

2009 Graduates Have Been Licensed **All 2009 Graduates Receive a Year of Free Membership**

Yesterday afternoon, ISVMA notified all 2009 graduates of the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine that their licenses would be issued by the state today. If you have hired one of these new veterinarians, they are now able to practice veterinary medicine in the state.

You can check the license status for any of your hires by visiting the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation's [License Look-up Page](#). Remember to choose the profession and then use the name that was provided in the license application to conduct your search.

If you have hired a 2009 graduate from any veterinary college other than the University of Illinois, please have them fill out a membership application at http://isvmaimpak.networkats.com/members_online/members/newmember.asp.

All 2009 graduates receive a year of free membership in the ISVMA. All 2008 graduates may join (or renew) at 1/2 the cost of regular dues.

There have already been about 40 licenses issued for non-Illinois 2009 graduates. ISVMA has only 2 membership applications from this group! We need your help in making sure that we locate all of these new prospective members!

Errata: Annual Fall Conference for Veterinarians at UI-CVM is September 10-11, 2009

The [April/May 2009 issue of the Epitome](#) newsletter incorrectly reported the dates of the Annual Fall Conference for Veterinarians at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine. The correct dates of the conference are September 10-11, 2009.

For information, contact the Office of Public Engagement at the U of I CVM, (217) 333-2907 or ope@cvm.uiuc.edu.

ISVMA Membership Renewal & New Hires

ISVMA membership renewal can be a very frustrating experience for the ISVMA staff. Many veterinarians that move to another practice during the year forget to notify us of their status change and we spend (literally) hundreds of hours tracking down members that do not respond the renewal request.

If you or one of your associates have changed jobs during the past twelve months, please verify that ISVMA has the updated information. You can check by visiting the [Find a Veterinarian](#) page on the ISVMA website.

You may also want to check to make sure that ISVMA has all the information on your practice listed. For instance, if we have your practice website in our database it will show under each veterinarian's name. If there is no link to your practice website, let us know and we will add it!

Nearly 2000 people visit the ISVMA website every day. Many of them are pet owners looking for a veterinarian. The Find A Veterinarian page is the most visited page on our website and you should take advantage of the free advertising through your state association!

If you have an associate that is not an ISVMA member, we hope that you will encourage them to join this year. Additionally, if you have hired a new veterinarian in the last year or have CVT employees that are not members, we hope that you will sign them up too!

All member prospects can fill out the simple membership application form at http://isvmaimpak.networkats.com/members_online/members/newmember.asp or contact the ISVMA offices at (217) 546-8381.

Legislative Update

Next week, ISVMA will report on any final action the Illinois General Assembly took on issues of concern for the veterinary profession. As of today, there is only one bill remaining to be decided (Senate Bill 38 - Euthanasia). All ISVMA introduced bills have passed both chambers and are awaiting the Governor's approval before becoming law.

For an update on the status of all of the bills that ISVMA has been working on this legislative session, please visit <http://capwiz.com/isvma/issues/bills/>. Members can link to each bill on this list and read a short description, read the entire bill text, and use the "Take Action Now" link to contact your legislators to communicate your thoughts and position on the bill.

Important Survey - CVT Demand, Usage and Need

If you have not yet filled out the CVT survey, please take a few minutes and let us know your thoughts on some important issues related to CVT demand, usage and need.

The ISVMA is preparing for the next renewal/revision of the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act (Practice Act) and we are looking for your input on any/many issues to be considered.

There are a number of issues that will be considered which affect your ability to practice in Illinois. We will be requesting your opinion and input on some of the most important issues. Our first survey concerns the use of Certified Veterinary Technicians in Illinois.

Please take a few minutes to [answer this survey](#) so we can introduce a Practice Act that will keep our profession strong and address the many issues that have emerged since the Act's last renewal.

All ISVMA members are encouraged to answer this survey. We very much appreciate and desire your input!

About the Photo

The [Western Scrub-Jay](#) (*Aphelocoma californica*) is a corvid species native to western North America. It ranges from southern Washington to central Texas and central Mexico. In recent years, it has expanded its range into the Puget Sound region of Washington. The Santa Cruz or Island Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma insularis*), found only on Santa Cruz Island, and the Florida Scrub-Jay (*Aphelocoma coerulescens*), a Floridian endemic, are its closest relatives. The Western Scrub-jay is nonmigratory and can be found in urban areas, where it can become tame and will come to bird feeders.

The Western Scrub-Jay is a large songbird, about 11.5" in length (including its tail), with a 15" wingspan. Coastal Pacific birds tend to be brighter in coloration than those of the interior, but all are patterned in blue, white and gray, though none as uniform in color as the related Mexican Jay. In general, this species has a blue head, wings, and tail, a gray-brown back, and grayish under parts. The throat is whitish with a blue necklace. The call is described as "harsh and scratchy".

True to their name, Western Scrub-Jays inhabit areas of low scrub, preferring pinyon-juniper forests, oak woods and sometimes mesquite bosques. They also inhabit suburban gardens.

Western Scrub-Jays usually forage in pairs, family groups or small non-kin groups, outside of the breeding season. They feed on small animals, such as frogs and lizards, eggs and young of other birds, insects, and (particularly in winter) grains, nuts and berries.

Western Scrub-Jays, like many other corvids, exploit ephemeral surpluses in food supply by storing food in scattered caches within their territories. In the process of collecting and storing this food, Western Scrub-jays have shown an ability to plan ahead in choosing cache sites to provide adequate food volume and variety for the future. Western Scrub-jays are also able to rely on their accurate observational spatial memories to steal food from caches made by neighboring birds. To protect

their caches from these potential 'pilferers', food storing birds implement a number of strategies to reduce this risk of theft. Western Scrub-jays are also known for hoarding and burying brightly colored objects.

The Western Scrub-Jay is one of the species whose populations are being adversely affected by the West Nile Virus, particularly in California's Central Valley.

This photo was taken in 2006 in Monterey, CA. It is currently being used by the Washington State Department of Health for use in identifying reportable bird species in a West Nile virus surveillance project in the state.

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:

If you wish to add your name to the recipient list, send an e-mail to info@isvma.org and ask to receive the E-SOURCE newsletter.

ISVMA values your membership and does not want to send you any unwanted email. If you would like to be removed from this member service, please email info@isvma.org.