

NCVEI Food Animal and Mixed Animal Benchmarking Tools

The National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues (NCVEI) is preparing to launch benchmarking tools for **food and mixed animal practitioners**. To date they have released benchmarking tools for companion animal and equine veterinarians. There are currently 10,000 practices utilizing these free tools in all 50 states.

Before the **food and mixed animal** tools can be released NCVEI needs volunteers who are willing to enter seed data in the models.

If you are willing to participate, contact Peter Weber at ISVMA (peter@isvma.org) to obtain an instruction letter for entering the seed data. As in the past the more people who participate in this process the more effective job the NCVEI models will be in helping practitioners in Illinois. Full release of the benchmarking tools is planned for late spring.

Please Assist ISVMA in Updating Our Membership Records

ISVMA has been calling veterinary practices for a week to update the roster of veterinarians in each practice. We're finding that most of the practices have had changes in veterinary staff that are not reflected in our database.

You can assist us tremendously if you will fax us a list that includes:

1. The names of each veterinarian employed by your practice (please include any recent hires that are soon to begin in your practice - for instance 2005 graduates or transfers).
2. If a doctor has left your practice in the past 3 years, any information on where they might be practicing now.
3. The name of your practice owner(s).
4. The name of your practice manager (if applicable).

Please fax your information to ISVMA at (217) 523-7981.

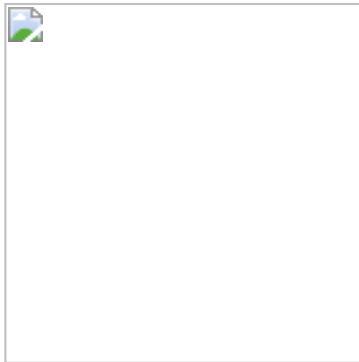
Dr. Sheldon Rubin to Appear on the Oprah Winfrey Show

Dr. Sheldon Rubin, Chief of Staff at Blum Animal Hospital and Oprah's veterinarian will appear on the *Oprah Winfrey Show* on Friday, May 6, 2005. The show titled, **Inside the Secret Lives of Hoarders** is a follow-

up on a guest that shocked, appalled and puzzled Oprah and her viewers with her 81 cats and six dogs. During the show Dr. Rubin comments on the impact hoarding pets has on the animals themselves.

Dr. Rubin was also present during the taping of Oprah's May 9, 2005 show when Oprah consults with behaviorist, Cesar Millan ("Dog Whisperer"). During *Oprah After the Show* on the Oxygen channel, Oprah questions Dr. Rubin on the information she received from the Dog Whisperer on her adored Cocker Spaniel, Sophie.

Join us at the Event of the Year!



Keep the weekend of
November 4-6, 2005 open to attend the Illinois State Veterinary
Medical Association's 2005 Convention.

You won't want to miss it!

Come see what is new to this year's event!

- § Full-day Practice Management Seminar on Friday
- § Keynote speaker Kevin Fitzgerald on Saturday evening
- § Outstanding speaker lineup
- § Expanded Job Fair
- § 25% more exhibitors
- § Ophthalmologic and Dental Radiography wet labs
- § Recent Graduate Program on Sunday
- § Expanded Practice Personnel Breakouts
- § President's Dinner at the new Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum - with full access!

ISVMA Membership Incentive

ISVMA thanks you for your support and participation! If you know a colleague that isn't a member, ISVMA is offering an incentive for them

to join now! If any prospective member joins now they will receive the remainder of this membership year (ends June 30, 2005) for free! Applicants will pre-pay their 2005-2006 membership year dues and their membership will be good through June 30, 2006.

Click on www.isvma.org/application.htm to fill out the ISVMA Membership Application Form.

Have you added a new associate? Are all the doctors in your practice currently members? Did your classmates remember to join their state association? Check their membership status by searching for them at www.isvma.org/findadoctor.htm. If they are not listed, they are not an ISVMA member!



About the Photo in This Issue...

Sparrows often get a bad name. We have the non-native English House Sparrow to thank for that! I happen to be very fond of the many sparrow species native to North America. The Fox Sparrow is one of my favorites.

Birders in the eastern United States and in many parts of the West are likely to see Fox Sparrows only during migration or winter, for this large sparrow nests in northern and western Canada and in mountainous areas in the western states. It breeds in brushy wooded areas, especially those with stunted trees and streamside thickets, where it forages on the ground, scratching amid the leaf litter for millipedes, spiders, and insects. In coastal areas, Fox Sparrows may also feed on tiny crustaceans.

During winter Fox Sparrows subsist on a variety of vegetable foods, especially the seeds of weeds and grasses. Its wintering range extends from the southeastern United States as far north as Newfoundland, in the lower elevations of the Southwest and along the West Coast. Winter habitat in the western areas is typically chaparral and streamside thickets; in the East they inhabit low, moist areas with tall brush or wet woods, such as maple swamps. The Fox Sparrow's loud, ringing, whistled songs are occasionally heard during migration.

The widespread Fox Sparrow appears to be in the early stages of speciation, the process of isolated forms of one species differentiating to become separate and distinct species. Fox Sparrows have long been subdivided into as many as 18 subspecies, a number exceeded only by subspecific divisions of the Song Sparrow and the Horned Lark. Geographically and morphologically, all of these subspecies fall naturally into three groups. Some researchers have already proposed elevating these groups to full species level, a position supported by the results of recent mitochondrial DNA analyses that show the groups are genetically distinct. In addition, the songs sung by each group differ.

The three groups-and one author's proposed common names-are the "Red Fox Sparrow" (the boreal rusty-backed form breeding from Newfoundland to Alaska), the "Sooty Fox Sparrow" (the northern Pacific Coast brown-backed form), and the "Slate-colored Fox Sparrow" (the western montane gray-backed form). Furthermore, a group of slate-

colored Fox Sparrows from the Cascades and the Sierra Nevada may be distinct enough to warrant its own designation as a fourth species, the "Large-billed Fox Sparrow."

I photographed this "Red Fox Sparrow" in Vermilion County, IL during November 2003.



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.

ISVMA 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