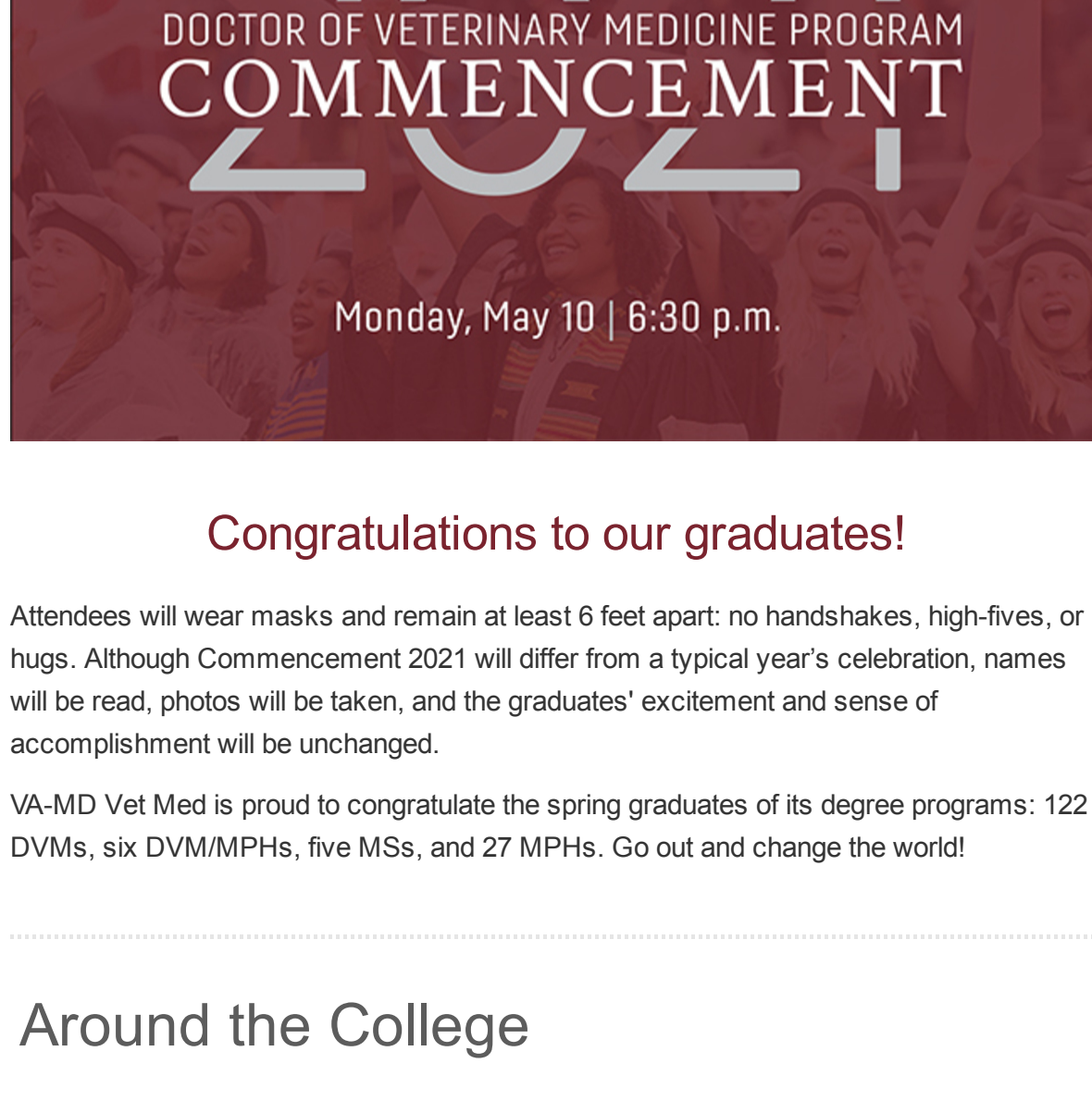


## Vet Med News

APRIL 2021

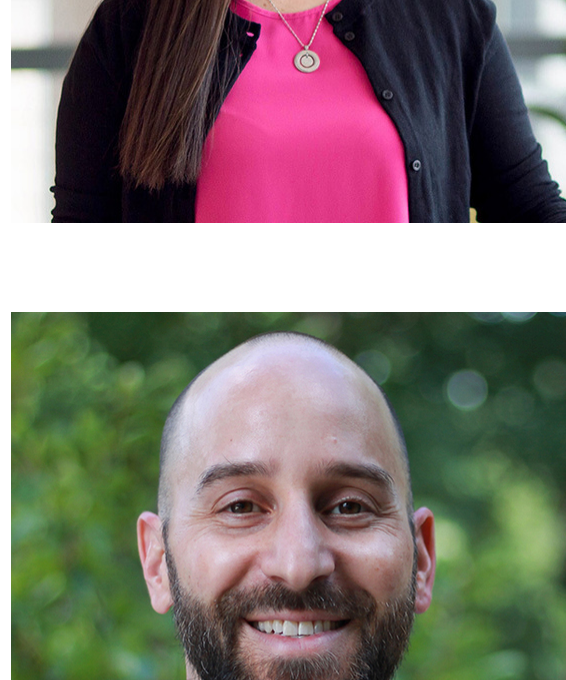


### Congratulations to our graduates!

Attendees will wear masks and remain at least 6 feet apart: no handshakes, high-fives, or hugs. Although Commencement 2021 will differ from a typical year's celebration, names will be read, photos will be taken, and the graduates' excitement and sense of accomplishment will be unchanged.

VA-MD Vet Med is proud to congratulate the spring graduates of its degree programs: 122 DVMs, six DVM/MPHs, five MSs, and 27 MPHs. Go out and change the world!

## Around the College



and veterinary sciences in the lab of [Xin Luo](#), associate professor of immunology.

Faculty mentors are nominated by graduate students and chosen by their colleges. VA-MD Vet Med's outstanding faculty mentor is [Linda Dahlgren](#) (pictured), professor of large animal surgery, whose nominators highlighted that her guidance, support, advice, and encouragement have been crucial to their research and success.

### Outstanding graduate students and faculty mentors honored

Each year during Graduate Education Week, Virginia Tech's Graduate School recognizes excellence among graduate students and faculty mentors university-wide.

Students are selected by their colleges for their leadership, scholarship, research, and service in their fields. VA-MD Vet Med's honorees are small animal internal medicine resident Jessica Villm, an M.S. candidate in biomedical and veterinary sciences; and Leila Abdelhamid, a Ph.D. candidate in biomedical



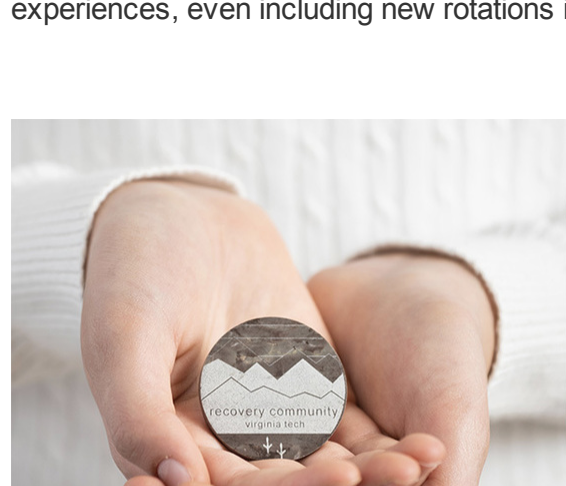
### Henao-Guerrero named department head of small animal clinical sciences

Effective April 10, [Natalia Henao-Guerrero](#), associate professor of anesthesiology, was appointed head of the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences. A faculty member since 2007, Guerrero had served as interim department head since 2017, and formerly as associate department head. Thank you for your service, Dr. Guerrero!



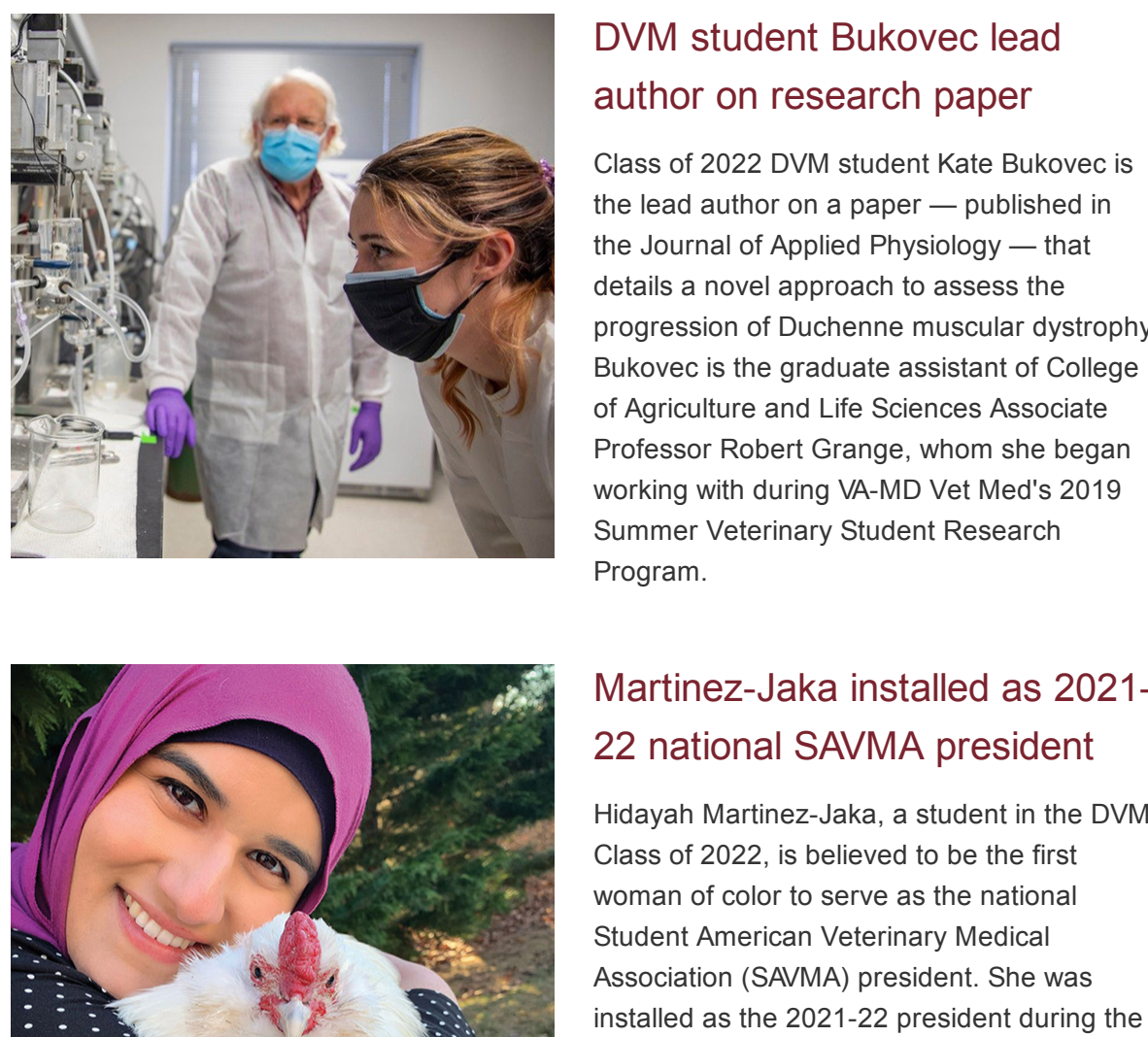
### Cohen part of team testing campus waste water for coronavirus

[Alasdair Cohen](#), assistant professor of environment epidemiology in the Department of Population Health Sciences, is leading efforts to refine results comparisons across sites and to link numbers of virus measured in sewage to the number of individuals shedding the virus.



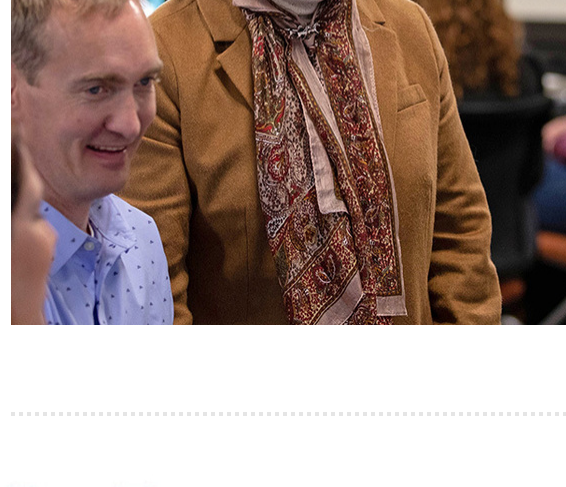
### Rossmeisl on team aiming to improve therapy for deadly brain cancer

[John Rossmeisl](#), the Dr. and Mrs. Dorsey Taylor Mahin Professor of Neurology and Neurosurgery in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences, is a member of the research team awarded a five-year, \$3.75 million grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to study how fluid flow affects the success of CAR-T cell therapy on glioblastoma tumors.



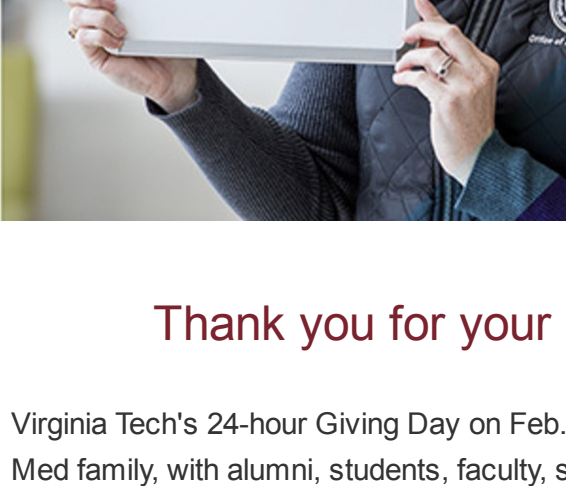
### Small Animal CPRAC pivots to enhance experiential learning

In response to restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Veterinary Teaching Hospital's Small Animal Community Practice (CPRAC), which trains DVM students in a veterinary practice setting, put into action a creative plan to ensure essential hands-on experiences, even including new rotations in theriogenology and rehabilitation.



### Public health faculty working to confront substance misuse

Featured in a Virginia Tech Magazine story about collaborative efforts to uncover opportunities for support, recovery, and awareness of substance misuse are Department of Population Health Sciences (DPHS) Associate Professor [Kathy Hosig](#) and Assistant Professor of Practice [Sophie Wenzel](#) of the Center for Public Health Practice and Research; and DPHS research professor [Kimberly Horn](#).



### DVM student Bukovec lead author on research paper

Class of 2022 DVM student Kate Bukovec is the lead author on a paper — published in the Journal of Applied Physiology — that details a novel approach to assess the progression of Duchenne muscular dystrophy. Bukovec is the graduate assistant of College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Associate Professor Robert Grainger, whom she began working with during VA-MD Vet Med's 2019 Summer Veterinary Student Research Program.



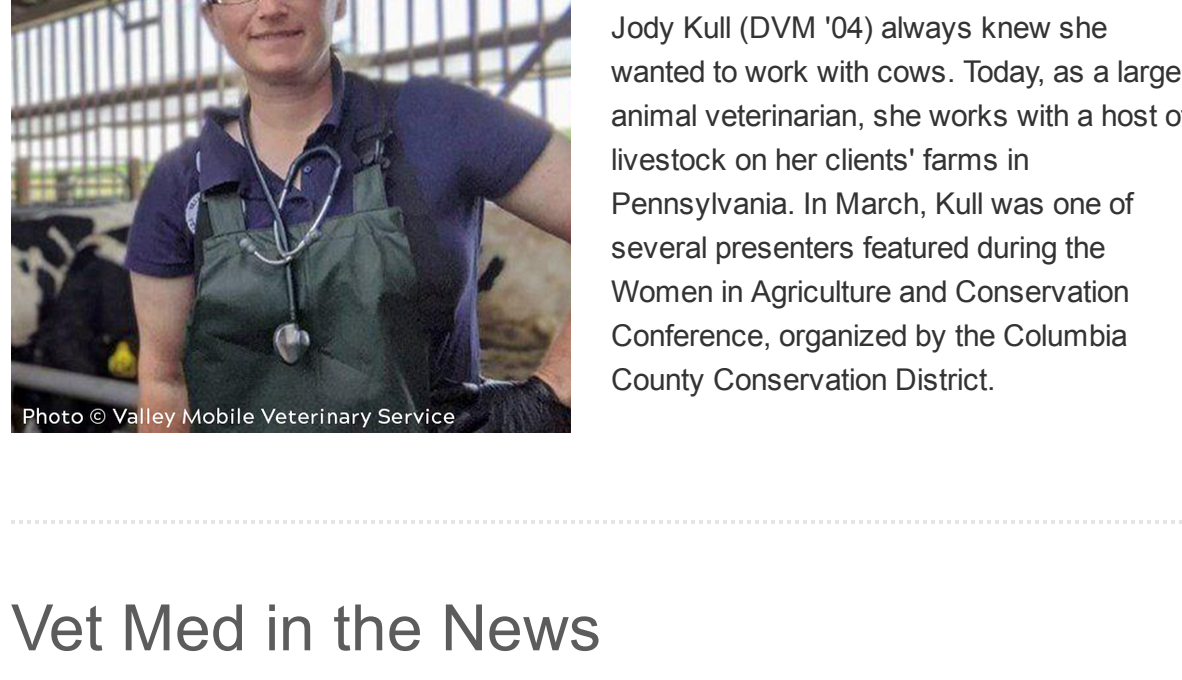
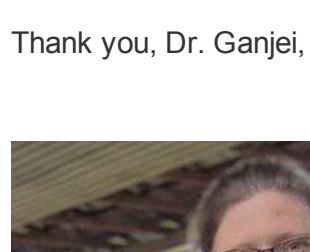
### Martinez-Jaka installed as 2021-22 national SAVMA president

Hidayah Martinez-Jaka, a student in the DVM Class of 2022, is believed to be the first woman of color to serve as the national Student American Veterinary Medical Association (SAVMA) president. She was installed as the 2021-22 president during the SAVMA Symposium held virtually March 12-15 and hosted by Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine.



### Hodgson recognized with SAVMA award for support of student well-being

Associate Dean of Professional Programs [Jennifer Hodgson](#), a professor of microbiology in the Department of Population Health Sciences, received the SAVMA Supporter of Student Wellbeing Award during the virtual SAVMA Symposium on March 12-15. Congratulations, Dr. Hodgson!



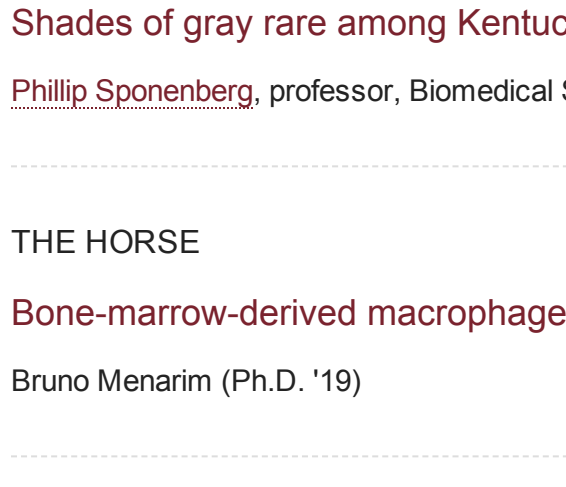
### Thank you for your support on Giving Day!

Virginia Tech's 24-hour Giving Day on Feb. 24-25 brought out the best in the VA-MD Vet Med family, with alumni, students, faculty, staff, and friends stepping up to make a difference. College faculty and staff contributed \$12,485, while alumni classes vied for bragging rights and a fine collection of college swag in the Alumni Class Challenge: The Class of 1992 and the Class of 2013 tallied nine participants each, raising a cumulative total of \$4,455 to benefit the college.

Giving Day at VMCVM	2019	2021
Total contributions	\$32,220	\$645,405
Total donors	97	253
Total alumni contributions	\$5,504	\$35,200
Total alumni donors	32	90

## Vet Med Alumni

VA-MD Vet Med Alumni online→

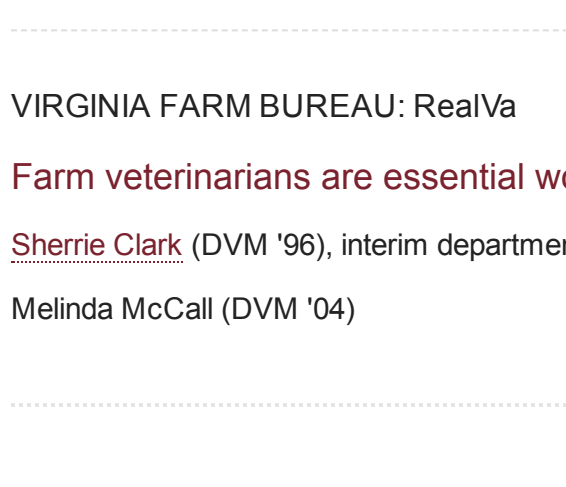


### VMCVM Memorial Website

Launched in April, the [VMCVM Memorial Website](#) honors members of our college community who have died.

We welcome you to contribute to this living memorial and submit a message in memory of an alumna/alumnus, faculty, staff, student, or friend of the college. Please make a donation in any amount to the [VMCVM Wellness Memorial Fund](#), after which you will be prompted to submit your memorial message.

The individuals on this page — and their impact on the college community — will be memorialized and honored through your messages and important contributions that drive wellness projects and initiatives.

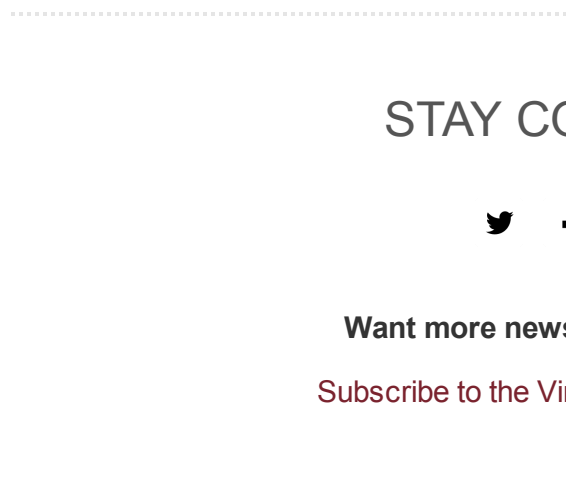


### Alumnus visits as locum surgeon

Justin Ganjei (DVM '11) visited the college on April 12-16 to serve as a locum soft tissue surgeon in the Veterinary Teaching Hospital (VTH). During his appointment, he also presented a lecture to interested faculty, staff, and students: "Advances in Minimally Invasive Surgery: What can you do through a 1cm incision?"

"To be back at the VTH almost 10 years after graduation and working in the clinics alongside my former professors, classmates, and technicians/assistants was just a surreal experience that I would love to repeat," Ganjei said. "It was also really nice to receive all the support for the minimally invasive surgery that I am so passionate about, and I am thankful to the administration for providing what I needed to be able to perform a laparoscopic cholecystectomy while I was there, which went great!"

Thank you, Dr. Ganjei, for sharing your expertise and enthusiasm with the college!



### Women in ag: Vet tales and reindeer-raising

Jody Kull (DVM '04) always knew she wanted to work with cows. Today, as a large animal veterinarian, she works with a host of livestock on her clients' farms in Pennsylvania. In March, Kull was one of several presenters featured during the Women in Agriculture and Conservation Conference, organized by the Columbia County Conservation District.

## Vet Med in the News

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

**Does everyone need to wear a mask outside? Experts weigh in.**

[NPR](#)

**Inside the CDC's battle to defeat the virus**

[THE VERGE](#)

**COVID-19 vaccine 'passports' aren't exactly like yellow fever certifications**

[WebMD](#)

**Cuomo family got rushed COVID-19 tests, reports say**

[Lisa Lee](#), research professor, Population Health Sciences, Virginia Tech Associate Vice President for Research and Innovation

### NEW YORK MAGAZINE: The Strategist

**The best cat food, according to veterinarians**

[Megan Shepherd](#), clinical assistant professor, Large Animal Clinical Sciences

**How to help pets deal with post-quarantine separation anxiety, according to veterinarians**

[Mark Freeman](#), clinical assistant professor, Small Animal Clinical Sciences

### FEEDLOT MAGAZINE

**From gate to plate: Proper vaccine administration can help boost consumer confidence in beef**

[John Currin](#), clinical associate professor, Large Animal Clinical Sciences

### MINNEAPOLIS STAR TRIBUNE

(Picked up by more than 250 outlets)

**Shades of gray rare among Kentucky Derby favorites, winners**

[Phillip Sponenberg](#), professor, Biomedical Sciences and Pathobiology

### THE HORSE

**Bone-marrow-derived macrophages promising for preventing OA**

[Bruno Menarim](#) (Ph.D. '19)

### UNITED STATES EVENTING ASSOCIATION

**Staying sound: The importance of foot balance**

[Maureen Kelleher](#), clinical assistant professor, Large Animal Clinical Sciences

### PRACTICAL HORSEMAN

**Equine melanoma: Harmless bump or time bomb?**

[Chris Byron](#), associate professor, Large Animal Clinical Sciences

### Diagnosing arthritis

[Moira Nusbaum](#) (DVM '10)





### VIRGINIA FARM BUREAU: RealVa

**Farm veterinarians are essential workers**

[Sherrie Clark](#) (DVM '96), interim department head, Large Animal Clinical Sciences

[Melinda McCall](#) (DVM '04)

## STAY CONNECTED

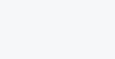





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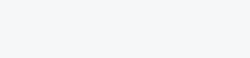
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