

ISVMA Lobby Day Report

The Fourth Annual ISVMA Lobby Day was a tremendous success! The feedback received from participants and legislators has been outstanding. Seven veterinary students joined the veterinarian lobby force and they were able to speak directly with 53 state legislators. Everyone reported enjoying the day and were impressed with the time and focus the legislators gave to them and our issues.

Legislative Update - Your ACTION is Needed

House Bill 4843 (Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program Act) - **PLEASE TAKE ACTION**

HB4843 creates the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program Act and establishes the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program to be administered through the University of Illinois. It requires a loan recipient under the Program to enter into a program agreement under which he or she agrees to practice in (i) veterinary practice that is at least 51% devoted to large animal medicine that enhances agricultural animal health and productivity or (ii) regulatory veterinary medicine that supports public health and safety, livestock biosecurity, or food animal disease diagnosis for at least one year for each year in which he or she received a loan.

The chief sponsor of HB4843 in the House of Representatives was Representative David Reis (R-Olney) and it is an initiative of the ISVMA. It passed the House unanimously the day before the ISVMA Lobby Day. It will now be considered by the Illinois Senate where the chief sponsor is Senator Michael Frerichs (D-Champaign). If the bill passes the Senate it will be sent to the Governor for final approval.

If you have not already contacted your state senator about HB4843, please do so immediately! Go to <http://capwiz.com/isvma/home/> and in the "Take Action" table, click on the link to "Please Support House Bill 4843."

House Bill 4844 (Animal Euthanasia)

This bill is sponsored in the House of Representatives by Representative John Fritchey (D-Chicago) and is an initiative of the ASPCA and the Chicago English Bulldog Rescue Organization. After weeks of negotiations, the ISVMA agreed to amendatory language on the bill and has removed our opposition.

House Bill 4391 (Internet Pharmacies) - **PLEASE TAKE ACTION**

This bill was introduced in the House of Representatives by Representative Karen May (D-Highwood) and provides that licensed prescribers may not knowingly prescribe medications for a patient via the Internet, World Wide Web, telephone, facsimile, or any other electronic means unless (1) the patient has been physically examined by the prescriber or has been given a documented patient evaluation, including health history and a physical examination, to establish the diagnosis for which any legend drug is prescribed; (2) the prescriber and the patient have discussed treatment options and the risks and benefits of treatment; and (3) the prescriber has maintained the patient's medical records. Further the bill clarifies that these provisions shall not be construed to prohibit patient care in certain circumstances or to prevent the electronic distribution of a prescription to a pharmacy.

This bill was amended at the request of the ISVMA to include veterinary prescriptions (it already included Medical Doctors, Podiatrists, Optometrists, Dentists, Physician Assistants, Nurses and Advanced Practice Nurses).

The bill is part of an effort to crack down on Internet pharmacies that fill prescriptions for people and animals without an order from a medical professional that is responsible for the care of the patient.

HB4391 passed the House and in the Illinois State Senate for consideration. The chief Senate sponsor is Senator Michael Frerichs (D-Champaign). If you have not contacted you state senator about HB4391, please go to <http://capwiz.com/isvma/home/> and in the "Take Action" table, click on the link to "Please Support House Bill 4391."

House Bill 5076 (Good Samaritan Immunity)

This bill provides that any person, including a veterinarian, who in good faith provides emergency care or treatment without fee to an injured animal or an animal separated from its owner due to an emergency or a disaster is not liable for civil damages as a result of his or her acts or omissions in providing or arranging further care or treatment, except for willful or wanton misconduct. This is one of the post-Katrina bills that have swept the country. This bill passed the House of Representatives unanimously and will now be considered in the Illinois Senate.

ISVMA Spring Seminar Series - Late Fees Waived

The late fees for the 2008 ISVMA Spring Seminar Series have been waived. However, in order to set up the meeting rooms and order the right amount of food and drinks, please register as soon as possible. Late registrants and walk-ins may not be able to eat if their registration was not received prior to the food order.

This year's program includes 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 web site for program [information](#) and [registration](#).

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



About the Photo

The [Hooded Warbler](#) (*Wilsonia citrina*) is a small, but striking bird of eastern hardwood forests. It breeds in eastern North America and across the eastern USA and into southernmost Canada, (Ontario). It is migratory, wintering in Central America and the West Indies. Hooded Warblers are very rare vagrants to western Europe.

This species is sexually dimorphic in plumage color throughout the year. Adult males are olive green above, bright yellow below, with a black hood and throat. The forehead and cheeks are bright yellow. Females are also olive green above and bright yellow below, with varying degrees of black around the crown or throat. Some older females may look a lot like males, but their hood is never as complete or extensive.

The Hooded Warbler seems to prefer shaded habitats, and closely associates with understory components of southeastern forests. Perhaps related to this less well-lit habitat type is the size of this warbler's eyes. They are among the largest among warblers breeding in the United States, and stand out boldly on its yellow face. Part of its scientific name, *citrina*, refers to its dazzling yellow color. The adult males have a distinctive black hood and maintain their plumage coloration year-round. Of interest is the fact that on the wintering grounds these birds maintain distinct feeding territories. Individuals segregate by sex during winter, with males usually found in mature forest and females in scrubby habitats. Males have individually distinct songs and have been shown to differentiate between specific rival's songs from year to year. The Hooded Warbler is declining in only a few parts of its breeding range, and in the east is increasing according to Breeding Bird Survey data.

These birds feed on insects, which are often found in low vegetation or caught by flycatching. Hooded Warblers' breeding habitats are broadleaved woodlands with dense undergrowth. These birds nest in low areas of a bush, laying 3-5 eggs in a cup-shaped nest. Hooded Warblers are often the victims of brood parasitism by the Brown-headed Cowbird, especially where the Hooded Warblers' forest habitats are fragmented.

I photographed this male Hooded Warbler in a dense forest located in southern Arkansas during the summer of 2007.

Contact Us

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