

## **FAA Audits - Requirements for Shipping Diagnostic Specimens Required Training for Packaging and Shipping Lab Specimens**

The ISVMA was recently informed of some audit activity in Illinois veterinary practices. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) conducted the audits to examine compliance with requirements for packaging and shipping infectious substances.

Because this was a federal compliance issue, ISVMA contacted the AVMA and AVMA-PLIT. The AVMA has developed a [comprehensive summary](#) of the requirements and availability of training courses required for compliance.

According to the AVMA, "Incorrect packaging of infectious substances can quickly land a veterinary practice in hot water. Veterinary practices send specimens to diagnostic labs on a daily basis, and it is vital to ensure that the staff (including veterinarians) who package the items have had the required documented training and that each shipment meets current packaging standards. Any items found to fall below these standards may result in the shipper being visited by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) or the U. S. Department of Transportation (DOT). *Fines associated with noncompliance of packaging or training can be substantial.*"

## **ISVMA Practice Act Legislation - Important Committee Votes Approaching**

The ISVMA drafted a comprehensive amendment to the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act that has been introduced in the Illinois General Assembly. The amendment is contained in two identical bills introduced in the Illinois House of Representatives ([HB5377](#)) and the Illinois State Senate ([SB3712](#)). These bills will both be voted upon in committee in the next few days.

It is important that you contact your legislators to ask for support of these important bills.

For more information on these important bills and for links to email your legislators (*it takes less than a minute*) please visit [http://www.isvma.org/legislation/2010\\_session/alerts/practice\\_act\\_10-3.html](http://www.isvma.org/legislation/2010_session/alerts/practice_act_10-3.html).

## **AVMA Animal Tracks - Download Free Podcast Episodes by American Veterinary Medical Association on iTunes**

AVMA has free pet health podcasts on iTunes called Animal Tracks. The latest addition is "Claw & Order" with behaviorist Dr. Bonnie Beaver offering tips on how to keep your cat's claws from ripping up the furniture <http://bit.ly/7mGFDZ>.

## **USDA Accreditation Reminder**

All veterinarians accredited prior to February 1, 2010 will be required to re-apply in order to continue their accreditation status in the revised program which goes into effect on February 1, 2010. The revised USDA Accreditation program changes allow a 6 MONTH WINDOW to re-apply. Those who do not apply within this timeframe will have their accreditation status expire.

The application forms are available online now (with helpful FAQ) at [http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/vet\\_accreditation/](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_accreditation/).

## **Banfield Releases New Data on Periodontal Disease; Top Breeds Identified**

*(Feb 12, 2010 by: Daniel R. Verdon, DVM NEWSMAGAZINE)*

The risks for periodontal disease increase 20 percent each year of a pet's life, according to data just released by Banfield Applied Research and Knowledge. ([Read more...](#))

## **Researcher Combines Computers, Biology to Track Flu**

*(February 25, 2010: Veterinary Practice News®)*

An assistant professor in systems biology at Mississippi State University's College of Veterinary Medicine has combined computers and biology to track animal flu viruses. ([Read more...](#))

## **About the Photo**

The [Rose-throated Becard](#) (*Pachyramphus aglaiae*) is a medium-sized flycatcher that occasionally makes an appearance in extreme southern Texas and southeastern Arizona. Its normal breeding range is from northern Mexico south to western Panama. Normally, birds found in the United States are sporadic breeders and migrate south in the winter.

The most distinguishing characteristics of this bird is the male's rose-colored neck which is found in adult males. Males are mostly gray in color, with a contrasting darker upperside and a pale gray underside. Males also show a black crown. Females are mostly brown in color, with a rusty brown upperside, and a pale buffy underside. The crown is a dark gray,

not nearly as stunning as the males.

Rose-throated Becards usually occur in riparian areas of pine-oak woodlands and evergreen forest. They make a large foot-long globular nest, usually suspended from a tree limb. The entrance hole is found on the bottom.

The Rose-throated Becard feeds primarily on insects, which it will glean from the vegetation, but captures some in flight as well. They will also take berries and seeds.

I photographed this male Rose-throated Becard at Bentsen State Park in Mission, TX.

### Contact Us

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