



Dr. Nick Dervis, medical oncologist, and Dr. Jennifer Carroll, oncology resident, examine a patient at the Animal Cancer Care and Research Center in Roanoke, VA.

# Animal Cancer Care and Research Center

Comprehensive, integrated oncology services for dogs and cats at the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine

A state-of-the-art clinical and research facility that opened its doors in summer 2020, the veterinary college's Animal Cancer Care and Research Center represents hope for a brighter future in cancer care. Illustrative of the college's commitment to working across disciplines to achieve optimal health for people, animals, and the environment, the cancer center is a vital part of the Virginia Tech Carilion (VTC) Health Sciences Campus, adjacent to the VTC School of Medicine, in Roanoke, Virginia.

The new center—which has accommodated the relocation and expansion of the oncology service from the college's Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Blacksburg—capitalizes on a strikingly rare opportunity to integrate researchers investigating human and veterinary biomedical interests that seek to advance cancer treatment in pets and people alike.

**“The vision of the Animal Cancer Center is to be a regional and national driver of research excellence and cancer care. But at the end of the day, our goal as veterinarians is to give our patients the chance to live their lives to the fullest.”**

- Dr. Nick Dervis, associate professor of medical oncology in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences

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## Key Benefits of the Center

- The Animal Cancer Center serves as a center of excellence for comprehensive animal cancer care, research, and learning.
- Patients are able to visit one location for a range of services, including surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, and advanced diagnostic imaging.
- The center treats all types of veterinary cancer; in addition, opportunities for dogs and cats to be enrolled in clinical research trials are offered to pet owners.
- A \$3.28 million linear accelerator positions the clinic as the region's only radiation oncology service for pets.
- The center's imaging capabilities provides valuable insights to a team of veterinarians, biomedical engineers, and human medical researchers in the fight against cancerous tumors that are common to both dogs and people.
- Clinical services are integrated with translational research and health sciences degree programs involving the college and the VTC School of Medicine and Fralin Biomedical Research Institute, immersing students in a best-in-class, multidisciplinary learning environment.
- The center creates an experience similar to top-flight comprehensive cancer centers for humans, integrating pet comfort and well-being into the fabric of the facility.

## About VA-MD College of Veterinary Medicine

The Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine is a leading biomedical teaching and research center and the in-state veterinary college for residents of Virginia and Maryland. The college is focused on the development and delivery of a One Health education, integrating multidisciplinary research and educational opportunities that provide health care solutions for animals, people, and communities. Locations include the main campus in Blacksburg, Virginia; the Marion duPont Scott Equine Medical Center in Leesburg, Virginia; the Gudelsky Veterinary Center in College Park, Maryland; and the Animal Cancer Care and Research Center in Roanoke, Virginia. The college offers a four-year, full-time, professional Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program, a graduate degree program in Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences, a master of public health, and a bachelor of science in public health.



## The Miracle Dog

When Hal and Diane Shields learned that their beloved 4-year-old dog, Duncan, had melanoma and less than a year to live, they were determined to give him the best chance for a long, healthy life. Their commitment led them to Virginia Tech's oncology clinicians, who prescribed immunotherapy in the hopes of stabilizing the cancer.

Having just celebrated Duncan's eighth birthday, Hal and Diane are grateful for every day with him and have never doubted their decision to go the extra mile for his care.

"Duncan is our miracle dog. We will always be indebted to the oncology service at Virginia Tech for their kindness and dedication to Duncan's care."

## Join us.