

INSIGHTS

NEWS AND VIEWS *from*
Dr. Heather Brookshire, DVM, DACVO



ANIMAL
VISION
CENTER
of VIRGINIA

WHY CHOOSE US | SERVICES WE OFFER | CONDITIONS WE TREAT | REFERRING VETS

SUMMER EDITION: July 2016

From the Desk of Dr. Brookshire

Are you enjoying the summer weather with your pets? This is a great time of year for our furry friends; especially for dogs who get to swim, eat frozen treats, dine alfresco with us at pooch-friendly outdoor cafes and take long afternoon naps (they don't call these the dog days of summer for nothing!). We all know how irritating a long day of sun and wind exposure can be on our own eyes, and our pets are no different. As you're out and about, especially at the beach or your favorite recreational spot, take care to protect your pet's eyes against sand and wind-borne particles. Check this issue for a list of lubricating solutions to have at the ready. You can also "meet" Emily Etheredge, our newest staff member, learn about our upcoming Veterinarian Appreciation Night (date coming soon!) and feel your heart skip when you see Hunter, a sweet mini Appaloosa therapy horse. Stay safe - and have a great rest of your summer!

All the best,
Dr. Heather Brookshire



How to Avoid Summer Eye Issues that Could Cause Corneal Ulcers

It's so much fun to bring our pets to the beach or park, but we can occasionally see ocular problems such as [conjunctivitis](#) ("pink eye") or [corneal ulcers](#) from the irritating effects of sand and wind-borne grass and particles on the surface of the eye. Pets are especially

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Meet the Staff

We have a great team on staff here at the Animal Vision Center of Virginia, and it is our pleasure to introduce you to:

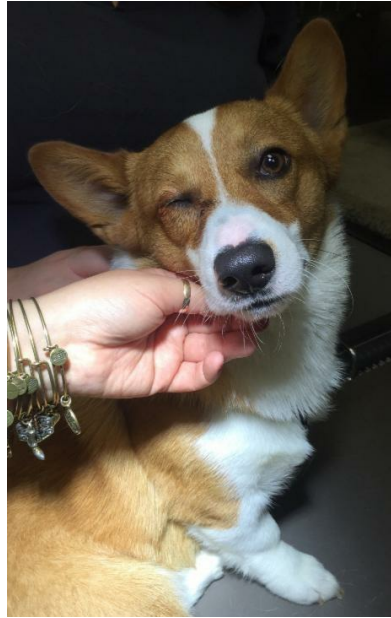


Emily Etheredge,
Receptionist

Originally from Belleville, Wis., Emily moved to Virginia Beach in 2008 when she was stationed with the U.S. Navy at Naval Air Station Oceana. She served our country in the armed forces for three years, and has continued to further her education since exiting the military. She has an Associate's degree in

prone to these medical issues since they are so much closer to the ground!

As an example, meet Ein. We saw this 10-month old Corgi earlier this year to examine a non-healing corneal ulcer. His owner had been treating him for the past two weeks, with no improvement. When he told us that Ein loves to bound through the grassy fields near home, we discovered the culprit - a large and bristly grass awn that had become imbedded behind his third eyelid. As you will see in this [video](#), it took just a moment to retrieve the irksome grass particle. Ein, and his owner, were quite relieved!



There are many months ahead for our pets to enjoy a romp in the great outdoors, so please keep the following solutions close at hand to administer relief to irritated eyes:

- To flush out sand or wind-born particles, use a sterile saline eye-irrigating solution to rinse out your pet's eyes if you notice any squinting or redness.
- Try using an over-the-counter topical lubricating drop (such as Genteal gel, Refresh pm, Blink, and Systane) after a long day at the beach to help soothe your pet's irritated eyes.
- If your pet is used to spending most of their time indoors, a sudden change in the amount of time spent outdoors during the summer can occasionally cause a flare-up of allergies (both systemic and ocular). Ocular signs of allergies can include increased redness, itchiness, pawing at the eyes and increased discharge from the eyes. Use one of the lubricating drops mentioned above, or try an over-the-counter topical antihistamine drop such as Zaditor, Allaway, Naphcon-A, or Claritin-eye to temporarily alleviate your pet's discomfort.
- Finally, and this is very important, if your pet does not get better after 1-2 days of trying these at-home remedies, seek urgent veterinary care from either your local family veterinarian or veterinary ophthalmologist, as eye conditions can progress very rapidly.

medical administration and is on schedule to receive her Bachelor's degree in healthcare management in September. Emily is the mother of two great kids, Reese (6) and Lily (3) - and two cute pets, Mia, an Austrian Shepherd, and Moss, an English Mastiff. Like all of our staff, she came to Animal Vision Center of Virginia for her love of animals - and we are glad to have her! Say hello to Emily next time you are here!

What Our Clients Say

"Dr. Brookshire is a talented doctor, who has helped many of our clients resolve their pets' ophthalmic issues, including our own Dr. Redding, whose horse, Flame, was treated by Dr. Brookshire. We highly recommend Animal Vision Center of Virginia to every clinic."
- *The Team at Hickory Veterinary Hospital*

ANIMAL VISION CENTER of VIRGINIA

521 Old Great Neck
Road, Suite 2
Virginia Beach, VA

757-749-4838

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00am - 5:00pm

Tuesday, Thursday
10:00am - 6:30pm

One Saturday a Month
10:00am - 2:00pm

Coming Soon! Referring Veterinarian

Appreciation Night at Pinot's Palette

It's a pleasure to work in partnership with many of our region's excellent veterinarians. They refer their clients to our practice, allowing us to share in the ocular care of their pet patients. There's no higher calling than that! To express our appreciation, Animal Vision Center of Virginia will be hosting a referring veterinarian appreciation event this summer at Pinot's



Palette. This is a new "paint and sip" venue in Norfolk's Ghent area that pairs wine tastings with a professionally-guided painting workshop. The theme of our private painting party will be - you guessed it - pet portraits! Stay tuned. We'll have a date and details soon about this fun thank-you event!

Meet Hunter!

This photo of Hunter brought so many "oohs and ahhs" from our Facebook followers that we had to share it with our *Insights* friends. This adorable mini Appaloosa foal was bred to be a therapy horse. Her owner brought her to see us in the spring due to an [entropion](#) of the upper eyelids, which resulted in rubbing of hairs on the cornea and secondary severe corneal ulcers. She recovered beautifully from the surgery and is warming hearts all over Hampton Roads. Isn't she cute?



Come to see us!

We're just around the corner.



If your pet patients require professional ocular care, or if your referring practice has recently moved out of your coverage area, we hope you will consider the Animal Vision Center of Virginia.

Owned and operated by Dr. Heather Brookshire, a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist, our local practice is conveniently located at 521 Old Great Neck Road, just 3 miles from the Lynnhaven area and less than 10 miles from the Oceanfront. We can also meet you at your practice for a mobile consultation.

Providing quality ophthalmic care for animals of all shapes and sizes:

- ◆ Same-day emergency care
- ◆ Eye exams and diagnosis
- ◆ Medical therapies
- ◆ Free exams for service dogs
- ◆ Genetic testing for ocular conditions
- ◆ Full spectrum of ophthalmic surgeries
- ◆ Accepting new clients

You may also request a mobile consultation at your practice!



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521 Old Great Neck Road, Suite 2
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Find us on Facebook | Visit our Website | Send us an Email | Call us at 757-749-4838



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The Center is located at 521 Old Great Neck Road, Suite 2, in Virginia Beach, VA 23454.

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