

## ISVMA Cancels Lobby Day on April 18, 2012

The ISVMA Legislative Committee has **canceled Lobby Day** (originally scheduled for April 18).

The Illinois General Assembly is at a key transition point that occurs every ten years; when legislative district boundaries are re-drawn. The end result of the new maps is a significant turnover in the legislature. Many members resign because they are forced to run in brand new territories; others are defeated by challengers that have better name recognition in the new districts.

During the session that precedes the election under the new maps, the General Assembly typically engages in little work besides adopting a budget for the State of Illinois. Relatively few bills are introduced and very few get out of committee. As a result, there isn't really any legislation this year for ISVMA to focus on during a Lobby Day and many of the legislators our members would be visiting will not be returning to the legislature next year.

## 2013 Legislative Session Critical - Veterinary Surgery and Practice Act Renewal

The ISVMA is going to focus its lobbying effort in 2012 in a very narrow window between November 6 (Election Day) and January 1, 2013. Since the turnover in the legislature (including returning members in newly drawn districts) could be as much as 1/3, the ISVMA will be strongly encouraging its members to meet their newly elected legislators in their district offices and work to identify key legislative contacts in every one of the 118 House of Representative districts and every one of the 59 State Senate districts.

Remember, you may be represented by a new legislator next year. You may also have a friend, client, relative or acquaintance that will be new to the legislature. Therefore, after November 6, 2012, we will be asking members to fill out the [ISVMA Legislative Relationship Form](#) so we can start identifying key contacts. These key contacts and your visits in the district offices will assist ISVMA in making needed changes to the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act and keep non-veterinarian lobby groups from eroding the scope of practice.

## Upcoming CE Meetings

- The Southern Illinois VMA will hold its Spring Meeting on April 12, 2012 at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Fairview Heights, IL. For program and registration information, please visit the Region I web page.
- The Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association will hold a Small Animal Dentistry Workshop/Lab on April 20, 2012 at Northgate Pet Clinic in Decatur IL. The program will include a morning lecture and afternoon lab for doctors and technicians. The speaker will be Larry Baker, DVM, DAVDC. Registration will soon be available on the [ISVMA website](#) and program registration brochures will be mailed within the next several days.

The first 20 wet lab slots filled quickly, so ISVMA is going to offer a second wet lab later in the afternoon for all of the people that registered and were put on a waiting list. Each waiting list registrant will be contacted to let them know the details and determine if they wish to stay for the second lab offering.

Needless to say, we are very pleased with the interest in this program.

- The Northern Illinois VMA will hold its Spring Conference from 8:00am-4:00pm on April 25, 2012 at the Tebala Shrine Center in Rockford, IL. Topics in infectious disease will be presented by Richard B. Ford, DVM, DACVIM, DACVPM (Hon). Registration will soon be available on the [ISVMA website](#) and program registration brochures will be mailed within the next few days.

## ISVMA Monthly Legislative Report

In an effort to keep ISVMA members more aware of Illinois politics and legislative and regulatory actions that impact their practices, ISVMA publishes a monthly legislative report. Please read

the [March Legislative Report](#).

### **AVMA Responds to Court Ruling on Use of Antibiotics in Food Production**

(SCHAUMBURG, Illinois) March 28, 2012 – The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) reaffirmed its support of the responsible use of antibiotics in food animals after a federal court ruling demanded that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) start proceedings to withdraw approval of certain uses of antibiotics used in food production.

United States Magistrate Judge Theodore H. Katz ruled March 22 that the FDA must start proceedings to withdraw approval of what the FDA currently refers to as “production uses” of penicillins and tetracyclines in food-producing animals. As part of the withdrawal process, manufacturers of the products can request hearings to allow them to provide scientific evidence that the production use of antimicrobial products does not pose a threat to public health.

“The AVMA acknowledges the growing concern regarding antimicrobial use and resistance in animals and people, and supports the judicious use of antimicrobials to maximize public and animal health benefits while minimizing risks,” said AVMA Chief Executive Officer Dr. Ron DeHaven. “The judicious use of antimicrobials plays a key role in preserving the health of our nation’s food animals and the safety of our nation’s food supply. Many agree that there is a need for greater veterinary oversight of antimicrobial use in food-producing animals, and the AVMA is currently working with the FDA to develop practical means to increase this veterinary oversight.”

DeHaven cautioned, however, that any decision to withdraw approval or ban any antimicrobial uses should be based on solid science and risk-based assessment, and not on anecdotal reports and speculation.

“It is crucial that safe and effective antimicrobials remain available for use in veterinary medicine to ensure the health and welfare of animals and, consequently, the health of humans,” DeHaven said. “The AVMA will continue to work closely with the FDA to formulate a sound, science-based strategy to deal with this complex issue.”

### **Bats and Other Critters Making Early Appearances**

Raccoons, skunks and bats - oh my! - can carry rabies anywhere in Illinois. Dr. Connie Austin is a veterinarian with the Illinois Department of Public Health.. [Read more...](#)

### **Illinois Dog Owner Blames Dog Treats for the Death of His Pomeranian**

Illinois man says his dog was in perfect health until he fed her a certain brand of dog treats, and he's calling on the Food and Drug Administration to take another look at the products... [Read more...](#)

### **How the Doctor Almost Killed Her Dog**

I am a doctor — a people one — so I know quite a bit about medicine. Little did I know how little I knew about veterinary medicine.

Over the course of about a day and half, I had given Dexter three 600-milligram pills. He stopped limping, but also stopped eating, and for the first time in his life, he wet himself during the night. He then flooded the hallway with urine as he ran for the door in the morning.

That’s when I called the veterinarian’s office. It was Sunday, and I left a message saying that it wasn’t an emergency, but perhaps Dexter should be seen on Monday.

The phone rang immediately. It was my veterinarian. She told me to get Dexter to an animal hospital. Right away.

That’s when I learned that ibuprofen, the key ingredient in Motrin, poisons dogs. After a seven-day stay in the intensive care unit, ultrasound exams and a big bottle of take-home medicine, I brought

Dexter home, along with a \$3,000 vet bill... [Read more...](#)

### About the Photo

The clear, melodious whistles of the [Eastern Meadowlark](#) (*Sturnella magna*) are a familiar and welcome sound across farms and grasslands in eastern North America. Their breeding habitat is grasslands and prairie, also pastures and hay fields. This species is a permanent resident throughout much of its range, including Illinois, though most northern birds migrate southwards in winter.

The Eastern Meadowlark is a medium-sized, stocky songbird with a short tail. Its throat, chest, and belly are yellow. It has a black "V" across its chest, its back is brown and streaked, and its outer tail feathers are white.

Eastern and Western meadowlarks are closely related; the two species are very difficult to distinguish except by voice and location, but they do not readily hybridize where their ranges meet.

A male Eastern Meadowlark typically has two mates at a time, rarely three. Up to 17 subspecies of Eastern Meadowlark are recognized by taxonomists. The Eastern Meadowlark is not a lark (family Alaudidae) but rather a member of the family Icteridae, along with blackbirds and orioles.

The Eastern Meadowlark is found in grasslands, pastures, and hayfields, as well as croplands, golf courses, and other open habitat. Its nest, constructed by female alone, is built on the ground of grasses woven into surrounding vegetation. Structure varies; nest often has an arch or roof, and sometimes has a runway leading to the opening. This species feeds on the ground, picking insects from the surface and also probing in the soil.

Both the Eastern and Western Meadowlark is declining drastically throughout most of range, probably because of habitat loss.

### 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.

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