

ISVMA Responds to Offensive and Misleading Email

Some ISVMA members were among many that recently received an email from Mr. Jordan Matyas regarding ISVMA opposition to House Bill 4844. Mr. Matyas is both misleading and inaccurate in his communication to members of the Illinois General Assembly, veterinarians, animal welfare organizations and other animal advocates regarding the legislation and ISVMA's position.

In an effort to stir the emotions of animal lovers he directs his readers to a video showing the repulsive and cruel killing of a number of dogs in Yadkin County, North Carolina. He states that the video, "...documents how gas chambers work." In fact, the video shows a practice that is already illegal in Illinois. It is patently offensive that Mr. Matyas implies that the ISVMA, AVMA or any other group which advocates for the humane care and treatment of companion animals would condone this disgusting display of animal abuse.

What Mr. Matyas's email clearly demonstrates is the extreme lengths that some people are willing to go to in order to advance their agendas. Distortion, misrepresentation, inaccuracy and outright lies are all part of their strategy.

If you would like to see a copy of the email sent by Mr. Matyas (including the video link), we have made it available in the Member Center at:

http://www.isvma.org/isvma_library/member_correspondence/matyas_distortion.html.

ISVMA has contacted legal counsel for advice on the legal remedies available as a result of Mr. Matyas's communications.

Lobby Day is April 9, 2008 - Plan to Attend!

The above article should make it obvious why your participation in our grassroots advocacy efforts are critical! We need your assistance in order to counter the misleading, emotional and intentionally inaccurate characterizations put forward by individuals and organizations determined to undermine the rich heritage and important contributions of the veterinary profession.

ISVMA will hold its Fourth Annual Lobby Day on April 9, 2008 in Springfield, IL. All veterinary professionals are invited to attend!

The Lobby Day will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a briefing session from the ISVMA lobbyists at the Hoogland Center for the Arts, 420 South Sixth Street in Springfield. We will provide instructions and support if you have never lobbied before; and all participants will receive position papers on key issues to share with your legislators. If you don't know who your legislators are, we can help you find out!

The ISVMA Lobby Day is fun, exciting and rewarding. It will be an experience you'll never forget.

If you plan to attend, please let us know by sending an email to info@isvma.org.

ISVMA Spring Seminar Series - Register Now!

You should have received (or will receive soon) a mailing from ISVMA with information and a registration form for the 2008 ISVMA Spring Seminar Series. Please give serious consideration to participating in this program. With support from IDEXX Laboratories, we have hired two outstanding speakers to provide updated and critical information on the following topics:

- Feline Heartworm Disease - New Advances You Have to Know.
- Challenges in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Canine Hyperadrenocorticism.
- Addison's Disease in Dogs - Update on hypoadrenocorticism including current issues regarding available diagnostic tests and their interpretation.

- Endocrinology Update for Practitioners

The 2008 ISVMA Spring Seminar Series will be offered in the following locations:

April 19 in [Springfield, IL](#)
April 20 in [Fairview Heights, IL](#)
April 26 in [Chicago, IL](#)
April 27 in [Lisle, IL](#)

Please visit the ISVMA website for program [information](#) and [registration](#).

*The 2008 ISVMA Spring Seminar Series is generously sponsored by:



ISVMA Has Moved!

The ISVMA officially moved into its new headquarters on Friday, February 29 and opened the new office on March 3, 2008.

Please remember to update your records with our new contact information:

Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association
1121 Chatham Road
Springfield, IL 62704

(217) 546-8381 (phone)

(217) 546-5633 (fax)

About the Photo

The [Ruddy Duck](#) (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) is distinctive in all plumages. It is fairly easy to identify; being one of the very few ducks with a stiff, upward-pointing tail. It's compact shape resembles a little rubber ducky.

This is a small, chunky duck with a long, fan-shaped tail that is often held straight up. Males in breeding plumage have a chestnut body, black crown, and white cheeks. Females and winter males are dusky brown, with whitish cheeks; the female's cheeks are crossed by a dark stripe. The male has a bright, sky blue bill in breeding season; it is black at other times.

The Ruddy Duck is one of the most aquatic members of the family and like a grebe can sink slowly out of sight. Although it can avoid danger by diving or by hiding in marsh vegetation, it is a strong flier and undertakes long migrations to and from its nesting places. The Ruddy Duck is largely vegetarian. It favors pondweed and the seeds of other aquatic plants, but will also consume large numbers of midge larvae during the breeding season.

The breeding activity of the nominate subspecies of Ruddy Duck is centered in the prairie region of North America as well as the Intermountain West. Small numbers also breed in the interior highlands of Mexico, freshwater marshes of Baja California, the southern Rocky Mountains, and the southern Great Plains. It formerly bred more or less regularly in the state, but has not been confirmed as breeding in the past 50 years. Most females do not breed until two years of age. Ruddy duck females lay an average of 8 eggs and construct nests in cattail and bulrush over water.

More than half of the Ruddy Duck population in North America winters in the Pacific coastal states and the western coast of Mexico. Roughly 25% winter on the eastern coast and 20 percent in the interior of the continent. Ruddy ducks are thought to travel at night.

I photographed this male Ruddy Duck near Casa Grande, Arizona in January. Notice that its bill is starting to turn from black to blue indicating a transition from alternate to breeding plumage.

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.