

## ISVMA Pledges \$50,000 to Kidzeum of Health and Science

(Springfield, IL) – Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA) has made a \$50,000 contribution to develop a “Pet Vet Clinic” exhibit at the Kidzeum of Health and Science ([see graphic representation](#)).

The Pet Vet Clinic Exhibit will be part of the Healthy Community Gallery in the Kidzeum of Health and Science. Programs and exhibits in the Healthy Community Gallery will focus on services and professionals used to keep us. The Kidzeum of Health and Science will build an interactive Pet Vet Clinic for Kidzeum visitors of all ages and abilities to learn proper care for pets, animal safety and to foster compassion for all living things.

“The mission of ISVMA is to promote the health and welfare of animals, the public and the environment and the interactive Vet Clinic will help the veterinary professional interact with as many as 120,000 children and their families each year,” said Dr. Steve Cairo, ISVMA President. “Kidzeum embraces the One Health concept which promotes, improves, and defends the health and well-being of all species by enhancing the understanding of the relationships and collaboration between physicians, veterinarians, other scientific health and environmental professionals,” added Cairo.

“Studies show that pet owners live healthier, happier lives, which coincides with Kidzeum’s mission. Because of ISVMA’s support, the Pet Vet Clinic will teach dog bite prevention, how to care for pets, promote altruistic behavior and increase awareness of potential career opportunities, ” said Board President, Rachael Thomson.

**About ISVMA:** The Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA) predicts, monitors and confronts issues that affect the veterinary profession. ISVMA also provides professional continuing education programs and legal services on behalf of the profession. Approximately 3100 ISVMA member veterinarians, veterinary students and Certified Veterinary Technicians depend upon the representation and services provided by the ISVMA. Their participation ensures the continued strength of the veterinary profession in Illinois.

**About Kidzeum:** St. John's Children's Hospital has contributed \$1.25 million to serve as Kidzeum's Premier Naming Rights partner. Using a portion of SJCH's contribution, Kidzeum has purchased the nationally registered, historic buildings on East Adams Street. The Kidzeum of Health and Science is being designed with a focus on fun and learning. Upon completion of its Vital for Our Youth Campaign, it will be able to fulfill its goal of teaching children of all abilities about health and science through discovery and play. The facility will feature 25,000 square feet of exhibit space over three floors. The Kidzeum has raised \$4.8 million of its \$6.5 million dollar goal. Information online at [kidzeum.org](http://kidzeum.org) and [facebook.com/kidzeum](https://facebook.com/kidzeum).

## Illinois Department of Revenue Conducting Audits in Veterinary Practices

During the past several weeks, the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) has been conducting tax audits at veterinary clinics in Illinois. Most of the reported audit activity has been reported in Southern Illinois; but it is likely that audits will continue throughout Illinois.

These audits were expected and will test how well veterinary practices are implementing the [veterinary sales tax regulation](#) that was approved in 2007.

This would be a good time for your practice to review your compliance with the veterinary sales tax regulation. The ISVMA has resources available on its homepage ([www.isvma.org](http://www.isvma.org)) that include a copy of the [PowerPoint presentation](#) ISVMA used to illustrate how to implement the new regulation in a series of seminars held in several cities in 2008.

## Illinois Veterinary Licensing & Disciplinary Board Recommends Approval of CVT Roles &

## Responsibilities Regulation

Last month, the Illinois Veterinary Licensing & Disciplinary Board recommended that the [proposed CVT Roles and Responsibilities](#), submitted by ISVMA, be approved by the [Joint Committee on Administrative Rules \(JCAR\)](#). The proposed rule will now go through a public hearing process before JCAR votes on final approval. In the meantime, it is advisable to use the proposed guidelines as a working model in your practice. Nearly 18 months of work by an ISVMA Task Force went into the development of the proposed regulation in order to clarify the work responsibilities and level of supervision required for tasks commonly performed in practice.

## **ACTION ALERT: Mandatory Prescription Bill Reintroduced in Congress Oppose the Fairness to Pet Owners Act of 2014 - TAKE ACTION!**

Tell Congress to oppose mandatory prescription writing! On February 10, Rep. Jim Matheson (D-UT-4th) reintroduced the so-called ["Fairness to Pet Owners Act" \(H.R. 4023\)](#). Like its predecessor in the previous Congress, [H.R. 1406](#), the legislation would require a veterinarian to provide a client with a written prescription for domesticated household animals, whether or not requested by the client. The veterinarian would be prohibited from charging for the prescription or asking a client to sign a liability waiver related to writing the prescription.

The legislation, cosponsored by Rep. Jason Chaffetz (R-UT-3rd), was referred to the House Energy & Commerce Committee. While currently reviewing the legislation, the AVMA was vehemently opposed to similar language in the 112th Congress.

It is burdensome and unnecessary to require a written prescription be provided, regardless of whether or not the client is having the prescription filled by the veterinarian. Clients already have the flexibility to fill a prescription at their veterinary clinic or off-site at a pharmacy of their choice. The AVMA is supportive of a client's right to choose where they have their prescription filled.

At the same time, the [Federal Trade Commission \(FTC\) is working on a report with its findings and recommendations following a public workshop it held in October 2012](#), which examined the competition and consumer protection issues in the pet medications industry. Veterinarians and the AVMA participated as panelists throughout the workshop. It seems premature to consider a "solution," such as this sweeping federal mandate, prior to publication of the report and clear identification of whether a problem actually exists.

[Please contact your House of Representatives' member in opposition to the Fairness to Pet Owners Act \(H.R. 4023\) today!](#)

## Chicago Aldermen Pass Ban on Retail Pet Stores Selling Cats and Dogs

(Chicago Tribune - March 5, 2014) Beginning next March, Chicago pet stores won't be able to sell dogs, cats or rabbits obtained from large-scale breeding operations that critics call "puppy mills." All such animals, mostly dogs, sold in the city will have to come from government pounds, rescue operations or humane societies.

National and local animal welfare advocates supported the legislation, which the City Council approved 49-1. The measure reflects a growing national concern over how animals are bred and treated and follows similar actions in other cities. ([See Chicago Tribune Article](#))

## How to Avoid Online Scams During Tax Time

Tax season is an active time for cybercrooks targeting small businesses with shady e-mails, according to Kevin Haley of Symantec. Be wary of unsolicited e-mails claiming to be from TurboTax, offers of quicker rebates, or messages supposedly from the FBI or other authorities. ([See Fox Business Small Business Center](#))

## Dogs' Guilty Looks Don't Mean They Know They've Done Wrong

Although social media has exploded with pictures and videos of dog shaming, experts say dogs likely don't experience guilt, even when they look the part. Those sad eyes, ducked tails and laid-back ears just mean they're aware their owner is angry, according to a study by Alexandra Horowitz, an associate professor of psychology at Barnard College. Veterinary experts agree. "Just get over it and remind yourself not to put temptation in the way next time," said AVMA Past President Dr. Bonnie Beaver, a professor at Texas A&M University's College of Veterinary Medicine and executive director of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists. ([See San Diego Union-Tribune/The Associated Press](#))

### **ACTION ALERT: Tell your Senators to Support the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act! Help Ensure that Veterinarians Can Provide Complete Care to Their Animal Patients - TAKE ACTION!**

The AVMA is calling for the House of Representatives to pass legislation that would address problems with the Controlled Substances Act. Veterinarians who carry controlled substances for essential and routine medical tasks could face charges under current law, a situation that poses a serious professional challenge for veterinarians who frequently treat large patients such as horses on site, advocates say.

U.S. Senators Jerry Moran (R-Kansas) and Angus King (I-Maine) introduced the [Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act, S. 1171](#). 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.

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.

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.1171, the Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act, NOW.](#)

### **AVMA Members Invited to Provide Feedback on New Version of the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics (PVME)**

AVMA members are invited to comment on a proposed new version of the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics (PVME). This policy provides the overarching ethical guidelines for our profession,

and is incorporated into many state veterinary practice acts, so it is of utmost importance to veterinarians.

The [AVMA Judicial Council](#), which is responsible for overseeing the Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics, developed the [proposed new version](#) with input and comment from volunteer members of the AVMA. The proposed new document is completely reformatted and represents a whole new approach that would replace the [current Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics](#) if approved. The Judicial Council has proposed eight overarching tenets called "The Principles" and has reformatted the document into three sections: Introduction, Principles and Glossary. The Judicial Council believe that this framework will allow The Principles to endure as written, and that supporting annotations may be revised as needed to address new concepts.

### 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

I typically get a number of calls this time of year from friends and family letting me know that they saw their first spring Robin. Although [American Robins](#) are generally thought of as harbingers of spring, many American Robins spend the whole winter in their breeding range. However, because they spend more time roosting in trees and less time in your yard, people are much less likely to see them. The number of robins present in the northern parts of the range varies each year with the local conditions.



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