

EPA Increasing Scrutiny of Topical Flea and Tick Products

(AVMA/Schaumburg, IL) April 16, 2009 - In response to more than 44,000 potential adverse reactions to spot-on flea and tick products reported in 2008, the Environmental Protection Agency is intensifying its evaluation of these products. No recalls have been issued at this time. The AVMA will continue to maintain contact with the EPA and monitor the situation, and updates will be posted as they come to our attention.

To see the EPA's statement, including a chart of products, go to <http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/health/flea-tick-control.html>.

The public is being asked to consult their veterinarian with any questions or concerns they might have about the safety of any pet product, or if they suspect their pet is having an adverse reaction to a product. It is important to stress the fact that following labeled directions carefully when applying a spot-on product on their pet is an essential factor of safety. Please refer your clients to the manufacturer with specific questions about individual products. For information about reporting adverse events, go to http://www.avma.org/animal_health/reporting_adverse_events.asp.

Identity Theft: FTC's "Red Flags Rule" Summary

(AVMA/Schaumburg, IL) April 16, 2009 - On November 9, 2007, the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) issued a rule that may affect your veterinary practice. The "Red Flags" Rule, 16 C.F.R. § 681.2, requires "creditors" and "financial institutions" to develop written plans to prevent and detect identity theft. The rule is a section of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transaction Act ("FACT Act") of 2003, a federal law which requires the establishment of guidelines for financial institutions and creditors regarding identity theft. For more information, go to http://www.avma.org/issues/FTC_red_flags_rule.asp.

AVMA to Offer Webinars on April 22 & 28 on Rule Requiring Veterinarians to Help Prevent Identity Theft

(Courtesy AVMA) The AVMA will offer webinars later in April to provide information about a new federal rule that requires most veterinary practices to develop programs to prevent identity theft.

The Red Flags Rule requires creditors to develop programs to detect warning signs of identity theft, or red flags, and then respond appropriately. The rule took effect last year, but the Federal Trade Commission delayed enforcement until May 2009 because of questions about who would be subject to the rule.

Earlier this year, the AVMA Governmental Relations Division sent a letter asking the FTC to exclude veterinarians from the Red Flags Rule. The FTC responded by stating that veterinarians and other health care providers will be subject to the rule.

According to the FTC, health care providers fall into the category of creditors if they do not always receive payment in full from their clients at the time of treatment. Nevertheless, the FTC indicated a willingness to continue dialogue to ensure that compliance will not place an undue burden on veterinarians.

The AVMA is working with an expert in identity theft to conduct informational webinars about the Red Flags Rule. Each of the one-hour webinars will explain the new rule, provide guidance on how veterinary clinics can comply, and offer access to a low-cost online program to help bring practices into compliance.

The webinars will be at 11:30 a.m. April 22, 9 a.m. April 28, and 3 p.m. April 30. All times are Central Daylight Time. Registration information and additional details about the Red Flags Rule are available on the AVMA Web site, www.avma.org.

Big Changes Coming to ISVMA Website - Enhanced Member Services

Beginning May 1, 2009 the ISVMA will be converting to new Association Management Software (AMS). We hope to make the transition without any interruption of service or availability of website tools and resources. If you experience any issues with the ISVMA website during the transition, please send an email to info@isvma.org so that we can identify the source of the problem and repair it.

Many new member services will be possible with the new AMS. Some immediate changes you will notice include a robust, on-line directory of members in the Member Center. Each member will be able to control what information they wish to share in their own profile. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to set your own username and password to access the Member Center and, if you forget them, you can reset the information yourself without having to contact the ISVMA. You will also find a much more modern and sophisticated registration process for ISVMA programs with an immediate email confirmation of your registration. We will have the capacity to store resumes for people looking for jobs so that employers can review them online.

ISVMA committee members will be able to participate in committee forums and access committee resources and minutes of all meetings. We will introduce many new features of the new AMS as time allows.

About the Photo

Breeding across the tundra from Nunavut to Siberia, across Russia, and in Greenland, the [Greater White-fronted Goose](#) has one of the largest ranges of any species of goose in the world. In North America, however, it is common only west of the Mississippi River, where it is found in large flocks in wetlands and croplands. It generally spends its winters from coastal British Columbia to California, in New Mexico, and along the Gulf coast in Texas and Louisiana; more rarely on the east coast and in the interior. It breeds on marshy tundra and winters on marshes and bays.

The Greater White-fronted Goose is a medium-sized goose with a dark-brown body. Its underparts are barred and flecked with black; its belly and undertail coverts are conspicuously white. The front of its face has a white patch, the bill is usually pink and its legs are orange. This goose has a steady direct flight with rapid wing beats and flies in V-formation in which they can be identified by their distinctive call.

As is true of many geese, Greater White-fronted Goose pairs stay together for years and migrate together, along with their offspring. White-front family bonds can last longer than in most geese, and some young stay with their parents through the next breeding season. Parent and sibling associations may continue throughout their lives.

I photographed this Greater White-fronted Goose in Las Vegas, NV in February 2009.

Contact Us

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