

ISVMA Members Lobby in Springfield

On March 8, 2005 members of the ISVMA Board of Directors and Legislative Committee met in Springfield and spent the day lobbying legislators on key veterinary medical issues. Among the issues heavily lobbied was House Bill 315 (reviewed in previous issues of the E-SOURCE). At a meeting following the lobbying activity, the veterinarians related their experiences talking with legislators and were very pleased with the attention legislators gave our position on the legislation.

One group of veterinarians met with the sponsor of the bill, Representative Burke (D-Chicago). Representative Burke was very generous with his time and discussed the issues related to the ISVMA opposition at length. He indicated at the conclusion of the discussion, however, that he intends to call the bill for a vote in the House of Representatives with the \$3 rabies tax included.

The bill will be voted upon in the full House in a matter of days. If you have not contacted your state representatives to share your position on the bill, please do so immediately.

Early Registration Deadline for Spring Seminars Closing

Shame on us! We forgot to remind you that early registration for the ISVMA Spring Seminar in Oak Brook was to end on Monday, March 7. Since that date has come and gone, we are going to extend that date to Wednesday, March 16.

If you haven't already signed up, you still have the opportunity to take advantage of early registration fees for all locations. After these deadlines, the cost to attend will increase. INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION will go up to \$150 for a member to attend and \$225 for a non-member. REGISTRATION BY PRACTICE will increase to \$150 for each of its first two attendees if ISVMA members and all additional registrants attend for \$125 each. For non-ISVMA members attending, first two attendees pay \$225 each with all additional registrants attending for \$150 each.

Reminder of Program Dates/Locations

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."**

OAK BROOK LOCATION (APRIL 10, 2005)

Click on the link for more

details. <http://www.isvma.org/Seminars/LINK%20for%20Website.%20Oak%20Brook%20information.pdf>

- Wednesday, Mar. 16 - Updated deadline! - Early registration ends
- Friday, Mar. 18 - Room blocks released: The Hyatt Lodge at McDonald's Office Campus located at 2815 Jorie Boulevard, Oak Brook, Illinois 60523. To reserve your lodging, call (630) 990-5800 and request Reservations. Be certain to mention that you are attending the ISVMA's Spring Seminar and want the discounted rate.

A word from the hotel, please call the reservation desk. If you reserve through the internet the room rate will not be discounted the ISVMA's special rate for this event.

PEORIA LOCATION (APRIL 17, 2005)

Click on the link for more details.

<http://www.isvma.org/Seminars/LINK%20for%20Website.%20Peoria%20information.pdf>

- Monday, Mar. 21 - Updated deadline! - Early registration ends.
- Friday, Mar. 25 - Room blocks released: Pere Marquette Hotel located at 501 Main Street, Peoria Illinois 61602. To reserve your lodging, call toll free at 1-800-447-1676 or (309) 637-6500 and request Reservations. Be certain to mention that you are attending the ISVMA's Spring Seminar to obtain the discounted rate.

FAIRVIEW HEIGHTS LOCATION (APRIL 24, 2005)

Click on the link for more details.

<http://www.isvma.org/Seminars/LINK%20for%20Website.%20Fairview%20Heights%20information.pdf>

- Monday, Mar. 21 - Early registration ends.
 Friday, Apr. 1 - Room blocks released at the Ramada Inn located at 6900 North Illinois Street, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62209. To reserve your lodging, call toll free at 1-800-947-0317 or (618) 632-4747 and request Reservations. Be certain to mention that you are attending the ISVMA's Spring Seminar to obtain the discounted rate.

There is a large bowling conference in town the same week-end and rooms may be limited. Room rental includes continental breakfast.

ISVMA SEEKS ACTS AWARD NOMINATIONS

The ISVMA's Human-Animal Bond/Animal Welfare Committee seeking nominees for this year's Animals Contributing To Society (ACTS) Awards. Any ISVMA member, whether Active, Affiliate, Life or Student, may nominate an animal who has made an extraordinary contribution to their owners' lives, their neighborhood, or their community.

There are four separate categories of achievement. They are Hero, Volunteer, Professional and Human-Animal Bond Award. Qualifications for each category are:

Hero

The animal's actions must have saved a human life or prevented injury.

Volunteer

The animal and its' owner raise the quality of human lives by volunteering their time. Examples are volunteering to visit nursing home residents, hospital patients, schools, etc. Animals that are owned by and used for professional animal assisted therapy are not included.

Professional

The animal is kept and trained to be of service to humans. This includes seeing-eye dogs, helper dogs, assisted therapy animals as well as animals in zoos and aquariums.

Human-Animal Bond Award

The human whose acts best advance the understanding and awareness of the Human-Animal Bond in Illinois.

The nomination process isn't overly time-consuming and the rules are simple:

1. Nominations can be made only by an ISVMA member.
2. The act/contribution must take place in Illinois.
3. The animal and owner must reside in Illinois.
4. The act(s) must have been performed, at least in part, in 2004.

Three items need to be submitted to nominate a worthy candidate. A completed nomination form, a one-page typewritten letter explaining how the animal/individual qualifies for nomination and a 5x7 color picture of the animal and owner/steward must be submitted to: Illinois ACTS Awards c/o Riser Animal Hospital, 5335 Touhy Avenue, Skokie IL 60077. Up to three one-page letters from others supporting the nomination may be included with the application.

To obtain additional nomination forms, they are available on the ISVMA's website and can be downloaded from the Members' Only section. If you don't have internet access, call our office at 217/523-8387 and we'll be happy to fax or mail a copy to you.

Nominations officially opened on March 1, 2005 and will close on July 31, 2005. No late entries will be accepted with a postmark after July 31. Entries will be judged by the members of the Human-Animal Bond committee. Winners will be notified in October and will be presented their award at the ISVMA's Annual Convention in Springfield on November 6th, 2005.

About the Photo in This Issue...

The appearance of the "first American Robin of the year" is often regarded as a sign of spring. In reality, some linger as far north as Canada when food supplies are adequate - so the first robin you see in spring may not have come from too far away.

Our largest thrush (approximately 10 inches in length), the American Robin is found throughout North America, from extreme northern Canada and as far south as Guatemala. This common and well-known bird is noted for its habit of feeding in lawns where it finds earthworms (by sight, not sound), and for its cheery voice. Robins are often one of the first birds to sing in the morning, singing long choruses of rhythmic paired phrases of two or three syllables that alternately rise and fall in pitch. The dawn singing is reprised at dusk and occasionally throughout the day.

While the female American Robin incubates her second clutch of eggs, the fledged young from the first brood often join adult males at communal nocturnal roosts. Nightly roosting may begin as early as June. Males are joined first by spot-breasted juveniles, then by adult females. The number of robins at a roost peaks in late summer.

Once breeding season is over, the sweet-singing and familiar robin of our backyards becomes more furtive and shy. Large nomadic flocks form and range over the countryside in search of berries such as mulberry, sumac, grape, viburnum, and cedar, as they shift from their breeding season diet of insects and earthworms to become wholly vegetarian. By September, many are moving south from the northern parts of the eastern half of the country to winter with southern residents in the Middle Atlantic and Gulf states. In the West, Robins wander broadly in search of food and move generally to areas of lower altitude.

Contact Us

Please feel free to forward this issue of the E-SOURCE to veterinarians that are not receiving ISVMA's electronic newsletter. Any ISVMA member may subscribe to the E-SOURCE for free:

If you wish to add your name to the recipient list, send an e-mail to info@isvma.org and ask to receive the E-SOURCE newsletter.

ISAE values your membership and does not want to send you any unwanted email. If you would like to be removed from this member service, please email info@isvma.org