

ISVMA President Guest on Saturday's CBS Early Show

(CBS) An ounce of prevention is not only worth a pound of cure, but lots of saved money for pet owners.

That's the message veterinarians are trying to get out as the economy takes a bigger and bigger toll on the health of our four-legged friends.

Vets nationwide say they're seeing owners putting off routine checkups and regular vet visits to save money.

But on The Early Show Saturday Edition, Dr. Sheldon Rubin, president of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, stressed that preventive care does just that - helps prevent illness, enabling owners to avoid much bigger bills down the road if their pets get sick. [Read the complete story...](#)



ISVMA Lobby Day Expecting Record Numbers

The Fifth Annual ISVMA Lobby Day is scheduled for April 1, 2009. Every year, the number of participants has grown and this year will be our biggest Lobby Day yet! Veterinarians, veterinary students, and CVTs are all part of the grassroots team that will visit with legislators throughout the day to discuss issues related to animal health and welfare.

If you did not receive an email on 3/16/2009 from the ISVMA Executive Director with the subject, "IMPORTANT: Reply Needed - ISVMA Lobby Day Information", you are not currently listed as a participant. If you did not receive the email and wish to participate, please let us know immediately! You can either email info@isvma.org or call (217) 546-8381 to get registered for Lobby Day and receive additional information.

Amendments Are Coming!

Please keep alert to upcoming legislative alerts from ISVMA. There are a number of bills that will be amended in the next several days and simple word changes can result in dramatic changes to the context or consequences of an existing or proposed law. We will try to keep you up-to-date on the key issues as they arise.

The pace of legislative decision-making is very rapid - often too rapid to allow for careful consideration, deliberation and necessary input from people affected by the decisions. ISVMA will make every effort to keep you on the inside of the issues so that you can make your voice and expertise heard!

Infection Control Guide Available from Canadian Committee

(Courtesy American Veterinary Medical Association © 2009) - An infection control guide sponsored by the Canadian Committee on Antibiotic Resistance is intended to reduce risks of pathogen transmission among small animal veterinarians, their clients, and their patients.

"Veterinary clinics can act as reservoirs of human and animal pathogens and play a role in dissemination of infectious agents including antimicrobial-resistant bacteria into the general population, with potential effects on humans and animals," the guide states. "Veterinary personnel also face an inherent risk of zoonotic disease from contact with both healthy and ill animals."

The 71-page document includes best practice guidelines for surgical site management, use of personal protective equipment, disinfectant use, and attention to proper laundry practices, as well as what to do in suspected rabies cases.

The CCAR is a collaboration of not-for-profit organizations and government entities. The guidance document is available at www.ccar-ccra.com/english/home-e.shtml.

The National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians' infection control document, Compendium of Veterinary Standard Precautions for Zoonotic Disease Prevention in Veterinary Personnel, and a model infection control plan for veterinary practices are available at www.avma.org/services, under the "Practice resources" heading.

AVMA Brochures on Careers, Pet Health Receive a Makeover

(Courtesy American Veterinary Medical Association © 2009) - The AVMA is revamping its educational brochures on careers and pet health for 2009 to promote the veterinary profession and animal care.

The AVMA career brochures have a new look this year. Each of the three titles features a contemporary design to appeal to students in grades six to 12. The publications describe the career opportunities for veterinarians, veterinary technicians, and the rest of the health care team in a clinical practice. The brochures complement the AVMA's career DVD and classroom poster. The series is online at www.avma.org/careers.

The educational brochures on pet health are part of the AVMA's "What you should know about ..." series of publications available in English and Spanish at www.avma.org/animal_health. The titles cover issues relevant to pet selection and health as well as public health—including rabies, dog bites, and toxoplasmosis. The brochures, which the AVMA updates frequently in client-friendly language, can reinforce veterinarians' recommendations for animal care or serve as handouts at school and community events.

All AVMA brochures are on the Web site to download for free, and most are available for purchase in packages of 50. The AVMA is planning several new titles for later this year, and the additions to the series also will be at www.avma.org.

More information is available by e-mailing productorders@avma.org or calling (800) 248-2862, Ext. 6655.

About the Photo

A large, boldly striped sparrow of scrubby boreal forest and mountain chaparral, the [Fox Sparrow](#) is most familiar as a migrant or wintering bird. Its vigorous "double-scratching," kicking backward in ground litter with both feet to uncover food, often draws attention to its presence under a bird feeder.

The Fox Sparrow is a large, chunky sparrow that is highly variable in appearance, depending on geographical region. Its size and behavior result in it often being mis-identified as a thrush. It is dark and unstreaked on its back, varying from gray-brown, to dark brown, to rufous. The tail is typically redder than the back. The breast is heavily spotted, and the spots are shaped like chevrons that converge in a central spot on the breast. The head is not striped or streaked, the face is plain, and the lower mandible is yellow. The combination of the chevron markings, red tail, plain face, and yellow mandible are good field marks to use to identify the Fox Sparrow.

This species breeds across Alaska and British Columbia, eastward to New Brunswick and Newfoundland, southward in western mountains to Colorado and central California. It also breeds in Chaparral along the Pacific Coast southward to Baja California. It winters in the middle and southern United States from southern Minnesota to Massachusetts, southward to northern Florida and southern Arizona; also along Pacific Coast from southern Alaska to Baja California.

In Illinois, this species is most often encountered during migration in March and November.

I photographed this Fox Sparrow in Vermilion County, IL in November 1998.

Contact Us

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