

Fall Edition: October 2019



### New and Improved Practice

A little dust here, the sound of a hammer there. You may have noticed a few tell-tale signs of construction at our practice as builders have been on the job expanding into the office space next door. We are excited to report that we have just put the finishing touches on the new and improved Animal Vision Center of Virginia, which will provide additional space to better serve you!

We now have two new examination rooms, expanded surgical sites, a roomier treatment area and a new stress-free procedure room with cozy and calming additions for both patients and their owners.

We look forward to having you at your next appointment, so you can see these upgrades for yourself!



### Focus on Corneal Endothelial Degeneration

Corneal endothelial degeneration (CED) is an age-related process by which the single layer of cells on the inside of the cornea (endothelial cells) prematurely decline in number and function. These cells contain tiny "pumps" that normally regulate the amount of fluid within the cornea throughout life and help to ensure the cornea remains transparent and free of fluid accumulation or "corneal edema." When the cell number declines to a critical density, fluid begins to leak into the cornea causing it to become water-logged, swollen and opaque—thus limiting vision.

While any breed of dog can develop this condition in their later years of life, breeds that are particularly predisposed to CED include the Boston terrier, Dachshund, Chihuahua, Basset hound, German shorthaired and German wirehaired pointers. Among these breeds, it is seen more commonly in female than male dogs.

CED can be treated using a variety of medical or surgical therapies.

**Animal Vision Center of Virginia is one of only a small handful of practices in the world that is currently performing DSEK to restore sight in dogs, and we are proud to offer this therapy option.**

To read more about the treatment options available, click the button below to access additional details and to view our brochures on CED and Corneal Donation.

[Read More](#)

### Staff Updates

We have such a super smart staff at Animal Vision Center of Virginia, with each one bringing their own unique talent and personality to our team. Congratulations are in order for two, who are continuing their education in wonderful ways, and a poignant good-bye to another who is heading back to her hometown. Here's a quick update from our office:



- Congratulations to our receptionist, **Amari Ross**, who has been accepted into the Tidewater Community College's Computer Aided Drafting and Design Technology program, with a specialization in architectural drafting and design. While we'll miss her being with us full time, we have arranged for her to have more flexible hours so she can remain a part of our team while attending school. We are so proud of her!
- Our veterinary assistant **Veronica Brobst** has also been accepted into Tidewater Community College, for its Associate of Applied Science in Veterinary Technology Program. In this program, she will be enhancing her abilities to assist during examinations and surgeries, perform diagnostic tests, and educate pet owners about health care for their pets. She is already an amazing asset to our team, and we are excited for her to be gaining additional knowledge and skills that will enhance her ability to care for animals and excel her career in veterinary medicine.
- If you've missed seeing **Emily Etheredge's** smiling face in our reception area, we have too. She has been an integral part of the AVCVA team nearly from the beginning, and we were sad to see her head home to Ohio in September for personal and family reasons. We wish her well and look forward to hearing about the next part of her life's journey!

### Bark it Up at These Fun Fall Events

Autumn has arrived, as you can tell by the abundance of fun fall festivals. If you are out and about this month, be sure to look for us in Williamsburg for the [Canine Carnival](#), Oct. 13, and at the Oceanfront for the Virginia Beach SPCA's [Mutt Masquerade 5K/1-mile walk](#), Oct. 27. We'll have our photo booth set up for picture-taking, along with giveaways and information about our services. It's also a good time to meet and greet Dr. Heather and her staff. Hope to see you there!



### Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest

Our summer photo contest was such a kick, we've decided to roll out the black carpet for our first-ever **AVCVA Howl-O-Ween Pet Costume Contest**. Enter to win by posting photos of your pets to our Facebook or Instagram Page in their spooky, silly, fun, and fabulous attire using [#AVCVAHowlOweencontest](#). The top three entries (chosen by a panel of secret judges) will receive pet goodie bags, filled with tricks and treats. The contest will run through Oct. 31.

Start snapping! [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#)

### What Our Clients Say

"This place is the absolute best. My nine-month old puppy has glaucoma, and they took her in by emergency appointment. Dr. Heather always gives you all available options. I'm thankful for her and her staff, as this will be something our puppy will have for the rest of her life. Definitely recommend her for all your animal eye needs."  
- L. Lenker



Providing quality ophthalmic care for animals of all shapes and sizes, Animal Vision Center of Virginia is 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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