

Governor Quinn Signs New Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act

New law makes many needed changes and clarifications

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Governor Pat Quinn today will sign House Bill 5377 which amends the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act of 2004. The legislation was drafted by the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association. A [copy of the legislation](#) can be printed from the Illinois General Assembly website.

A [comprehensive summary of the changes](#) made by the legislation is available from the ISVMA website.

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*).

29th Annual Fall Conference for Veterinary Technicians

The 29th Annual Fall Conference for Veterinary Technicians will be held on September 25, 2010 at the Holiday Inn, 1001 W. Killarney St., Urbana, IL 61801. For more information and registration, please download the [conference brochure](#).

AVMA Applauds Legislation to End Shortage of Veterinarians in Rural Areas

SCHAUMBURG, Illinois (July 21, 2010) – The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) today applauded U.S. Senators Tim Johnson, D-S.D., and Mike Crapo, R-Idaho, for introducing the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act (S. 3621).

The bipartisan legislation will help the country address a critical shortage of veterinarians serving our rural areas by making the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) tax-exempt, thereby increasing the number of veterinarians who can participate in the program. The act would also apply to similar state programs that encourage veterinarians to practice in underserved communities.

Rather than awarding the full funding for this program each year, the current form of the VMLRP requires that 39 percent of the money it receives be returned to the U.S. Treasury as a federal tax, unlike its counterpart program for human medicine, the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program.

"By making the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program tax-exempt, we will be sending more veterinarians into areas around the country that lack professionals possessing critical expertise in animal care, food safety and public health," said Dr. Ron DeHaven, chief executive officer of the AVMA. "If the Johnson-Crapo bill passes, it will remove the program's tax burden, allowing enough additional funds to provide one additional veterinarian for every three veterinarians currently scheduled to receive awards. These additional veterinarians in underserved areas would go a long way to further protect our nation's food supply and public health."

"Communities in rural America depend on the health of their livestock for their livelihood, but many have no practicing veterinarian," Johnson said. "The demand is only expected to increase by double digits over the next six years alone. This bill will make it easier to bring more veterinarians to these underserved areas and meet this demand."

"The shortage of veterinarians in the U.S. is acute," Crapo said, "with 1,300 counties throughout the country with less than one food animal veterinarian per 25,000 farm animals. This matters to more than just livestock and agricultural producers. It limits disease surveillance and response as well as animal welfare, and affects the economy. In Idaho alone, nearly half of our counties are in designated shortage areas. This legislation will help alleviate the shortage of veterinarians and maximize the program through addressing the tax treatment of program assistance."

Nationwide, there are 500 counties that have at least 5,000 farm animals but no veterinarians in the area to treat them. This shortage could have dire consequences on human and animal health, public safety, animal welfare, disease surveillance and economic development. The demand for veterinarians across the United States could increase by 14 percent by 2016.

Other U.S. Senators co-sponsoring the legislation are Sam Brownback, R-Kan.; Michael Bennet, D-Colo.; Thad Cochran, R-Miss.; Byron Dorgan, D-N.D.; Al Franken, D-Minn.; Tom Harkin, D-Iowa; Mike Johanns, R-Neb.; Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn.; Jim Risch, R-Idaho; and Olympia Snowe, R-Maine.

The Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act already has the support of 123 animal, agricultural and veterinary medicine organizations nationwide.

U.S. Rep. Waxman Calls for 'Comprehensive Strategy' to Safeguard Antibiotics for Veterinarians, Physicians

Washington, D.C.(July 15, 2010 DVM Newsmagazine) -- The chair of a powerful U.S. House of Representatives committee called on veterinary medicine and human health for a "comprehensive strategy" to combat growing problems associated with antibiotic resistance. [See complete article...](#)

About the Photo

The [Little Blue Heron](#) (*Egretta caerulea*) is a small heron. It is about two feet tall with a wingspan of about 40 inches. It has slate-blue feathers with a maroon neck and head. Its bill is gray with a black tip and it has gray to blue legs and feet. Its long bill is gray with a black tip and it curves slightly downward. It has yellow eyes and black legs. Males and females look alike. Young little blue herons are white and have blue bills with a black tip and dull green legs.

White Little Blue Herons often mingle with Snowy Egrets. The Snowy Egret tolerates their presence more than Little Blue Herons in adult plumage. These young birds actually catch more fish when in the presence of the Snowy Egret and also gain a measure of protection from predators when they mix into flocks of white herons. It is plausible that they remain white for their first year because of these advantages.

The Little Blue Heron breeds from New England south to Florida. It also breeds on the Gulf Coast north to Illinois. Occasionally it breeds in Southern California and New Mexico. It winters on the Gulf Coast and on the Atlantic Coast north to New Jersey. The little blue heron is also found in the tropics.

The Little Blue Heron makes its home in freshwater swamps, lagoons, coastal thickets and islands. It eats fish, crustaceans, amphibians, insects and reptiles. It stands in shallow water and waits for its prey to go by, and then it grabs its prey with its pointed bill. The Little Blue Heron often follows farmers as they are plowing fields and then grabs the insects that are disturbed by the plow.

I photographed this immature Little Blue Heron along the Gulf of Mexico near Galveston, Texas.

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