

## REMINDER: Important Survey on Staff Usage/Supervision

As you should be aware, the Illinois Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act was recently updated by legislative amendment. One of the outcomes of this amendment is the opportunity to review and adopt a regulation to allow for more effective and practical use of Certified Veterinary Technicians (CVTs).

The ISVMA CVT Roles & Responsibilities Task Force has developed a [survey](#) which will be used to help evaluate what regulatory changes ISVMA will advocate concerning the appropriate roles and responsibilities of CVTs and un-licensed practice staff.

This survey differs from a similar survey that was conducted last year in which we assessed your thoughts on what level of supervision should be necessary to perform certain procedures. We are now trying to assess what is currently occurring in practice.

We have also collected information from all of the accredited schools of veterinary technology in Illinois on what procedures they are teaching CVT students and what procedures other states specifically allow CVT employees to perform. The compilation and analysis of all this information will be very helpful to ISVMA as we prepare draft rules for the roles and responsibilities of CVTs in Illinois regulations.

We will retain the privacy of all information provided. The particulars of to whom and where something occurred are not what we are focused on. What is important is that we have an accurate picture of what is actually occurring in our veterinary practices. Your answers will be kept confidential.

Please take a few minutes and fill out the [short information survey](#) which assesses whether your practice currently allows CVTs or veterinary assistants to perform any of the specified tasks.

## Please Remember Your ISVMA Membership Dues

- **Pay Your ISVMA Membership Renewal Dues Online!**
- ***If you have changed practices or moved in the last year, please contact us so that we can forward your renewal invoice to your new practice/address.***
- ***If you have hired a 2010 graduate, make sure that your new associate fills out an ISVMA Member Application form for a free year's membership!***

ISVMA members can now pay their dues online with a VISA or MasterCard. This added convenience is available through the [ISVMA Member Center](#). When you click on the link, you will be asked to login to go to your account. Once you log in, click the **Member Renewal** link to renew your membership with VISA or MasterCard.

If you have forgotten your username and/or password, click on the reminder link and the information will immediately be delivered to your email address.

ISVMA member dues invoices have been mailed and are due on June 30, 2010. Please pay your dues before the deadline to avoid any interruption in your membership status.

Your support and participation are greatly appreciated. If you know a colleague or associate that is not a member of ISVMA, please encourage them to join now! Some of the benefits of membership are listed on the [ISVMA website](#).

Thank you for your continued support and participation.

## **Puppy Uniform Protection and Safety (PUPS) Act Introduced in Congress**

Congress is considering a bill -- dubbed the Puppy Uniform Protection Statute or PUPS Act -- that would require federal licenses and annual inspections for breeders that sell more than 50 puppies per year. It would also mandate at least an hour of daily exercise time for the animals. [Read JAVMA News for more...](#)

## **AVMA Policies Open for Comment**

AVMA has developed a Web tool designed to allow members to submit their comments on animal-welfare policies that the group is considering for adoption. <http://www.avma.org/beta/issues/policy/comments/default.asp>.

## **American Cancer Society Requests DVM For Bark For Life Event**

### ***A dog walk for the fight against cancer***

The American Cancer Society's second Bark for Life is looking for a DVM to volunteer 3 hours from 9:00am through noon on August 7, 2010. The one mile walk at Stuart Park in Springfield begins at 10:00am. In addition to the mile-long walk, there will be local vendors with products for sale and to sample, and other fun activities for dogs and their owners.

Money raised through the Bark for Life go to support American Cancer Society's support services for area patients and their families, cancer research programs, community education and advocacy initiatives.

For more information and/or to volunteer as the DVM on site, contact Tina at 217.523.4503, extension 3.

## **About the Photo**

The [Merlin](#) (*Falco columbarius*) is a fairly small bird of prey (10" -13" tall) that used to be called the Pigeon Hawk.

The Merlin is distributed widely throughout North America but is not particularly common anywhere. This is mainly because they are territorial birds who need large hunting areas to sustain themselves and their offspring.

The breast and belly of the Merlin are buff (tan) with dark brown streaks. The throat is white. The upperparts (back, wings and tail), eyeline and crown of the Merlin are light blue-gray. The head of the Merlin is a buff (tan) color) with fine dark streaks and a distinct tan eyebrow. The tail is narrow and banded and the wings are pointed. The legs and feet are yellow with black talons. The beak is a blue-gray color with yellow toward the head. The eyes are brown.

The coloring and size of the female Merlin is the same as the male, but instead of blue-gray coloring on the back, wings, tail and crown, the female Merlin is brown.

Immature Merlins look much like the females. When hatched, the young are covered in down. They begin to get quill feathers after 14 days and all but the head is covered by feathers by the time they are 18 days old. About three to four weeks after hatching, the nestlings are ready for flight.

The Merlin's main prey (about 80% of their diet) is smaller birds (finches, sparrows, waxwings, swallows, etc) which it catches in flight. They also eat some large insects (like dragonflies), small mammals, lizards and snakes.

Breeding occurs in forested or suburban areas. During other times of the year, they prefer open areas and can be found in fields, grasslands, marshlands, deserts, seashores and lakeshores.

I photographed this Merlin near Aransas Point, TX in the spring of 2005.

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:info@isvma.org).