

Governor Quinn Signs Legislation To Ensure Well-Being Of Animals

New law expands duties of the Advisory Board of Livestock Commissioners

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Governor Pat Quinn today signed legislation expanding the responsibilities of the Advisory Board of Livestock Commissioners in order to ensure the well-being of poultry and domestic animals, including cats and dogs. “It is important that all animals – from household pets to livestock – are treated in a manner that is ethical and humane, and this bill is an important measure to ensure just that,” Governor Quinn said.

Under Senate Bill 3604, sponsored by Rep. Brandon Phelps (D-Harrisburg) and Sen. Michael Frerichs (D-Champaign), the Advisory Board of Livestock Commissioners will now be responsible for approving administrative rules related to the well-being of poultry and domestic animals. The Board will also work to prevent, eliminate and control diseases that affect them. Under the law, the Department of Agriculture (IDOA) will be required to submit rules and regulations involving animal welfare issues that the Board previously did not oversee.

“The Illinois Department of Agriculture is committed to the positive well-being of all animals, and we look forward to working with the board on continuing that effort,” IDOA Director Tom Jennings added.

The Board consists of 25 members, 17 of which are appointed by the Governor. Under the new law, each member appointed by the Governor will serve a five-year term. Previously, there were no term limits for the Governor’s appointments. The Governor will have the authority to replace inactive board members under the new law. The new law is effective immediately.

Veterinary Dentistry Training Opportunity

For the doctor, the technician, the team

On Sunday, August 22, 2010 the ISVMA is sponsoring a [Small Animal Dentistry Lecture/Lab](#) at the Wyndham Lisle-Chicago Hotel. This program is designed to improve compliance and expand dental services with techniques YOUR practice can implement immediately. We are encouraging practices to send a “Team” (DVM and Technician) to this seminar by offering discounted registration fees.

Attendees may choose to attend the morning lecture Only or attend the full-day with a lecture/lab option available. All registrations for this meeting must be faxed or mailed (*no online registration*).

USDA Accreditation Deadline Nears

Veterinarians-Don’t let your USDA accreditation expire. Send in your signed VS Form 1-36A by August 2, 2010 to comply with new USDA Accreditation Rules. http://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/vet_accreditation/.

License Renewal Period Ends December 31, 2010

Every fall the ISVMA office gets questions regarding license renewal. The current renewal cycle is January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2010. DVMs and CVTs are currently in renewal status and should be receiving a renewal form in the mail from the Department of Regulation at the end of this year.

Beginning November 13, 2007, the Administrative Code was updated and the requirements for continuing education for DVMs changed. The most noticeable was the increase in the required hours of continuing education followed by the method of earning CE through self-study/online study.

There are a number of questions that come into our office regarding required continuing education hours. We have developed an [FAQ sheet on Continuing Education Requirements](#) for the benefit of our members that should answer most of these questions.

Midsummer Veterinary Conference for Sustainable Agriculture - August 12-13, 2010

This conference is open to veterinarians, veterinary students, graduate students, animal scientists and educators looking for information regarding sustainable food animal production (ie. organic, natural, welfare-friendly, antibiotic-free, and grass-based). Farm tours are available to examine some of the most innovative and successful sustainable livestock farms in Central Illinois. Conference presenters represent academia, private veterinary practice, farmers, government and allied industries, and will provide information about health, production and marketing of natural and organic food animals.

The conference will be in Champaign IL at the [I Hotel and Conference Center \(map\)](#), located on the University of Illinois Campus, and offers 8.5 hours of CE. Ten (10) scholarships are available for students to attend the conference; contact Dr. David Bane at 217-722-2188 or davidpbane@aol.com for details. For information, or to register online, visit their webpage at www.mvc-sa.com/Default.aspx.

Pet food safety

Recalls and alerts

The American Veterinary Medical Association maintains a web page that includes information on [recalls and alerts](#) issued regarding pet and animal feeds, including dog and cat foods and treats as well feeds for livestock, poultry and other species. The information is based on reports and alerts received from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and/or the manufacturers.

For more information about the FDA's role in pet food regulation, go to <http://www.fda.gov/cvm/petfoods.htm>.

To report an adverse event associated with pet food, submit a report to the FDA at www.safetyreporting.hhs.gov.

To report an adverse event associated with other animal feeds, please contact your state FDA's Consumer Complaint Coordinator(s). Contact information can be found on the FDA's Web site at <http://www.fda.gov/opacom/backgrounders/complain.Html>. When reporting, please include as much information as possible, including the specific product name, lot numbers, veterinarian's report and diagnosis, and any other pertinent information. It is preferred, however, that you ask your veterinarian to contact the FDA, because your veterinarian can often provide additional information and details that can aid the investigation.

A Microgram of Prevention is Worth a Milligram of Cure: Preventing Medication Errors in Animals

Check out the FDA article on preventing medication errors in animals at <http://www.fda.gov/AnimalVeterinary/ResourcesforYou/ucm214772.htm>.

About the Photo

The only finch in its subfamily which undergoes a complete molt, the [American Goldfinch](#) (*Carduelis tristis*) displays sexual dimorphism in its coloration; the male is a vibrant yellow in the summer and an olive color during the winter months, while the female is a dull yellow-brown shade which brightens only slightly during the summer. The male displays brightly colored plumage during the breeding season to attract a mate.

The goldfinch's winter and breeding range includes southern Canada, most of the continental United States and parts of Mexico. The goldfinch can be found year round on the upper east coast, on the west coast and in the mid-section of the United States. Northern populations winter in the southern U.S. and northern Mexico.

The goldfinch mates later than most birds. It is mainly a seed eater and it doesn't nest until mid-to

late summer when there are lots of seeds from weeds and other plants. Because it mates so late in the year, it usually raises only one brood a year.

The goldfinch's diet is made up mostly of the seeds of grasses, weeds and other plants. It also eats the seeds of trees like birch, alder and elm. It feeds during the day. The goldfinch usually gets seeds that are still on the plant. Its long legs and claws help it easily perch on plants.

Human activity has generally benefited the American Goldfinch. It is often found in residential areas, attracted to bird feeders installed by humans, which increases its survival rate in these areas. Deforestation by humans also creates open meadow areas which are the preferred habitat of the American Goldfinch.

I photographed this American Goldfinch in the summer of 2007 in Springfield, IL.

Contact Us

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