

Vet Med News

JANUARY 2021

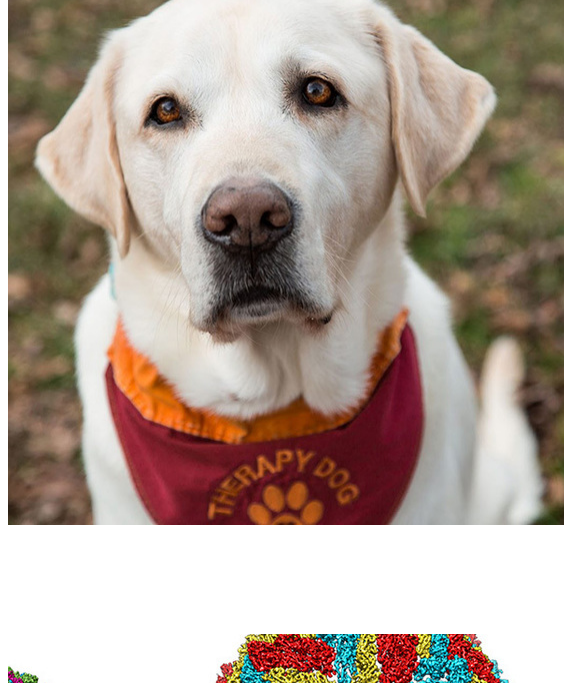


Virginia Tech Giving Day 2021

For 24 hours — **from noon EST, Feb. 24, to noon, Feb. 25** — alumni, students, faculty, staff, families, and friends can help advance VA-MD Vet Med's efforts to ensure the health and well-being of animals, people, and communities.

A gift of any size on Giving Day can support the college's wellness initiatives, essential scholarships, hands-on learning, programs and projects to care for the university and surrounding communities, and so much more.

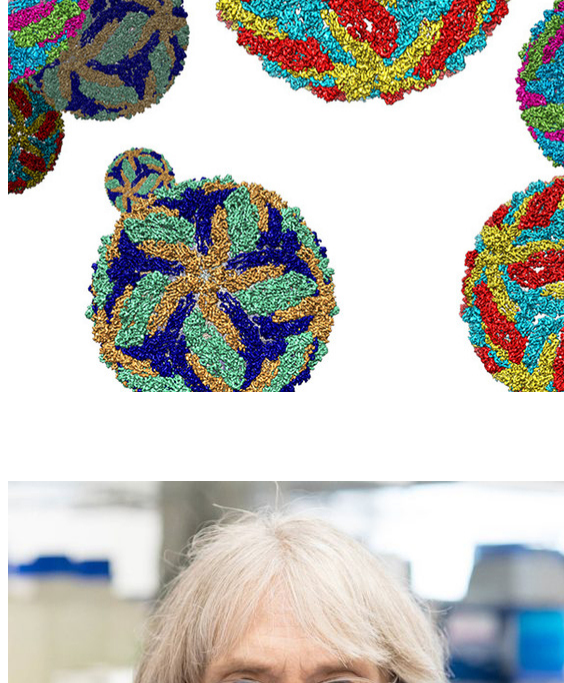
Around the College



VA-MD Vet Med alumni uniquely prepared for a pandemic

From public health veterinarians and pathologists to veterinary epidemiologists and disease surveillance experts, the college's One Health-trained alumni have had their boots on the ground in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

* Read more stories in the fall/winter 2020 edition of *Tracks Magazine*, the college's flagship publication.

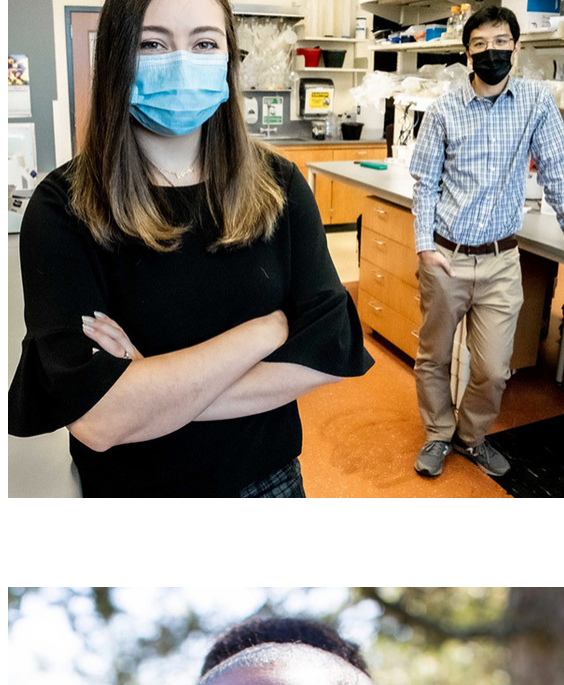


Beloved therapy dog led exemplary life of service

In early December, the university mourned the loss of Moose Davis, a therapy dog at Cook Counseling Center since 2013. Just a week after his eighth birthday in February, Moose was diagnosed with prostate cancer, and his treatment regimen was managed by providers at VA-MD Vet Med. With his partner Trent Davis, counselor and coordinator of Virginia Tech's Animal-Assisted Therapy, Moose was an advocate for the center's services.

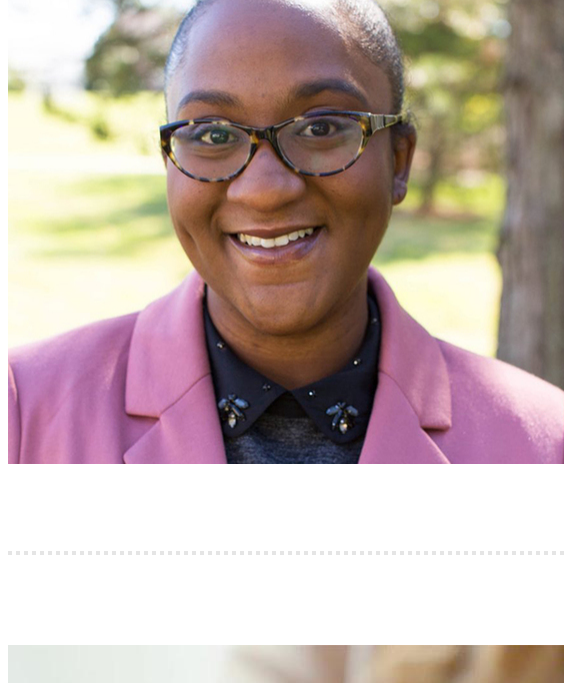
Virginia Tech researchers receive a \$2 million NIH grant to develop Zika virus vaccine

Department of Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology (DBSP) researchers [Coy Allen](#), [X.J. Meng](#), and [James Weger-Lucarelli](#) are working with College of Agriculture and Life Sciences researcher Jonathan Augustine to develop a safe, effective, single-dose vaccine candidate for Zika virus.



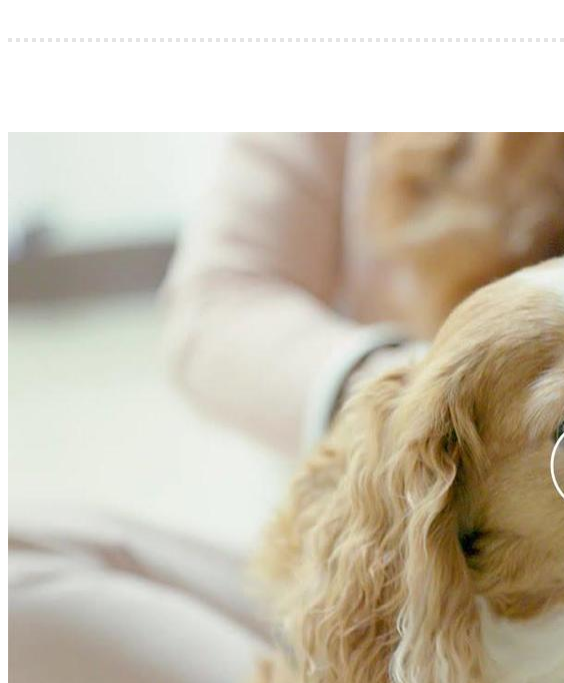
Researchers introduce treatment to prevent parasites in sheep

DBSP professor of parasitology [Anne Zajac](#) collaborated with researchers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agriculture Research Service and the University of Massachusetts Medical School to solve *H. contortus* parasite infection, the most critical health problem in the U.S. sheep industry.



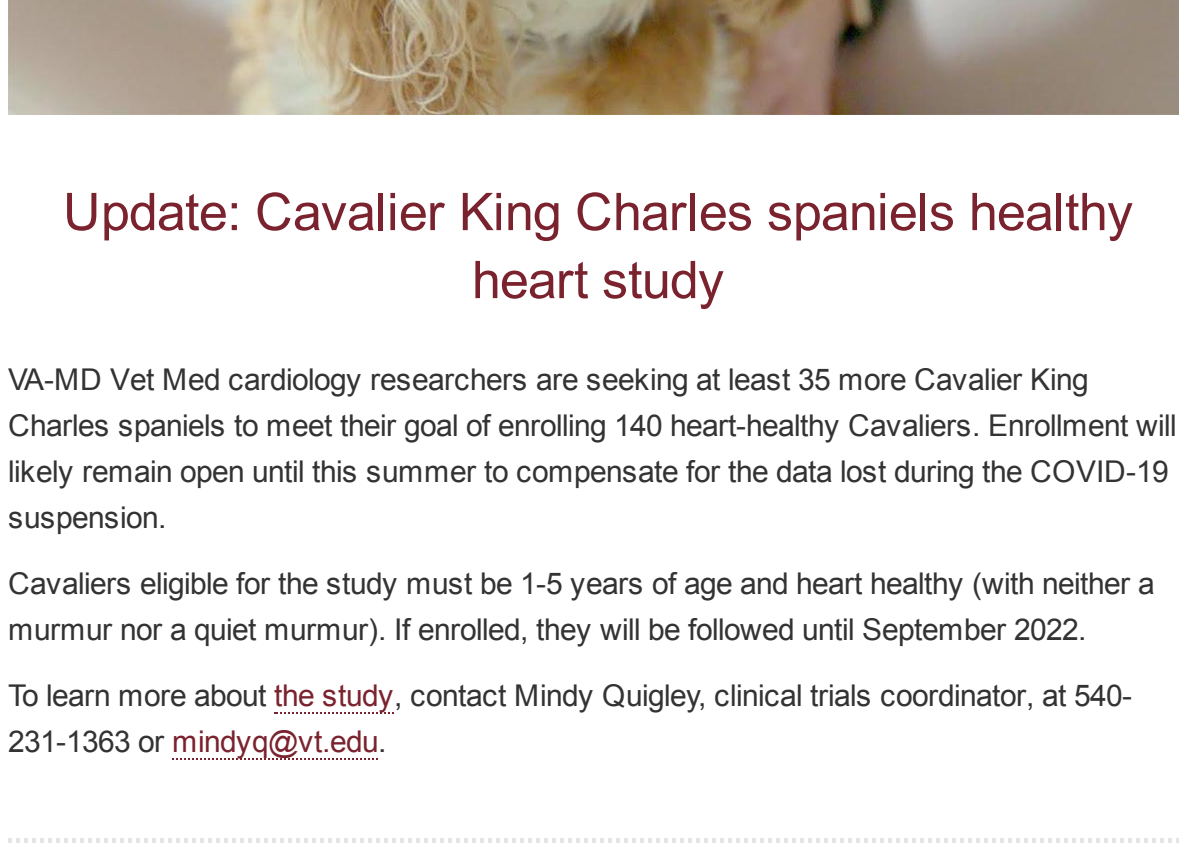
Scientists identify an elusive link between seizures, cell signaling protein

A team led by [Yuchin Albert Pan](#), DBSP associate professor, has identified a new link between seizures and connexin 36 deficiency. Published in *Frontiers in Molecular Neuroscience*, the discovery found that this interaction may make the brain more prone to having seizures.



Diversity Incentive Fund recipients aim to reduce food insecurity

To help combat systemic health disparities and adverse consequences among individuals of color, Sarah Misyak, research assistant professor with Virginia Cooperative Extension's Family Nutrition Program (FNP), and [Natalie Cook](#), assistant professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences, are assessing equality in the FNP to better serve Virginia's population.



Update: Cavalier King Charles spaniels healthy heart study

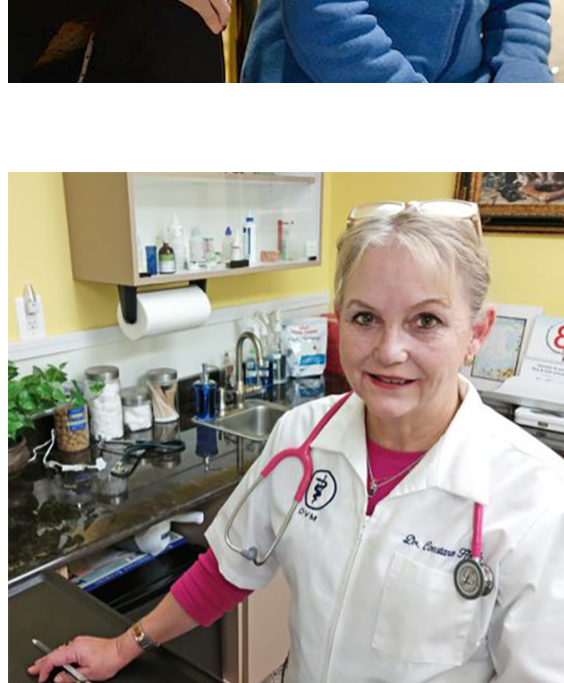
VA-MD Vet Med cardiology researchers are seeking at least 35 more Cavalier King Charles spaniels to meet their goal of enrolling 140 heart-healthy Cavaliers. Enrollment will likely remain open until this summer to compensate for the data lost during the COVID-19 suspension.

Cavaliers eligible for the study must be 1-5 years of age and heart healthy (with neither a murmur nor a quiet murmur). If enrolled, they will be followed until September 2022.

To learn more about [the study](#), contact Mindy Quigley, clinical trials coordinator, at 540-231-1363 or mindyq@vt.edu.

Vet Med Alumni

VA-MD Vet Med Alumni online→



Alumni on campus

Jesper Lorentzen (DVM '04), president of the [VMCVM Alumni Board of Directors](#), visited the college in mid-January with his family and their dog, June, who is enrolled in the Cavalier King Charles spaniels healthy heart study.

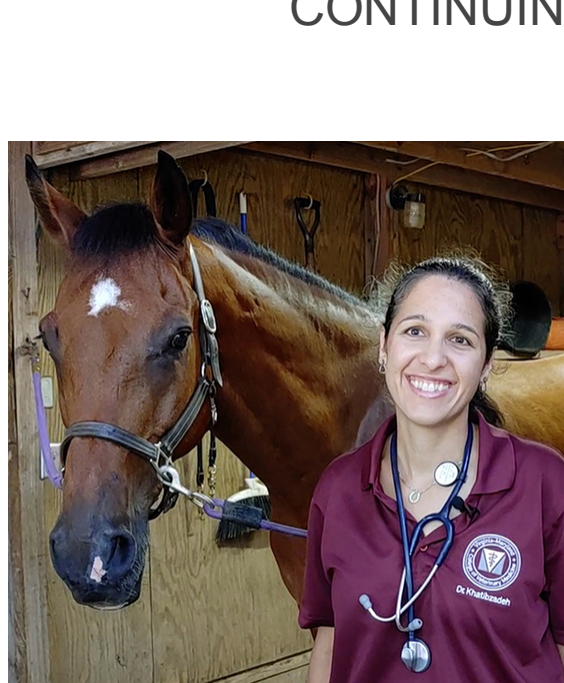
By the way, you may have noticed Lauren Doss (DVM '18) featured in the [study video](#). Thanks, Dr. Doss!



Alumna spearheads animal welfare initiatives in Greece

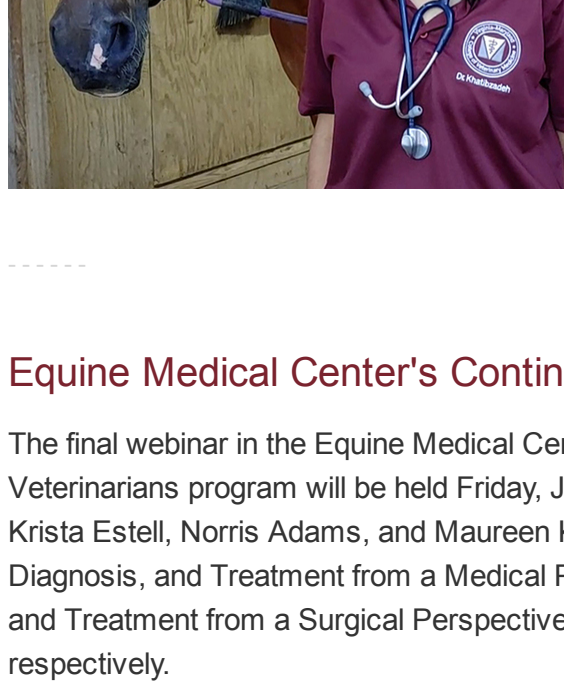
Animal Welfare Karpathos, Greece, cofounded by Anna Katogiritis (DVM '18), is being supported by primatologist and United Nations Messenger of Peace Jane Goodall.

While still a vet student, Katogiritis helped launch Goodall's official Greek office — Jane Goodall's R&S Greece — and has volunteered with the Jane Goodall Institute and for Goodall since 2014.



Alumna committed to human-animal bond

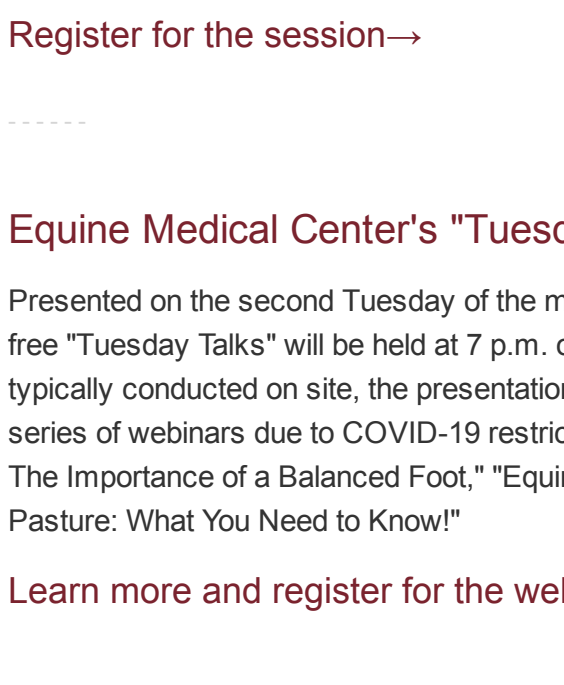
Constance Houk (DVM '86), an associate veterinarian at the Animal Care Center in Warrenton, Virginia, has cared for animals — and their owners — for more than 30 years: "One of the things I love about veterinary medicine is the human-animal bond. When you're treating a dog or a cat, you're also treating the owner."



In memoriam

Rhya Marohn (BS '97, DVM '00) of La Plata, Maryland, died Dec. 20, 2020. A beloved wife, mother, daughter, sister, activist, and friend, Marohn will be remembered for her professional excellence as a house-call veterinarian, her determination for social justice through political and grassroots action, and, most of all, her dedication to her family.

CONTINUING EDUCATION



Equine Lecture Series

Join VA-MD Vet Med faculty for the virtual Equine Lecture Series, held on successive Tuesdays, Feb. 2–March 9, at 6:30 p.m. The series will offer six credits of continuing education credit.

Once registered, participants will receive a confirmation email containing the link and passcode to access the webinars.

[Register for all sessions→](#)

Equine Medical Center's Continuing Education for Veterinarians

The final webinar in the Equine Medical Center's 2021 Continuing Education for Veterinarians program will be held Friday, Jan. 29, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Faculty clinicians Krista Estell, Norris Adams, and Maureen Kelleher will present "THO: Clinical Signs, Diagnosis, and Treatment from a Medical Perspective," "THO: Clinical Signs, Diagnosis, and Treatment from a Surgical Perspective," and "Physical Therapy for the Horse," respectively.

[Register for the session→](#)

Equine Medical Center's "Tuesday Talks" for horse owners

Presented on the second Tuesday of the month until April, the Equine Medical Center's free "Tuesday Talks" will be held at 7 p.m. on Feb. 9, March 9, and April 13. Although typically conducted on site, the presentations and Q&A sessions are being offered as a series of webinars due to COVID-19 restrictions. This year's topics are "Staying Sound: The Importance of a Balanced Foot," "Equine Insurance," and "Toxic Plants in Your Pasture: What You Need to Know!"

[Learn more and register for the webinars→](#)

Vet Med in the News

Health Experts on What's Ahead: 'Things Are Going to Likely Get Very Bad'

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

How will the covid-19 vaccines affect your travel?

THE WASHINGTON POST

COVID-19 immunity could be long term

POPULAR SCIENCE

Drs. Joanne Tuohy and Brittany Ciepluch at VT

THE MARGIN VSSO PODCAST (Veterinary Society of Surgical Oncology)

How to Say Goodbye to Your Pet

REWIRE

The Association for Veterinary Informatics honors its 2020 award recipient

DVM360

How you'll know the COVID-19 vaccines are safe

MASHABLE MIDDLE EAST

Moose, Virginia Tech's Therapy Dog Who Holds an Honorary Doctorate, Dies of Prostate Cancer

PEOPLE

Zika virus: Virginia Tech researchers receives \$2M grant to develop vaccine

OUTBREAK NEWS TODAY

Trim Excess Pounds From Your Equine Athlete

THE HORSE

Conventional blood parameters for horses don't necessarily apply to ponies, study finds

HORSETALK.CO.NZ

Top 10 veterinary professionals under 30

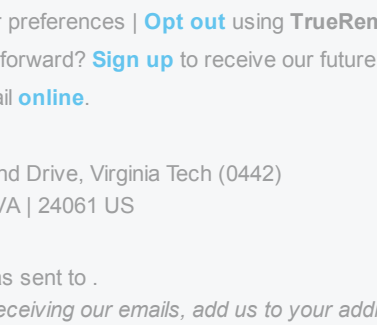
VET CANDY

Marion's Seven surprises surgery team

SWVA TODAY

GIVE to VA-MD VET MED

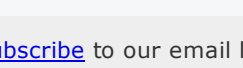
Your support helps us advance knowledge, improve health, and save lives.



We're celebrating 40 years!

VA-MD Vet Med's first class matriculated in 1980.

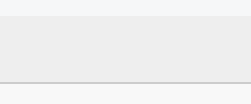
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