing other birds, many of them much larger, like crows and even hawks. Benjamin Franklin questioned the choice of the Bald Eagle as America's National Bird, for the very reason that the Eastern Kingbird, less than 1/10 the size of the Bald Eagle, can chase the Bald Eagle away. This seemingly aggressive behavior is used to eliminate potential predators or competitors. Interestingly enough other birds, such as American Robins, may nest within inches of Eastern Kingbird nests and, as a result, come under an umbrella of protection.

Eastern Kingbirds breed from British Columbia across interior Canada to the Maritime Provinces and south to Northern California, Central Texas, the Gulf coast, and Florida. They spend winters in the tropics. They inhabit open woodlands, clearings, rural roadsides, farms, orchards, edges of fields, streams, and suburbs.

I photographed this Eastern Kingbird near Rochester, IL in 2005.

Contact Us

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