

On the Cusp of 2000 - Dues for New Members Prorated at 50%

The ISVMA is on the verge of accomplishing a very important goal - as of January 10, 2007 we are only 4 members short of the goal of 2000 members established by the Board of Directors in their May 2004 Strategic Plan. Although an important milestone, there are still several hundred veterinarians that haven't decided to support the profession through membership in ISVMA.

As of January 1, 2007 dues for the remainder of this membership year (ending June 30, 2007) are pro-rated at 50%. Any 2006 graduate may still join ISVMA at no cost for the remainder of the membership year. It is a great time to sign up an associate or recommend a colleague or classmate to become a member.

Forward this issue of the E-SOURCE to someone that doesn't belong and encourage them to join by filling out the [online membership application](#).

ISVMA Sales Tax Seminars Begin in One Week

The ISVMA sales tax seminars begin with the first presentation in Peoria on January 17, 2007 at the Pere Marquette Hotel. Space for these important seminars is limited and the registration has been outstanding!

If you do not pre-register for this seminar you may not be able to register on-site. Attendance will be cut off when we reach the room capacity. If you wish to attend at a site near you, please consult the [seminar schedule](#) and [register online](#) immediately to reserve your seat.

AVMA Seeks Volunteers for Committees and Councils

The AVMA has several opportunities for volunteers to become involved in leadership. If you know of individuals that may be interested in serving on an AVMA council or committee, please have them check the [AVMA website](#) for details.

A list of vacancies can also be [downloaded](#) here.

ISVMA Seeks Contacts for Newly Elected Legislators

The November elections resulted in the election of many new members of the Illinois General Assembly. Did one of your clients, friends or relatives get elected to the legislature for the first time?

If you have a relationship with a member of the Illinois General Assembly please let us know by filling out the [Legislative Relationship Survey](#).

The information you supply will remain confidential and will only be used to augment our lobbying effort on key issues. If you are a key contact for a legislator we may need to call on you for help during the current legislative session!

FDA Approves Weight Loss Drug for Obese Dogs

Selected news stories made available by the AVMA -

[Diet Drug Approved for Pudgy Pooches](#)

Houston Chronicle

By Andrew Bridges (A.P.)

". ... It's easy to say we will feed them less and exercise them more. Well, we know how well that works for us," said [Bonnie] Beaver, a past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association. ...

[US Approves Weight-Loss Drug for Obese Dogs](#)

Reuters

By Susan Heavey

. ... Bonnie Beaver, past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association and veterinarian at Texas A&M University, said the drug could help some dogs. ...

Diet Drug Can Help Hounds Shed Pounds

St. Paul Pioneer Press

By Rob Stein (Washington Post)

". ... It's sad," said Bonnie Beaver of the American Veterinary Medical Association. "We see animals with diabetes. We see animals with arthritis in pain. Their quality of life is poor. We're killing our pets with kindness. ..."

1st Dog Diet Drug Promises Pooches With Less Paunch

Chicago Tribune (Free Registration Required)

By Judith Graham and Matt Walberg

". ... People get so emotional about their pets," said Dr. Bonnie Beaver, a veterinarian at Texas A&M University and a past president of the American Veterinary Medical Association. ...

US Approves Obesity Drug for Portly Pups

New Scientist

Roxanne Khamsi

". ... A lot of people will take their dog to the fast food joint or drive-through for an ice cream cone or hamburger," says Bonnie Beaver, former president of the American Veterinary Medical Association. ...

US Approves First Diet Pill for Dogs

Yahoo! News

Agence France Presse

". ... People don't have the time to run around and play with dogs and get exercise," said Michael San Filippo, spokesman for the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). ...

Pfizer Medication for Obese Dogs Wins U.S. Approval

Bloomberg

By Justin Blum

. ... There are about 61.5 million pet dogs in the U.S., according to the American Veterinary Medical Association, based in Schaumburg, Illinois. ...

For the Pup Who Enjoys Kibble a Bit Too Much

Boston Globe

By Diedra Henderson

. ... The American Veterinary Medical Association, which conducts an annual canine census, reported in 2002 that Americans owned 61.6 million dogs. About 35 percent are overweight or obese, tipping the scales at 5 to 20 percent over their ideal weight. ...

Give the Dog a Drug

New York Daily News

By Julian Kesner

. ... The American Veterinary Medical Association says 20-40% of the 61.5 million U.S. dogs are overweight or obese. ...

Doggie Diet Drug a New Solution for Pudgy Pooches

Atlanta Journal-Constitution

By Elizabeth Lee

. ... Like two-legged Americans, dogs have gotten heavier. About 40 percent are overweight, the American Veterinary Medical Association says. ...

FDA Approves Weight-Loss Drug for Dogs

National Public Radio (Audio)

By Julie Rovner

The American Veterinary Medical Association says nearly half of America's best friends weigh more than they should.

About the Photo in This Issue...

The Cactus Wren (*Campylorhynchus brunneicapillus*) is a year-round-resident of arid lowlands and montane scrub communities of the southwestern United States and northern and central Mexico.

Its large size and conspicuous, noisy behavior distinguish the Cactus Wren from all other wrens with which it might occur. Although their grating song is hardly musical, it is a most evocative sound for those who love the desert.

A conspicuous sight and sound of the Southwestern deserts, the Cactus Wren is the largest wren in North America. It is often the most abundant member of the local desert avifauna. Although it occasionally drinks free-standing water and bathes in backyard birdbaths, this wren is well adapted to its desert environment and may be considered a true xerophile. Its diet of insects, occasional small reptiles or amphibians, seeds, juicy pulp from cactus fruit (for example, saguaro [*Cereus giganteus*]), and juice from wounds in cactus usually provides enough water to sustain individuals in their arid surroundings.

Their nests are usually so well guarded by sharp spines that it is difficult to understand how the birds can use them without being impaled. The nest is a large, globular chamber with a tunnel-shaped passageway and "doorstep" or perch near the entrance. Nests are built year-round, and males often build several secondary nests—used for roosts by adults and fledglings and as breeding nests for subsequent broods—while their mates incubate eggs. In Arizona, this species may fledge as many as 3 broods a year.

In addition to the repetitive, single, staccato note frequently given by the male, the Cactus Wren's repertoire contains at least 32 variations of the typical Adult Song. These variations are marked by distinct syllable patterns of characteristic length and rate. The female's song, rarely heard, is weaker and higher pitched than that of the male's.

Although the Cactus Wren is considered a hardy species that can tolerate some human disturbance, its populations are declining with increasing urbanization and subsequent loss of native vegetation in the southwestern U.S.

The loss of coastal sage-scrub in southern California has seriously reduced the isolated population of Cactus Wrens living there. Although it is somewhat tolerant of urban development, the large-scale development currently underway throughout the Southwest has caused declines in Cactus Wren populations.

I photographed this Cactus Wren in October 2002 at the Ventana Lodge in Tucson, Arizona.

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.