

## **ISVMA Spring Seminar Series - Expanded Program Offerings for Practice Owners/Managers and Veterinary Technicians/Assistants**

ISVMA is excited to announce the 2009 Spring Seminar Series! This is the first license renewal cycle in which veterinarians must obtain 40 hours of CE and veterinary technicians must obtain 15 hours. Therefore, we have expanded our program and we are offering concurrent sessions for veterinary practice owners/managers and veterinary technicians/assistants.

Full program information (including course descriptions, speaker bios, directions and schedule) is available on the [ISVMA website](#).

[Registration is open](#) and limited for each venue. Please register early!

The practice owner/manager program is called, "Hard Times Management: Improving Your Hospital in a Recessionary Time." The presenters include Christine A. Merle, DVM, CPA, CVPM; Judy Jennings, MBA; and a representative from a top accounting firm.

The veterinary technician/assistant program will be presented by Mr. Angel Rivera CVT, VTS (ECC). He will speak on a number of topics including: Veterinary Nursing: Ethics and Professionalism; 20 essential tools of monitoring, diagnostics and assessments to use in the critically ill ICU patient; Basic Patient Parameter Assessment (Triage); and How to become an indispensable part of a winning team and increase practice profitability through the appropriate use of staff.

The 2009 ISVMA Spring Seminars will be offered at three locations:

- March 14 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Springfield, IL
- March 21 at the Stonegate in Hoffman Estates, IL *\*no technician program at this location*
- March 22 at the Holiday Inn in Willowbrook, IL

## **APHIS Confirms CEM Exposure or Infection in 130 Horses**

*Brownfield Ag News for American by Julie Harker (Courtesy AVMA)*

The USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has identified 130 horses in 30 states that have tested positive for or have been exposed to Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM).

The infection was discovered in mid-December when a quarter-horse stallion in Kentucky tested positive for CEM during a routine test for international semen shipment. Since then, three more Kentucky stallions and three in Indiana that had spent time on the Kentucky farm have tested positive. A total of 32 horses in Kentucky are either CEM positive or have been exposed. CEM is a contagious disease transmitted during breeding that can cause temporary infertility in mares. Infected stallions can carry the bacteria and show no clinical signs of it.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service says 92 horses outside of Kentucky have been exposed to Contagious Equine Metritis, or CEM. And three stallions outside of that state have tested positive for the disease. The 95 horses, in quarantine or on hold order, are in 28 different states. APHIS says at least 250 more horses are actively being traced in 27 states.

Iowa is one of the states testing horses that might have been exposed to CEM. The Iowa Department of Agriculture says NO Iowa horses have tested positive for the disease. Iowa has received notification that a few mares that were artificially inseminated with semen last year from stallions have tested positive for CEM. CEM does not affect humans and infected horses can be treated with antibiotics.

## **NCSL Issues Horse Welfare Resolution**

*Courtesy AVMA*

At their annual Fall Forum in Atlanta, Georgia on Dec. 11-13, 2008, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) approved a resolution urging the U.S. Congress to oppose legislation that would restrict marketing, transport, processing, or export of horses, to recognize the need for humane horse processing facilities in the United States, and not to interfere with state efforts to establish facilities.

NCSL is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories, and also lobbies Congress on behalf of state legislatures.

The resolution was co-sponsored by State Rep. Sue Wallis of Wyoming and State Rep. Dave Sigdestad of South Dakota. Rep. Wallis is a Vice Chair of the Agriculture and Energy Standing Committee at NCSL. "I am especially pleased," said Wallis, "that the strong support of this resolution will allow our NCSL staff the ability to lobby on Capitol Hill with factual, accurate, and compassionate information about the horrific unintended consequences of certain proposed federal actions that would deprive livestock owners of private property rights and thwart state efforts."

**New Lincoln Park Zoo Initiative to Focus on Animal-Human Relationship**

January 14, 2009 - Chi\*Town Daily News by Jennifer Slosar / Environment Reporter  
*Courtesy AVMA*

The Lincoln Park Zoo is launching a program that will study how Chicagoans and wildlife can share the urban landscape harmoniously.

The zoo's new Urban Wildlife Institute will explore ways to manage conflicts arising from human interaction with animals, including the spread of disease, says zoo spokeswoman Sharon Dewar. It will draw on animal epidemiology as well studies of animals' habitats and movement patterns within the city and its suburbs.

As illustrated by last spring's fatal conflict between a cougar and Chicago police, close encounters with coyotes, deer and even big cats are raising hairy issues of cohabitation for Chicagoans and other urban dwellers.

"As development expands, interactions between people and animals are increasing," as are cases of diseases transmitted between humans and other species, says Eric Lonsdorf, director of the institute.

Lonsdorf says the institute will use science to develop new ways of negotiating these interactions that go beyond "the extreme solutions of relocation or extermination."

Humans are increasingly exposed to an array of animal-borne illnesses, including Lyme disease, rabies, West Nile virus, and bird flu.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 75 percent of recently emerging infectious diseases originate from animals.

The institute will coordinate its efforts with the city's health department, the park district, and surrounding forest preserves, says Lonsdorf.

The zoo launched two pilot projects this summer, including an analysis of avian predators in backyards and a study of raccoon roundworm, a parasite that can be fatal to children.

The roundworm study, a collaboration with Wheaton College, is aimed at finding ways to manage raccoons to limit risks to humans.

The institute plans to use its research to inform public education programs that the zoo will be

rolling out this summer. These include a citizen science initiative.

One idea is to assemble kits -- including motion-triggered cameras that can be used at night -- that will enable people to do observational work in their own backyards.

The institute can then process digital photos from the public with its geographic information systems to catalogue the location and habits of area wildlife, says Lonsdorf.

The zoo is already successfully using such research to monitor "depollination," the recent decline of bee colonies, says Lonsdorf.

Dewar says the institute will make Chicago a laboratory for other cities dealing issues of disease, animal rehabilitation and relocation. The project will also help establish a national surveillance network for diseases transmitted between animals and humans.

The project is funded with a \$1.5 million grant from the Davee Foundation.

*Jennifer Slosar is a Chicago-based freelance journalist. She covers environmental issues for the Daily News*

### **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.

### About the Photo

On January 7, 2009, there was a picture of a strange Northern Cardinal on the front page of the [Quad-City Times newspaper](#). The associated story told of a rare "gynandromorph," a creature with half-male, half-female characteristics.

This isn't the only time that such a strange Northern Cardinal has been found in Illinois. H. David Bohlen, Assistant Curator Zoology at the Illinois State Museum [wrote about other sightings](#) in 2006.

### Contact Us

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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.

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