

Summer Edition: July 2019



The Role of Therapy Dogs in Times of Tragedy

In a local news article covering the mass shooting at the Virginia Beach municipal center, I read that the City of Virginia Beach arranged for therapy dogs to be on site for employees to connect within the days following the tragedy.

It's amazing how therapeutic petting a dog can be for victims of trauma—and for those who have witnessed traumatic events, like the unimaginable one that unfolded May 31 here in our region.

These specially trained dogs provide

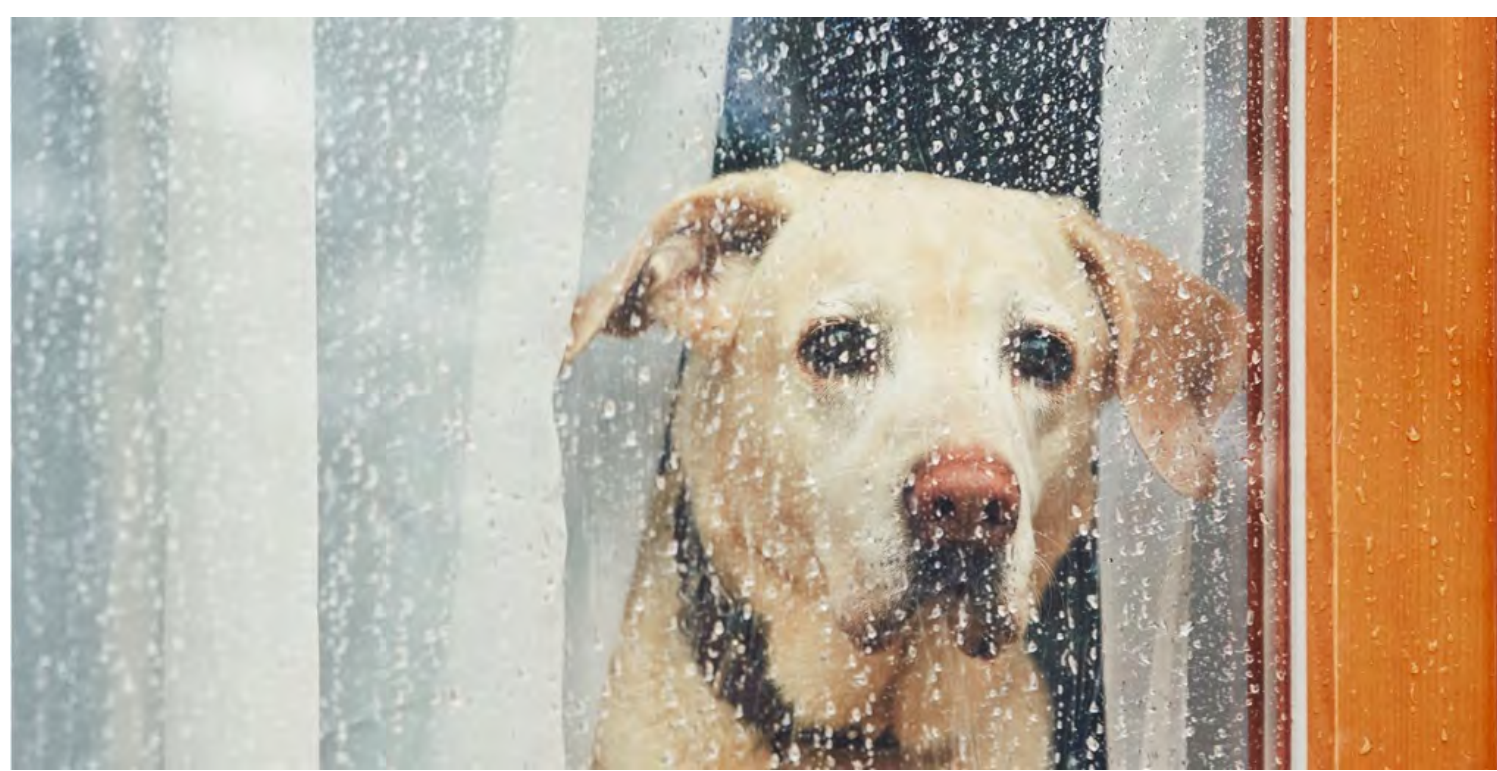
psychological and physiological therapy to people in need and have been known to provide life-altering help to people experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder following events such as these.

Last year, therapy dogs were on site at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School when students returned to school after the 2018 shooting, and they comforted survivors of the 2018 Harvest Festival tragedy in Las Vegas. Therapy dogs are even used in court rooms, when victims are testifying against their perpetrators.

[Read More About Therapy Dogs](#)

Veterinary Partners, This One's for You!

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 semi-annual veterinary appreciation event on Sunday, July 14 from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. at New Realm Brewing Company (1209 Craft Lane, Virginia Beach). Held on the brewery's shady lawn, this event will include two drink tickets and a taco bar! All dogs on leads are welcome, and you are also free to bring a colleague with you. If you haven't done so already, please RSVP to Dr.Heather@AVCVA.com or call 757-749-4838. We can't wait to see you there!



Hurricane Season is Here. Are You and Your Pets Ready?

Hurricane season began on June 1, and we hope that you have prepared an evacuation plan for you—and your pets. Recently, our staff put together a mashup of the items we'll be gathering for our pets at the first warning sign of the season. We hope this is helpful to you in making your own plans:

- A solid carrier or crate, to transport your pet safely in advance of the storm, or to contain them in place if the weather gets rough
- Leashes and harnesses
- Non-perishable pet food, food/water bowls, and enough H₂O to last your pets for a week or more
- Bedding and comfort toys
- Litter, litter box, puppy pads, and plastic bags
- Your pet's medical records, current medications and your vet's contact info; if you haven't already, have your dog or cat microchipped. A picture of your pet to have on hand and a tag with your contact info (in case you get separated)

[Read More About Hurricane Preparedness](#)

How Telemedicine Can Help Your Practice

For our next [Lunch & Learn](#) program, Sept. 18 at 12:30 p.m., we will discuss how [telemedicine](#) works and the role it plays in helping general veterinarians serve their clients.

Last year, we began offering these "real time" consultations, which allow us to evaluate, diagnose and recommend treatment by using the TeleVet remote healthcare app. After downloading the app on their smart phones or tablets, our veterinary partners and existing clients can set up an account and submit a consultation request to Animal Vision Center of Virginia, along with the pet's case history, images and videos that show us what they are seeing. We then evaluate the case and determine the next steps for ocular care.

Held exclusively for our region's veterinarians, our free Lunch & Learn continuing education series provide accredited continuing education sessions for local veterinarians free of charge, and lunch is provided. Space is limited, so please RSVP no later than Sept. 16 to Dr.Heather@AVCVA.com or call 757-749-4838. For this Lunch & Learn, we will also be providing a code for a free telemedicine consultation, so RSVP early before these spots fill up!



People Helping Animals – Meet Madison Rankin of Compassion for Canines

At Animal Vision Center of Virginia, we love working with local animal support groups. In Hampton Roads, we are fortunate to have a variety of animal advocacy nonprofits, from ones that provide wildlife rehabilitation services to others that operate safe places that shelter and adopt out pets. One such group, that is near and dear to our hearts, is [Compassion for Canines](#). This foster-based rescue organization is dedicated to rehabilitating homeless dogs with health issues, then matching them with foster families until they are placed in their forever homes. To learn more about their services, we caught up with Madison Rankin, Compassion for Canine's founder and president.



- **Tell us about your organization.** Compassion for Canines is a 501c3, nonprofit charity that takes in shelter dogs with medical conditions, provides for their medical care and places them in foster homes until they are adopted. My partner, Lacey Lopez, and I started this organization because we both have a deep compassion and empathy for animals with extenuating circumstances or medical needs. I'm a vet tech at the Virginia Beach SPCA veterinary clinic, and Lacey also works in the animal care field. We have the capacity to care for dogs that require a little bit extra, and we love what we do. It's nice for these animals to have options.

[Read More About Compassion for Canines](#)

What Our Clients Say

"The staff and Dr. Heather were wonderful in the treatment of our sweet Cloey. We brought her in for a detached retina issues due to her high blood pressure and kidney failure. They were always so attentive, helpful and affectionate. Our family is so grateful for everything they did to prolong our kitty's life. I would highly recommend Dr. Heather to any pet owner."

– JD Sendlebeck



ANIMAL VISION CENTER
of VIRGINIA

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.

Call us at 757-749-4838 | Fax us at 757-932-9325

Main Office Location & Hours:

Old Great Neck Road, Suite 2, Virginia Beach, VA 23454

Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

One Saturday a Month 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Suffolk Clinic at The Cove Location & Hours:

6550 Hampton Roads Parkway, Suffolk, VA 23435

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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