

Dynamic New Website Features Announced

The ISVMA website (www.isvma.org) has some exciting new additions that should provide valuable resources for your practice. The "Find a Veterinarian" tool allows ISVMA members to quickly locate contact information on each other and clients to search for ISVMA member doctors. As many as 1700 visitors a day have visited the ISVMA website and the potential for client referrals is considerable. This listing is a member benefit is not available to veterinarians that don't belong to ISVMA.

ISVMA members also have access to a "Member Center" that contains legislative information, a Member-2-Member messageboard, and a library of past issues of the Epitome and E-SOURCE newsletters and issue white papers. The messageboard is a great place to exchange ideas and information or gather information from your colleagues.

How to Login to the Member Center

Username = Your Last Name (ex. Smith)

Password = Work Phone (ex. 2175238387*)

*note: the phone number contains no dashes

ISVMA also has the capability of processing credit cards online. New member applicants can choose to pay online with their credit cards. Renewing members can also pay by credit card by calling the office or sending in their renewal forms with their credit card information filled in. There will be an online payment option for next year's renewals. You will also be able to register and pay for the 2005 ISVMA Annual Convention online.

The "Classifieds" section has been updated and contains many useful leads. Please remember to let us know if you need our classified services!

We wanted to make the website dynamic so you will use it as a tool to enhance your practice. Use the online "Feedback Form" to let us know if there is anything else we can do to make it work better for you!

Have You Seen Giant Snails?

Both Wisconsin and Ohio have recently reported the presence of multiple giant African snails (*Achatina fulica*) in their states. This is the second known importation of these snails in Wisconsin. These snails can cause extensive damage to agricultural crops and pose a risk to human health. These snails are illegal to possess in the U.S. under the federal Plant Pest Act and can reach 8 inches in length. These snails are considered serious agricultural pests in the U.S. and can consume over 500 different types of plants. Extensive damage could be done by the release of these species into the environment.

These snails can also act as the vector for the rat lungworm (*Angiostrongylus cantonensis*) that can cause eosinophilic meningitis in humans. In both states these snails were brought into school classrooms by students. The snails may be given to students to take home at the end of a session. It is believed that these snails are being sold illegally by pet stores, at swap meets or through exotic animal dealers. The *Angiostrongylus* parasite can be transmitted to humans by ingesting improperly cooked snail meat or by handling live snails and allowing their mucus to contact human mucous membranes such as those in the eyes, nose and mouth. Larvae can be identified in snail slime and feces.

If you hear reports of any giant African snails in your jurisdiction please alert the local health department in your area. The local health department should report the presence of these snails to the Illinois Department of Public Health. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) would pick them up if they were identified in the state. For additional information please visit the USDA website:

<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/gals/gals.html>

Have You Heard About the Big Change?

The ISVMA Annual Convention is going to be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, IL on **November 4-6, 2005**. The meeting date has been switched from February to avoid conflicts with national conventions, avoid weather-related cancellations and to better accommodate the scheduling demands of the exhibitors that make the convention possible.

The 2005 ISVMA Annual Convention is already being planned and you'll be excited about the many program changes that will make the meeting a much more fulfilling experience for veterinarians and their families!

Do The Higher Fees Proposed at the State Level Impact You?

Recently, Governor Rod Blagojevich proposed 200 new fee increases that he has included in the Fiscal Year 2005 budget to generate approximately \$57 million in new revenue for the State of Illinois. Last year, 300 new fees were passed without input from the industries and professions upon which those fees were levied.

If you are opposed to these fee increases, we strongly encourage you to contact your local state representatives and state senators to express your concern.

The fees increases that will impact the veterinary profession are:

Fee	Was	Would Become	Would Raise
License Application	\$100	\$200	\$19,600
Controlled Substance License	\$10	\$60	\$97,375
License Renewals	\$100	\$200	\$329,270
IEMA - Veterinary Additional Tubes	\$35	\$75	\$36,920
IEMA - Radioactive Materials License Fees: Medical/Veterinary - Mobile Nuclear Medicine - 208F	\$2,360	\$6,207	\$38,468
IEMA - Radioactive Materials License Fees: Medical/Veterinary Use Including Teletherapy and/or High Dose Rate Remote Afterloader - 208B	\$3675	\$9665	\$95,844
IEMA - Radioactive Materials License Fees: Type A Broad Scope Medical/Veterinary (and Teletherapy) - 208A	\$8385	\$22,053	\$136,676
IEMA - Radioactive Materials License Fees:	\$1070	\$2683	\$157,947

Medical/Veterinary - Diagnostic Use Only - 208D	\$1,020	\$2,000	\$107,517
IEMA - Radioactive Materials License Fees: Medical/Veterinary Use - 208C	\$1,775	\$4,668	\$335,617