

## To Our Clients:

### Say "No" to a tax on veterinary services!

Minnesota's governor and many in the legislature want to raise millions by adding a tax on veterinary services. This will be reflected directly on YOUR BILL at the end of every visit to your veterinarian.

In January 2013, Governor Mark Dayton called for a broadening of the Minnesota state sales tax to generate additional tax revenue in this state, and proposed a **sales tax on veterinary services**. This was part of a larger combination of program cuts and revenue increases to address the state budget problems.

This tax proposal could add **5.5% to the cost of veterinary care**. Your veterinarian does not want to see this additional cost added to your veterinary services charges. As you know, many animals may not get the necessary medical care and treatment they deserve because veterinary services will be more expensive especially for lower income pet owners. Pets are part of our families and a lot of families are already facing financial hardship in this weak economy. Increasing the cost of veterinary care in this manner will only lead to more animals being abandoned, or euthanized. It also becomes a public health concern if animals do not receive proper care and vaccinations. It's simply not fair for our pets to suffer because the state has decided that pet owners should pay more to have and care for a pet in this state.

### **Here's what you can do to help stop the tax on veterinary services!**

Write letters, make phone calls, send emails, or fax your comments to the Governor and to your state senator and representative. If writing, try to personalize your letter and be brief. Let them know that pets are important and this proposed tax will add a huge financial burden to your family. Ask that veterinary services be **removed** from the Governor's proposal. A prepared electronic communication can be found on **www.locklaw.com/mvma**.

If you need assistance, go to the Minnesota Veterinary Medical Association website at **www.mvma.org** or contact **info@mvma.org** for additional facts, helpful links and other information. It is important that every pet owner be heard. Please take action today for your pets and write a letter. The Governor wants his proposal approved in the next few months so legislators need to hear from you now! Thank you for your help!