

ISVMA Organizing Effort with Veterinary Students to Increase NCVEI Participation

Improving your practice's economic health will also enhance your patient care. To help you accomplish these goals, ISVMA recently approached the Veterinary Business Management Association (VBMA) at the University of Illinois to determine their interest in developing a summer project that will help you become a more successful practice.

With support from the ISVMA, three veterinary student members of the VBMA will introduce to you an online practice management program that allows you to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your practice's business. Offered by the National Commission on Veterinary Economic Issues (www.ncvei.org), these tools provide a benchmarking comparison between practices across Illinois and the nation. For only \$75 one of the students will come to your practice and train you and/or your practice manager on how to use these tools. This fee will help alleviate travel costs for the student representatives, in addition to providing you with CE credit for participation.

NCVEI tools will remain available and an asset to your practice for continuing years. In addition to the current small animal and equine tools, NCVEI will be releasing new benchmarking tools for food animal practitioners in mid-June.

Please contact ISVMA at 217-523-8387 and provide your contact information for the appropriate regional student representative to reach you and schedule your training session.

Significant Steps Taken to Protect Nation's Food Supply and Public Health

Washington, D.C. -- U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) recently introduced S. 914, the Veterinary Workforce Expansion Act of 2005 (VWEA). The legislation would establish a grant program to expand capacity in veterinary medical schools, and increase the number of veterinarians working in public health practice and biomedical research.

"Veterinarians play a critical role in protecting the health of our nation, yet there is a shortage of veterinarians working in public health and biomedical research," Senator Allard said. "Given the increasing dangers posed by public health threats like SARS, West Nile and monkeypox, it is critical that we address this shortage."

"In fact, the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that there will be 28,000 openings for veterinarians by the year 2012, highlighting the need for new graduates. My legislation will help our veterinary medical schools meet the increasing demand for veterinary professionals," added Senator Allard.

The VWEA would amend the Public Health Service Act to create a competitive grants program for schools and institutions to increase both their training capacity and their ability to research high-priority diseases.

"Veterinarians are in a position to detect and respond early to emerging infectious diseases and potential bioterror threats," Senator Allard said. "By increasing the number of graduates and improving our research capabilities in veterinary medicine, we can make sure that our country is ready to face the public health challenges of the future."

Senator Allard ran a veterinary practice for more than 20 years in Loveland, Colorado prior to his service in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

In order to track the progress of this bill click on <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Once there, enter S 914

(Note: you must enter a space between S and 914)

Please Assist ISVMA in Updating Your 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.

Prairie States Animal Welfare Conference

Join the Illinois Animal Welfare Federation June 6-8 at the Chateau Hotel and Conference Center, Bloomington, IL for the 2005 Prairie States Animal Welfare Conference!

This year's conference offers numerous opportunities for animal welfare professionals to learn, network, and have fun! Whether you are an Executive Director, Animal Control Officer, Kennel Technician, Veterinarian, Director of Operations, Volunteer, Veterinary Technician or Board Member, you'll find something of interest at Prairie States.

Featured speakers include Dr. Kate Hurley, Assistant Clinical Professor, Shelter Medicine and Small Animal Population Health, University of California-Davis, and William Sturtevant, Vice President of Principal Gifts for the University of Illinois Foundation. Dr. Hurley will present a special half-day session on Disease Management in shelters. She'll provide tips, protocols, rationale, and resources for managing the health and care of sheltered animals. Looking to increase your organization's bottom line? Mr. Sturtevant will present a half-day workshop on Developing Cultivation and Solicitation Strategies for the Major Gift.

Other Prairie States highlights include Keynote Speaker Martha Armstrong, Vice President for Animal Sheltering for The HSUS, and lots of exciting sessions including: Grant Writing that Gets Results, Media Relations for Animal Welfare, Canine Distemper, Rabies, Feline Temperament Issues, Training Shelter Dogs, Breed Identification, and more. All for only \$125! Visit www.IAWF.net for more information and to download a conference brochure.

Questions? Contact Lauren Malmberg at Lmalmberg@ci.peoria.il.us or at (309) 494-8911. Come join the fun!

The Prairie States Animal Welfare Conference is sponsored by the Illinois Animal Welfare Federation, Hill's Science Diet, Petfinder.com, the Petco Foundation, the ASPCA and HSUS.

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...

Ruby-crowned Kinglets typically build their nests close to the trunk high in a conifer. The nests are suspended from twigs below a sheltering and concealing horizontal branch. Often deeper than they are wide, with constricted openings, they conceal the brooding adult so that only the tip of her tail can be seen.

In the eastern part of the range, the highest population densities occur in the black spruce bogs and muskegs of Canada, whereas in the West, spruce-fir, lodgepole pine, and Douglas fir forests are used. The breeding range encompasses most of Canada and Alaska, extending south in the east to Maine, northern New England, and the Adirondacks; in the West, the breeding range extends south throughout the Rocky Mountains and mountain ranges of California.

Although they breed farther north than the related Golden-crowned Kinglet (*R. satrapa*), they are apparently less hardy and so migrate earlier and winter farther south. Winter range is closely related to average temperature, and they avoid areas where the temperature frequently drops below 25 degrees. In the West there is an altitudinal as well as longitudinal migration as Rocky Mountain birds retreat from high-altitude breeding areas. Most western wintering birds are found west of the edge of the foothills of the mountains. Ruby-crowned Kinglet populations can fluctuate widely, declining in response to logging activities or fire, but severe winter weather appears to have the greatest affect on numbers.

Winter food sources are primarily spiders and insects and their eggs, as well as small amounts of weed seeds and fruits, including the berries of wax myrtle, poison ivy, and red cedar. During summer they scour branches high in conifers, bark surfaces, buds, and the bases of pine needle clusters to find small arthropods. Ants and other Hymenoptera are common prey. These kinglets also make use of sap wells made by sapsuckers. Their foraging niche overlaps that of both Golden-crowned Kinglets and chickadees. Ruby-crowned Kinglets often hover while searching the tips of small branches for food. Flight is jerky and undulating, with short bursts of wingbeats.

For such small birds, Ruby-crowned Kinglets produce remarkable outbursts of song. The song is loud and rich and can be heard over long distances. It consists of three parts: two to three high-pitched *tseenotes*, five to six lower *churr* notes, and a higher-pitched series of rollicking phrases such as *tee-da-leet, tee-da-leet, tee-da-leet*. The song is usually sung from the upper branches of a spruce tree by males defending their territory, but it is also heard during spring migration. Females will also sing, although theirs is a quieter version of the males' song without the last section. Males display their ruby crown during bouts of song and during confrontations.

Cool fact: Ruby-crowned Kinglets are one of our smallest birds, measuring only 4.25 inches and weighing about one-quarter of an ounce. For their size, they lay one of the largest clutches of eggs of any North American songbird, averaging nearly 8 eggs per clutch, with as many as 12 eggs recorded in a single nest.

I photographed this Ruby-crowned Kinglet near Rochester, IL during the Spring of 2004.

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