

ISVMA Sales Tax Bill Passes in Senate Revenue Committee

Senate Bill 711 was amended by Senator Maggie Crotty (D-Oak Forest) in Senate Revenue Committee today with amendatory language provided by the ISVMA to clarify Illinois sales tax laws. The amended bill passed the Senate Revenue Committee on a vote of 10-0 and will now be voted upon by the full Senate. It will also need to pass the House of Representatives before the end of the legislative session (April 12). *Help us pass the bill - see the Action Alert below!*

The ISVMA backed proposal would establish an easy to comprehend and implement sales tax procedure for Illinois veterinary practices. It would also help prevent adverse tax audits that result from a constantly changing interpretation of tax compliance by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

If you would like to read a summary of the ISVMA Tax Proposal contained in Senate Bill 711 please [click here](#) (note: you will have to enter your username/password to access the ISVMA Member Center. Follow the directions in the entry form exactly).

ACTION ALERT - Please help ISVMA Pass Senate Bill 711 -

[CLICK HERE](#)

to send an email to your legislators and a thank you email to Senator Maggie Crotty.

Note: You will have to enter your username/password to access the ISVMA Legislative Action Center. Use your last name and birthday exactly as described in the login form.

As many as 60 veterinary practices have either been audited or notified of intent to audit by the Illinois Department of Revenue (DOR) in the past several months. The audits have resulted in adverse findings. The problem is that no veterinary practice knows what the DOR considers compliance and, therefore, by definition cannot be compliant! To make matters worse, the DOR definition of compliance is inconsistent and ever-shifting.

If your practice is the next one to receive an audit notification from the DOR it could cost you tens of thousands of dollars!

You can help stop the "shake-down" audit practices of the IDOR. Help us by thanking Senator Crotty for sponsoring Senate Bill 711 *AND* contacting your state legislators to ask them to support the bill.

It will only take you a few minutes to send an email to Senator Crotty and an email to both your state legislator and state senator. ISVMA has drafted the letters for you and you can find out who your state senator and representative are by using the ISVMA Legislative Action Center ([click here](#)).

Spring Seminar Registration Information

Registrations not received in the ISVMA office within 72 hours of the program will not be able to participate in breakfast or lunch.

A significant onsite registration will throw off our food counts for the Spring Seminars. Therefore, pre-registrants will receive a meal ticket that will not be available to onsite registrants.

ISVMA is required to turn in a food count to the host hotels prior to the seminar. This food count is determined by the number of registrations. We will inform the hotel of the food count 3 days prior to the program. Therefore, we would appreciate it if you sent in your

registrations as soon as possible.

ISVMA Spring Seminar Series - REGISTER NOW!

The ISVMA Spring Seminar Series offers you and your staff an affordable opportunity to experience a nationally-recognized speaker addressing issues that are important to both your practice and practice staff. This year's seminar will be offered twice:

April 9, 2006 at the Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale, IL (west-suburbs of Chicago)

April 30, 2006 at the Northfield Inn & Suites in Springfield, IL

Charlotte Lacroix, DVM, Esq. will address three important topics that can help you avoid liability and disciplinary action from your state regulatory agency:

1. What Constitutes Good Medical Recordkeeping?
2. Internet Pharmacies, Drug Compounding and the Boogie Man - What They Have in Common.
3. Ethical Practice - It Ain't Easy and It's Getting Tougher.

ISVMA is fortunate to be able to give our members an opportunity to participate in a top-notch educational program with one of the most sought after speakers in the country. For more information and to register for this seminar please [click here](#). Registration is limited, so register early!

About the Photo in This Issue...

The Brown Jay (*Psilorhinus morio*) is the largest North American jay. This species has only recently re-colonized the lower Rio Grande Valley, where it travels in noisy flocks. The birds have deep, slow wingbeats and pump their long tails as they fly.

In the United States, the Brown Jay is found only in the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. There, it is a "rare to uncommon and very local resident along the Rio Grande in Starr County, between Rio Grande City and San Ygnacio [Zapata County] (Texas Ornithological Society 1995)."

The Brown Jay ranges from the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas south to Panama. It is confined almost entirely to the Atlantic Slope of Middle America, however in parts of Costa Rica its range also extends over onto the Pacific Slope.

In most areas where it is found, the Brown Jay seems to be more abundant today than in the past. The reason for this increased abundance is that the extensive tropical forests of Mexico and Central America, which the Brown Jay avoids, have largely been cleared and replaced by farms, plantations and various second-growth habitats in which this bird thrives.

Brown Jays live in groups. During the breeding season these groups consist of 3 to 17 individuals. Each group is composed of breeding and non-breeding individuals that defend a common territory. Non-breeding individuals help the breeding individuals build nests; feed breeding females, nestlings and fledglings; and defend the nest from predators." So far, no ornithologist has ever observed a simple pair of Brown Jays nesting without the assistance of non-breeding individuals.

This kind of breeding system, where non-breeding members of a group help raise young that are not their own, is called "cooperative breeding." The non-breeding individuals that assist the breeding individuals are called "helpers."

It is not unusual for young Brown Jays to work as "helpers" for many years before themselves breeding (Williams and Lawton 2000). These young Brown Jays benefit from helping because it gives them experience - learning how to build nests and take care of young.

Like most other members of the Crow family (Corvidae), the Brown Jay is omnivorous. However, the largest part of its adult diet is made up of wild fruits of which it eats many species.

Like other large-bodied fruit-eating birds, such as Guans (Penelope spp.), Chachalacas (Ortalis spp.), Quetzals (Pharomachrus spp.) Bellbirds (Procnias spp.), Cock-of-the-Rock (Rupicola spp.) and Toucans (Ramphastidae spp.), the Brown Jay is an important long-distance disperser of seeds.

I photographed this Brown Jay in San Ygnacio, Texas in January 2005. At the time, it was one of only five Brown Jays known to be present in the United States (all at the same location). This is a juvenile bird, identifiable by its yellow bill. Adult birds have black bills.

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.