

## Member Benefit Programs That Support ISVMA

ISVMA recently launched a program with TransFirst Health Services to provide quality merchant services for ISVMA members and help them save on the cost of processing credit cards. After reviewing several options, it was determined that TransFirst Health was the most competitive, consultative, and cooperative processor available. They have an excellent track record working with several other state veterinary medical associations.

In those other states, member veterinary practices are saving money AND the program is providing substantial support to the associations. TransFirst pays a 1% royalty to the state association for every dollar that is charged through the program. In other words, the state association gets a \$1000 royalty for every \$1 million processed by TransFirst. One of the state veterinary medical associations anticipates an annual royalty payment of \$70,000 this year – and the program has only been in place two years!

So far, only 13 ISVMA member clinics/hospitals have signed up for the program and their total anticipated credit transactions are approximately \$1.5 million. Those practices are enjoying the savings through the program and supporting ISVMA.

ISVMA will likely introduce other member benefit programs to assist member practices AND support ISVMA. Programs such as these help reduce reliance on member dues increases and provide resources to augment member services.

For information on signing up with the TransFirst merchant services program contact Dorothy Svedman at (800) 538-1601 - Extension 106.

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## Introducing the Illinois Department of Financial and Profession Regulation

Earlier this year, Governor Rod R. Blagojevich signed an Executive order consolidating the Departments of Financial Institutions, Professional Regulation, Insurance and the Office of Banks and Real Estate into the **Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation**. The new agency has a website at <http://www.idfpr.com/>. You can still find all of the pre-existing information by clicking on the Division of Professional Regulation banner at the bottom of the introduction page.

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## Dr. John W. Hanover Memorial Service Cancelled

The family of Dr. John Hanover has asked us to notify ISVMA members that the memorial service scheduled for Saturday July 10<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled due to an unforeseen conflict. Memorials may

still be made out to the John W. Hanover Veterinary Education Endowment Fund and mailed to 1212 S.Naper Blvd., Suite 119-211, Naperville, IL 60540.

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## 2004 Graduates Join ISVMA For Free!

The ISVMA offers complimentary membership to veterinarians during their first year of practice after graduation. All 2004 graduates are eligible for free membership and signing up is easy! Just fill in the online application form at [www.isvma.org/application.htm](http://www.isvma.org/application.htm) or call the ISVMA to have an application form mailed or faxed to your practice. Many of the 2004 graduates are still waiting on their license approval from the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. They can still apply for ISVMA membership while their license application is pending.

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## Member Renewals and Recruitment Continue

There are still approximately 350 ISVMA members that have not returned their membership renewal forms and payment. This afternoon, a second notice was mailed to these members. If you have not renewed your membership, please reply to this second mailing as soon as possible. If you are considering not renewing your membership, please contact the ISVMA office to let us know. We'll try our best to convince you to reconsider!

In the next few days, 1185 member prospects will be receiving a membership application packet. The ISVMA Board of Directors has targeted 2000 members before July 1, 2007. We have increased our membership to 1521 (an increase of 178 members since the beginning of the year), but there is still a long way to go to reach our goal!

The strength of ISVMA, and the strength of organized veterinary medicine, is more important now than ever. It used to be commonly understood and agreed upon that veterinarians were the only people authorized to diagnose, prescribe medication and conduct surgery – not so any longer. Antagonists as well as complementary, alternative and integrative therapy providers have been building statewide legislative capacity. They have organized, raised money and hired lobbyists to chip away at the definition of veterinary medicine.

Neither the AVMA nor regional associations have the ability or intentions to provide statewide legislative advocacy for veterinarians. Only the ISVMA can protect your license and profession from ill-conceived legislation and burdensome regulations.