

IMPORTANT FEEDBACK NEEDED - ISVMA CVT Roles & Responsibilities Task Force

The ISVMA CVT Roles & Responsibilities Task Force has been working for over a year to develop [draft recommendations](#) for review by ISVMA members. The Task Force has developed a grid with a list of procedures and the proposed supervision requirement for both CVT and unlicensed practice personnel.

The Task Force is hoping to receive feedback from ISVMA members to assist in refining their recommendations so that a final draft can be developed for consideration by the ISVMA Board of Directors. Upon approval from the ISVMA Board, the ISVMA will seek regulatory changes to implement a schedule of procedures and supervision for CVT and unlicensed practice personnel.

The draft grid was developed by the Task Force after they reviewed:

- 1) A survey of ISVMA members asking what procedures and level of supervision they believe is appropriate for CVT and practice personnel;
- 2) A review of the regulations from other states which responded to an ISVMA request for information;
- 3) A review of what is being taught at the accredited veterinary technology schools in Illinois; and
- 4) A second survey of ISVMA members asking what they currently allow their CVT and unlicensed practice personnel to do.

The goal of the Task Force is not to reduce the current procedures that can be performed by unlicensed practice personnel. Rather, the goal is to expand the legal role of CVTs in practice based upon what they are taught and trained to do and what they can do under the appropriate level of supervision.

Please take some time to review the draft recommendation from the ISVMA CVT Roles & Responsibilities Task Force and send any comments or suggestions to peter@isvma.org. Your feedback will guide the next draft of the Task Force report which will then be reviewed by a joint task force with the ISVMA Legislative Committee and then forwarded to the ISVMA Board of Directors for approval.

This is a bold step forward for Certified Veterinary Technicians and the veterinary profession as a whole. Your membership in the ISVMA gives you the chance to participate in policy changes like these which benefit the Illinois veterinary profession.

Thank you for your support and participation of this important project and the ISVMA.

Holiday Gift Idea for Your Practice CVTs

Since the ISVMA membership year is nearly half over, ISVMA is offering pro-rated dues to all new members. You can join now at 50% off a full year's rates!

What could be simpler? The perfect gift for your CVT staff member this year has to be ISVMA membership! In other words, you can purchase ISVMA membership for your CVTs for about the same cost as an evergreen wreath or a inexpensive dinner for two. All new memberships will be valid through June 30, 2010.

Call the ISVMA office today. We'll need some basic information to establish the membership, and in exchange we will forward a nice gift certificate ([see sample](#)) for you to provide to your CVT staff. Call us at 217-546-8381 and give a gift that keeps on giving!

Bill Exempts Veterinarians from Red Flags Rule

(Courtesy AAHA) - After being postponed for the fifth time in two years, the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) identity theft prevention program might finally go into effect at the end of this year. And assuming the President signs a new bill, veterinarians will not be affected.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill last week exempting veterinarians from the FTC's much-delayed "Red Flags Rule." The rule, which requires certain types of businesses to establish and implement an identity theft prevention program, had an original enforcement deadline of Nov. 8, 2008.

Since then, due to the efforts of several lawmakers, the enforcement deadline has been pushed back five times in order to allow Congress time to finalize legislation that would limit the types of businesses covered by the Rule.

Over the years, the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) has been lobbying Congress to exempt smaller-scale health care providers from the rule. The AVMA was part of a coalition of 28 small business and medical organizations, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Academy of General Dentistry, the Ambulatory Surgery Center Association, and the American Academy of Family Physicians.

"We've been working on this for a number of years, it's a great victory," said Adrian Hochstadt, JD, the AVMA's Assistant Director for state legislative and regulatory affairs.

The controversy revolved around the key word: "Creditor."

According to the original FTC rule, the term "creditor" includes "businesses or organizations that regularly defer payment for goods or services or provide goods or services and bill customers later." Accepting credit cards as payment did not necessarily qualify a business as a creditor, but if your practice allowed clients to pay off their bills over time, or if you bill clients after services are performed, then you would have qualified as a creditor.

The new bill, S.3987, known as the "Red Flag Program Clarification Act of 2010," does not exclude veterinarians explicitly. Instead, the measure redefines "creditor" by saying the term "does not include a creditor ... that advances funds on behalf of a person for expenses incidental to a service provided by the creditor to that person." The implication is that businesses that simply bill customers after the service is provided would not count as creditors under the Red Flags Rule.

"Our argument was that the rule wasn't intended for people who accept credit cards," Hochstadt said. "The FTC disagreed. We went back and forth on it, but it looks like our argument will prevail legislatively."

The bill now sits on President Obama's desk awaiting his signature.

Although practices will avoid fines and federal penalties for not creating an identity theft program; that does not mean you shouldn't.

"You don't have file anything and you don't have to follow the rules as far as following a written program, but good risk management dictates you should have a plan for protecting financial information," Hochstadt said. "I don't think this should be taken as we don't have to worry about identity theft. ID theft is a real problem and I'm hoping that the wrong message doesn't get sent here."

The FTC has a guide with resources for picking up on potential signs of identity theft. Some of the signs are:

- Alerts, notifications, and warnings from a credit reporting company
- Suspicious documents
- Suspicious personal identifying information
- Suspicious account activity

For more information visit:

[AVMA's Red Flag Rule summary](#)

FTC guide to [Fighting Fraud with the Red Flags Rule](#)

2011 Annual Convention & Trade Show - Share Your Ideas!

November 11-13, 2011 in Peoria, IL

As an ISVMA member, you can help shape the program of the upcoming 2011 Convention.

Contribute your best, most creative session ideas for ISVMA's 2011 Annual Convention & Trade Show. Our format changed to 60-minute sessions, a change that adds one full session to each day! Help round out the daily agenda with as many pertinent topics as possible.

Will you please suggest a topic, favorite speaker, new or existing trend in veterinary medicine, panel topic ...there's no such thing as an idea that's too off the wall! All suggestions sent to kristi@isvma.org will be forwarded to the ISVMA's Education Committee for consideration.

Make sure to reply by Christmas so your suggestions can be forwarded to the Committee for their upcoming meeting.

This is just another benefit of membership in ISVMA – where dues are an investment that pays tremendous dividends!

AVMA State Legislative Update

Are you interested in knowing what is happening legislatively in other states? The [AVMA State Legislative Update](#) is a great resource to note trends in legislation and the courts throughout the United States.

ISVMA staff follows these trends closely. Invariably, a hot issue in one or a few states ultimately becomes an issue in Illinois.

Registration Now Open for the Executive Veterinary Program in Small Animal Ultrasound

The University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine will begin offering the Executive Veterinary Program (EVP) in Small Animal Ultrasound in February 2011. The program, which is open to all individuals with a DVM and one year of

ultrasound experience, offers continuing education for veterinarians.

Eight interactive, two-day learning sessions are scheduled over a two-year period, allowing for insight and understanding to build and grow throughout the program. The EVP is a comprehensive interdisciplinary certificate program distinct from many traditional post-DVM graduate programs. The EVP instructors will be nationally recognized and board certified experts in the field, from both academia and industry. To optimize the learning environment, enrollment is limited to 24 participants.

Specific information about the modules included in EVP in Small Animal Ultrasound and online registration can be found at <http://www.evpillinois.org/ultrasound.html>. A PDF of the printed registration materials is available as a [download](#). Individuals registered by December 12, 2010, will receive a \$1400 discount.

7 Weirdest Client Requests

(Courtesy DVM 360 - 10/20/2010) Clients say—or rather ask—the darndest things. Just check out these strange favors pet owners have requested as reported by in-the-trenches veterinary team members. Then share your own shocking client queries and get proven go-to responses to those wacky solicitations. [More...](#)

5 Ways to Make—and Keep—New Clients

(Courtesy DVM 360 - 10/20/2010) Why should pet owners choose your practice over the one down the street? Because you take the time to learn what they want—and give it to them. Plus, lots more tips to help you make the most of your client base. [More...](#)

About the Photo

The [Gray Vireo](#) is a medium-sized vireo with gray upperparts, faint white spectacles, dark iris, and dull white underparts. Its wings are dark gray with indistinct white bars. The sideways twitching of its tail is unique among vireos and is reminiscent of gnatcatchers. Both sexes are similar.

The Gray Vireo breeds from southern California east to Utah, south to western Texas and Baja California. It spends winters south of the U.S.-Mexico border. The Gray Vireo frequents dry brush, especially juniper, in the pinyon- and juniper-covered slopes of the southwestern mountains; it is also found in scrub oak and other types of chaparral.

Gray Vireos wintering in western Texas feed predominantly on insects. In southwestern Arizona and adjacent Sonora, Mexico, however, wintering birds shift from a largely insectivorous summer diet to one of predominantly fruits.

Although it catches most of its insect food along the branches of trees and shrubs, it captures more insects on the ground than most vireos. It has been seen to scratch on the ground with its feet like a foraging towhee.

The sideways twitching of its tail is unique among vireos and is reminiscent of that of gnatcatchers.

I photographed this Gray Vireo at Colorado National Monument in May 2007.

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.

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