

Memberships to be Suspended

On July 31, 2008 all members that have not paid their 2008-2009 membership dues will have their membership privileges suspended, in accordance with the ISVMA Constitution, Article IV, Section 3:

Any member whose dues are 30 days past due shall be suspended and all privileges of membership discontinued. Members suspended for nonpayment of dues may be reinstated at any time upon payment of the current year's dues.

We have particular difficulty chasing down renewals for recent graduates because they tend to be more mobile than their longer tenured peers. If you have recently hired a new veterinarian in your practice, please verify that their dues have been paid. If you need to confirm, please call ISVMA at (217) 546-8381.

If you have a doctor that wishes to renew or apply for membership, they may use the simple application/renewal form at http://isvmaimpak.networkats.com/members_online/members/newmember.asp.

ISVMA Members Elected to AVMA Councils

Dr. Kevin Lewis (Council on Research) and Dr. Natalie Marks (Council on Communications) were elected by the AVMA House of Delegates at the recently concluded AVMA Annual Convention in New Orleans, LA.

Both Dr. Lewis (ILL 2006) and Dr. Marks (ILL 2002) are past recipients of ISVMA scholarships that paid their registration to attend the AVMA Leadership Conference held each year in January. The ISVMA, its regional associations, and the AVMA have invested in the development of the future leaders in organized veterinary medicine and wish to thank both the young veterinarians who seek to get involved and their practice owners who support their commitment to the profession.

ISVMA Testifies Before Chicago Aldermen on Mandatory Spay/Neuter

Yesterday, Chicago Alderman Ed Burke (14th) put off a vote on a proposal to require dogs and cats to be spayed or neutered by the time they're six months old until more than 80 people on both sides of the issue can be heard. Some aldermen questioned whether the proposed ordinance was even enforceable. The doubts emerged during more than three hours of debate at which longtime animal-welfare advocate Bob Barker and several experts testified for and against the proposal.

Backed by PAWS Chicago and the Humane Society of the United States, the ordinance was opposed by the Chicago and Illinois Veterinary Medical Associations, whose representatives argued that the decision on whether to spay or neuter was best left up to animal owners and their veterinarians. Dr. Stephen Dullard, Chairman of the ISVMA Legislative Committee, also testified that such laws can reduce rabies vaccination compliance.

"Mandatory spay/neuter laws have had a mixed result in reducing the number of unwanted pets, placed an undue and unenforceable burden on police and animal control officials, reduced vaccination compliance for rabies and unintentionally restricted access to health care for pets," said Dr. Dullard. "The idea that mandatory spay/neuter will change a gangbanger's behavior or that dog bite injuries will vanish is absurd," he added, referring to the popularity of dog fighting among gang members.

The proposal will be discussed again at a future hearing and, if passed by the joint committee hearing the testimony, may be voted upon by the full Chicago City Council.

If you wish to read the ISVMA Position Statement on Mandatory Spay/Neuter, you may [download a copy](#) from the ISVMA website.

About the Photo

The [Gambel's Quail](#) (*Callipepla gambelii*) is a common bird of the Sonoran desert regions of Arizona, California, Colorado, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Texas, and Sonora; also New Mexico-border Chihuahua and the Colorado River region of Baja California. This small ground-dwelling bird is named in honor of William Gambel, a 19th century naturalist and explorer of the Southwestern United States.

Gambel's Quail are easily recognized by their forward-curling top knots and scaly plumage on their undersides. Gambel's quail have gray plumage on much of their bodies, and males have copper feathers on the top of their heads, black faces, and white stripes above their eyes. Gambel's quail can be commonly confused with California Quail due to similar plumage. They can usually be distinguished by range, but when this does not suffice, California quail have a more scaly appearance and the black patch on the lower breast of the male Gambel's Quail is absent in the California Quail.

Gambel's Quail primarily move about by walking, and can move surprisingly fast through brush and undergrowth. They are a non-migratory species and are rarely seen in flight. Any flight is usually short and explosive, with many rapid wing beats followed by a slow glide to the ground. These birds have relatively short, rounded wings and long, featherless legs.

In the late summer, fall and winter, the adults and immature young congregate into coveys of many birds. In the spring, Gambel's quail pair off for mating and become very aggressive toward other pairs. The chicks are decidedly more insectivorous than adults, gradually consuming more plant matter as they mature. Gambel's quail are monogamous, and rarely breed in colonies. Although the Gambel's Quail is adapted to living in a dry, desert environment, it reproduces best in years with adequate rainfall.

I photographed this male Gambel's Quail while he was calling at dawn near Ramsey Canyon, Arizona in May 2008.

Contact Us

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