

House Bill 315 Passes Illinois House Executive Committee

HB315 was amended by the ASPCA and passed the Illinois House Executive Committee on a 10-1 vote on March 2, 2005. The bill will now be voted upon by the entire House of Representatives. Dr. Stephen Dullard, a member of the ISVMA Board of Directors and Legislative Committee, testified in committee in opposition to the bill. Despite his excellent, scientifically-based presentation, the strong emotional arguments of the bill supporters resulted in the discharge of the bill from committee.

House Bill 315 is now referred to as "Anna's Bill." The bill is named after Anna Cieslewicz, an Evergreen Park woman, who died after two stray dogs attacked her while she jogged through the Dan Ryan Woods.

The ISVMA continues to oppose House Bill 315. The recent amendment to the bill includes a provision that further demonstrates the supporters willingness to ignore science and the threat of a deadly zoonotic disease in their desire to pass the bill:



The bill now EXEMPTS farm dogs from any registration required by a county. These animals, which run a heightened risk of rabies exposure, would no longer be required to be vaccinated!

We need every ISVMA member veterinarian to contact their state representative and state senator to explain our opposition. Please contact the legislators that represent the district you live in and the district where your veterinary practice is located. [Click here to find out who your legislators are and how to contact them.](#)

If you wish to review the ISVMA position statement on House Bill 315, it was printed in the last E-SOURCE newsletter ([see link below](#)):

<http://www.isvma.org/Library/E-Source%20Volume%20II%20Number%2024.htm>

From the Point of View of an ISVMA Life Member

One of ISVMA's Life Members recently corresponded with his legislators regarding HB315. He made some points that I hope we all can reflect upon:

"I wish I could have taken you along 25 to 30 years ago when I went through the chairs of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association. It was organized veterinary medicine that made possible the eradication or control of a long list of zoonotic and/or economically devastating diseases. The status of the profession and support from legislators has declined alarmingly in the last decade.

"At the (Western Veterinary) conference I spent a morning in sessions on emerging zoonotic diseases. In a changing

world as isolation of diseases becomes more difficult worldwide and bio-terrorism has become a real fear we may need far more veterinarians than we are generating."

Every legislator should be made aware of the vital role veterinarians have in developing effective policies for animal care and welfare - and public health. Lawyers and advocacy groups do not have the scientific training and background to set the policy agenda and veterinarians must become more politically engaged to prevent them from advancing a sometimes dangerous and economically devastating agenda.

ISVMA Veterinarians Go On Air to Discuss House Bill 315

On Saturday March 5, 2005 two ISVMA member veterinarians will appear on WGN's Pet Central radio program hosted by Steve Dale. Dr. Joanne Carlson (Loving Care Animal Clinic - Rolling Meadows) and Dr. Stephen Dullard (Ancare Veterinary Clinic, PC - Mendota) have been invited to participate in the show and the primary topic will be House Bill 315.

If you would like to listen to the discussion, tune into WGN Radio 720AM at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Registrations Still Available for ISVMA Spring Seminar!

The Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA) is proud to offer an excellent continuing education seminar designed to develop vital communication skills essential for each member of your practice team. Nationally acclaimed consultant Karyn Gavzer will present: **"It's Not What You Say; It's How You Say It – Tips and Strategies for Effective Client Communications."**

For more information on this tremendous program or to register please visit:

www.isvma.org/springseminars.htm

REMEMBER TO REGISTER EARLY TO GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY!

*There are only 150 spaces available at each of three regional locations for this very popular and useful program.

About the Photo in This Issue...

A spectacular and distinctive flycatcher, the bright red Vermilion

Flycatcher inhabits riparian areas and scrub in the southwestern United States and southward. It perches conspicuously, making periodic flights to nab insect prey.

This Vermilion Flycatcher was photographed at the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge near Brownsville, Texas in February 2003. I wrote a published photo essay of my 2003 trip to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. If you wish to read it and see more of my pictures from the trip you can visit http://www.surfbirds.com/trip_report.php?id=161.



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