

## **ISVMA Needs Your Grassroots Help in Final Push on Senate Bill 711!**

Senate Bill 711 sponsored by Senator Maggie Crotty (D-Oak Forest) passed the Senate last week on a vote of 59-0. It is now up for a vote in the House of Representatives and is opposed by the Department of Revenue.

There are three separate Action Alerts in the ISVMA Legislative Action Center:

### **Click here for ALERT 1:**

ASK THE GOVERNOR TO SUPPORT SENATE BILL 711 - The Governor's Office is concerned about "potential" revenue loss to the state if Senate Bill 711 passes. We have prepared an email letter to the Governor that addresses his concerns. Please send an email to the Governor **today** using the Action Alert and urge your colleagues to do the same!

### **Click here for ALERT 2:**

THANK YOUR STATE SENATOR FOR VOTING FOR SENATE BILL 711 - If you have not already thanked your state senator for supporting Senate Bill 711 please click on the appropriate Action Alert button to send them an email now.

### **Click here for ALERT 3:**

ASK YOUR STATE REPRESENTATIVE TO VOTE FOR SENATE BILL 711 - If you have not yet contacted your state representative, there is an action alert for you! Click on the alert button and you can send a pre-written email to your state legislator. You don't have to know who your legislators are, either. The software figures that out for you!

Make sure every veterinarian in your practice responds to the Action Alerts as soon as possible. We hope to pass Senate Bill 711 in the next few days and send it to the Governor to be signed into law.

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).

## **Executive Veterinary Program: Business Management**

The University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine's Executive Veterinary Program (EVP) was developed in 1991 to enhance the business, communication, and planning skills of busy animal health professionals.

An exciting, new EVP scheduled to begin in August will provide participants with knowledge and skills needed to more effectively and efficiently manage a business. The modules will approach the topics from a general business perspective, allowing for a business management education in a non-species- or industry-specific environment.

Twelve interactive, two-day (Thursday and Friday) learning sessions are scheduled over a two-year period. The module arrangements allow for insight and understanding to build and grow throughout the program. Each interactive two-day session offers 12 hours of continuing education credit. To optimize the learning environment, enrollment is limited to 42 participants.

Participants registered on or before May 1 will receive a \$250 discount. For more information about Executive Veterinary Program: Business Management, visit <http://www.EVPIllinois.org/>.

## ISVMA Spring Seminar Receives Rave Reviews- [REGISTER NOW](#)

The ISVMA Spring Seminar Series was offered for the first time yesterday in Bloomingdale, IL. The participants were fully engaged and the presentation was valuable to everyone. There was an incredible interaction between the participants and the presenter that brought home the reality of the important legal and economic issues common to all practices.

The Spring Seminar Series offers you and your staff an affordable opportunity to experience a nationally-recognized speaker who will address 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 (CONCLUDED)

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

Charlotte Lacroix, DVM, Esq. will engage you with information designed to help you avoid liability and disciplinary action from the state veterinary licensing board. The primary topics will be:

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 Blue Grouse (*Dendragapus obscurus*) is a species of the western mountains of North America occurring from southeast Alaska and Yukon south along the Pacific coast to California and inland through mountains to New Mexico and Arizona. Many of these southern mountain populations are isolated and disconnected from the rest of the range. In addition, the species has been introduced rather widely.

Blue grouse are birds of the high and mid mountain areas. The blue grouse has an unique migration habit, they are vertical migrators who in recent years have, in those areas where there is intensive logging, reversed their historic migration pattern. In those mountains where logging has cleared vast tracks of forests, blue grouse nest in the cleared slash areas and in winter migrate uphill to the uncut remaining evergreen forests. Historically they migrated downhill from open mountain slopes and meadows.

The migration may take a few days depending on a number of factors, including weather, distance and food. Should you chance upon these migrating flocks it will be one of nature's sights and experiences that you will never forget. Grouse will be everywhere, on the ground, in the trees and shrubs, and in every direction wherever you look. Once they reach the evergreen forests blue grouse change their diet from the succulent tips of plants and berries to evergreen needles.

Blue Grouse are 'scratching birds' and their crops require grit, the small gravel they use for their crops to grind food. Therefore, a slow drive along a mountain road in their range is a quick way to locate blue grouse. On occasion coveys of Blue Grouse can be seen in special habitat. These much larger birds are usually found on steep slopes or rocky bluffs having panoramic views overlooking mountain valley areas.

Their diet is comprised mainly of plants such as herb leaves and flowers, conifer needles, and shrub berries, but insects may supplement the diet, especially invertebrates in young juveniles.

Males have many sexual partners. It is not known if this is true of females or not. Courtship is elaborate and includes singing, flutter-flights, head bobbing, biting of neck feathers, and sometimes even whinnying. Nest sites vary a lot but are always on the ground or on stumps. They are usually outside male territory, perhaps to prevent additional sexual advances. Many have some sort of covering. Nests are formed by shallow depressions in the ground, often with thin linings of only dead vegetation. The nest is abandoned approximately one day after young are born. From that point on, hatchlings feed themselves.

I photographed this Blue Grouse hen and her chicks near Estes Park, Colorado in 1999.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@isvma.org).