

# Epitome

SPRING 2016

A publication of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association

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What's in It for You?**

To Get Your Lost Dog Home:  
Microchips and Your Pets



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# Epitome

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Advancing the well-being of veterinary  
medical professionals, animals, the public  
and the environment.

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# Making an Impact

by Herb Whiteley, DVM, DACVP



As we begin a new legislative session in Springfield, have you wondered what the impact is of the veterinary profession in the state of Illinois? A number of states have done economic impact studies of the profession. Let's consider Illinois. We have approximately 4,500 practicing veterinarians, 1,700 registered certified veterinary technicians and associated staff in companion-animal practice, production medicine, equine and the full range of species and combination of those interests. We have a robust biomedical community at universities and colleges, research institutes, and biopharmaceutical companies that employ veterinarians, veterinary technicians and support staff in research and development. We have a College of Veterinary Medicine and accredited veterinary technician programs. We have entrepreneurial veterinarians engaged in creating new business models to serve the public and niche markets. We have veterinarians and associated support staff in state and federal government positions.



Here is the impact other states have identified in the past 15 years: Missouri, in 2002, reported more than a \$615 million impact in 1999; Ohio, in 2008, reported a \$1.96 billion impact on the economy of Ohio; New England states, in 2008, reported \$3.3 billion for that region; Minnesota, in 2012, reported a \$1.5 billion impact; and, most recently, in 2015, Purdue University reported the impact of its College of Veterinary Medicine on the state economy at about \$5 million. Additional studies have been done in Texas and Michigan, and the American Veterinary Medical Association is currently finalizing a study of impact in Indiana.

What about Illinois? Would it be reasonable to estimate (or extrapolate) that the impact of the veterinary profession in Illinois in 2016 is at least equal to or greater than that reported in New England, Ohio and Minnesota three to five years ago? What would your estimate be — \$1 billion, \$2 billion, \$3 billion? We do not have exact numbers; however, I think it is reasonable to bring this information to our state legislators as we begin to develop specific relationships with our representatives to state government. 🐾



## Your Membership as a Resource

by Deborah Lakamp, CAE, Executive Director



### Data Management/Website

Over the last several months, the ISVMA staff has been working on a database upgrade to make our office more efficient. For better security and accuracy of our data, please use the link previously sent to you by email to change your password on the new system. At the same time, please update your membership profile and take a look around the new platform. The link was only good for 20 days, so if you experience any difficulties, please call the ISVMA office at 217-546-8381.

Along with the upgraded database management system, ISVMA has introduced a new website but maintained the website address, [www.isvma.org](http://www.isvma.org). It contains all of the same content and some new information, but the look and feel have been freshened up to reflect the vibrancy and professionalism found in the veterinary medical professions. This change has allowed ISVMA to build a website that you can access from your phone, tablet or laptop while still being readable and useable. In addition, your staff has worked together to become active on a variety of social media platforms. At the present time, you can find ISVMA actively posting on Facebook and Instagram, and we are starting to utilize Twitter, YouTube and LinkedIn on a more regular basis. Please like us, follow us, and engage with us!

### Legislative Issues

ISVMA members have done a terrific job in reaching out to their legislators when asked. Please continue to do so, and if you have never spoken to your legislator(s), it would be appreciated if you would reach out when an ISVMA email asking for action goes out to the membership. The veterinary profession has gotten the attention of legislators on a couple of different pieces of legislation this year. But the strong response needs to continue on topics such as HB4297/SB2356, Research Animal Adoption, HB5004, Animal Devocalization (This bill was originally proposed in a manner that veterinarians had to report their medical decisions to two government agencies!); and HB6084, Animals-Rabies Observation, that proposes amending the protocol for rabies observations to include boarding facilities with trained staff. ISVMA members are the voice of medical and scientific information on animal care and treatment. So please make yourself heard!

### CE Opportunities

ISVMA has been hard at work to provide new CE opportunities. Please read further in this publication to learn about the ISVMA CE Cruise planned for January 2017. Start planning now for great CE and a terrific vacation. Plus, watch for the announcement for the June 8 Sales Tax Seminar being planned for the Bloomington area.

### Community Impact

It is a pleasure to share that ISVMA veterinarians are reaching out into their communities and teaching youth about proper animal care. In March, ISVMA member veterinarians took time out to help run and judge the Illinois State FFA Veterinary Medicine contest, which tests students' skills in a variety of animal handling situations and analyzes their ability to understand and respond to animal welfare issues. On May 14, ISVMA veterinarians and CVTs will be traveling to Wagner Farms in Glenview. The 18.6-acre Historic Wagner Farm is one of the last working dairy farms in Cook County and is open to the public for recreation and learning. ISVMA will be partnering with Wagner Farms to have a full day of hands-on activities and interactions with children and their families about what veterinarians do and how they care for animals. Plan to volunteer by calling our office at 217-546-8381, or bring the family to this first-time event. 🐾





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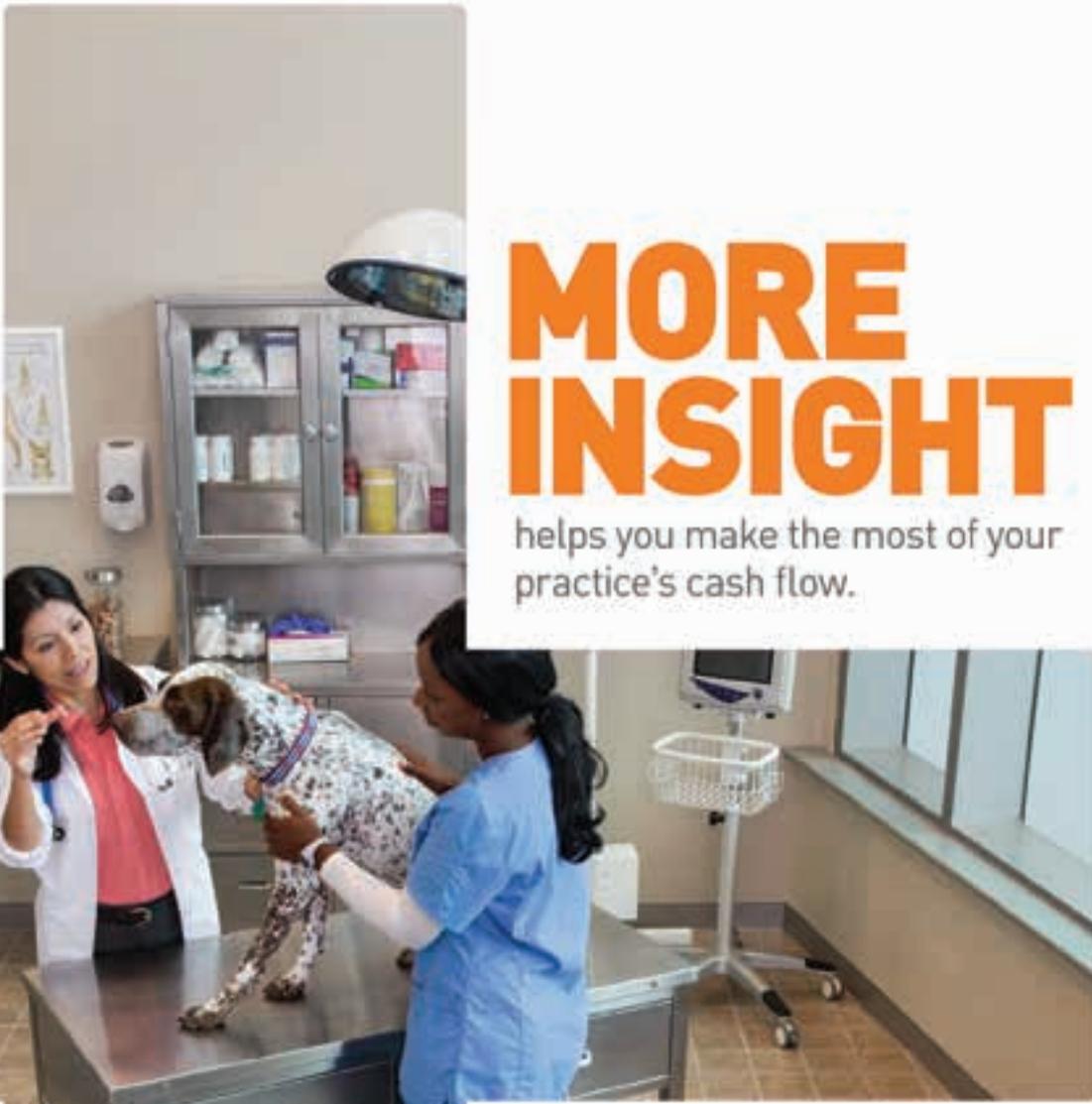
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# Professional Development

# What's in It for You?

by Michelle Gundlach, Director of Education

Professional development is touted as an integral component of many professions, including health-related jobs such as those associated with the field of veterinary medicine. But what makes prescribed continuing education requirements important for you?

First and foremost, in the state of Illinois, and most other states, continuing education (CE) is required by law for both veterinarians and technicians. DVMs in Illinois are required to obtain 40 hours of continuing education per renewal period (every two years), while CVTs are required to get 15 hours per two-year license period. CE hours must be obtained from approved providers; details can be found on the ISVMA website or in the Illinois Veterinary Practice Act.

Whatever your focus is in your profession, it is critical to maintain your current competency. Whether you are in private or corporate practice, industry, academia or another aspect of veterinary medicine, your clients, employers and co-workers expect a certain level of basic knowledge from you. The adage “use it or lose it” frequently applies; what you learned in veterinary or tech school can quickly be forgotten without refreshers. Additionally, there is a need to keep abreast of the steady stream of new information available.

Maybe you would like to expand your skill set. Or perhaps you need something to help you advance at your current job. Professional development can provide you with the information you need to stretch your boundaries. Wet labs are a great opportunity to receive hands-on training in new skills in a small group format. Practice management sessions frequently deal with topics such as leadership, self-improvement and interpersonal relations, all of which can aid in career advancement. Professional certification programs are avail-



able in a wide variety of specialty areas for technicians and veterinarians as well.

Networking opportunities, both with other veterinary professionals and with industry representatives, are available at CE meetings. Whether in an exhibit hall, lecture room or registration area, company representatives are frequently present. They are always happy to discuss available products and services. Mingling with your peers can have benefits beyond socializing, including mentorship opportunities and sharing of ideas. Networking is also valuable when considering a shift in your career focus.

Attending CE events can help improve your familiarity with referral facilities and staff. Many speakers are associated with veterinary schools or private referral hospitals; CE meetings are a great way to meet specialists to whom you might refer cases. These experts are usually willing to field individual questions as well, whether during their lectures or by phone or email in the future. Meeting face to face at seminars can also increase the comfort level of communications between specialists and referring practices.

Finally, by working on your professional development, you can set a good example for your practice employees. This may not seem like a benefit for you at first, but creating a culture at your work site that values self-improvement and education can reap numerous benefits. Enthusiasm is contagious — employees who see a motivated boss or co-worker are more likely to rise to the challenge. Providing opportunities for staff education, whether in-office or externally, can help with employee retention as well. Staff members can feel more valued when management invests in improving their skills.

So you can see that professional development isn't just about meeting your obligatory CE requirements. The variety and quality of educational programs available to you are exceptional, providing opportunities to grow as a person and as a veterinary professional. Your career future is in your hands when you make education a priority. And stay tuned — the ISVMA is also working on an exciting, new option for professionals wanting to attain a new level of educational excellence! 🐾



# Defining Pre-Eminence for Illinois Veterinary Medicine Education

by Peter Constable, Dean



In the midst of constantly changing circumstances, a successful organization remains focused on its goals.

There is certainly no lack of change facing our college right now. The state budget is in limbo, and the national and global landscape for veterinary education is shifting.

The very good news from your College of Veterinary Medicine is that we have recently formulated goals for the next five years in the 2016-2020 strategic plan. The plan also includes our vision for the college:

*We will be a pre-eminent public college of veterinary medicine, provide a transformative educational experience for our students, create and communicate knowledge that changes the world, deliver outstanding clinical service to our patients and clients, and pursue excellence in all our endeavors.*

As dean, it's my top priority to keep our team focused on achieving the goals that we established together. Because the Illinois veterinary community is both our partner and one of the key constituencies we serve, I am eager for each of you to know about our plan and to see how you are part of our progress and our success.

What does it mean to be a pre-eminent public college of veterinary medicine? It means:

- » We will be the best at what we do.
- » We will have impact locally, nationally and globally.
- » We will be recognized by our peers as leaders.

The college plan follows the framework of the campus strategic plan, identifying goals for learning, discovery, public engagement and economic development. The strategies identified for each of these four goals show how our college will achieve pre-eminence. Metrics adopted for each goal will be used to measure our success.

## **Goal 1: Expand and support nationally recognized research programs.**

Research provides the foundation for our education and service activities. It is our most powerful tool for delivering global impact. Strategies for achieving this goal include hiring more faculty members with a

strong focus on research, exploring whether to combine our two basic science departments to create a more prominent research presence, aligning college research with areas of campus research strength, and supporting faculty members in pursuing research opportunities, from clinical trials to large externally funded grants.

## **Goal 2: Provide transformative veterinary and biomedical educational experiences in a vibrant and diverse learning community.**

Strategies related to our educational mission focus on efficiency, innovation and collaboration. We will invest in personnel, training, technology and infrastructure to deliver a learner-centered, state-of-the-art curriculum.

At the same time, we will create distinctive Illinois programs that make credentials from our college coveted in the marketplace. Your Illinois degree will set you apart in the job market. And we will expand our online offerings and seek new partners in education both on the Illinois campus and around the world.



## **Goal 3: Provide excellent comprehensive veterinary medical and diagnostic services, public engagement and outreach, and continuing education programming at the state, national and international levels.**

The college has a very broad portfolio in its service mission. Chief among our priorities is the delivery of outstanding clinical and diagnostic services. We also aim to be seen as the premier source for veterinary information for practitioners, animal producers and the

general public. Offering outreach events that unite alumni, volunteers, students and other stakeholders will provide value to these groups and reinforce their bond with the college.

Our strengths in wildlife medicine, ecosystem health, public health, livestock-based food production and food safety may be leveraged to establish a cross-disciplinary center of excellence that delivers benefits for many constituencies.

**Goal 4: Promote a supportive, respectful and productive working and learning environment.**

We will serve as good stewards of the college's assets and resources, particularly personnel, our most valuable resource. Collaborations with corporate entities represent a possible avenue for advancing clinical trials and other research, as well as graduate student funding. We will also implement a plan to actively recruit a more diverse workforce and student body.

Ultimately, we will actively enhance the reputation of the college.

Like a road map for success, this plan will guide us through the challenging times ahead. When your College of Veterinary Medicine is widely recognized for leadership in all aspects of our mission, our

reputation and prestige bring credit to alumni and referrers, and our initiatives create opportunity for the Illinois veterinary community.

Please visit our website to read the full strategic plan.

**Fond Farewell to Departing Leaders**

As many of you know, a number of valued team members have recently retired or moved to take on career opportunities elsewhere. I hope you'll join me in thanking Dr. Karen Campbell, Dr. Mark Kuhlenschmidt and Dr. Allan Paul, who all retired in December, for their decades of service and leadership. Dr. Duncan Ferguson, who stepped down as Comparative Biosciences Department head in December, will retire at the end of this semester.

We also wish all the best to Dr. Ralph Hamor, who is moving to a faculty position at the veterinary college at the University of Florida; to Dr. Mark Mitchell, who is returning to Louisiana State University to lead its Veterinary Teaching Hospital; and to Brenda Betts, our associate dean for advancement, who has accepted a position at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

We are grateful for the contributions these outstanding individuals have made to our college. In part because of the foundations they helped to create, I have confidence that the college will achieve its vision. 🐾

## CVT Column



# Is it Time for a National Credential for Veterinary Technicians?

by Charlotte Waack, CVT, RVT



The National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (NAVTA) has opened the dialogue about national credentials for veterinary technicians. Here in Illinois, we hold the credential of certified veterinary technician. Our colleagues in Iowa and Missouri hold the credential of registered veterinary technician. Last but not least, our colleagues in Michigan hold the credential of licensed veterinary technician. Since the initials are generally used for these credentials, they can also be referred to as CVT, RVT and LVT.

It is very confusing to the public to know exactly what credentialed veterinary technicians are and what they do. From the Merriam-Webster dictionary, the simple definition of a technician is "a person whose job relates to the practical use of machines or science in industry, medicine, etc., or someone who has mastered the basic techniques or skills in a sport, an art, etc." NAVTA proposes the title to include the term "nurse." The definition of "nurse" includes "a person who cares for the sick or infirm; specifically: a licensed health care professional who practices independently or is supervised by a physician, surgeon or dentist and who is skilled in promoting and maintaining health." This comes closer to describing what veterinary technicians do from day to day versus the definition of "technician."

Changing the title that is used by every state is going to be a daunting process. It will involve changing practice acts and veterinary rules in most states (there are a handful of states that do not recognize veterinary technician credentialing). We have found out here in Illinois that changing those rules is not an easy or fast process. It has taken over five years to put our new CVT rules into play. Changing the rules in each state is going to be a monumental task.

I do feel that it is time to start working toward this as it has been my dream for over 15 years to have a national credential. It will not be easy though. It will take commitment, work and support of every credentialed veterinary technician in the United States. 🐾



# To Get Your Lost Dog Home: Microchips and Your Pets

by Sarah Haywood

In a cold gust of wind during the polar vortex of 2014 in Illinois, Marley lost his way home. A small shih tzu, Marley's hair didn't take long to become tangled and matted. A shelter in Chicago found him in February. The shelter scanned Marley for a microchip and quickly searched the database for the ID number. The search turned up empty.

Marley was then sent to a rescue center, whose staff decided to do one more search for the owner. In a hurry, the first shelter had searched for the letter "O" in Marley's ID number, instead of a zero. With just a little more perseverance, the rescue team found the owner, who then left the hospital, on the same day she had just given birth, to be reunited with her lost family member. Marley had been missing from February to October.

Marley's story is not an uncommon one. In fact, one in three dogs go missing for some length of time. Without the microchip and the perseverance of the rescue center's team, chances are Marley would not have made it home.

In reality, losing a pet is all too common. The wind can blow a fence down, or a door can creak open without notice. Given the opportunity, most dogs and cats will run for it, especially if they are excited or nervous.

Even pet professionals have accidents and can lose an animal.

"I, myself, six years ago, had two different dogs go missing from two different vet clinics while they were being taken care of," Lost Dogs Illinois Director and Co-founder Susan Taney said. "I was able to get both of my dogs back because I knew what to do."

Taney knew that these accidents occur, but most importantly, she was prepared — with a microchip. "A microchip, along with an ID tag and a properly fitted collar, is your best way to get your lost dog home," Taney said.

Microchips are tiny — about the size of a grain of rice — and are inserted under the animal's skin, between the shoulder blades. With a quick procedure, inserted by a needle, microchips can help keep track of a pet for life, as the chips will not disintegrate inside the body.

Microchips are an identification tool and are not only useful for dogs and cats. According to Datamars regional shelter care representative Deborah Collings, "Any animal not going into the food chain can be chipped." Chips can be used with dogs and cats as well as smaller pets such as birds, guinea pigs, ferrets and even koi fish. Large animals can be microchipped as well. Horses are often chipped to provide undeniable proof of ownership if the horse were to be stolen, to ensure that a registered show horse competes and is not just a look-alike, and to stand as a passport if a horse must travel internationally. Salmon in the Pacific Northwest have even been chipped in order to keep track of the fish as they migrate upstream.

Microchips are a sure way to prove ownership of a pet; however, it shouldn't be the only form of a pet's identification. "We always tell people the microchips are your last line of defense for pet identifica-

## Important statistics:

- » One in three dogs will go missing in their lifetime.
- » A dog with a microchip is twice as likely to get home if lost.
- » The cat return-to-owner rate is dismal in the U.S. — less than 1 percent.
- » A cat's odds of being returned to its owner improve by 200 percent if chipped.

tion, not your first line of defense," said Found Animal Foundation Executive Director Aimee Gilbreath. "The first thing you should do is have identification, an ID tag, on your pet with your contact information ... But collars can fall off, and microchips are the only permanent form of identification."

A microchip is not a GPS. It does not reveal direct contact information when scanned, so having contact information on a collar ID tag is essential for a quick return if a pet gets lost. A microchip is permanent, unlike a collar, but it is only a number, like a pet's own Social Security number. And that number must be registered in a database in order to retrieve owner information. In fact, the problem with low return-to-owner rates is not that animals aren't microchipped; it is that many of the microchips lead nowhere because the owner hasn't registered the pet.

"You have to, as an owner, go register that number in the database with your contact information," Gilbreath said. Many rescue centers, shelters and adoption centers microchip animals before they are sent home with their new owners, but many pet owners do not understand that the pet doesn't come registered to them; they must take that step themselves. So if you are a pet owner, ask if your pet is chipped at the time of adoption, and if it is, be sure to register your pet with your correct contact information that same day. If you are a pet professional, make sure the pet owner understands this responsibility.



## If you find a stray animal:

1. Remember that not all stray dogs/pets are homeless. They may just be lost.
2. Check for a collar and ID tag. If there is contact information, call the owner.
3. If the animal has no ID, take it to a shelter, rescue center or animal hospital to be scanned for a microchip.

## For pet professionals:

1. Make sure that you have an updated, universal scanner. Check with your microchip manufacturer representative.
2. Scan the animal for a microchip. Remember that it is possible for microchips to migrate, so scan slowly and carefully.
3. Enter the microchip number into the database at [petmicrochiplookup.org](http://petmicrochiplookup.org). If the number is ambiguous (if you are unable to tell if a character is a zero or the letter "O"), try different variations if nothing comes up.
4. Remember that it may take a few extra minutes of perseverance to find an unregistered or incorrectly registered microchip number, but it will be worth it to reunite a pet with its family.

"A lot of people really believe that when they adopt a dog, the rescue or the shelter is going to register that dog for them," Taney explained. "That's why we really encourage rescue centers and shelters to include that registration fee and register that at the time to the owner." There are endless sources for microchips, and most animal shelters, rescue centers and animal hospitals offer them. Some are even free through charity organizations. The chip might be provided, but the owner must take the few minutes to do the rest of the work — register the pet correctly and check/update it annually in case of a change of address or phone number.

"If you are a pet professional and you are looking for a pet's microchip registration, the website you should start at is called [petmicrochiplookup.org](http://petmicrochiplookup.org). It is run by the American Animal Hospital Association, and it is the closest thing to one-stop for registries in the United States," Gilbreath said. Almost all of the registries in the United States participate in this lookup database. If the database cannot find a participating registry for the scanned microchip, it will tell you who manufactured the chip based on the syntax of the number (each manufacturer has its own unique initial three characters). You can then call that manufacturer, which will have record of what chips were sent to what animal hospital, rescue center or shelter. The center that implanted the chip should have records of its customers corresponding to their microchip and contact information.

Microchips are a way to keep families and their furry family members together in a time of crisis. Pet professionals and owners simply must remember to be prepared: implant the chip at time of adoption, register the pet correctly and update contact information accordingly, and persevere when the time comes to search for a pet in need. As Taney said, "It's a wonderful tool, but it's *one* of the tools to get your lost dog back home." 🐾

# Antibiotic Stewardship: Getting Ready for 2017

by Aaron Lower, DVM, and Bill Hollis, DVM, Carthage Veterinary Service, Ltd., Carthage, Illinois

Antibiotic usage and potential for resistance is a real political and media topic these past few years. In response, livestock producers and their veterinarians continue to develop their brands as a sustainable, nutritious and safe product. **Antibiotic stewardship** is part of that brand.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) published "guidance" documents, which represent the agency's current thinking on a topic. These guidance documents are not law or rulemaking; they are nonbinding recommendations. However, all animal health manufacturers have accepted the proposed changes, and these are voluntarily taking place.

## Guidance 209/213

- » Principle 1: The use of medically important antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals should be limited to those uses that are considered **necessary for assuring animal health**.
- » Principle 2: The use of medically important antimicrobial drugs in food-producing animals should be limited to those uses that include **veterinary oversight or consultation**.

The FDA and the animal health industry are committed to preserving the important therapeutic claims on products now available to producers. All claims for disease treatment, disease control and disease prevention will remain. However, the use of antibiotics for growth promotion will be removed.

This directs that all medically important antimicrobial usage within livestock production (feed, water and injectable antibiotics) would be under the direction of a veterinarian through use of prescriptions.

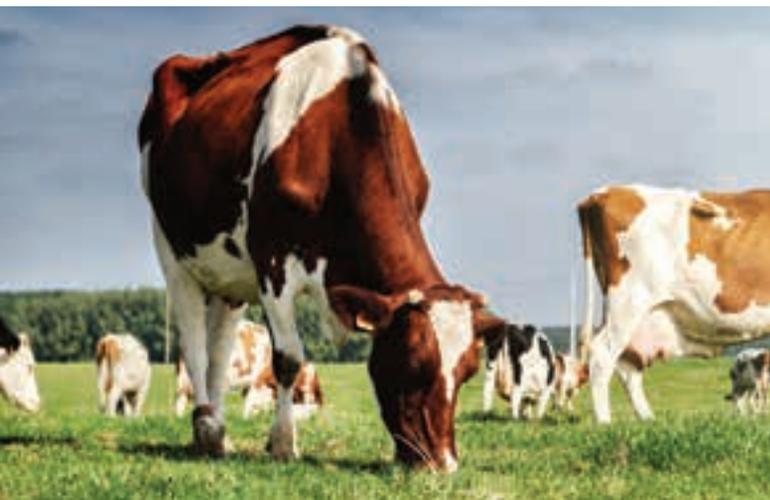
- » Feed-grade antibiotics require prescriptions called VFDs (veterinary feed directive)
- » Water-grade antibiotics require prescriptions similar to the process we use with injectable antibiotics

The definition of "medically important" is important. All antibiotics that are routinely used in human medicine are defined as medically important. The antibiotics that can still be sold over the counter would include:

- » Bacitracin – BMD<sup>®</sup>, Albac<sup>®</sup> and Pennitracin<sup>™</sup>
- » Carbadox – Mecadox<sup>®</sup>
- » Bambermycin – Flavomycin<sup>®</sup>
- » Ionophores – Skycis<sup>™</sup>
- » Tiamulin – Denagard<sup>®</sup>

## Implementation Dates

- » **October 1, 2015:** Currently available VFD drugs (Nufloor<sup>®</sup>, Pulmotil<sup>®</sup> and Tilmovet<sup>®</sup>) will have to comply with the new guidelines.
- » **January 1, 2017:** Current feed-grade medically important over-the-counter (OTC) products will be required to have VFD. Water-grade OTC products will be required to have a prescription.



## What This Means for the Producer and Veterinarian

### Feed – VFD

- » Must be used within a valid VCPR (veterinarian-client-patient relationship)
- » Does not have to be written for each individual group of pigs – can be written for a flow but needs a list of sites where the product will be utilized
- » Do not have to write the total tons of feed utilized
- » As with previous rules, product cannot be fed in a manner different than the label (extra label) – this is an illegal practice
- » Any non-VFD products fed concurrently with a VFD product will need a VFD (example – Denagard® fed at the same time as chlortetracycline)
- » The VFD can be issued with an expiration date of six months, or shorter if the current product states a shorter expiration date.
  - All of the VFD feed must be fed within that six-month period
- » Producer, veterinarian and feed mill must keep the VFD record for 12 months
- » If you mix and sell VFD feed:
  - Send a one-time notification letter to the FDA notifying FDA you intend to handle/distribute VFD drug-containing medicated feeds
  - To purchase a VFD product from a distributor, you must send a document acknowledging that you will use the VFD feeds only with valid VFD orders

- » If you purchase VFD feeds from a commercial mill:
  - The VFD will be sent to that mill, producer, and a copy kept by your veterinarian

### Water – Veterinary Prescription

- » All medically important water-soluble antibiotics will need a veterinary prescription
- » The process will be very similar to the current injectable antibiotic prescription process

## What Do Producers Need to Do Over the Coming Months to Become Ready?

1. Ensure you have good database for your production sites. As prescriptions need to be generated, this will ease some of the frustration.
2. Continue to work identifying areas to address livestock health, including diagnostics and disease eradication, in order to limit the use of antibiotics.
3. Implement solid antibiotic use record keeping of your injectable, feed and water medications. 🐾

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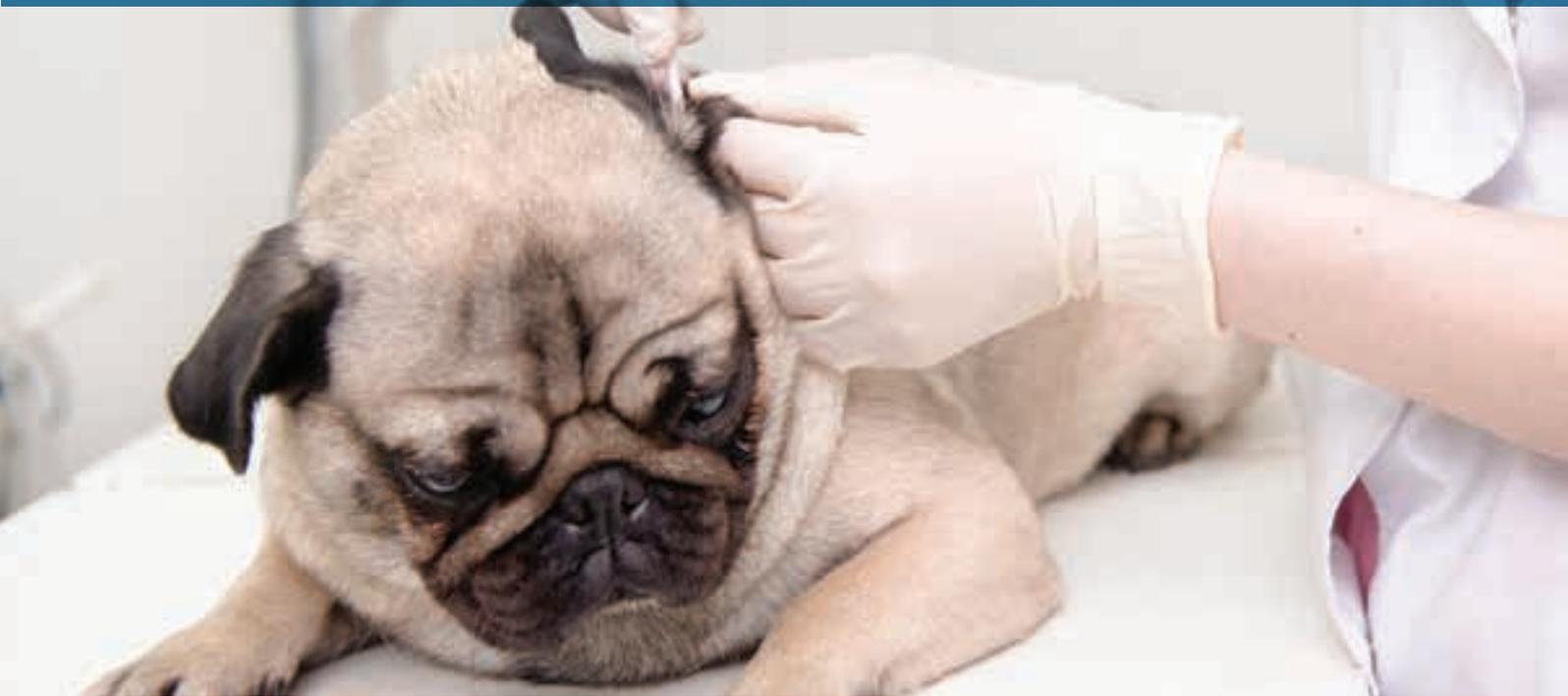
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# Newly Enacted CVT Rules *and the* **Effect On Your Practice**



The publication of Certified Veterinary Technician and Veterinarian Administrative Rules (rules that clarify Illinois law) on February 16, 2016, added clarity to the tasks a licensee and unregulated veterinary employee can perform and under what level of supervision by a veterinarian. This ISVMA initiated rule change brought closure to a six-year process.

## **Background**

In 2010, the ISVMA put together a diverse CVT Rules and Responsibilities Task Force to evaluate how the role of certified veterinary technicians could be best utilized within an Illinois veterinary practice. The goal of the Task Force was 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 veterinary supervision.

The task force worked for over a year, including two member surveys, a review of other rules and legislation in other states and a review of skills being taught in AVMA-accredited CVT programs. This work led to the development of a comparative list of procedures, and supervision requirements, for both CVTs and unlicensed practice personnel. Then, the

task force took some six months to gather comments and feedback from veterinarians and CVTs, which led to refinement of the recommendations. The task force's final recommendations were reviewed by the ISVMA Board of Directors, which voted to approve a final list of recommendations.

Next, ISVMA sought regulatory changes to implement a schedule of procedures and supervision for CVT and unlicensed practice personnel. This process involved multiple reviews by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation and its Veterinary Licensing Board. The draft rules then went to the Illinois General Assembly's Joint Committee on Legislative Rules (JCAR), which reviewed the rules and posted them for public comment. JCAR reviewed the public comments, made changes and then approved the final

rules in an Administrative Rules Hearing in early 2016. The rules were formally published and became effective on February 16, 2016.

## **The Administrative Rules**

The Administrative Rules in discussion were always presented in a grid; however, to comply with the state of Illinois' rulemaking process the grid became prose. These rules actually add a section to the Certified Technician Rules, Section 1505.60, as well as to the Veterinarian Rules, Section 1500.48.

Online you can find the rules at: <http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/068/068015050000600R.html> and at <http://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/068/068015000000480R.html> or on the ISVMA website, [www.isvma.org](http://www.isvma.org).

Below the rules are summarized in a grid format for easier comparison and comprehension:

TASKS	LICENSED TECHNICIAN			UNREGISTERED ASSISTANT		
	Immediate	Direct	Indirect	Immediate	Direct	Indirect
Anesthesia						
• Induction	✓	✓		✓		
• Endotracheal Intubation	✓	✓		✓		
• Maintenance	✓	✓		✓		
Anesthesia						
• Monitor Vital Signs	✓	✓		✓		
IV catheter	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cut down (with needle)	✓	✓				
Central Line (without cutdown)	✓	✓				
Dental Prophylaxis	✓	✓		✓		
Dental Extractions						
• Deciduous Extractions (for clarification)						
Gingival Resection						
Administer Chemotherapy	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Skin Closure	✓	✓				
Removal of Sutures, Drains, Staples	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Microchip Implant	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Perform Local Nerve Blocks	✓	✓		✓		
Cast Application	✓					
• Setting of bones						
Splint Application	✓	✓		✓		
Bandage Application	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Male K9 Urinary Catheterization	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Female K9 Urinary Catheterization	✓	✓		✓		
Blocked Male Cat- Urinary Catheterization	✓	✓				
Fine Needle Aspiration	✓	✓				
Puncture Abscess with a Needle	✓	✓				
Humanly Euthanize an animal	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Decapitate for rabies test submission	✓	✓		✓		
Clamp Calves' Tails						
Dock Sheep/Pig Tails	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Float Teeth						
Castrate Animals						
Dehorn Calves	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Trim Normal Hooves (excluding equine)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Necropsy-Tissue Sample Collection	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Radiological images- acquire/process	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Venipuncture	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Obtain objective patient data without diagnosis	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Cystocentesis	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Process laboratory samples	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bacterial Streak and Culture	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Administer Non Rabies Vaccines	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Intramuscular + Subcutaneous Inj	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Intravenous injection into uncatheterized & catheterized vein	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Animal Restraint	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Strictly Prohibited

✓ = Permitted

**NOTES:**

1) The definitions for the levels of supervision come from the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act (225 ILCS 115/3):

“Immediate supervision” means the supervising veterinarian is in the immediate area, within audible and visual range of the animal patient and the person treating the patient.

“Direct supervision” means the supervising veterinarian is readily available on the premises where the animal is being treated.

“Indirect supervision” means the supervising veterinarian need not be on the premises, but has given either written or oral instructions for the treatment of the animal and is available by telephone or other form of communication.

2) If your practice has a veterinary assistant that you wish to perform a task or tasks at the same level of supervision as a CVT (as long as the supervision is direct or immediate), there is a provision in the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act (225 ILCS 115/4) which provides:

(5.5) Students of an accredited program in veterinary technology performing veterinary technology duties or actions assigned by instructors or working under the immediate or direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

Under this provision, you could enroll your veterinary assistant in any of the AVMA accredited schools of veterinary technology (including any of the online programs) and, as a student of veterinary technology, your veterinary assistant would have more latitude to perform certain tasks under direct or immediate supervision.

# Frequently Asked Questions in Regards to the Newly Enacted Certified Veterinary Technician Rules

The following are some questions and answers that may be helpful to those who employ CVTs under the new rules:

## 1. What was the process behind the formulation of the new CVT rules?

The Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association has been working on this change for approximately six years. There was a special group assigned to work on this project, CVT Rules and Responsibilities Task Force, which was comprised of CVTs and veterinarians reflecting different practice types. The task force conducted two member surveys, a review of other state's laws and rules, comment periods, board discussions, emails, and newsletter and online articles about the topic.

## 2. When do the CVT Administrative Rules go into effect?

The rules went into effect on February 16, 2016.

## 3. Do these new rules mean I must hire a CVT?

The rules mean you may need to more closely supervise your unlicensed staff and/or complete certain procedures yourself.

## 4. How do I find a certified veterinary technician to hire?

You can contact the AVMA-accredited certified veterinary technician program closest to your business or all of the programs and ask about their placement services. ISVMA has online classified advertising available for CVTs, and/or you can post a help wanted advertisement locally.

## 5. How do these rules affect my non-licensed personnel who have been doing these procedures?

A new section has been added to the Veterinary Practice Act's Administrative Rules, Section 1500.48, Employees of Licensed Veterinarian Who Are Not Certified Veterinary Technicians. This section clarifies levels of supervision or prohibition of some tasks assigned by veterinarians.

If a veterinarian chooses to assign an employee who is not a CVT a task under the same supervision as a CVT, they may do so

based on the Veterinary Practice Act, (225 ILCS 115/3) (from Ch. 111, par. 7003) (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2024).

Section 3. Definitions.

"Supervising veterinarian" means a veterinarian who assumes responsibility for the professional care given to an animal by a person working under his or her direction in either an immediate, direct or indirect supervision arrangement. The supervising veterinarian must have examined the animal at such time as acceptable veterinary medical practice requires, consistent with the particular delegated animal health care task.

If any complaints result from the veterinarian deviating from the Administrative Rules, the veterinarian must understand that as the licensee they will be held responsible, not the unregulated employee.

## 6. How are the levels of supervision in the Administrative Rules defined?

The definitions for the levels of supervision come from the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act (225 ILCS 115/3):

"Immediate supervision" means the supervising veterinarian is in the immediate area, within audible and visual range of the animal patient and the person treating the patient.

"Direct supervision" means the supervising veterinarian is readily available on the premises where the animal is being treated.

"Indirect supervision" means the supervising veterinarian need not be on the premises but has given either written or oral instructions for the treatment of the animal and is available by telephone or other form of communication.

## 7. How do my unlicensed technicians become licensed?

There are numerous AVMA-accredited schools in Illinois that offer the certified veterinary technician program.

### Joliet Junior College

Agriculture Sciences Department  
1215 Houbolt Rd., Joliet, IL 60431  
(815) 280-2746 • F (815) 280-2741  
www.jjc.cc.il.us

R. Scott Keller, DVM, Coordinator  
Associate of Applied Science  
Initial Accreditation – March 2001  
FULL ACCREDITATION

### Parkland College

Veterinary Technology Program  
2400 W. Bradley Ave., Champaign, IL 61821  
(217) 351-2224  
www.parkland.edu

James Lehman, DVM, Director  
Associate of Applied Science  
Initial Accreditation – November, 1976  
FULL ACCREDITATION

### Rockford Career College

1130 S. Alpine Rd., Ste. 100, Rockford, IL 61108  
(815) 965-8616  
www.rockfordcareercollege.edu

Melissa Stacy, CVT, Director  
Associate of Applied Science  
Initial Accreditation – February 1, 2008  
PROVISIONAL ACCREDITATION

### Southern Illinois Collegiate Common Market (SICCM)

Includes schools at: John A. Logan College at Carterville, Kaskaskia College at Centralia, Rend Lake College at Ina, Shawnee Community College at Ullin, Southeastern Illinois College at Harrisburg, Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville  
3213 South Park Ave., Herrin, IL 62948  
Jamie Morgan, CVT, Director  
(618) 942-6902

www.siccm.com  
Associate of Applied Science  
Initial Accreditation – February 6, 2009  
PROVISIONAL ACCREDITATION

### **Vatterott Educational Centers, Inc.**

110 Commerce Ln. Fairview Heights, IL 62208  
Nancy Bay, Program Director  
www.vatterott.edu/fairview\_heights/aas/  
veterinary-technician-training.asp

### **Vet Tech Institute at Fox College**

18020 Oak Park Ave., Tinley Park, IL 60477  
Jordan Siegel, DVM, Program Director  
(708) 636-7700  
www.foxcollege.edu  
Associate of Applied Science  
Initial Accreditation – October 22, 2007  
PROVISIONAL ACCREDITATION

There are also distance-learning programs that are accredited by AVMA. These programs are as follows:

### **Cedar Valley College**

Veterinary Technology Distance  
Education Program  
3030 N. Dallas Ave., Lancaster, TX 75134  
(972) 860-8267  
Associate in Applied Science  
Monica Fann, DVM, Director  
Initial Accreditation – September, 2001  
FULL ACCREDITATION

### **Colby Community College**

Veterinary Technology Distance  
Learning Program  
1255 S. Range Ave., Colby, KS 67701  
(785) 462-3984  
Jennifer Martin, DVM, Director  
Associate of Applied Science  
Initial Accreditation – September 12, 2014;  
Next Evaluation – 2019  
INITIAL ACCREDITATION

### **Jefferson State Community College**

Veterinary Technology Distance  
Education Program  
2601 Carson Rd., Birmingham, AL 35215-3098  
(205) 856-8519  
Jodi Turner Bloch, DVM, Director  
Associate in Applied Science  
Initial Accreditation – March 16, 2007  
FULL ACCREDITATION

### **Northern Virginia Community College**

1000 Harry Flood Byrd Hwy., Sterling, VA  
20164-8699  
(703) 450-2525

Associate in Applied Science  
Mary Aller, DVM, Director  
Initial Accreditation – February 20, 2004  
FULL ACCREDITATION

### **Penn Foster College**

Veterinary Technician Distance  
Education Program  
14300 N. Northsight Blvd., Ste. 125  
Scottsdale, AZ 85260  
(800) 275-4410  
James Hurrell, DVM, Director  
Associate of Science  
Initial Accreditation – January 5, 2006  
FULL ACCREDITATION

### **Purdue University**

School of Veterinary Medicine  
Veterinary Technology Distance  
Education Program  
West Lafayette, IN 47907  
(765) 496-6579  
Associate of Applied Science  
Christina Tran, DVM, Director  
Initial Accreditation – July 31, 2002  
FULL ACCREDITATION

### **St. Petersburg College**

Veterinary Technology Distance  
Education Program  
12376 Ullmerton Rd., Largo, FL 33774  
(727) 341-3652  
Richard Flora, DVM, Director  
Associate in Science  
Initial Accreditation – November, 1995  
Bachelor of Applied Science  
Initial Accreditation – April, 2005  
FULL ACCREDITATION

### **San Juan College**

Veterinary Technology Distance  
Education Program  
4601 College Blvd., Farmington, NM 87402  
(505) 566-3182  
David Wright, DVM, Director  
Associate of Applied Science  
Initial Accreditation – November 8, 2006  
FULL ACCREDITATION

## **8. For CVT students, which levels of supervision apply?**

The provision affecting this topic in the Veterinary Medicine and Surgery Practice Act (225 ILCS 115/4) provides:

(5.5) Students of an accredited program in veterinary technology performing veterinary technology duties or actions assigned by instructors or working under the immediate or direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

Under this provision, you could enroll your veterinary assistant in any of the AVMA-accredited schools of veterinary technology (including any of the online programs), and as a student of veterinary technology, your veterinary assistant would have more latitude to perform certain tasks under direct or immediate supervision.

## **9. In Illinois many CVTs are also certified euthanasia technicians and are licensed under the Humane Euthanasia in the Animal Shelters Act. Do the changes in the CVT rules affect their euthanasia licensure?**

As a euthanasia technician is a separate licensure under a different act, there should not be any effect on the euthanasia licensure.

(225 ILCS 115/4) (from Ch. 111, par. 7004) (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2024)

(11) A certified euthanasia technician who is authorized to perform euthanasia in the course and scope of Humane Euthanasia in the Animal Shelters Act.

## **10. What guidelines must a CVT from another state, who was invited to speak or train in Illinois, follow?**

(225 ILCS 115/3) (from Ch. 111, par. 7003) (Section scheduled to be repealed on January 1, 2024)

Section 4. Exemptions.

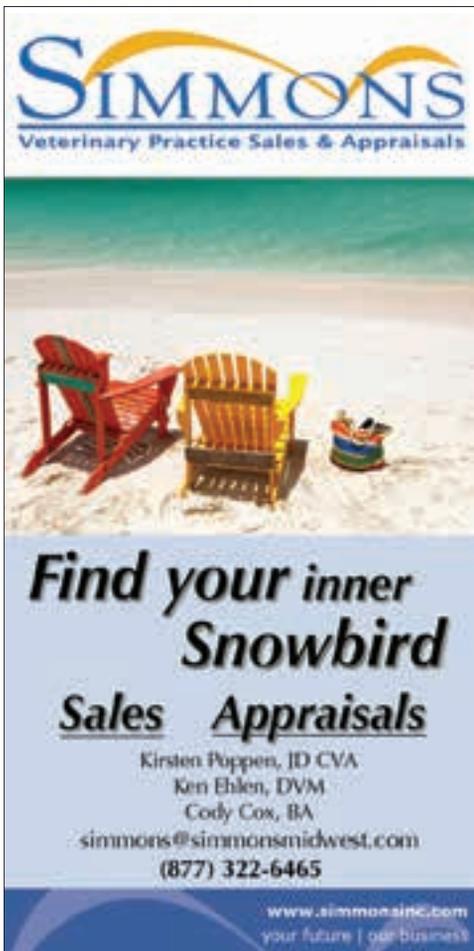
(3.5) A veterinarian or veterinary technician from another state or country who (A) is not licensed under this Act; (B) is currently licensed as a veterinarian or veterinary technician in another state or country or otherwise exempt from licensure in the other state; (C) is an invited guest of a professional veterinary association, veterinary training program or continuing education provider approved by the Department; and (D) engages in professional education through lectures, clinics or demonstrations. 🐾

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- Animal Care League is a 501(c)3 organization providing shelter and medical care for over 2,000 animals each year. Animal Care League serves as the stray holding facility for five surrounding villages, offers shelter and care for animals from local animal con-

trol partners, and provides low-cost spay/neuter and vaccine services to the public. Animal Care League is searching for a highly motivated, experienced, part-time to full-time shelter veterinarian to provide medical care and HQHVSN services to our shelter animals and public clients (duties split between surgery and shelter medicine). We are looking for a skilled veterinarian who is comfortable in a fast-paced environment and is able to perform 20-plus surgeries per day. Veterinarians would also help maintain a shelter of 150 to 250 animals. Ideal candidates would be comfortable with in-heat spays, pregnant spays and large dog surgeries, and have the ability to perform procedures such as leg amputation, enucleation, cherry eye sx, as well as other lifesaving procedures. Animal Care League houses exotics such as rabbits, guinea pigs, hamsters and birds, so experience with exotics is preferred, or candidates must have a willingness to train/

learn. Responsibilities would also include: communicating with key managers on medical plans and follow-up for shelter animals; communicating with key managers on housing and containment of contagious diseases; performing occasional euthanasia; keeping thorough medical records; working through solutions and providing input on protocols, facility improvement, and overall medical operations; developing and managing inventory system for surgical supplies; and helping keep medical expenses within budgetary guidelines by developing/maintaining effective and efficient medical processes. Candidates must possess a DVM degree and be licensed to practice in the state of Illinois. Candidates must also be team players with extraordinary communication and problem-solving skills, and have a passion for homeless animals as well as people. Candidates must be open to a flexible schedule, including weekends and occasional on-call evenings/



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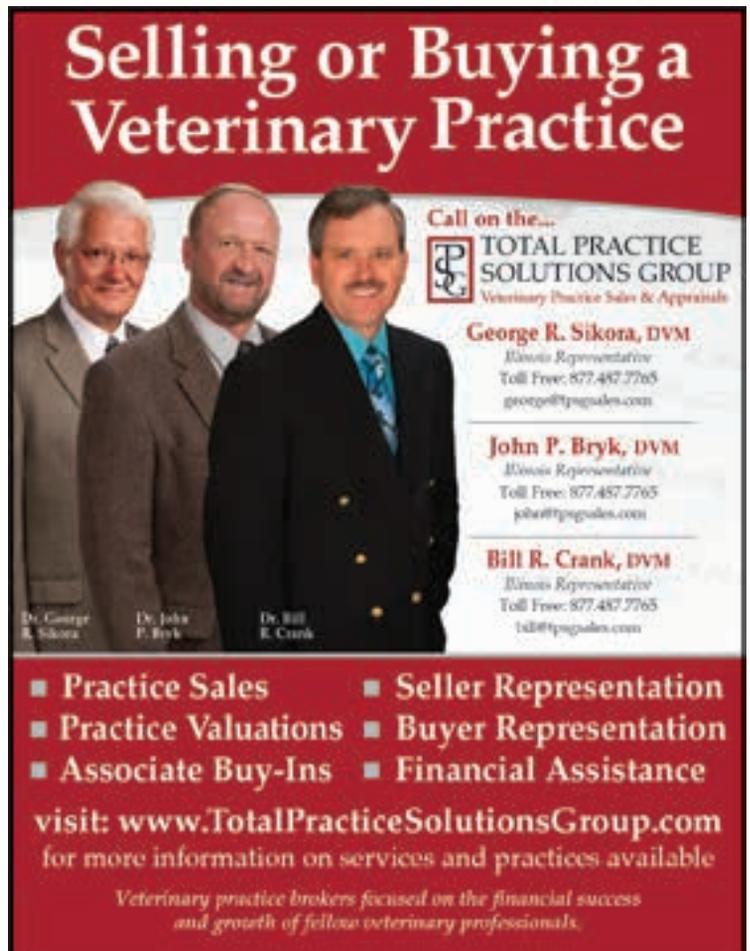
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- Busy, modern, mixed animal practice (predominately small animal) in Byron, Illinois, is seeking licensed veterinarian, full- or part-time. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Please send résumé to [blackhawkveterinary@gmail.com](mailto:blackhawkveterinary@gmail.com) for consideration.
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the latest technology and emphasizes superior client communication and patient care. A large and well-trained support staff is here to assist our veterinarians in providing compassionate, quality care. Competitive salary/benefits. Please send cover letter and résumé to Kimberly Cerny, 3219 North Clark Street, Chicago, IL 60657, or email to [kimberly@blumvet.com](mailto:kimberly@blumvet.com).

- Four Paws Animal Hospital in O'Fallon, Illinois, is seeking a full-time associate to join our team of six doctors and staff. Four Paws is an AAHA-accredited hospital that boast a 12,000-square-foot, modern facility equipped with digital X-rays, ultrasound, in-house lab, underwater treadmill, etc. Visit our website at [Fourpaws-vet.com](http://Fourpaws-vet.com) to learn more about us. Please contact Jim at (618) 593-9255, or email [jbollmeier@hotmail.com](mailto:jbollmeier@hotmail.com) with résumé.
- Busy, two-doctor, small animal practice in north central Illinois looking for an associate veterinarian. We are a primary care hospital emphasizing preventative health care, medical services and surgery. Salary is negotiable, and we offer a simple IRA plan, CE fees, liability insurance, and ISVMA and AVMA dues. Buy-in would be possible for the right person. Please send résumé to [bill\\_condie\\_538@comcast.net](mailto:bill_condie_538@comcast.net).
- Great opportunity for a motivated veterinarian, located in southeastern Illinois near the Shawnee National Forest. We are looking for a small animal associate for our Harrisburg location. Seeking full-time but will consider part-time. Currently there are 3.5 doctors and more work available. We would love for you to come check us out! Please contact us at (618) 252-2728 or [hbgvet@yahoo.com](mailto:hbgvet@yahoo.com).
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our associates a healthy work-life balance. We welcome all candidates with a passion for providing comprehensive and compassionate medical, surgical and preventative health care. Interested candidates should contact Dr. Davis Jones by email: [djones@vetcor.com](mailto:djones@vetcor.com).

- Meadowbrook Veterinary Clinic, a large, expanding, advanced care, AAHA-accredited, small animal hospital, is adding an additional full-time veterinary associate. We want a veterinarian interested in internal medicine/anesthesiology to add to our advanced care portfolio of ultrasound, laser surgery, laparoscopic surgery, chiropractic care, etc. Looking for an enthusiastic, personable team player with great communication skills. No after-hours emergencies. For more information about our service, visit our website, [www.meadowbrookvet.com](http://www.meadowbrookvet.com). Please send résumé to [khorn@meadowbrookvet.com](mailto:khorn@meadowbrookvet.com) or 1624 West War Memorial Drive, Peoria, IL 61614.
- Mixed practice in beautiful southern Illinois, near St. Louis. Please join our team! We have a modern, state-of-the-art facility with great staff. Looking for a full-time, dedicated team member to be the third doctor at this mixed practice. Let us visit to meet and discuss your talents, interests and opportunity for long-term career. Contact [drallen@muellervetservices.com](mailto:drallen@muellervetservices.com). Visit us on Facebook or our website, [www.muellervetservices.com](http://www.muellervetservices.com).
- Morrison Veterinary Clinic is looking to hire a full-time associate at a four-doctor, growing, mixed animal practice (80 percent small/20 percent large), located in northwest Illinois. In-house laboratory, Cornerstone practice software, CVTs on staff, excellent benefits package. Emergency duties shared equally between all doctors. Experienced or new grads welcome to apply. Position available January 2016. Contact Dr. Ryan Zinke for more information: 14993 Lyndon Road, Morrison, IL 61270; (815) 772-4047; [morrisonvet@frontier.com](mailto:morrisonvet@frontier.com).

- North Avenue Animal Hospital — Four-doctor AAHA-accredited, primary care hospital in Bucktown/Wicker Park looking for a full-time associate. Well-established, spacious, fully equipped, practicing progressive medicine, surgery and dentistry. Cats and dogs only. Great clientele and support staff; competitive salary, benefits; lots of room for professional and personal growth. Please forward your résumé, and contact Marie at (773) 278-1330, ext. 6; marie@northavevet.com; North Avenue Animal Hospital, 1901 West North Avenue, Chicago.

- PetVets Animal Hospital is seeking a highly motivated, dedicated and caring veterinarian to join our team. We are an AAHA-certified, progressive and integrative small animal practice, located in Oak Park, Illinois. Our practice's primary goal is to provide patient-centered quality care while enhancing the pet-owner bond. The ideal candidate will be a team-oriented individual with a strong work ethic to practice in a family-friendly environment with emphasis on communication, service, collaboration and relationship-building. PetVets offers a competitive salary and benefits such as 401(k), medical insurance, CE and paid vacation with lots of room for professional and personal growth. Candidates must have a minimum of four years' clinical experience. Please forward résumés to Dr. Yael Cidon at petvetsah@gmail.com; (708) 445-0937 (fax).

- Veterinary Associate needed for a well established, progressive mixed animal practice located in central Illinois (20 miles north of Springfield). We are a four-doctor practice with two locations. Our friendly support staff strives to uphold quality patient/customer care. We have recently built a state of the art facility with Equine ICU stalls, stocks, surgery suite, Bovine haul-in facility, as well as a fully equipped small animal hospital. Candidate must be enthusiastic and motivated, with a strong desire to practice high quality medicine. Preferably we are looking for the right veterinarian who is large animal oriented with a special interest in equine medicine/surgery but is also willing to work with companion

animals. We offer a competitive salary: SIMPLE IRA, Health Insurance, C.E., Liability Insurance, Professional Dues, Paid Vacation, etc. Please send resume/cover letter to: pvc123@casscomm.com or fax (217) 632-7699 or contact the Petersburg Veterinary Clinic at (217) 632-7713.

- Full time associate wanted for a well equipped, modern small-animal practice in Northern Illinois located close to Rockford. Excellent staff and clientele. No after-hours emergency duty. Email resume to vetclinic442@gmail.com

### RELIEF VETERINARIAN

- Small animal relief veterinarian available throughout Illinois and Missouri, with eight years relief experience. For information and references, please contact me online, amstaff66@sbcglobal.net, or by phone, (618) 363-8140.

### PRACTICES FOR SALE

- New listing! Southern Illinois. One-veterinarian, all small animal practice with real estate. Great exposure on main thoroughfare, \$150,000 new owner projected after debt income — excellent opportunity! Dr. Ken Ehlen, Simmons & Assoc. Midwest Inc., simmons@simsonsmidwest.com, (877) 322-6565.

- RIDGE ANIMAL CLINIC. Small animal veterinary practice for sale in Lansing, IL. Approximately 1700 SF, 2.5 doctor practice, ample parking, has three exam rooms, surgical laser, digital radiography, therapy laser, ultra sound, full in-house lab and kennels. Contact Dr. Kerri Katsalis at (708) 474-3100 or (773) 573-7100.

### OUT-OF-STATE OPPORTUNITIES VETERINARIANS

- Four-DVM, progressive, small animal hospital is seeking an experienced veterinarian in Redlands, Southern California. Hospital is equipped with all modern gadgets, including ultrasound and endoscopy. K-9 rehab center will opened in February. Excellent salary package with bonus on production. Send résumé to dvm@eastvalleypethospital.com. 🐾

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# ISVMA Education Vacation



The Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association announces its first ISVMA Education Vacation, featuring Dr. Debra Horwitz! Join us on Royal Caribbean's Independence of the Seas, January 23-28, 2017, for 10 hours of continuing education (CE) on behavior and practice issues.

ISVMA member pricing for the CE sessions is \$295 for veterinarians, \$225 for technicians and \$125 for other staff members (additional charges will apply for nonmembers). This five-night cruise on one of Royal Caribbean's largest ships will visit Labadee, Haiti, and Falmouth, Jamaica.

Please contact [michelle@isvma.org](mailto:michelle@isvma.org) or visit the ISVMA website for more information. Outside cabins are priced starting at \$624 per person, double occupancy; balconies start at \$819 (these prices include all taxes, port charges and prepaid gratuities). To obtain this ISVMA group rate, bookings can be made with Fran Babicz at OK Travel, (773) 581-0100.

The excellent educational opportunities, great ship and destinations, and socialization with your colleagues will make this an event to remember! 🐾