

Survey from the Illinois Department of Public Health Re: Spay/Neuter Program

Illinois veterinarians have been mailed a letter and survey from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) regarding the fees they charge for spay/neuter surgeries. The information and participation in the statewide spay/neuter program is strictly voluntary. The IDPH is gathering the fee information in order to determine a fair reimbursement for veterinarians that choose to participate in the state spay/neuter program.

ISVMA became aware of the letter when several veterinarians inquired as to the its purpose. ISVMA contacted the IDPH and learned that the letter had been sent even though rules for the program still haven't been drafted. We will be very involved in working with IDPH staff as those rules are prepared. When they become available in draft form, we will make them available to all ISVMA members for review and input.

ISVMA Tax Seminars Filling Quickly

Illinois' new sales tax rules unofficially went into effect on January 1, 2007. The rules will be considered by the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules before formal adoption. However, for the purpose of audit enforcement, the Illinois Department of Revenue is using the rules agreed to by ISVMA after more than two years of negotiations.

In order to explain the new rules and how they impact your practice, ISVMA is setting up a series of seminars that will give you the information you need to be compliant and minimize your administrative burdens. These seminars will be offered in each ISVMA Region and we strongly recommend that your practice is represented.

The seminars will be conducted by ISVMA tax consultants from J.D. Michael, LLC. Mike Scaduto and Joe Bartletti have worked closely with ISVMA for the past 2 1/2 years and their expertise and guidance helped bring an end to the confusing, complicated and inconsistent application of sales tax in veterinary practices.

Each practice will be limited to sending no more than three (3) people and we encourage you to consider sending from among the following: ***practice owner, bookkeeper and/or accountant.***

We ask that you pre-register for this meeting by filling out the registration form at http://www.isvma.org/events/2007_tax_seminars.html or by contacting the ISVMA at (217) 523-8387. Space is limited at each meeting location and registrations will be processed first come - first served. If we exceed the room space at any location the onsite registration will be closed.

The cost for registration for this seminar is \$200 per practice (for up to three people). The registration fees will generate revenue to pay our consultants who have worked for 2 1/2 years on this project and would not bill ISVMA until we successfully resolved our issues with the sales tax collection and audit procedures.

The seminar schedule is:

Date	Location	Time
January 17	Peoria, IL Hotel Pere Marquette	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
January 22	Mt. Vernon, IL Holiday Inn	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
January 23	Springfield, IL Northfield Conference Center	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
January 23	Champaign, IL College of Veterinary Medicine - LAC 100	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

January 25	Oakbrook Terrace, IL Drury Lane	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
January 29	Joliet, IL Joliet Junior College (Theatre)	5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
January 31	Rockford, IL Shrine Center	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

In Memoriam: Dr. Ross D. (Dean) Scoggins



Springfield, IL – Dean Scoggins, DVM died December 29, 2006, age 71, of a stroke suffered a week earlier, following a lengthy battle with cancer. His death came three weeks to the day after his induction into the Land of Lincoln Purebred Livestock Breeders Association's Hall of Fame.

"Dean was an invaluable aide in helping evaluate potential clinicians and educators to present programming at Illinois Horse Fair," said Joy Meierhans, Horse Fair manager. "His counsel was especially valuable because it was based on his many years of personal experience as a horse owner, trainer, exhibitor and breeder combined with his understanding of veterinary practices," Meierhans said.

"Dean Scoggins was an example for us all in his life-long dedication to educating, promoting and supporting the equine industry," said Paul Briney, Land of Lincoln Purebred Livestock Breeders Association first vice president and Horsemen's Council of Illinois past president.

Dr. Scoggins was buried January 3 in the Locust Grove Cemetery, Philo, near his Villa Grove, IL home. He is survived by his second wife Connie; first wife Virginia Scoggins; son Brian (Pamela) of Tuscola; daughter, Laurie (Dick Shearer) Scoggins of Villa Grove; son, Gregg (Krista) Scoggins of Ashland, VA; five grandchildren; a sister, Darlene (Nick) Corey of Albion, MI; and a brother, David (Faye Beth) Scoggins of Gilbert, AZ.

Earning his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from Michigan State University in 1960, Scoggins practiced in Michigan, Maryland and Pennsylvania until 1977 when he became Equine Extension Veterinarian at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine and College of ACES until retirement in 2004. He was involved with his own Arabian, Morgan and Quarter horses for more than 50 years while giving seminars and clinics on health, training, care and welfare of the horse throughout Illinois, the United States and Canada.

Many will recall Dr. Scoggins' special interest in equine dentistry and his vast personal collection of bits and antique tack.

A portrait of Dr. Scoggins will be on display at the Illinois Department of Agriculture Building in Springfield in honor of his Land of Lincoln Hall of Fame designation.

Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control (2007)

The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians recently released the 2007 revisions to the Compendium of Animal Rabies Prevention and Control. A cover memo summarizes the notable changes made to the document this year.

The document includes a very good section that covers all the licensed rabies vaccines in the United States that includes species use and duration.

You may download a copy of the [2007 Compendium](#) from the online Library in the ISVMA Member Center.

About the Photo in This Issue...

The Lark Sparrow (*Chondestes grammacus*) is a conspicuous sparrow of farmlands and roadsides. The Lark Sparrow has a bold face and tail pattern. With unusual courtship displays as well as plumage, it is like no other sparrow and is the sole member of its genus.

This large, long-tailed sparrow has a distinctive alternating chestnut, black, and white facial pattern, and towhee-like black tail with white corners, conspicuous in flight or perched. Its name infers the tonal quality of its lark-like song. Singing is most notable by males perched at high points within territories and, at times, on the ground or in flight, in early morning, evening, and even at night. Unlike many songbirds, the Lark Sparrow walks on the ground rather than hops. It hops only during courtship.

The Lark Sparrow often takes over old mockingbird or thrasher nests instead of building its own. Occasionally the eggs and young of two species are found in the same nest, suggesting that the Lark Sparrow shares the nest with the other bird. Courtship in this species differs markedly from that of other passerines. Males perform turkey-like strutting with tail upright, flashing white tail spots, and wings dropped to the ground. Unique to the Lark Sparrow is the behavior of passing a twig from male to female during copulation, which may be an alteration of courtship feeding observed in other species. Breeding females are known to use nests, generally abandoned ones, of other species.

The Lark Sparrow shows a preference for ecotones between grassland or shrub and forested habitat types, often including disturbed sites with exposed soils, grazing or recent fire, and fallow fields.

Lark Sparrows breed from southern central Canada southward to northern Mexico, westward to California coast and eastward to the Mississippi River and western Indiana. It is an irregular breeder eastward to Ohio and North Carolina. Breeding Bird Survey data show a nationwide decrease in populations, especially in the eastern portion of its range as eastern lands historically cleared for agriculture during the mid-1800s return to forest, or are progressively taken over by urbanization.

Lark Sparrows Winter primarily in California and from Texas southward through Mexico. Scattered individuals can be found throughout United States and on the East Coast.

I photographed this adult Lark Sparrow near Rochester, IL on May 8, 2004.

Contact Us

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