

## ISVMA To Hold One More Tax Seminar

The ISVMA has been asked by several veterinary practices to hold an additional tax seminar prior to the May 31, 2007 deadline for the voluntary compliance agreement.

A seminar will be held from **6-8 p.m. on Tuesday, May 1, 2007** at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in LAC 100. The seminar will be open to all veterinary professionals and/or their accountants.

Registration for the meeting will be the same as for the previous meetings and you may register online at [http://www.isvma.org/events/2007\\_tax\\_seminars.html](http://www.isvma.org/events/2007_tax_seminars.html). You may also call ISVMA at (217) 523-8387 to request a registration form. If you call for a registration form, please ask for Jill.

Each practice that registers is allowed to bring up to three people. The registration cost for the seminar is \$200 for each practice.

## Pay Attention to What You Receive from the Illinois Department of Revenue

ISVMA has received information that some veterinary practices are receiving billing statements from the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) as a result of their participation in the voluntary compliance agreement.

In some cases, the IDOR has billed for the payment of penalties. Penalties are waived under the voluntary compliance agreement. If you receive a bill that includes penalties, please contact ISVMA for information on how you should proceed.

## Pet Food Recall Widens - Contaminant Found In Rice Protein

On April 18, the FDA expanded the recall to include products containing rice protein concentrate. It is imperative that veterinarians stay abreast of recall news and be prepared to keep clients informed. Encourage pet owners to see their veterinarian immediately if their pets show any of the signs generally attributed to kidney failure—or illness in general.

"Until the U. S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has conclusively identified all the contaminants in the affected pet food, where they came from, and which products they were used in, we cannot consider this crisis over," said Dr. Steven Hansen, a board-certified toxicologist and senior vice president with the ASPCA, who manages the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center (APCC), located in its Midwest Office in Urbana, Ill.

"Further, the actual link between the adverse effects of melamine and the illnesses or deaths of so many pets around the country is still not clear and, as a result, what exactly is sickening and killing our pets is still a mystery," said Dr. Hansen.

The ASPCA advises pet owners that they shouldn't assume that just because a certain product is still available on a store shelf, it is safe. Because of the growing number of additional recalls, store inventory may not reflect the latest recalls. It is critically important for pet parents to check as to whether there have been any additions to the recall list—especially since that list could change overnight.

An ISVMA staff member was shopping for cat food in a large Springfield discount retail store last week and found cans of food from the recall list still on their shelves. She did advise the store manager.

Advise clients that if their pet is ill, to save any food they think may be contaminated, instead of returning it to the store—even if it is a food not currently on the recall list. "Even if you're

not sure what to do with your pet's food, freeze it, and ask your veterinarian for further advice," says Dr. Hansen. "(S)he may ask you to bring it in for testing, which could help in the overall investigation of this crisis."

Please remember to check the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Website which has a wealth of resources at <http://www.avma.org/aa/menufoodsrecall/default.asp>.

### **NIVMA 51st Annual Spring Clinic - April 25, 2007 at the Boone County Fairgrounds**

Please make plans to participate in this popular and informative program. If you wish to review the program and/or register, you may download a copy of the seminar brochure directly from the ISVMA website at [http://www.isvma.org/resources/2007\\_Spring\\_Brochure\\_NIVMA.pdf](http://www.isvma.org/resources/2007_Spring_Brochure_NIVMA.pdf).

### **ISVMA Lobby Day Report**

Forty veterinarians and two veterinary students participated in the Third Annual ISVMA Lobby Day on April 18. These volunteer lobbyists were able to speak to more than seventy members of the Illinois General Assembly and represented the veterinary profession admirably.



Dr. Shannon Greeley is photographed on the left participating in a rally against the proposed gross receipts tax (GRT) which was held on the east side of the Capitol Building. Hundreds of protesters participated in the rally to communicate the concerns of the business community as it relates to this regressive tax.

The ISVMA Lobby Day participants talked with their legislators about a number of issues including: 1) opposition to the GRT and professional service taxes; 2) the need for increased state support for the College of Veterinary Medicine; 3) the need for a comprehensive review and re-writing of the Animal Control Act; and 4) concerns about horse welfare.

All Lobby Day participants met in the afternoon to share their experiences and any feedback they received from the legislators they spoke to during the day. The overwhelming feeling was that the legislators greatly appreciated seeing their veterinarians and that the information we provide on issues of animal health and welfare, public health and business issues is both heard and greatly appreciated.

Lobby Day participation has increased slightly each year. We hope the growth will continue and that next year we can have enough veterinarians and students from across the state to ensure that every one of the 177 members of the Illinois General Assembly have at least one veterinarian from their district in the Capitol to speak to them!

Pictured on the right are some more Lobby Day participants (from L to R): Dr. Shelly Rubin (Chicago); Dr. Clyde Dunphy (Springfield); Dr. Lloyd Shaw (Woodstock); Dr. John Ehrhardt (McNabb); Dr. Patrick Fairbrother (Alpha); Dr. Roger Peterson (Galena); Dr. Matthew Bussan (Normal); Dr. John Ciribassi (Carol Stream); Dr. Craig Stevenson (Sandwich); Dr. Stephen Dullard (Mendota); and Dr. Allen Barclay (Bushnell).

We hope that you will join us next year for an even bigger and more successful Lobby Day. Your participation makes a huge difference!



## Horse Slaughter Bill Passes Illinois House

Late Wednesday afternoon, the Illinois House of Representatives passed House Bill 1711 on a vote of 74 to 41. The bill will now be sent to the Illinois Senate for consideration.

House Bill 1711 amends the Illinois Horse Meat Act and provides that it is unlawful for any person to slaughter a horse if that person knows or should know that any of the horse meat will be used for human consumption and that any person who knowingly does so shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. Provides that it is unlawful for any person to possess, to import into or export from the State, or to sell, buy, give away, hold, or accept any horse meat if that person knows or should know that any of the horse meat will be used for human consumption and that any person who knowingly does so shall be guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. Repeals a Section that excludes registered horse meat that is labeled as such in hermetically sealed containers and horse meat prepared in federally inspected plants from the provisions of the Act. Amends the Animals Intended for Food Act, the Illinois Equine Infectious Anemia Control Act, the Humane Care for Animals Act, and the Humane Slaughter of Livestock Act to make related changes.

## About the Photo in This Issue...

The Ruddy Ground Dove (*Columbina talpacoti*) is a small New World tropical dove. It is a resident breeder from Mexico south to Peru, Brazil and Paraguay, and on Trinidad and Tobago. Individual birds can sometimes be seen in southwestern USA, from southern Texas to southernmost California, primarily during the winter months. Recently, there is evidence of breeding activity for this species in Imperial County, California.

The Ruddy Ground-Dove appears to have extended its range in northwestern Mexico, as arid scrub is cleared to make way for agriculture, including ranch yards with shade trees. Whether because of this change in distribution or because of improved field birding coverage, the number of reported vagrancies in the U.S. has increased. Still, care should be taken when identifying this species.

This bird is most similar to the Common Ground-Dove which is, as its name implies, ubiquitous in the southern-most parts of the United States. One of my favorite website series is called "Dastardly Duos" because it helps people separate alike species. This series is provided by the Tucson Audubon Society. There is an article that helps separate these two similar dove species at <http://www.tucsonaudubon.org/birding/duos22.htm>.

I photographed this male Ruddy Ground-Dove in Calipatria, California in February 2007.

## 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.

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