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A publication of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association

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Advancing Patient Care

Through Team Commitment
to Forward Booking

Volunteerism:

Helping Your Community,
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Self-Care:

A Valuable Tool for Combatting
Compassion Fatigue



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ISVMA Mission

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

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Veterinary Pharmacies
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Growing and Supporting ISVMA Membership

by Sandra Faeb, DVM



Spring is here, and although the winter wasn't too bad, it's nice to hear the birds singing!

In the last issue, we discussed the importance of meeting with our local legislators. Since then, I have had two great meetings with local legislators, Sen. Chris Nybo and Rep. Emanuel Chris Welch, and plan on meeting with more legislators as the year progresses. The visits were very well received, and the legislators were genuinely interested in our profession. It's hard to remember sometimes, but they are normal people just like us. Don't forget the ISVMA has some great tools on the website to make these conversations go smoother, and please let the office know who you have made contact with as it helps our government relations team.

A second major component of our strategic plan focuses on membership. We are proud to have over 1,997 veterinarian members plus 461 veterinary student members. In 2008, we

opened membership to certified veterinary technicians. We currently have 224 veterinary technician members plus 165 veterinary technician student members. We continue to grow every year and continue to develop new ways to serve our members.

Continuing education is an important part of how we serve our members. Our annual convention offers 20 hours of continuing education (CE) on a yearly basis and usually takes place in central or northern Illinois. However, we know that not everyone wants to travel north for CE. Last year, the Southern Illinois Veterinary Medical Association and ISVMA leadership worked together on creating a larger CE meeting to serve the southern part of the state. The ISVMA Board and staff felt that this was an excellent idea; therefore, the annual Downstate Conference was born. Last April, the meeting was held at the Drury Inn in O'Fallon, Illinois, and featured one speaker (practice management) on Friday afternoon and two speakers (large and small animal) all day on Saturday. Attendance was excellent, and the decision was made to move to a larger venue for 2017. Just a few weeks ago, the Downstate Conference was held at

the Regency Conference Center in O'Fallon and offered two tracks on both Friday afternoon and Saturday, offering a potential of 10 CE hours for attendees. Large animal, small animal and practice management tracks were equally represented. This meeting is a great example of partnership between ISVMA and regional groups, working to better serve all of our members.

On January 18, we held the first ever regional meeting at the ISVMA office. In attendance were representatives from almost all of the seven regions, ISVMA staff and ISVMA accountant Brent Leach. Leach discussed IRS requirements for associations. ISVMA Executive Director Debbie Lakamp presented on association practices and policies, while director of education Dr. Michelle Gundlach and Assistant Executive Director Alicia Davis-Wade discussed CE approval and various services offered by ISVMA for meetings. The group felt that this was a valuable meeting and should be held annually.

On March 13, the first-ever Practice Ownership Meeting, *Buyers Strategies for Success*, was held at the Starved Rock Lodge and Convention Center. Three of our members, along with Dennis Thornton, a broker, presented a great eight-hour CE seminar, on *Eight Things Attorneys, Accountants, and Practice Managers DON'T Tell You About Practice Ownership, Lease Negotiations and Real Estate Purchases, and Management and Employee Issues for New Practice Owners*.

These are just a few of the membership opportunities available to you. The ISVMA office staff and Board members value each and every one of our members. Please never hesitate to contact us with any comments, ideas or criticisms. We look forward to your feedback! 🐾





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Moving Forward with the Strategic Goal of Improved Community Relations

by Deborah Lakamp, CAE, Executive Director



Establishing strong working relationships with other animal-focused organizations and with allied industries is one of ISVMA's strategic goals in the area of public awareness and community relations. The ISVMA Membership Committee has moved this goal forward by creating a working group of veterinarians from the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDAG), Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), USDA-FSIS and USDA-APHIS, and the ISVMA. There have also been communications with the Food and Drug Administration. Here are some examples of how veterinarians in daily practice are helping to further these goals:

Veterinary Feed Directives

As with any new process, the veterinary feed directive mandate has created some questions. When questions about veterinarians who would work with apiaries and fisheries came about, ISVMA went to work to find veterinarians who could help. Several of you answered the call, and a loosely organized resource group was created. Training on honeybee protocols was also identified for veterinarians.

Veterinarian Advocates Needed in Illinois

Our state government's deadline to file proposed legislation was in mid-February. The day before the deadline, ISVMA was tracking six pieces of legislation with potential impact on the veterinary profession or animal health and welfare. After the deadline, the association is tracking 50 legislative bills. Each of those bills are backed by individuals or groups that passionately believe they know how to best care for, treat, house and regulate animals. Your veterinary voice and point-of-view is of critical importance.

The ISVMA government relations team will help you learn about your legislators, set up a meeting and help you engage with them. Call ISVMA at (217) 546-8381, or email debbie@isvma.org.

Seoul Virus (Hantavirus)

When it became apparent that the Seoul virus was impacting human and rat health in Illinois, the IDPH contacted the IDAG and ISVMA. Our role was to get information to veterinarians and to help identify veterinarians who could assist with testing rats, as well as aiding in other health care decisions. ISVMA continues to share information as it becomes available.

Fentanyl and Police Dogs

ISVMA networked with the University of Illinois when it came to light that Illinois police dogs were being affected by fentanyl

in their work. The association helped spread the word that the reversal drug naloxone (Narcan) should be given, and evaluated whether any legislative solutions would be needed to allow this to be carried and administered by officers.

Website Addition

ISVMA has also been working with all the agencies listed above to launch a new segment on the association website. This section will be a One Health resource, as well as a shortcut to frequently asked questions and frequently searched information that veterinarians use on a daily basis. 🐾



Meet Ch Khalin

Meet Sharrah's Ch Khalin, who is the spokes-dog for the Ovarian Cancer Symptom Awareness (OCSA) organization and Integrative Pet Care Hanover Park's February 2017 Patient of the Month! Here

he is snoozing during a recent acupuncture therapy session with Dr. Rosemary LoGiudice. His story demonstrates how rehabilitative veterinary medicine and traditional veterinary medicine work together to benefit our pets — thanks to his primary care veterinarian, Dr. Kurt Klepitsch, and his staff at Gateway Veterinary Clinic. Both clinics are members of OCSA's innovative Veterinary Outreach Program. 🐾

To learn more about Ch Khalin's story, visit *Integrative Pet Care's February 2017 Patient of the Month* page at integrativepetcare.com/2017/02/february-2017-ch-khalin.

PNC
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Horses, One Health, History

How We Are Shaping Our Future

by Peter Constable, Dean



A lot has been happening at your College of Veterinary Medicine this year!

Horses

In February, our college welcomed both a farrier practice and a horseshoeing school. These additions will advance our strategic goals to provide excellent service for animal owners and transformative learning experiences for students.

Middlefork Forge at Illinois™ opened February 17, offering therapeutic shoeing in our large animal clinic every Friday and servicing horses in west central Indiana and east central Illinois the rest of the week. Steve Sermersheim, an internationally recognized farrier, leads this service, which complements the exceptional medical and surgical lameness services already available to equine patients at our hospital. (In January, our new 3T MRI imaged its first equine patient!)



Our Office of Public Engagement now oversees the Midwest Horseshoeing School, located in Divernon, Illinois. Diego Almeida, who formerly co-owned the school with

Sermersheim, continues to manage instruction for the school.

Our alliance with the horseshoeing school is anticipated to greatly expand fourth-year veterinary students' exposure to wellness examinations and routine horse health care. Around 5,600 well horses are shod each year at the school, and many of these animals are not receiving regular veterinary care elsewhere.

One Health

This year also kicked off with a flurry of activity in our Center for One Health Illinois. About seven faculty members and one fourth-year student played a role in the Centers for Disease Control/Illinois Department of Public Health investigations into cases of Seoul virus spread to people via pet rats. The college worked with these agencies and the ISVMA to find solutions for veterinarians and rat owners/breeders impacted by the virus.

Our college is also part of a five-year, \$10 million federal grant to establish the Upper Midwestern Center of Excellence in Vector Borne Diseases. College and campus faculty, led by Dr. Marilyn O'Hara Ruiz, will receive \$1.8 million of center funding to develop forecasting models and statistical spatial risk maps of regionally important mosquitoes and ticks and the diseases that they cause.

History

The University of Illinois is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its founding. Under the banner of "Shaping the Future Since 1867," Illinois will be hosting sesquicenten-



nial activities from early 2017 through May 2018. Visit the website 150.illinois.edu for a list of planned activities or to upload your own photos, videos, audio and stories about your Illinois experiences and memories.

Our college will participate in the 150th celebration with an exhibit hall booth and a special alumni reception event at the AVMA conference in Indianapolis. I hope to see many of you there!

We'll also add 150th flair to this year's fall conference, which is slated for October 26 and 27, to coincide with homecoming weekend. Book your rooms early and plan to stay for the game against Wisconsin on Saturday. This is sure to be a don't-miss conference.

For details on any of these recent happenings, please visit our website at vetmed.illinois.edu or drop me a note at dean@vetmed.illinois.edu. 🐾

Advancing Patient Care

Through Team Commitment to Forward Booking

The Roaring Fork Valley provides some of the best fly fishing in Colorado, and the town of Carbondale — with its 6,500 residents located in the mountains 170 miles west of Denver — lies at its center. Resting in the magnificent shadow of 12,953-foot Mount Sopris, Carbondale offers plenty of activity and enjoyment for tourists and residents alike.

Carbondale also provides the home to Alpine Animal Hospital, a thriving, American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA)-accredited, mixed animal practice with five veterinarians and 12 staff members. Mary Fox, MBA, who characterizes Carbondale as “a fabulous town” and serves as Alpine’s hospital administrator, recently shared her observations about successfully implementing forward booking into the protocols and culture of the hospital.

Q: How did your practice implement forward booking?

A: It was a process, and it took some time because part of it was spending time with the staff to figure out practice goals and values, and how we express them in a positive way. We quickly learned that if we talked about forward booking in isolation and didn’t attach it to preventive health care, the staff thought it seemed pushy. Once we got staff buy-in that they were acting in the best interest of the patients, they started to feel comfortable and confident talking about forward booking.

Q: What was the biggest barrier to implementation?

A: First, the staff did not want to be pushy salespeople. Second, communication in the practice needed improvement. The front desk often did not know what the next step was in the preventive health care process, so we improved the communication between our receptionists and our exam room team. We now use the code “RTG” in our software system, which stands for “ready to go.” No patient can leave without that code, and next to the code, the doctor indicates the next steps in the patient’s health care.

Q: How does forward booking tie into your patient reminder system?

A: We’re right in the middle of evaluating the process of how we want to remind our clients. We have a new communication platform, which starts with an email reminder, then goes to a text, then a call. Once the appointment is confirmed, the client doesn’t receive any other messages. Because we use all mediums (email, text, phone), a lot fewer cards go out, which saves us time and money. In the beginning, the staff was very tentative about asking for client email addresses. It’s taken about a year, but now they say to clients, “And your email address is...?” without becoming apologetic.

The best care for the pet should not be posed as a question; rather, it’s “Here’s what’s best for your pet.” You have to believe in providing the best care, and then it’s natural to say, “Let’s schedule that exam” instead of asking for permission.

What has also been important is for our staff to be unafraid of saying to the client what the patient needs. The best care for the pet should not be posed as a question; rather, it’s “Here’s what’s best for your pet.” You have to believe in providing the best care, and then it’s natural to say, “Let’s schedule that exam” instead of asking for permission.

Q: How good is the practice at forward booking?

A: Ninety percent there! It took two years because our goal is to help our staff understand that we’re all in this together. It’s really a switch in practice culture, which will have a longer-lasting effect than just dictating protocols to the staff.

Q: Any other advice for practices?

A: Have definite, purposeful goals that will bring your team together. Why are we here? What do we want our culture to be? Then, build it out and ask, how do we accomplish this? Sure enough, you circle back to where you started, and the initial things that were difficult to implement, you either find they fit in, or they don’t and you reject them. We are always trying to do things better. 🐾



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Volunteerism:

HELPING YOUR COMMUNITY, YOUR PROFESSION AND YOURSELF

by Michelle Gundlach, DVM, ISVMA Director of Education



The veterinary profession has a storied history of being held in high esteem by members of the general public. Even before James Herriot's beloved stories introduced a generation to the ups and downs of life as a country vet, veterinarians had enjoyed the respect of many. More recently, as reported in a 2012 Canadian study, veterinarians were still regarded as one of the top five most respected professions. However, society is becoming more cynical and critical. Customers more frequently report concerns about costs, lack of compassion and greediness. A blog from *The Washington Post* in April 2015 stated that veterinarians are putting patients at risk because of inflated bills. The impact of "Dr. Google" is important as well — our training can seem less important to clients if they can quickly find an answer (right or wrong) to their questions online.

We are also a profession increasingly known for its high level of burnout, compassion fatigue and even suicide. A recent National Institutes of Health study reported the suicide rate in the veterinary profession as being twice that of human medicine and four times that of the general population. This is a critical issue that is finally receiving the attention it deserves. It has been reported that we see seven times more death than human medical professionals, and we often don't receive sufficient training on how to cope with the stress related to that, as well as debt, work-life balance, etc.

So, what does any of this have to do with volunteerism? Well, it is a great way to address both the issue of our public image as well as that of wellness for veterinary professionals. Research has shown that veterinarians who network more and are involved in organized veterinary medicine have a lower risk of depression and suicide. And regardless of your situation, public outreach and volunteering are great ways to feel better about yourself, your life and your impact on others.

When veterinary professionals volunteer for local, regional, and even state and na-



tional outreach activities, it also helps increase awareness of our profession with the general population. Volunteering can help bridge the gap between our perception and the community's impression of veterinary medicine. Meeting us in nonclinical settings allows the public to know veterinarians, veterinary technicians and staff as neighbors and friends. These events also give us the opportunity to interact with our colleagues and build lasting bonds, strengthening our profession.

ISVMA is working on providing opportunities for our members to connect with the public (and each other!). Last spring, we

participated in the Vet for A Day event at Historic Wagner Farm, and we are returning again this year. We hope to institute a similar event downstate as well. ISVMA is a sponsor of the veterinary exhibit at Kidzeum, a hands-on museum in Springfield. Our members also assist in judging the state FFA contest in Joliet each March. We would love to hear your suggestions for ways to provide our members an outlet to give back, as well as to reach out to Illinoisans to share our love of animals, their caregivers and our profession. You can call the ISVMA office with your ideas or email michelle@isvma.org. Let's work together to put our oath in action! 🐾

IVMF Donations

The Illinois Veterinary Medical Foundation (IVMF) welcomes contributions to celebrate or honor the life of a pet as well as to memorialize a loss. Download a donor form from the ISVMA website at isvma.org/illinois-veterinary-medical-foundation to submit your memorial. Please indicate whom you are honoring on the form, and give an address where the memorial notification can be sent.

In Memory

The IVMF thanks the following veterinary clinics for their contributions in memory of the following pets:

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Save the Date!

2017 ISVMA Convention

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Self-Care:

A Valuable Tool for Combatting Compassion Fatigue

by Rebecca Murray, CVT, MA, LPC

When I talk about compassion fatigue and other types of stress in veterinary medicine, I start with an educational piece and finish with some ways to cope with the stressors. Inevitably, someone approaches me saying, "Why didn't we talk about fixing the problems?" I want to chuckle because we did talk about that, or at least how to work on them. The problem, I think, is in how simple-sounding the "fix" is. Self-care is not a simple task, but it sure sounds like it.

When hearing the term "self-care," many people think about naps on the weekend or treating themselves to a massage. That does sound easy! Unfortunately, that's not self-care — at least, it's only a tiny part. Self-care refers to managing our own lives so that we are investing time in being healthy, happy and recharged. There are lots of types of self-care, and it's up to us to find out where we are lacking.

by a couple wedges while the rest look like tiny slivers? If you are a caregiver or driven in your career, the answer is probably yes. The first part of self-care is figuring out your own pie chart. Include everything you care about, think you should care about and used to care about. Take all the tiny slices and decide if they are still relevant or important to you. If not, erase them. If so, well, this is where it gets tough.



The most difficult part of self-care is that your pie chart will always be no more than 360 degrees. You cannot add to it, so in order to devote more time/effort to one element, you have to take away time/effort from another. We are usually not willing to do that. You might be saying to yourself, "I don't have time for other things!" Unless you are in an extreme or temporary position, such as a residency or having a newborn, that statement is probably not true. You are probably not willing to take time from certain parts of your life to devote to others. However, your health, your happiness and the neglected parts of your life are your responsibility. No one else will ever make you take care of yourself. Your family, friends and employers cannot force you to slow down to work on your happiness. And frankly, as you become chronically unhappy, those people might not want to help anymore.

Imagine a pie chart labeled "My life." What would the pieces say? Some common categories might be work, family and health. More specific ones might be social life, children, spouse, hobbies and spirituality. How big is each category? Is your pie chart dominated

OK, so we decided to work on self-care. What does that mean? There are lots of types of self-care. Physical self-care refers to nutrition, sleep, exercise and being under the care of a doctor. Social self-care means investing time in noncaregiving relationships, like family and friends. By caring for ourselves spiritually, we take time

to develop or deepen a spiritual connection. Other types of self-care are satisfying hobbies, learning, mindfulness and journaling. When listed like this, it seems overwhelming!

Trying to make too many changes at once can be just as dysfunctional as making none. Choose one or two types of self-care that seem lacking or important right now. Make a plan for how you will implement these changes. It doesn't have to be hours every day! Find 20 minutes to an hour a day that you can carve out of your schedule and use that time. Finding that time seems daunting. Write down everything you do in a day. Where can you take time? If you are getting plenty of sleep, can you get up 20 minutes early to walk or spend time with your spouse? Do you spend your lunch looking at your phone? Try journaling or meditating instead. If you watch 1.5 hours of television at night, could you take 30 minutes of that time to get to bed on time or to chat with a friend over the phone? Starting with a few small changes will make it much more manageable.



Self-care is just one part of managing the stressors of our work in veterinary medicine. It is an important skill, one that could make the difference between excelling at work and just getting by. Like all skills, it is more difficult the longer we have gone without, but it becomes easier with practice. Not only do we help ourselves, but we also model a healthful, self-caring lifestyle for the people around us. By taking care of yourself, you are happier, perform better in all the parts of your life, and help your family and co-workers see how beneficial self-care is. 🐾

Becky Murray, CVT, MA, LPC, is the counselor at Veterinary Specialty Center (VSC). She started working at VSC in 2005 as a certified veterinary technician in oncology and emergency. While working in oncology, she developed an interest in helping clients cope with the grief associated with pet loss.

In 2013, Murray completed her master's degree in clinical psychology and is now a licensed professional counselor. She facilitates a support group for people who have lost pets, provides grief counseling and client education about loss, speaks with clients about quality of life and provides training for veterinary staff about these topics.

Becky's areas of interest are group work, compassion fatigue and the effects of trauma on mental health.

Becky can be reached at bmurray@vetspecialty.com.

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In Memoriam

ISVMA's members and Board of Directors extend their condolences to the family of the following veterinarian.



Allan Paul, DVM

Dr. Allan Paul passed away on Sunday, February 12. As a faculty member at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine from 1980 to 2015, Dr. Paul embodied all aspects of the teaching-research-service mission, serving as associate dean for public engagement, professor of pathobiology, section head for parasitology in the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, companion animal Extension veterinarian, and executive secretary of the college's alumni association.

A native of Chicago, Dr. Paul earned a bachelor's degree from St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wis. He completed his veterinary degree and master's degree at Illinois. Before joining the college faculty in 1980, he worked as a small animal practitioner in Madison, Wis., and as a research scientist at the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Paul enjoyed a well-earned international reputation for his research on the complex issues surrounding avermectin sensitivity. More than 30 years ago he was at the leading edge of the work on Ivermectin, and he continued researching that compound throughout his career, amassing publications that fill a nearly 100-page curriculum vitae.

Teaching was the role that Dr. Paul most prized. Over his 35-year career at Illinois, Dr. Paul earned teaching awards at the college, university, and national levels, most of them multiple times, includ-

ing the prestigious University of Illinois Excellence in Graduate and Professional Teaching Award. In 2000, he received the college's All-Around Excellence Award.

At the 2016 Fall Conference for Veterinarians, the college paid tribute to Dr. Paul with a day-long track featuring leading speakers in parasitology, including some mentored by Dr. Paul. He also received the prestigious Dr. Erwin Small Distinguished Alumni Award from the college and its alumni association. The impact Dr. Paul had on the college was often likened to that of Dr. Erwin Small, a man who dedicated his entire career to the veterinary profession and to the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Paul was a beloved professor, a distinguished researcher, an outstanding leader, and a friend to all. For the past 35 years, Dr. Paul has been the face, and in many ways the heart, of this college. The impact he had on the numerous lives he touched throughout his career will be his greatest legacy. 🐾

Feature photo by Bradley Leeb.

This memorial tribute originally appeared on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign College of Veterinary Medicine's website on February 13, 2017, and can be found at vetmed.illinois.edu/allan-paul.

Memorial contributions can be made in memory of Dr. Paul at vetmed.illinois.edu/giving/giving-opportunities/give-now/?fund=334415&fundname=VetMed%20Achievement%20Fund%20Dr.%20Paul.

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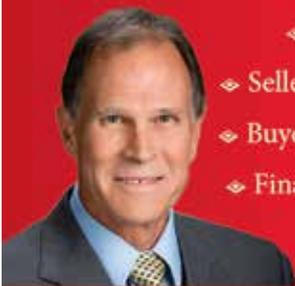


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Full-Time or Part-Time Associate Veterinarian Wanted

- Full-time or part-time associate veterinarian needed for a busy, progressive small animal practice in Springfield, Illinois. We are seeking an energetic, compassionate, outgoing, personable self-starter. Experience preferred, but will consider new graduate. Brewer Animal Hospital is a three-doctor practice, 95 percent canine/feline with some small mammal exotics. We are a well-equipped facility with an in-house lab, state-of-the-art digital X-ray, ultrasound and two certified technicians. We strive to provide high-quality medicine and surgery for our patients, compassionate service for our clients, and a relaxed, low-pressure, family-like work environment for our employees. No emergency calls are required. Springfield has a well-established, reliable emergency clinic. Part-time hours: 2.5 to 3.5 shifts per week. Full-time hours: four weekdays plus half-day Saturdays. Competitive salary/benefits negotiable based on experience and

hours worked. Email résumé, cover letter and salary requirements to Dr. Evan Kirk at petdoc971@comcast.net.

Full-Time Veterinarian Wanted

- Full-time veterinarian wanted for progressive, client-oriented, four-doctor practice located in north central Illinois Valley region, LaSalle/Peru (60 miles from Chicago area). Seeking dedicated, enthusiastic team player looking for a mentoring environment and an excellent career opportunity. American Board of Veterinary Practitioners (ABVP)-certified practitioner (canine and feline practice), past president of American Association of Feline Practitioners and Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association. This new, well-equipped, modern facility has two satellites, five certified technicians on staff and excellent support staff. This position offers an environment to grow professionally, intellectually and financially. Benefits include guaranteed base with production (ProSal) compensation, three weeks paid time off, CE stipend, AVMA/state/VIN dues, liability and health insurance, Simple IRA, and other bonus programs. Low-cost housing is available. Region has many amenities: excellent cost of living and safe quality of life. Contact Dr. Steve Dullard, Ancare Veterinary Clinic PC, 1205 6th Ave., Mendota, IL 61342. Phone (815) 539-3844, email sdullarddvm@gmail.com or visit our website, www.ancarevet.com, or our Facebook page to see many of our services.

Full-Time Veterinarian Wanted

- Prospect Animal Clinic is seeking a motivated and knowledgeable full time associate for a busy three-doctor clinic in Peoria Heights, Illinois. Our small animal practice includes high-quality medicines

and surgery with our enthusiastic and compassionate staff. We are well equipped with a high-speed dental unit, ultrasound, in-house hematology and cytology, x-ray, pulse oximeter, blood pressure monitor, ECC, and Class 4 therapeutic laser. Personable demeanor and excellent communication skills are a must. We enjoy a friendly and collaborative atmosphere with an emphasis on preventative medicine. 36 to 40 hour week with no emergency hours. Two weeks paid time off. Paid CE and AVMA/ISVMA/state dues. Experienced and recent graduates are welcome. Apply via email: prospectanimalclinic@gmail.com, or visit our website at www.prospectanimalclinic.com to learn more!

TECHNICIANS AND PRACTICE PERSONNEL

Full-Time Certified Veterinary Technician Wanted – Huntley Veterinary Hospital

- Busy small animal practice seeks a full-time certified veterinary technician to join our team. The hospital is well-equipped and has four doctors and four CVTs. Location is in northwest suburbs of Chicago. The qualified individual must have strong technical skills, be able to multitask, communicate well with clients and be a team player. Competitive pay and benefits. Please email résumé to brendahvh@sbcglobal.net.

PRACTICES FOR SALE

Practice for Sale – Illinois

- Illinois, DuPage County: new listing! Well-established small animal practice. Estimated ADI of \$159K. The hospital occupies about 3,893 square feet on a 0.46-acre lot fronting a five-lane highway. Room for expansion. Five exam rooms, updated equipment. Code: IL3. Contact PS Broker, (800) 636-4740, info@psbroker.com, www.psbroker.com. 🐾





Gill Elected to AVMA Board, District VI



Dr. Ronald Gill, the only candidate who ran to succeed Dr. Chet Rawson as District VI representative in July, was declared elected to the Board when there were no additional nominees by the Feb. 1 deadline. District VI comprises Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin.

District VI representative-elect Dr. Gill grew up on a small farm in southeastern Illinois, the same farm where he and his wife, Terry, now live. By the age of 12, he had developed an interest in animals and science, so veterinary medicine seemed to him a logical career choice. Dr. Gill has worked as a mixed animal practitioner since 1975, when he graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Gill's participation in organized veterinary medicine began with the Southern Illinois VMA and later the Illinois State VMA, for which he spent a year as president. He has served on multiple AVMA entities, chairing both the Council on Veterinary Service and the Governance Performance Review Committee. Dr. Gill was also vice chair of the Council on Education.

With his years in private practice and organized veterinary medicine, Dr. Gill says he's comfortable stepping into a role of leadership as a member of the AVMA Board of Directors. "Veterinary medicine faces a number of opportunities and challenges in the coming years," he said.

"The increasing level of student debt and its current ratio to expected earning potential casts a ripple effect throughout the entire profession," Dr. Gill continued. "It is my desire to help find a solution to this problem, which affects new graduates trying to pay off loans, those ready to buy a practice, and seasoned veterinarians wishing to sell their business.

"I strongly believe broader support for the AVMA PAC and the American Veterinary Medical Foundation could meet many of the challenges facing our profession. Therefore, I will seek ways to try to encourage increased involvement from all veterinarians in supporting the AVMA PAC and the AVMA Foundation." 🐾

This article originally appeared in JAVMA News on March 1, 2017, and can be found www.avma.org/News/JAVMANews/Pages/170301m.aspx.

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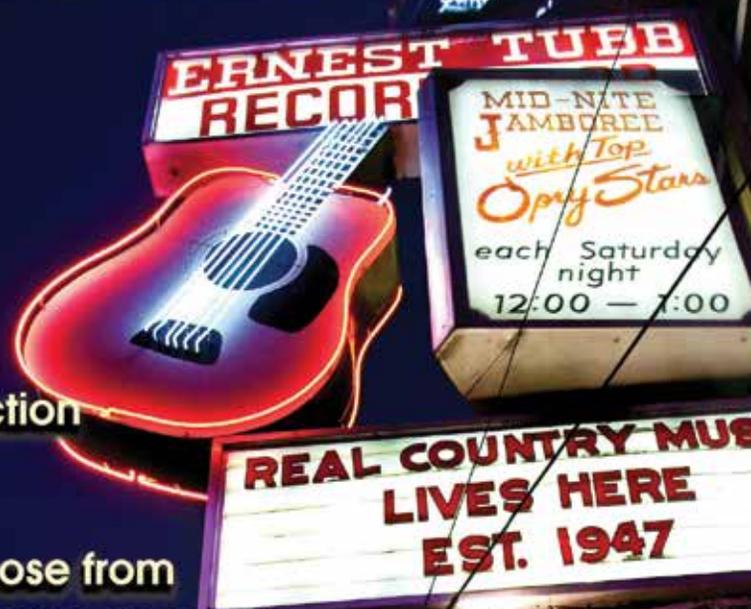
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