

## Register Now for the ISVMA Spring Seminar Series

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

***The ISVMA wishes to thank the sponsors of the 2009 ISVMA Spring Seminar Series:***



## Numerous Animal Bills Introduced in Legislature During First Days of Session

The ISVMA Legislative Committee is beginning to analyze and recommend positions on a number of bills that have been introduced in the first days of the legislative session. A bill has to be read into the record before it is assigned a bill number. Many more bills will be filed and read into the record in the next few weeks. ISVMA maintains a [list of the bills](#) that we are tracking, analyzing or on which we have taken a position in the [Legislative Action Center](#).

You can click on every bill listed in the Legislative Action Center to get a synopsis of the bill or read the entire bill text. The ISVMA position (if it has been determined) is also listed. If you have a position on any bill that you wish to communicate to your legislators, it can easily be done by following the "TAKE ACTION NOW" instructions.

The list of bills and issues on which we are currently working includes:

- [Senate Bill 0053](#) (OPPOSE) - Creates the Dog Breeder License Act. Provides for the licensure of dog breeders with the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation beginning 6 months after the effective date of the Act. Sets forth powers and duties of the Department, licensure requirements, grounds for discipline, civil and criminal penalties for violation of the Act, and administrative procedure. Includes provisions concerning exemption from the Act. Provides that the Act does not limit the power of a unit of local government from regulating or licensing the practice of dog breeding in a stricter manner. Amends the Animal Welfare Act. Provides that pet shop operators must publicly disclose certain information regarding dogs for sale. Amends the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act to provide that a licensee who intentionally makes false or misleading statements in connection with the disclosures required by the Dog Breeder License Act and the Animal Welfare Act are violations of the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act. Amends the Regulatory Sunset Act to set a repeal date of January 1, 2020 for the new Act. Effective immediately.
- [Senate Bill 0090](#) (MONITORING) - The bill amends the Humane Care for Animals Act and the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act by providing that an animal control officer, a Department of Agriculture investigator, or a humane society investigator who has reasonable cause to suspect or believe that a child is being abused or neglected or is in danger of being abused or neglected to immediately make a written or oral report to the Department of Children and Family Services. The bill requires Investigation Specialists, Intact Family Specialists, and Placement Specialists employed by the Department of Children and Family Services who reasonably believe that an animal observed by them when in their professional or official capacity is being abused or neglected must immediately make a written or oral report to Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare. The bill provides for immunity from liability for persons, institutions, and agencies participating in good faith in the reporting or investigation of animal abuse or neglect and provides for confidentiality of the identity of persons reporting animal abuse or neglect. The bill also provides that nothing in the Abused and Neglected Child Reporting Act prohibits a mandated reporter who reasonably believes that an animal is being abused or neglected in violation of the Humane Care for Animals Act from reporting animal abuse or neglect to the Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare.
- [Senate Bill 0139](#) (ANALYZING) - Amends the Humane Care for Animals Act. Limits the situations when a person could dock an animal's tail or crop its ears without violating the Act's prohibition against "animal torture". Establishes that the following is not "animal torture": (i) tail docking performed by an Illinois licensed veterinarian for a medical reason (now, just "tail docking") or (ii) ear cropping performed by an Illinois licensed veterinarian for a medical reason (now, just "ear cropping").
- [House Bill 0069](#) (SUPPORT) - Amends the Humane Care for Animals Act. Increases criminal penalties for certain activities related to the use of animals, except dogs, for sport fighting. Amends the Criminal Code of 1961. Increases criminal penalties for certain activities related to dog fighting. Effective immediately.
- [House Bill 0198](#) (OPPOSE) - Same as Senate Bill 0053, creates the Dog Breeder Licensure Act.
- [House Bill 0364](#) (SUPPORT) - Creates the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program Act. Establishes the Veterinary Student Loan Repayment Program to be administered through the University of Illinois. 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. Sets

forth penalties for failure to satisfy a program agreement. Requires payments received by the University to be deposited with the University to support the Program. Provides that the University may not enter into any program agreement after July 1, 2019.

### Additional ISVMA Legislative Initiatives

In addition to the bills listed above, the ISVMA is in the process of filing bills on the following:

- An amendment to the Humane Care for Animals Act that would include provisions for a "Pet Lemon Law" giving the purchasers of puppies or kittens at retail statutory remedy if the animal they purchased was not healthy. This bill will be linked to the ISVMA website when it is introduced and will be offered as a sensible option to the poorly written and ill-conceived "Dog Breeder Licensure Act" bills (Senate Bill 0053 and House Bill 0198) introduced on behalf of the HSUS and ASPCA.
- Legislation to establish Practice Pending Licensure. This bill would allow veterinary students (who have graduated and passed their NAVLE) to begin working as a veterinarian immediately upon graduation if they have submitted an application for licensure (which is done at school the week of graduation). Veterinarians licensed under this provision would not be able to prescribe controlled substances until they have their Controlled Substances License.
- An amendment to the Humane Euthanasia in Animal Shelters Act to make it VERY CLEAR that certified euthanasia technicians may only euthanize animals in a licensed facility. Door-to-door euthanasia by certified euthanasia technicians would be clearly in violation of the Act.
- An amendment to the Hospital Licensing Act to clarify that the College of Veterinary Medicine teaching hospital is exempt from the Act.

Updates and additional information on these bills and issues will be included in future E-SOURCE Newsletters and Legislative Action Alerts.

### About the Photo

The [Hill Myna](#) (*Gracula religiosa*) is a large, stocky, glossy black starling with a bright orange bill, unique fleshy lobes of bright yellow skin behind and below its eyes, and a prominent white wing patch. Like most starlings, the Hill Myna is fairly omnivorous, eating fruit, nectar and insects.

It is a resident breeder in tropical southern Asia from India and Sri Lanka east to Indonesia and has been introduced to North America, where it is very popular as a caged bird. In North America, the Hill Myna is found in urban gardens and parks around Miami, Florida, and in some large cities in southern California and Hawaii.

The Hill Myna is renowned for its ability to imitate speech. Demand in the North America outstrips breeding capacity so they are rarely found in pet stores. They are becoming increasingly rare in their native countries due to capture for the illegal pet trade. Most of the Hill Myna's found "in the wild" in North America are escaped or released from their caged homes.

I photographed this Hill Myna, which was one of a flock of 12, at the Royal Palms Tennis Club in Kendall, FL 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:

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