

Animal Drug User Fee Act Reauthorization Passes Congress

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This morning, the Animal Drug User Fee Act reauthorization (including the Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act) was passed by the Senate. This followed House passage on Wednesday, July 30th. It is now on the way to the White House for the President's signature (the AVMA does not anticipate any problems).

Veterinary professionals were very concerned with potential amendments prohibiting antibiotic use in food animals—this did not happen. The only amendments were for reporting requirements, which were carefully negotiated by Congress and an AVMA coalition. These amendments will provide additional drug data that will help in monitoring antibiotic resistance.

Thanks to all of you who have supported this effort over the past 8 months—especially those who visited, called and emailed their Members of Congress in support of a clean ADUFA. A special thanks to Dr. Lyle Vogel of the AVMA for giving testimony at a very difficult Senate hearing and to both Dr. Hoang and Dr. Vogel of the AVMA for their scientific support. Also—thanks to Dr. Demaree and Chris Myrick of the AVMA Governmental Relations Division for their hard work in getting this passed, and in working with the coalition and Congressional staff on the amendment language.

McHenry County Leads State with Nine Rabid Bats

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CARY (AP) — The McHenry County health department says it has located more rabid bats than any other county in the state.

So far officials in the county say nine rabid bats have been found and more than 30 people have received rabies treatments as a precaution.

Rabid bats also have been found in Crystal Lake, Woodstock and Island Lake. There have been 33 rabid bats found statewide this year.

ISVMA Member Veterinarians In the News

Dr. J.B. Bruederle (Burnham Park Animal Hospital in Chicago) appeared on WTTW television in Chicago yesterday evening to represent a balanced and scientific perspective on the proposed Chicago ordinance that would require every cat and dog over the age of six months to be spayed and neutered (with limited exceptions). Proponents of the ordinance from HSUS and PAWS also appeared on the show.

Dr. Shelly Rubin (Blum Animal Hospital in Chicago) will appear on WGN Radio this Sunday on Steve Dale's Pet Central show. Dale's weekly pet program runs every Sunday from 8:00 until 10:00 PM. Dr. Rubin will also be addressing the issue of mandatory spay/neuter along with representatives from HSUS and PAWS.

Dr. Michael P. Thomas Nominated for ISVMA Vice President

The ISVMA Nominations & Awards Committee met on June 30, 2008 for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the office of ISVMA Vice President. They nominated Dr. Michael P. Thomas (ILL 1974), owner of Teegarden Veterinary Clinic in Washington, IL. He has mixed animal and equine veterinary experience and is now strictly a small animal practitioner.

Dr. Thomas has been a key volunteer in the Mississippi Valley VMA for many years and is widely respected for his organizational ability and his unimpeachable integrity. He has also served on the ISVMA Board of Directors since 2003 and served two years as the ISVMA Treasurer. Dr. Thomas is

a quiet leader who inspires others through his example and has earned the respect and admiration of his peers.

The Nominations & Awards Committee takes into consideration several criteria in the nominations process, including:

- **Geographic Representation** - the Committee considers which regions previous presidents have represented so that members in all regions of the state have the opportunity to become an ISVMA officer.

- **Practice Type** - Veterinarians protect the health and welfare of animals and the public through many different types of veterinary professions. The Committee seeks to maintain a broad base of professional experience in ISVMA leadership to reflect the variety of professions represented by the association.

- **Diversity** - the Committee gives consideration to candidates that reflect and celebrate the diversity of its membership.

- **Volunteer Experience** - ISVMA officers have demonstrated a commitment to organized veterinary medicine through serving in leadership positions in their local, state and national veterinary organizations.

- **Availability and Willingness to Serve** - Being elected as ISVMA Vice President requires a four year commitment to leadership. The Vice President automatically moves through the offices of President Elect, President and Immediate Past President. ISVMA officers serve on both the ISVMA Board of Directors and the ISVMA Executive Committee.

All of the above criteria help focus the Committee so that they can identify the best candidate for office of ISVMA Vice President.

ISVMA Elections Procedure

In the next ISVMA Epitome Newsletter there will be a ballot which includes the Vice President nominee and a write-in candidate option. The ballot will also include any regional elections for which you are eligible to vote. This year, there are regional director elections in ISVMA Regions 3, 4, 5 and 7. The ballot will be transmitted to each qualified voting member at the location last recorded in the member's database profile.

Each voting member shall be entitled to vote for one candidate for each position on the ballot. The completed ballots shall be returned by members to the Association's office for counting not more than 30 days after the date of transmission from ISVMA. The candidate for a position who receives the highest number of votes shall be declared elected to that position. In the event of a tie vote, the Board shall select among the tied candidates at a meeting of the Board prior to the annual business meeting of the Association.

About the Photo

The [Hooded Merganser](#) (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) is a small fish-eating duck that breeds and winters in the Great Lakes region, eastern Canada, and the Pacific northwest. Its preferred habitats include small forest pools, millponds, swamps, and beaver ponds. It is frequently seen on shallow waters where its only waterfowl companion is the Wood Duck. It nests in tree holes.

The male has black upperparts and white underparts with two black bars on side of breast. It has

red-brown flanks and a crest that shows large white patch when it is raised. It also has a white stripe extending backwards from the eye when lowered. Its dark wings have white shoulder patches visible in flight. The female is smaller and grayish brown with a shorter crest.

The Hooded Merganser is the second-smallest of the six living species of mergansers (only the Smew of Eurasia is smaller) and is the only one restricted to North America. It is silent except in courtship when male gives a deep rolling frog-like sound. The wings produce a loud whistling in flight.

The Hooded Merganser finds its prey underwater by sight. The merganser can actually change the refractive properties of its eyes to enhance its underwater vision. In addition, the nictating membrane (third eyelid) is very transparent and probably acts to protect the eye during swimming, just like a pair of goggles. Although they are extremely agile swimmers and divers, they are awkward on land because their legs are set far back on the body.

I photographed this male Hooded Merganser at North Pond in Chicago, IL in May 2008.

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