

## "Fatal Contact" - How You Can Respond

- The ABC Movie "Fatal Contact: Bird Flu in America" is a movie, not a documentary. It is a work of fiction designed to entertain and not a factual accounting of a real world event.
- There is no influenza pandemic in the world at this time.
- Since 2003, there have been about 200 human cases of H5N1 infection, mostly in Asia; about half of those have been fatal.
- Most of the human infections can be traced to close contact with infected poultry. There have only been a few cases where human-to-human transmission is thought to have occurred. In those cases, the transmission did not continue beyond the immediate contacts of the primary case.
- The H5N1 virus has not yet appeared in the United States.
- Should the H5N1 virus appear in the United States, it does not mean the start of a pandemic.
- If an influenza pandemic were to occur, it would not necessarily be as severe as depicted in the movie, or as the pandemic of 1918. For example, many Americans did not distinguish the influenza pandemics of 1957-58 and 1968-69 from seasonal influenza and were unaware that a pandemic was underway.
- While the movie does serve to raise awareness about avian and pandemic flu, we hope it will inspire preparation – not panic. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has developed an extensive set of planning documents, including planning checklists for businesses, schools, health care providers, community organizations, and states as well as an individual and family planning guide. All of these materials are available at [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov).
- For more information from the AVMA, visit [www.avma.org/public\\_health/influenza/default.asp#avian](http://www.avma.org/public_health/influenza/default.asp#avian)

## Membership Renewal

You should have received your ISVMA Membership Renewal Packet in the mail already. If you have not, please contact ISVMA and ask for another copy.

If you have changed practices in the last year without notifying us, your renewal packet may have been sent to your former employer. Call ISVMA to update your membership records and we'll be happy to send a new packet to you.

Remember, the renewal process works differently now. If you fail to renew by June 30, 2007 your membership will be suspended until payment is made. If you fail to pay before June 30, 2008, your membership will then be terminated. While your membership is suspended, you will not be able to enjoy the many programs, services and benefits of membership in your state veterinary association. We look forward to having 100% renewal before the deadline!

If you need more information, please contact ISVMA at (217) 523-8387.

## Has Your Veterinary Staff Changed in the Past Year?

Did you experience a change in staff since July 1, 2005? If so, did you remember to contact ISVMA to update your practice staff listings? If you have had a change in staff, please contact ISVMA to let us know!

## Will You Be Hiring a 2006 Graduate Veterinarian?

If you are hiring a 2006 graduate veterinarian, their membership in ISVMA is free for the first year! Please encourage them to fill out an [online membership application](#). The recent graduate does not need to be licensed to join ISVMA. They do have to be a graduate of an AVMA

accredited veterinary college. We will track their license status and update our records upon completion of the license application.

Remember, if you hire a recent graduate, they cannot engage in the practice of veterinary medicine until they have obtained their Illinois license. Unlicensed veterinarians may only engage in activities more commonly associated with veterinary assistants (not technicians).

The Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation has increased their staff and budget to more quickly process professional license applications. We are optimistic that the long delays between application and licensure will be mitigated.

If we can be of assistance or help clarify the role of your recent graduate hire, please contact ISVMA at (217) 523-8387.

### ISVMA Annual Convention

Remember to mark your calendar for the ISVMA 124th Annual Convention on November 3-5, 2006 at the Wyndham Chicago Northwest Hotel in Itasca, IL.



Our convention continues to establish new standards of excellence. The convention planning committee has put together a program that will blow you away! You will be amazed at the speaker lineup, the quality topics, expanded wetlabs and more. Look for more information from ISVMA in the coming weeks.

### About the Photo in This Issue...

Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularius*) are the most widespread breeding sandpiper in North America. They breed along the edges of nearly any water source throughout the northern half of the continent. They are at home around urban ponds as well as tundra pools.

The female Spotted Sandpiper is the one who establishes and defends the territory. She arrives at the breeding grounds earlier than the male. In other species of migratory birds, where the male establishes the territory, he arrives earlier.

The male takes the primary role in parental care, incubating the eggs and taking care of the young. One female may lay eggs for up to four different males at a time.

The female may store sperm for up to one month. The eggs she lays for one male may be fathered by a different male in a previous mating.

The function of the teetering motion typical of this species has not been determined. Chicks teeter nearly as soon as they hatch from the egg. The teetering gets faster when the bird is nervous, but stops when the bird is alarmed, aggressive, or courting.

The Spotted Sandpiper breeds across North America from Alaska to Newfoundland, southward to central California, southern Nebraska, and northern North Carolina. It winters from southern states to southern South America. Also along Pacific Coast northward to Puget Sound.

In alternate plumage, the Spotted Sandpiper is brown above with indistinct black bars scattered across back. It is white below with bold black spotting. The legs are flesh-colored. In basic plumage, the upperparts are grayer and without barring. The underparts are white, with brown extending down sides of breast. The legs are yellowish.

I photographed this basic plumaged Spotted Sandpiper in Scottsdale, Arizona in January 2006.

### 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).