

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 2017

From the Desk of Dr. Brookshire

Each year my staff and I look forward to performing eye exams on the City of Virginia Beach mounted patrol horses and K9 police dogs. As it happens, these annual volunteer screenings occur in May, which is National Service Animal Eye Examination Month. During this year's exam, it was our privilege to



host Justin Belichis, a reporter with *Southside Daily News*, and Chris Reckling, host of WAVY-TV's "The Hampton Roads Show," to report on the patrol horse screenings. We are grateful for their coverage, which you can view here for the [WAVY feature](#) and here for [Justin's article and video](#). These news reports let our community know more about the service animals that work for a living in Hampton Roads and why eye screenings are vital to the jobs they perform. Eye disease discovered early in dogs and horses can be treated much more successfully, making early detection critical.

All the best,
Dr. Heather



In This Issue

[From the Desk of Dr. Brookshire](#)

[Stay Cool Out There!](#)

[Bringing Ocular Care to Our Older Friends](#)

[Meet Olson](#)

[Summer Night at the Lanes!](#)

[Ocular Conditions Brochures Coming Soon](#)

[And the Winner is ...](#)

[What our Clients Say](#)



[Forward this issue](#)

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Ocular Conditions Brochures Coming Soon



To further educate our clients of common ocular diseases that could occur in pets, and the surgical options available to them, we will soon launch a series of new Ocular Conditions brochures. Covering everything from cataracts to corneal ulcers, the pamphlets will be available beginning this fall in veterinary offices throughout the region and here at our office. If you have questions about common diseases, what happens during surgery, and follow-up care,

Stay Cool Out There!

Summer's here. Can you feel it? If it's too hot for you to be outside or in a parked car, then it's too hot for your pets. Be mindful of hyperthermia and heat stroke, conditions that can arise when your dog's natural ability to regulate temperature by panting can't keep up with elevated external temperatures and high humidity. Non fever-related hyperthermia can develop when a dog's body temperature is above 103°F. Heat stroke is more severe, appearing at an elevated temperature of 106°F. They are most likely to occur when a dog is in a small, hot space without ventilation, such as a car, or outside for too long on a hot day without access to shade and water. Dogs that are more likely to develop these conditions are ones with restricted airways, such as brachycephalic (flat-faced) breeds of Pug, Boxer and Bulldog; dogs that are exhausted from exercise or excitement; and dogs that are wearing a muzzle. Keep an eye out for symptoms, which can include:

- Rapid panting and/or excessive drooling
- Bright red tongue and gums
- Decreased urine output
- Rapid or irregular heart rate
- Lethargy or weakness
- Muscle tremors or stiffness
- Unstable gait, dizziness
- Diarrhea, vomiting

Hyperthermia and heat stroke are serious medical emergencies. If your dog shows any of these symptoms, immediately begin to cool him down by offering water to drink (but don't force him to drink) and spray or immerse your dog in cool water. Then, call your veterinary office or seek help from an after-hours emergency veterinary practice.



Bringing Ocular Care to Our Older Friends

We know that some of our elderly clients find it difficult to arrange transportation for their pets' wellness screenings, so we've decided to bring the screenings to them. Beginning this month, Animal Vision Center of Virginia will perform free monthly screening exams at participating assisted living facilities. Our first stop will be

we've got you covered. A note to our referring veterinary partners - if you'd like to have the brochures available during your client consultations, call (757) 749-4838 or send a note to Dr.Heather@AVCVA.com.



And the Winner is

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Congratulations to Gail Cope, winner of this quarter's "swag bag" of goodies, for completing our email review. Every three months, we collect all of our email reviews and draw one to receive a gift bag filled with treats for their pet. Entering is easy. After your visit, you will receive an email review. Complete it to let us know how we're doing. Your feedback helps us to serve you better!

What our Clients Say

"Dr. Brookshire and her staff have been outstanding in their availability and willingness to see clients as emergencies or regular referrals. With an emergent case, or just questions on cases, they are an outstanding resource for our practice."

- Sean Back, DVM, Beach Pet Hospital

ANIMAL VISION
CENTER of VIRGINIA

521 Old Great Neck

Westminster Canterbury in Virginia Beach, July 26 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., with plans to add additional facilities in the months ahead. Pets are wonderful companions for seniors, especially those in group living settings. It's been proven that animals help to reduce their owners' stress, lower their blood pressure and improve their quality of life.

We're excited about this new program! If you have a recommendation for a facility we can add to our list, let us know by calling us at (757) 749-4838.

Meet Olson

Over the spring, we enjoyed working with Olson, a sweet and caring service dog. Mom thought she may have accidentally hit her in the eye with a coat hanger, but fortunately Olson was completely normal on exam. As you can see, she's a charmer!



Summer Night at the Lanes!

We couldn't do what we do without the help of our referring veterinarians. As a thank you for your recommendations, please join us for our 4th semi-annual "Referring Veterinarian Appreciation Night," July 29 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Pinboy's (1577 Laskin Road in Virginia Beach). Plan for bowling, pizza, beer and lots of laughs, 'cause that's how we roll! Please RSVP by July 21 by contacting Dr.Heather@AVCVA.com.

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

 Follow us on Instagram | Review us on  Facebook  Google  Yelp

Visit our Website | Send us an Email | Call us at 757-749-4838

Providing quality ophthalmic care for animals of all shapes and sizes, Animal Vision Center of Virginia is owned and operated by Dr. Heather Brookshire, a board-certified veterinary ophthalmologist.



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

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