

## Just One Week Left for Early Bird Registration!

The Deadline to take advantage of **Early Bird Registration** pricing for the 2006 ISVMA Annual Convention (November 3-5, 2006) in Itasca, IL is October 6, 2006![REGISTER ONLINE NOW!](#)

## ISVMA Membership Update

ISVMA has experienced tremendous membership growth in the past three years. As we close in on 2000 DVM members, I thought it might be interesting for you to see how we've gotten there.

Since December 1, 2003 we have added a total of 789 new veterinarian members. ISVMA total membership has increased 62% in the nearly three-year period. This is how the new members break out by region:

Region 1 (SIVMA)	87
Region 2 (CIVMA)	43
Region 3 (EIVMA)	88
Region 4 (MVVMA)	47
Region 5 (KVVMA)	52
Region 6 (NIVMA)	90
Region 7 (CVMA)	351
Out of State	31

The above is the good news. There is, however, still much work to be done. In other Midwestern states the state associations have as much as 90% or higher membership participation from eligible veterinarians. In Illinois, we have fought hard to get to a 65% membership ratio:

Region	DVM Members	Suspended	Prospects	Ratio
1	190	3	79	71%
2	127	2	25	84%
3	225	9	115	66%
4	172	8	40	81%
5	137	7	54	72%
6	253	14	115	69%
7	780	54	515	60%
State Total	1884	97	943	67%
Out of State	79	10		
Total DVM Members	1963			
Total Student Members	385			

We need your support to help ISVMA continue to better represent the veterinary profession in Illinois. Association strength comes from membership and 67% isn't a good measure of our strength. Illinois has a fine tradition of high quality veterinary medicine dating back to 1883 when a small group of 13 veterinarians met to share individual learning experiences with their colleagues and discredit the unprofessional practices that were so common in Illinois at the time. They did so by forming the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association (ISVMA).

Sixteen years later, the young association fought to pass the Veterinary Medicine & Surgery

Practice Act which authorized the licensure of professional veterinarians and prohibited the practice of veterinary medicine by non-professionals.

It is the legal aspect of veterinary medicine that makes your calling a profession. The difference between a profession and any other vocation is that a profession has its qualifications, functions, and responsibilities defined legally and its individual practitioners registered legally – which is why you are required to maintain a license to practice in Illinois.

The contributions of the early ISVMA leaders were the first and most basic contributions that the ISVMA has made to your career as a professional veterinarian. ISVMA continues to be counted on to counsel the legislature every time the Practice Act is reviewed and whenever public policy issues impact the profession. ISVMA also monitors and advocates for the profession on any legislation or regulation that advances the well-being of veterinarians, animals, the public and the environment.

## Ten Reasons You Should Encourage a Colleague to Join ISVMA

- 1. Influence laws and regulations.** You don't have time to follow everything going on in the Illinois legislature or regulatory agencies, but you can still keep attuned to the legislative and regulatory issues affecting your bottom line. Your association will continue monitoring these pertinent issues and let you know when to take action.
- 2. Lifelong learning opportunities.** No one can match the ISVMA's educational advantages. Through local workshops, seminars, conventions and conferences and vendor exhibitions; you have a special "pipeline" to new industry techniques and ideas.
- 3. Access to the experience of others.** Formal education and hands-on experience are invaluable for advancement. However, once you're in the real world, you need to constantly get a different perspective. Knowledge gathered through exchanges beyond your own work place can let you see things in a different light. Through peer exchange, you get a feel for where you stand in the industry and where you need to go.
- 4. Increased clout.** Associations are a great place to build a name for yourself. Although you may not feel you're moving ahead, getting and remaining involved in industry and professional activities will bring you to another level.
- 5. Frequent updates on industry changes.** As change occurs at a faster pace, keeping track of the latest information will become increasingly difficult. However, through publications like the electronic E-SOURCE Newsletter and the printed Epitome, educational sessions, and the ISVMA web site, you'll hear about the newest innovations and never question whether you're behind the times. With this information, you can do your job in a timelier and more economical manner.
- 6. Quality services.** The ISMVA is equipped to handle your questions and calls for specialized help and professional information. No matter the challenge, count on your association to respond quickly and aptly. It can even tap its members for extra, expert advice.
- 7. Volunteering builds credibility.** When you belong to an association, your peers realize you're serious about your future. Association membership provides what you need to advance, and others will take note. As an association volunteer, you show your dedication through action and can venture into areas of expertise.
- 8. Find mentors – or become a mentor.** As an association member, you can seek out multiple mentors who are more than willing to offer advice and tricks of the trade. If you have experience and expertise to share, you might find becoming a mentor one of your most rewarding professional experiences.
- 9. Connection to the profession.** When you're faced with challenges unique to your industry, it's smart to talk and network with colleagues who have lived your experience. Associations hold the

collective wisdom of members of all sizes and financial resources.

**10. Membership is an investment in your future.** Day to day work experience advances opportunity individually. Your association advances your profession.

Veterinary leaders in Illinois believe that they can be more effective leaders in the profession because of the ISVMA. For that reason, nearly 2000 Illinois veterinarians and 385 veterinary students are members of the Association. They are alert to changes to their profession, informed on the progress of veterinary medical trends, and they have power that comes from their unity. These veterinarians know what's going on in their profession, and they take advantage of it.

### **Call for Papers - 14th Annual Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians Conference (April 14-18, 2007 at the InterContinental Hotel in New Orleans, LA)**

Chair: Eric Klaphake, DVM, DABVP (Avian) [dreklaphake@att.net](mailto:dreklaphake@att.net)

Accepted abstracts for oral and poster presentations will be published in the Program and Abstracts Proceedings. Please read the instructions carefully before preparing your abstract. Abstracts should not exceed 300 words; extended abstracts for review topics should not exceed 1500 words or five printed pages. Abstracts not conforming to the guidelines or fitting into the designated space will be returned to the author. No more than three submissions per communicating author will be considered for presentation.

We are also honored that you are interested in submitting a presentation for our conference. This website provides the submission guidelines and a template for you to download and adjust accordingly for your submission.

#### **SUBMISSION DEADLINE:**

OCTOBER 15, 2006, for all presentations and posters, EXCEPT:  
NOVEMBER 15, 2006--Student Poster Competition (veterinary students, interns, residents, & graduate students) Please contact Todd Gray ([DrToddGray@aol.com](mailto:DrToddGray@aol.com)) or Katie Heinz-Taheny ([heinztah@uiuc.edu](mailto:heinztah@uiuc.edu)) before submitting.

Topics for the 2007 conference include:

1. Virology, Bacteriology, Mycology, Parasitology, Pathology
2. Amphibians
3. Husbandry & Case Reports
4. Diagnostics, Surgery, & Anesthesia
5. ABVP—Reptile Preparatory Course—Advanced Reptile Medicine & Surgery
6. Invertebrate Husbandry and Medicine

Do not worry about determining which session to submit to, the session chair will place each topic in the appropriate session. After the submission deadline, the session chairs will review all of the submissions and proceed through the difficult process of selecting for the conference.

The session chair will contact you with any necessary formatting modifications for the abstract and informing you whether presenting as a speaker or as a poster. You will receive this information by November 15th, 2006. You will have until December 1st, 2006, to respond to those changes.

Information for a brief biography used for your introduction at the conference and presentation requirements will be gathered in the future.

For further information, visit our website at [www.arav.org](http://www.arav.org) or contact the 2007 ARAV Conference Chair, Eric Klaphake, at [dreklaphake@att.net](mailto:dreklaphake@att.net). Please disclose any conflicts of interest, funding sources, or corporate support.

For information please click and go to:<http://arav.omnicms.com/arav/2006/callforpapers.cgi>

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

With its striking black and white plumage, deeply forked tail, and extraordinary aerial grace, the Swallow-tailed Kite (*Elanoides forficatus*) is rarely misidentified as it courses low over the treetops in search of small vertebrates or twists and dives in pursuit of flying insects. Even at great distances, soaring Swallow-tailed Kites can be distinguished from Buteo hawks and vultures by their silhouette, slightly downcurved wings, and tendency to hang motionless while heading upwind. They rarely flap their wings but almost continuously rotate their tail, often to nearly 90 degrees, in order to hold a heading, turn abruptly, or trace tight circles while drifting across the sky.

The sexes are indistinguishable by plumage or size. The northern subspecies, *Elanoides forficatus forficatus*, breeds in the southeastern United States and winters in South America. The southern subspecies, *E. f. yetapa*, breeds from southern Mexico to south-central South America and is migratory at least in the northern portion of its range.

Gregarious in all seasons, this kite is a conspicuous inhabitant of wetlands in the southeastern United States, where it ranges over swamp and lowland forests as well as freshwater and brackish marshes. Several pairs, each apparently monogamous and producing a single clutch per season, may nest in close proximity. Extra, nonbreeding kites usually associate with nesting birds, whether solitary or in loose colonies. Although flying insects are the mainstay for this species during most of the year, nesting birds feed their young a diverse array of small vertebrates, including tree frogs, lizards, nestling birds, and snakes, which they glean from the tree canopy or emergent vegetation of marshes and ponds while in flight. Communal night roosts near nests are common, and premigration roosts may draw hundreds of kites from large areas.

The relative ease with which this kite can be observed in areas where it regularly nests and roosts belies the small size of its present U.S. population. The breeding range of this population (i.e., the northern subspecies, *E. f. forficatus*), which once covered parts of at least 16 (and perhaps as many as 21) states from Minnesota to Florida, presently includes portions of just seven southeastern states. Breeding habitat on publicly owned lands almost certainly is insufficient to ensure persistence of the population, but the lack of demographic data limits our ability to predict trends. Almost nothing is known of the biology, status, or conservation needs of the southern subspecies, *E. f. yetapa*, or of the migration routes and wintering destinations of *E. f. forficatus*.

I photographed this Swallow-tailed Kite at Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary in Naples, Florida on March 7, 2004.

### 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).