

Veterinary Technician Membership

Members approved an amendment to the ISVMA Constitution at the November 7, 2008 ISVMA Annual Meeting in Lombard, IL. A [copy of the ISVMA Constitution](#) and a [summary of the changes approved](#) at the 126th ISVMA Annual Meeting are available for download from the ISVMA website.

The most noteworthy change to the ISVMA Constitution is the establishment of a membership category for Veterinary Technicians. A veterinary technician who is either a graduate of an AVMA accredited technology program, or who is licensed as a CVT in the State of Illinois and subscribes to the objectives of the Association qualifies for Veterinary Technician membership. Veterinary Technician members will have the same rights and obligations as Veterinarian Members, except that no Veterinary Technician member may serve as an officer of the Association or vote at Meetings of Members as provided for in the ISVMA Constitution.

ISVMA staff has been working on the administrative procedures necessary to process veterinary technician memberships. Veterinary Technician membership applications will be accepted beginning December 1, 2008 for those that use the [online membership application form](#).

ISVMA dues are currently pro-rated at 50% because the membership year is nearly 50% complete. Any new memberships will extend through June 30, 2009.

Veterinary Technician Member Benefits

The ISVMA Veterinary Professions Task Force presented a report to the ISVMA Board of Directors that included a recommendation to establish a membership category for veterinary technicians. In the report, the Task Force outlined some of the key benefits of membership for veterinary technicians, including:

1. Membership prices for ISVMA events (*non-member veterinary technicians will pay higher registration fees*).
2. Affiliation with an association that can represent them politically at the state level (*veterinary technician members will be part of our grassroots advocacy network and will receive legislative alerts and be asked to participate in our advocacy activities*).
3. Access to services and programs from a stable association with a full-time staff and offices.
4. Recognition as professional colleagues in the professional veterinary community.
5. A personal copy of the Epitome newsletter (in .pdf format) and the E-SOURCE email newsletter so that they may become increasingly aware and involved in issues affecting the profession.

New CE Requirements

The rules promulgated for the administration of the Illinois Veterinary Medicine & Surgery Practice Act of 2004 were amended in December 2007. A copy of these rules is available on the ISVMA website at http://www.isvma.org/legislation/pa_rules_2004.doc.

The new rules increased the number of hours of continuing education (CE) required to renew a veterinary license to 40 hours during each two-year renewal cycle and the limitation on self-study courses was removed. The number of CE hours required for renewal of a veterinary technician license was also increased to 15 hours during each two-year renewal cycle.

The current license period ends on January 31, 2009. *The new CE requirements will not be enforced until the beginning of the next two-year renewal cycle ending on January 31, 2011.*

Please note that Illinois law requires each licensee of the Division of Professional Regulation to keep the agency notified of his/her current address. If you need to update your address, you can do so at <https://www.idfpr.com/applications/licensereprint/>.

Help Update Our Grassroots Network!

The recent elections resulted in a number of new faces in the Illinois General Assembly and some of the familiar faces are taking on new roles. The Illinois State Senate will have two new leaders: Senator John Cullerton (D-Chicago) will be the new Senate President and Senator Christine Radogno (R-Lemont) will be the new Senate Minority Leader.

ISVMA needs to know if you have a relationship with an elected official in the Illinois General Assembly, an Illinois Constitutional officer, member of the Illinois Congressional Delegation or a key staff person. Examples of relationships include:

- Client (*next to family, this is as good as it gets*)
- Attend same church
- Belong to same organizations (*i.e. Rotary, Lion's Club, Shriners, etc.*)
- Children attend school together
- Classmate, friend, neighbor
- Served together on a committee, board, or project team

Please let us know if you have a relationship that can help us organize effective contacts with legislators and elevate our ability to influence laws, rules and regulations affecting the veterinary profession. We have an [Legislative Relationship Form](#) that we would like for you to fill out (*it will take about 30 seconds*). Even if you have filled out this form before, we ask that you complete it again so that we know our records are updated.

The information you supply will be used solely by the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association; your personal information will not be shared with anyone else.

Update on Dr. Ervin Small

Dr. Todd and Gina Lykins are managing the care of Dr. Ervin Small, who is residing at Carle Arbors in Savoy, IL. Dr. Small's overall health remains good, but he is no longer accepting telephone calls. He does receive occasional visitors, but unscheduled visits can become overwhelming. Dr. Lykins asks, therefore, that people wishing to see Dr. Small call him at (217) 355-5051 so that the visits can be appropriately scheduled.

In an effort to help keep Dr. Small oriented, the Lykins are requesting pictures from his many friends to share with him. If you wish to contribute a photograph (*photos will not be returned*), please put your name on the picture and send it to:

Dr. Todd Lykins
1815A West Kirby Avenue
Champaign, IL 61821

Veterinary Students Put Decision-Making Skills to the Test

(Schaumburg, Ill.) — The eighth annual Animal Welfare Judging and Assessment Competition hosted at Michigan State University (MSU) on November 1-2 showcased a group of aspiring animal welfare experts. For the second time, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) sponsored a division of that competition for veterinary students. Students may participate in team and/or individual events, as well as educational seminars and a poster session.

Dr. Gail Golab, Director of the AVMA Animal Welfare Division, praised the contest for helping students recognize and develop the analytical skills and understanding of ethics necessary for

success in the field of animal welfare.

"Making good animal welfare decisions is challenging because many factors—both animal and human—come into play," explains Dr. Golab. "To be successful in the competition, veterinary students must familiarize themselves with various physiological and behavioral indicators of animal welfare and critically evaluate how well a given situation suits the animal. They have to look holistically at facilities, care practices, and management, and also consider the role that social ethics play in determining what is good and poor welfare. The scenarios presented during the contest are realistic and help prepare veterinary students for the challenges they will face when they are asked to provide similar recommendations after graduation."

This year's on-farm team assessment considered the welfare of layer chickens, turkeys and Coturnix quail. Students participating as individuals evaluated the welfare of Przewalski horses (Takhi), domestic cats, and dairy cattle from information provided via PowerPoint presentations.

For more information, please visit www.avma.org.

VDL "Brown Bag" Lunch Presentation

The Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory has scheduled a "Brown Bag" lunch presentation on December 10, 2008 at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in Room 1220 of the Basic Science Building (2001 South Lincoln in Urbana).

Dr. Anne Barger will be presenting "The 12 Days of Cytology: Case-Based Approach to Cytology." All practicing veterinarians are welcome and will receive 1 hour of CE credit for participation. The program starts at 12:30 p.m. Lunch is available for \$5 upon advance request. Contact Amanda Matson by phone (217) 333-7259, or e-mail amatson@illinois.edu.

About the Photo

In North America, we contend unendingly with invasive bird species like the European Starling, Mute Swan, and House Sparrow. In Australia, they are grappling with the threat of the [Common Myna](#) (*Acridotheres tristis*). The species ranges naturally from Afghanistan to Indochina, but has been introduced into tropical and subtropical oceanic habitats around the world. In North America, the species is well-established in South Florida. Non-native species can destabilize even robust ecosystems and, where it has established itself, the Common Myna is causing major problems.

Undeniably, the Common Myna is a good looking bird. Chocolate brown with a black head, the myna makes a bold statement with its brilliant yellow beak, eye patch, and legs. It also walks rather than hops, just like its rapacious relative the Common Starling.

Beautiful and belligerent, the Common Myna is also one of the world's most successful bird species. They are super-competitors, one of only three birds on the list of [One Hundred of the World's Worst Invasive Alien Species](#). They damage fruit and grain crops, their noise and smell can be annoying where they are in large numbers, they spread mites and disease to people and domestic animals, and they sometimes snatch food off people's plates in outdoor eating areas. There are even a few rare records of mynas attacking people.

The myna's worst offense is its own success, as it thrives at the expense of native species. Common Mynas reduce biodiversity by fighting for hollows with native birds, destroying their eggs and chicks and stopping them from breeding. They also evict small mammals. When a single myna is too weak to dislodge a competitor, a group of them will form a mob. Behavior like that doesn't exactly endear a foreign species to its hosts.

The impact of non-native species is very complex and difficult to assess. However, they have a very real impact on biological diversity.

I photographed this Common Myna in Homestead, Florida in November 2008.

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.