



2023 Annual Report



CENTER FOR HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTION

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CENTER FOR HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTION
VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
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About CHAI

The Center for Human-Animal Interaction (CHAI) is a 501 (c)(3) charity that exists within Medical College of Virginia Foundation (assessed by Charity Navigator to be a 98%, 4- star rated charity). CHAI is generously housed within West Hospital by the Psychiatry Department of Virginia Commonwealth University's School of Medicine. Many of CHAI's staff and executive committee members are VCU professors and professionals with a passion for animals and the benefits of Human-Animal Interaction. Our Dogs on Call volunteers share the same passion and it shows as they visit staff and patients throughout the VCU Health System with their amazing dogs.





Vision And How We Achieve It

Mission

**Improving health and well being
through human-animal interaction.**

To achieve our mission...

Our research goal is to increase knowledge of the benefits of the human-animal interaction through interdisciplinary research.

Our clinical goal is to enhance health and well being for patients and other members of our community through animal-assisted interventions.

Our educational goal is to improve understanding of the benefits of the human-animal interaction.

2023 Executive Committee



NANCY GEE, PHD, C-AISS

CHAI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE CHAIR
BILL BALABAN CHAIR IN HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTION
DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR HUMAN-ANIMAL INTERACTION
PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY, VCU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
PRESIDENT AND FELLOW, INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR
ANTHROZOOLOGY



SUZANNE WEAVER, MS

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS AND WELLNESS,
VCU AND VCU HEALTH



SHARON ALEXANDER, MPA

DIRECTOR OF WORKFORCE INITIATIVES,
VIRGINIA HOSPITAL AND HEALTHCARE
ASSOCIATION



**Tina Mammone, PHD., RN,
FACHE, NEA-BC**

CHIEF NURSING OFFICER, VCU MEDICAL
CENTER AND CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF
RICHMOND
CHIEF NURSE EXECUTIVE, VCU HEALTH



MARJOLEIN DE WIT, MD, MS

PROFESSOR OF INTERNAL MEDICINE, VCU
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



**KATHLEEN O'KANE KREUTZER,
M.ED.**

DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL PROJECTS AT FACULTY
AFFAIRS, VCU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND VCU
HEALTH



CARISSA D. ETTERS, BS

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT, VCU HEALTH
ENTERPRISE COMMUNICATIONS



RALPH RIOS, FACHE

VICE PRESIDENT OF SUPPORT SERVICES,
VCU HEALTH



SUSAN KORNSTEIN, MD

PROFESSOR OF PSYCHIATRY AND OBSTETRICS
& GYNECOLOGY, VCU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, VCU INSTITUTE FOR
WOMEN'S HEALTH



GARY SOUTHARD, JR., MBA

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR, VCU HEALTH

2032 Research Affiliates

Randolph T. Barker, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Business, VCU
Sandra B. Barker, Ph.D., NCC, LPC, Professor Emeritus, Psychiatry, VCU
Gonzalo M.L. Bearman, M.D., MPH, Professor & Chair, Internal Medicine/Infectious Diseases, VCU
James Bjork, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies, VCU
Pamela Dillon, Pharm.D., Associate Professor and Research Liaison,
Wright Center for Clinical and Translational Research, VCU
Jeffrey D. Green, Ph.D., Professor, Psychology, VCU
Lance J. Hampton, M.D., Associate Professor & Chair, Urology, VCU
Susan Kornstein, Ph.D., Professor, Psychiatry and Obstetrics and Gynecology, VCU
Ashlee R. Loughan, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Neurology, VCU
Gretchen N. McCandless-Neigh, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Anatomy, VCU
Shelby E. McDonald, Ph.D., Director of Research, ASPCA
Lisa Townsend, LCSW, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics -
Adolescent Medicine/Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

From the Director's Desk

Nancy Gee, Ph.D., C-AISS

Bill Balaban Chair in Human-Animal Interaction
Director, Center for Human-Animal Interaction
Professor of Psychiatry, VCU School of Medicine
Fellow, International Society for Human-Animal Interactions



Once again it gives me great pleasure to share in this report the achievements of the Center for Human-Animal Interaction over the past year. As you will read below, we continue to make meaningful contributions in all three aspects of our mission. In the coming year we will begin seeing the publication of results of our ongoing research projects; we have provided some unique educational opportunities both within and outside VCU; and our Dogs on Call teams have continued to increase their presence throughout the VCU Health System.

Below are my two Dogs on Call dogs, Allie (left) and the late Charlotte (right).



Allie



Charlotte

Meet Our Team



LISA TOWNSEND, LCSW, PhD

CLINICAL AND RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF PEDIATRICS AND PSYCHIATRY
VCU SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



KARL DORN, MEd

PROGRAM COORDINATOR



J.T. HOSACK, MA

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR, SENIOR



Our Volunteers

**CHAI'S 48 VOLUNTEERS AND 57 THERAPY DOG TEAMS CONTRIBUTED
OVER 1,500 HOURS OF SERVICE DURING 2023!**

Administrative Volunteers

Our administrative volunteers (some of whom are also Dogs on Call team members) each bring unique skills to the table to support CHAI and Dogs on Call in meaningful ways.

Kathy Albers	Morgan Gossman
Dr. Randolph T. Barker	Barbara Klucik
Dr. Sandra B. Barker	Margaret Popik
Denice Ekey	Ivy Worsham

Research Teams

A number of our Dogs on Call teams help CHAI conduct randomized clinical trials in the hospital to examine experimentally the impact of therapy dog visitation in a hospital setting. We are grateful for their dedication to the additional training and time commitments this work requires.

George & Beth Adams & Maggie & Baylee
Kathy Albers & Hairy Harry
Marcie Apelt & Harry
Anna Badgley & Murphy
Emily Cooley & Matt
Linda Flamm & Jag
Nancy Gee & Allie
Tracy Hartman & Missy
Susie Higbie & Homer
Simone Kschuk & Captain Jack
Marcia LaMaskin & Phoebe
Jeanne McNeill & Zeke
Margaret Popik & Elsa
Denise Russell & Wiley
Wayne Sarkees & Maxwell
Susan Sexton & Roe
Carmen Vasquez & Weird Alf Yank-A-Leash

Dogs on Call by the numbers

Dogs on Call delivers complimentary/no-cost therapy dog visits to patients, their families, and staff at VCU Health.

In addition to taking requests, Dogs on Call teams routinely visit a variety of areas of the hospital. These areas include pediatric and adult cancer clinics, the burn unit, palliative care, and the staff of the emergency department - just to name a few.

Dogs on Call teams also make appearances at VCU Health events throughout the year. The Center for Human-Animal Interaction is proud of its Dogs on Call therapy dog program and the amazing volunteers that make it a reality. **Take a look at these numbers:**

Total
Visits/Requests
Completed



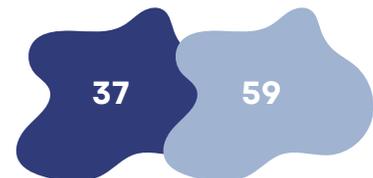
Percent of
requested Visits
Met + Attempted



Total Visits
Completed
(Requests + Visits
During Rounds)



Events Attended
by Dogs on Call



Hours
Volunteered



Peak Dogs on Call
Handlers



There was an increase of 29% in total visits and 59% in the number of events from the prior year!

2022

2023

Dogs on Call at Children's Hospital of Richmond

In May, the Children's Hospital of Richmond (CHoR) moved their inpatient unit to the new tower and we quickly revised our visitation protocol and orientation. We began visitation to both pediatric inpatient and outpatient locations, as soon as we were approved to do so.



Did you know that 20% of all people who touch our dogs are children? That equates to every 5th person!

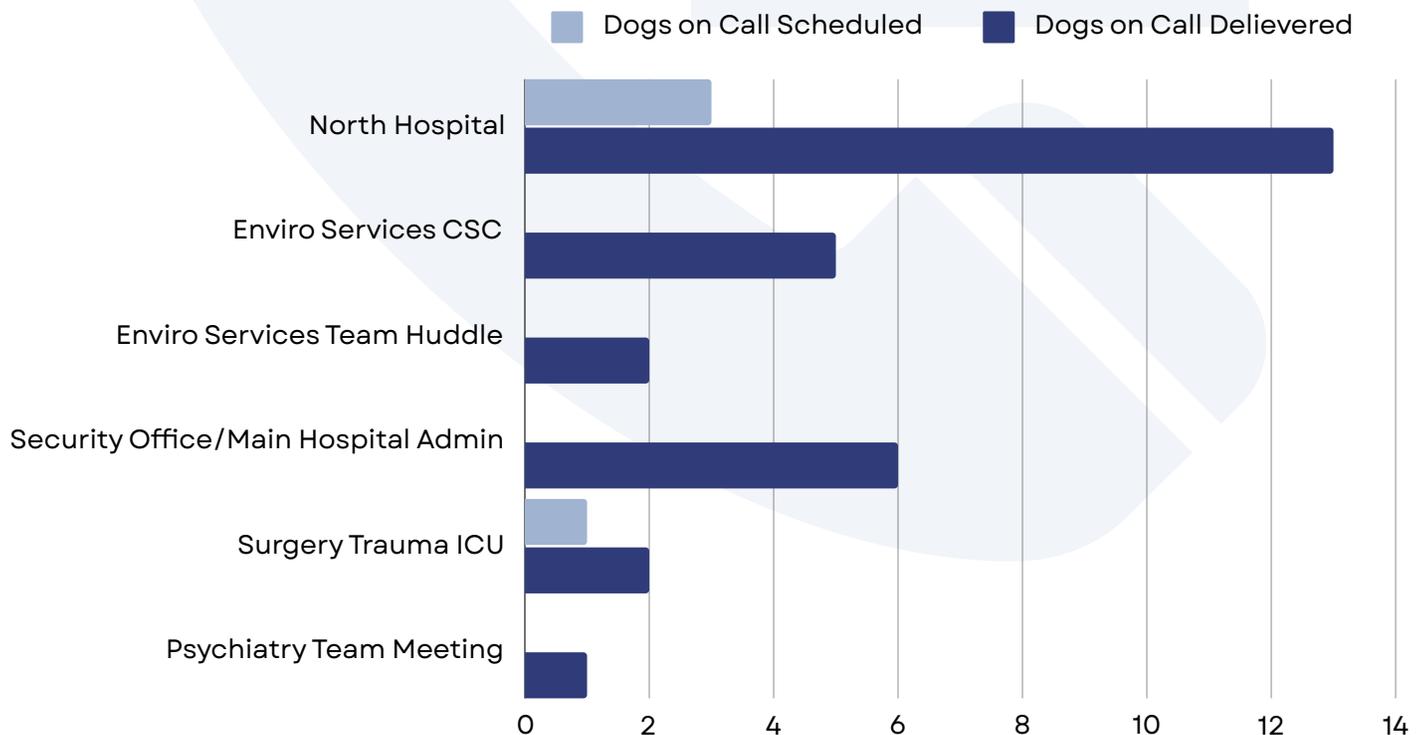
Dogs on Call crisis response

Around the United States gun violence is on the rise, and in 2023 VCU Health and VCU both experienced situations requiring crisis response. We are proud that Dogs on Call could be a part of the caring response to support team members, visitors, and students during those challenging times.

As you can see in the graph below, we were able to significantly increase Dogs on Call presence at key locations in need. Our response represented an increase of 375% in Dogs on Call visits to those locations in the days following the events.

When we are needed, we do everything we can to meet that need. We are proud to support our VCU Health and VCU family, especially in times of crisis.

Dogs on Call Scheduled/Delivered 5/10/2023-5/14/2023



Dogs on Call activities and events

While Dogs on Call continues to focus on serving VCU Health patients, families, and staff, our teams also love supporting the broader VCU community. **More than 70 Dogs on Call dogs made appearances at 59 events in 2023.** Here are just a few of the highlights:

February 7, 2023

VCU Valentine's Day 2023

Happy Valentine's Day, Rams! 🍷💕🐶 Last week, we "let the dogs out", the VCU therapy Dogs On Call to be more specific. They also had Valentine cards for everyone too, each with a cute illustration of them for fans to take home! Our furry friends hung out with their fans at VCU Health and the VCU Student Commons and took in all the belly rubs and love possible as they greeted everyone with love and cuddles. The vibes were truly filled with UNCONDITIONAL love. 🐶❤️ (From VCU Health Social Media)

(From VCU's official social media accounts)

April 23, 2023

Old Dominion Firefighters Burn Foundation & Evans-Haynes Burn Center at VCU Health's Burn Survivor Sunday

April 25, 2023

Take Back the Night at VCU

May 12, 2023

Dogs on Call Polaroids - DOC Celebrates National Hospital Week

For National Hospital Week and Week of the Nurse, our pawesome four-legged friends at [@DogsOnCall](#) and colleagues from the Center for Human-Animal Interaction joined us for Polaroid Pics with Pups! Team members were able to stop by and say hi to the pups and take a polaroid picture with them!

May 17, 2023

VCU Health Palliative Care Memorial Service

October 3, 2023

VCU Counseling Services' Mental Health Resources Fair

October 16, 2023

VCU Health's LifeEvac (Helicopter) Communications & Support Staff Destress

October 18 & 20, 2023

Dogs on Call Pharmacy Rounds for National Pharmacist Appreciation Week

December 19, 2023

Ryan White center at VCU Health's Winter Holiday Party



Annual Fundraisers



The Center for Human-Animal Interaction is sustained in no small part by the generosity of the VCU Health community. We are grateful that so many friends and allies showed their support for our dogs and our mission at our fundraiser events.

Pups on the Plaza. This block party style fundraiser occurred in the street and plaza just outside the McGlothlin Medical Education Center. VCU Police closed the street, large speakers were put up for music, Food & Nutrition Services set up grills, and over a dozen Dogs on Call teams made an appearance. Funds were raised by selling meal tickets, Doggie Bunch t-shirts, and other Dogs on Call-themed merchandise. Thanks to everyone who attended, as 2023 was one of our most successful years.

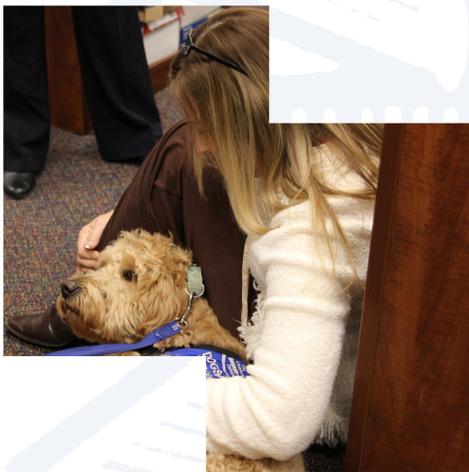
Calendar Sales. Our Dogs on Call calendars, presenting photos of our Dogs on Call teams in action, were once again extremely popular. We had 28 sponsors for this year's calendar, and fans of the Dogs on Call program purchased nearly 1,000 copies in total.

Close at Heart. Throughout the year, members of the community make donations in memory, or in honor of, a pet or a human who played a valuable part in their lives. Both the donor and the honoree, or family of the honoree, receive signed letters from CHAI's Director, and the honorees also have their names memorialized in the Close at Heart book that we display prominently in our main office. Large donations are honored with a name plate, which we post on plaques hanging in the CHAI main office.

CHAI wishes to thank everyone who has supported and continues to support our mission!

CHAI

student and resident educational opportunities



Our educational goal is to improve understanding of the benefits of the human-animal interaction. We accomplish our mission by teaching students and engaging in public education.

Students

Fifteen students participated in educational experiences at The Center for Human-Animal Interaction in 2023.

Five medical students in their fourth year (M4s) completed 1-month elective rotations at CHAI. While at CHAI they split their time between working with CHAI's Director on research projects and helping with CHAI's daily functioning. They supported Dogs on Call teams in the hospital, helped prepare and distribute stuffed animals for children, and performed a variety of other tasks.

Four undergraduate Independent Study students came to learn at CHAI. These students both assisted with the Center's research and worked on their own projects with CHAI's faculty.

Six PhD students or medical residents worked with CHAI's Director on various research projects and presentations.

CHAI hosted a PhD student from Denmark during the fourth quarter of 2023. In addition to her research collaboration with our Director, she and her family shared multiple cross-cultural experiences with CHAI staff.

CHAI

research and academic accomplishments



3
Randomized Controlled
Trials (RCTs) Experiments



5
Conference
Presentations &
Leadership Roles



5
Journal Publications



11
Edited Books & Chapters

CHAI publications

2023 Edited Book

Gee, N.R., Townsend, L., & Findling, R. (Eds). (2023). The role of companion animals in the treatment of mental disorders. American Psychiatric Association.



THE ROLE OF **Companion Animals** IN THE **Treatment** OF **Mental Disorders**

Edited by
Nancy R. Gee, Ph.D.
Lisa D. Townsend, Ph.D., LCSW
Robert L. Findling, M.D., M.B.A.

In recent years, the use of companion animals in treatments for mental disorders has been increasingly accepted by clinicians and the public. Written by top researchers, this book provides a much-needed overview of the current state of knowledge of animal-assisted interventions. The chapters integrate theoretical perspectives with the latest research and offer practical guidelines for the incorporation of animals into evidenced-based treatments. The book is an invaluable resource for both researchers and mental health practitioners.

–Hal Herzog, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus, Western Carolina University Author of *Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat: Why It's So Hard To Think Straight About Animals*



CHAI publications (continued)

2023 Journal Publications

Rodriguez, K.E., Green, F.L.L., Binfet, J., **Townsend, L., Gee, N.R.** (2023). Complexities and considerations in conducting animal-assisted intervention research: A discussion of randomized controlled trials. *Human-Animal Interactions*.
<https://doi.org/10.1079/hai.2023.0004>

Hoy-Gerlach, J., & **Townsend, L.** (2023). Reimagining healthcare: Human-animal bond support as a primary, secondary, and tertiary public health intervention. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20(7). <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/ijerph20075272>

Gee, N. R., Townsend, L., Findling, R. L. (2023). How companion animals can participate in treatment of mental illness. *Psychiatric News*, 58(9), 23-26.
<https://doi.org/10.1176/appi.pn.2023.09.9.35>

Townsend, L., Towsley, N., & **Gee, N.R.** (2023). "Dogs on Call": A community-engaged human subjects training with hospital based therapy dog teams. *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics*, 18(5), 363-371. <https://doi.org/10.1177/15562646231191962>

Friedmann, E., **Gee, N. R.,** Simonsick, E. M., Kitner-Triolo, M. H., Resnick, B., Adesanya, I., Koodaly, L., & Gurlu, M. (2023). Pet ownership and maintenance of cognitive function in community-residing older adults: Evidence from the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging (BLSA). *Scientific Reports*, 13(1), 14738. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-023-41813-y>

2023 Book Chapters

Gee, N. R., Fine, A. H., & Kaufmann, M. (2023). Animals in Educational Settings. In A. Fine (Ed.), *Animal Assisted Therapy: Theoretical Foundations and Guidelines for Practice 5th Ed.* New York, NY: Academic Press.[NRG1]

Gee, N. R., Townsend, L. & Findling, R. (2023). Introduction. *The role of companion animals in the treatment of mental disorders.* American Psychiatric Association.

Townsend, L., Mueller, M. (2023). Companion animals involved in the treatment of at-risk and adjudicated youth. *The role of companion animals in the treatment of mental disorders.* American Psychiatric Association.

Townsend, L., Gee, N. R., & Kornstein, S. (2023). Companion Animals in the Treatment of Depression. *The role of companion animals in the treatment of mental disorders.* American Psychiatric Association.



CHAI publications (continued)

2023 Book Chapters (cont'd.)

Friedmann, E., **Gee, N. R.**, & Levenson, J.L. (2023). Companion Animals in the Treatment of Stress and Anxiety. *The role of companion animals in the treatment of mental disorders*. American Psychiatric Association.

Townsend, L. & Buckley, P. (2023). Companion Animals in the Treatment of Mental Illness. *The role of companion animals in the treatment of mental disorders*. American Psychiatric Association.

Townsend, L. (2023). Companion Animals Assisting Patients in Hospice. *The role of companion animals in the treatment of mental disorders*. American Psychiatric Association.

Gee, N. R., Bibbo, J., & Dunn, L. (2023). Companion Animals in the Treatment of Dementia and Aging Related Concerns. *The role of companion animals in the treatment of mental disorders*. American Psychiatric Association.

Gee, N. R., **Townsend, L.** & Thakre, T. (2023). How Dog Visitation Programs May be Beneficial to Hospital Patients and Staff. *The role of companion animals in the treatment of mental disorders*. American Psychiatric Association.

Gee, N. R., **Townsend, L.**, & Findling, R. (2023). Conclusion. *The role of companion animals in the treatment of mental disorders*. American Psychiatric Association.

2023 Conference Presentations

Friedman, E., **Gee, N. R.**, Simonsick E.M., Barro, E., Resnick, B, Gurlu, M., Adesanya, I., & Shim, S. (November 2023). Pet Ownership and Longitudinal Change in Psychological Adaptation – Evidence from the BLSA. Podium presentation at the Gerontological Society of American. Tampa FL.

Gee, N. R. (Chair), Fine, A. H., Schuck, S. S., & **Townsend, L.** (2023, May). The role of animals in the treatment of mental disorders [Conference session]. American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, United States.
<https://www.psychiatry.org/getmedia/f7894006-322b-4a6b-92b6-98f330cb146b/2023APA-Annual-Meeting-Guide.pdf>

Townsend, L., Towsley, N., & **Gee, N. R.** (2023, June). Community-Engaged Researcher Human Subjects Training for Volunteer Animal-Assisted Intervention Teams [Poster Presentation]. International Society for Anthrozoology 32nd Annual Conference. Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom.



CHAI publications (continued)

2023 Conference Presentations (cont'd.)

Gee, N. R., Townsend, L., Friedmann, E., Mueller, M. K., & **Barker, S.** (2023, June). A pilot randomized clinical trial of a canine-assisted intervention demonstrates reduced loneliness, anxiety, and improved mood in hospitalized older adults [Oral Presentation]. International Society for Anthrozoology 32nd Annual Conference. Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom.

Friedmann, E., **Gee, N. R.,** Simonsick, E. M., Kitner-Triolo, M. H., Barr, E., Resnick, B., Adesanya, I., Koodaly, L., & Gurlu, M. (2023, June). Pet ownership and maintenance of cognitive function in community-residing older adults: Evidence from the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging (BLSA) [Oral Presentation]. International Society for Anthrozoology 32nd Annual Conference. Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom.

2023 Published Conference Proceedings

Friedmann, E., **Gee, N. R.,** Simonsick, E. M., Resick, B., Gurlu, M., Adesanya, I., & Shim, S. (2023, December) Pet ownership and the longitudinal change in psychological adaption - Evidence from the BLSA. *Innovation in Aging*, 7(Suppl. 1), 424–425.
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igad104.1401>

Friedmann, E., **Gee, N. R.,** Simonsick, E. M., Barr, E., Resnick, B., Werthman, E., Adesanya, I. (2023, December). Pet ownership and maintenance of physical function in older adults - Evidence from the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging (BLSA). *Innovation in Aging*, Volume 7 (1).
<https://doi.org/10.1093/geroni/igac080>

2023 Keynote and Invited Presentations

Townsend, L. & Gee, N. R. (2023, January). Mitigating canine stress in animal-assisted activities. Workshop conducted for the Certificate Program for Human-Animal Interactions and Interventions, University of North Florida.

Gee, N.R. Association of Animal-Assisted Intervention Professionals. (2023, January). Meet the AAI Leader, Dr. Nancy Gee [Video]. Facebook Live. https://fb.watch/iKa_S3QuCS/

Gee, N.R. Association of Animal-Assisted Intervention Professionals. (2023, February). The LEAD Risk Assessment tool and other best practices from Dr. Gee [Video].
<https://aaaip.memberclicks.net/NancyGee-LeadRiskAssessment>

Gee, N. R. (2023, April). Best practice standards in AAI - Risk Assessment [Presentation]. Animal Assisted Intervention and Interactions Certificate Program at the University of North Florida.

Gee, N. R. (2023, June) Companion Animals in the Lives of Older Adults. Connecticut Coalition on Aging. Online Webinar.



CHAI publications (continued)

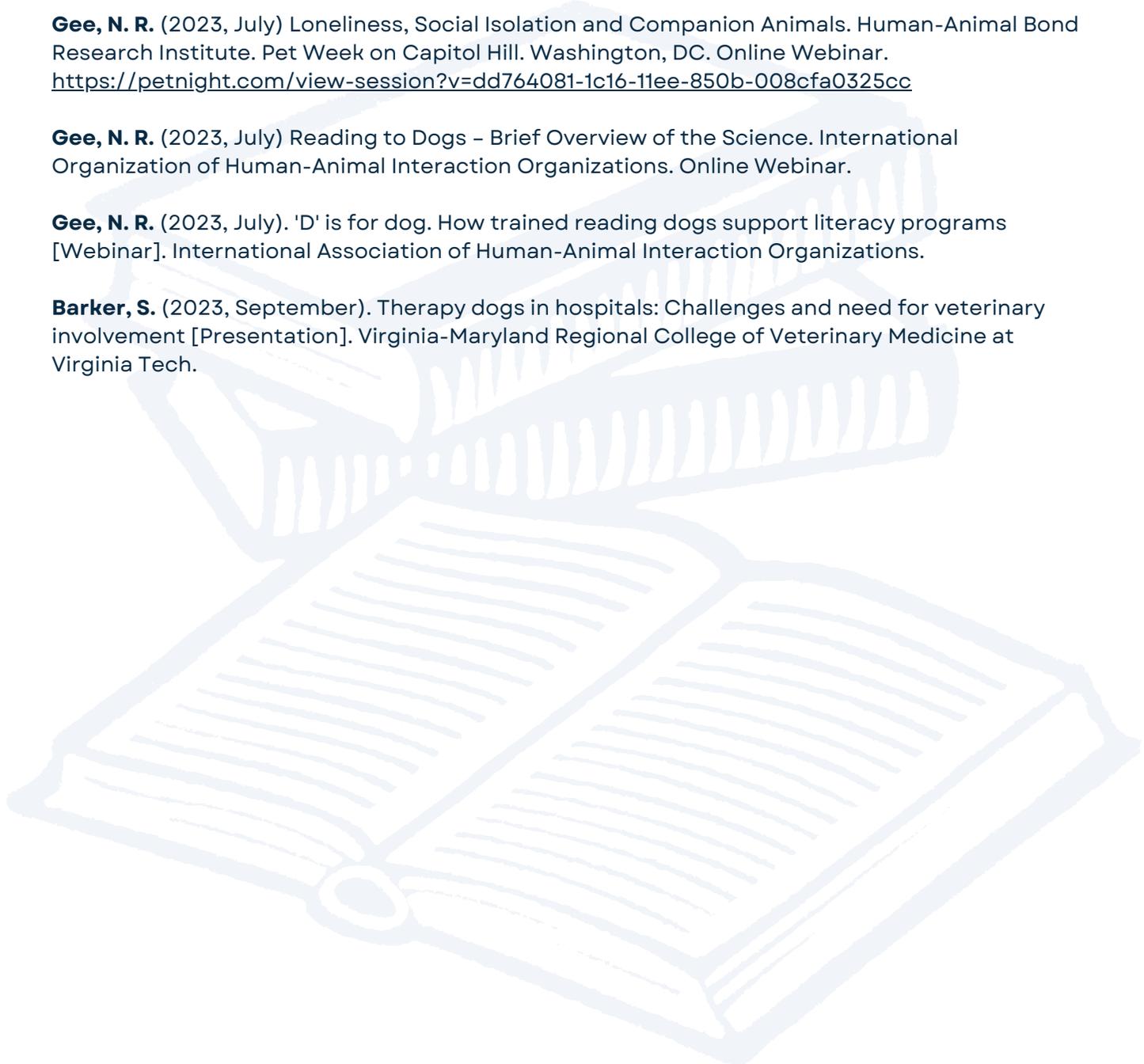
2023 Keynote and Invited Presentations (cont'd.)

Gee, N. R. (2023, July) Loneliness, Social Isolation and Companion Animals. Human-Animal Bond Research Institute. Pet Week on Capitol Hill. Washington, DC. Online Webinar.
<https://petnight.com/view-session?v=dd764081-1c16-11ee-850b-008cfa0325cc>

Gee, N. R. (2023, July) Reading to Dogs – Brief Overview of the Science. International Organization of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations. Online Webinar.

Gee, N. R. (2023, July). 'D' is for dog. How trained reading dogs support literacy programs [Webinar]. International Association of Human-Animal Interaction Organizations.

Barker, S. (2023, September). Therapy dogs in hospitals: Challenges and need for veterinary involvement [Presentation]. Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine at Virginia Tech.





CHAI

externally-funded research projects

The Center for Human-Animal Interaction creates new knowledge by conducting rigorous research. Three randomized-controlled trial (RCTs) examining the impacts of therapy dog intervention on loneliness, depression, anxiety, and related health outcomes are currently underway for three vulnerable inpatient populations: older adults, adults with mental illness, and children. In conjunction with the pediatric study, some of Dr. Townsend's internal VCU startup funds are being used to assess the effects on the intervention on levels of salivary cytokines.

The Center for Human-Animal Interaction is grateful to the following external funders for supporting our ongoing research:



CHAI social media reach

Reach (Followers)



3,411



5,000+



1,500

Top Posts of 2023



145 Likes, 1,544 Impressions



188 Likes, 2,074 Impressions



CHAI in the press

CHAI faculty and programs have again garnered a steady stream of media coverage for VCU and VCU Health in 2023, locally, nationally, and internationally.

Egocheaga, A. (2023, February 5). A shot of cheer. **Richmond Magazine**.
<https://richmondmagazine.com/news/sunday-story/a-shot-of-cheer/>

Small, L. (2023, February 10). Head of the pack. **Richmond Magazine**.
<https://richmondmagazine.com/news/education/dogs-in-classrooms/>

Frisa, E. (2023, February 13). Canine cupids: When VCU Dogs On Call volunteers hand out valentines, recipients get a dose of their unconditional love. **VCU News**.
<https://news.vcu.edu/article/2023/02/canine-cupids>

VCU Health. [@VCUHealth]. (2023, February 20). Though we love all our furry and not-so-furry friends, we can't help but love a little extra on [Social media post]. **Instagram**.
<https://www.instagram.com/p/Co5MXhbuUi0/>

Barefoot, A. (2023, March 2). 'Dogs on Call' brings paw-sitivity to VCU's Medical Center. **WRIC ABC8 News**. <https://www.wric.com/community/positively-richmond/dogs-on-call-brings-paw-sitivity-to-vcus-medical-center/>

Kruszewski, J. (2023, March 3). Rounds with hounds: Medical students research and participate in dog therapy via VCU's Center for Human-Animal Interaction. **VCU News**.
<https://news.vcu.edu/article/2023/03/medical-students-research-dog-therapy-via-vcus-center-for-human-animal-interaction>

Roberts, L. (Host). (2023, March 3). Companion Animals [Audio podcast episode]. In **Psychiatry Unbound**. American Psychiatric Association Publishing.
<https://psychiatryonline.org/psychiatry-unbound/022-companion-animals>

Larkin, M. (2023, March 15). AVMA partners with psychiatric professionals to promote human-animal bond. **American Veterinary Medical Association News**.
<https://www.avma.org/news/avma-partners-psychiatric-professionals-promote-human-animal-bond>

Tupponce, J. (2023, April 13). New book highlights VCU Dogs on Call as a model program: VCU School of Medicine faculty edit a new book on how animals may help in the treatment of mental illness. The book is the first of its kind published by the American Psychiatric Association. **VCU News**. <https://www.vcuhealth.org/news/new-book-highlights-vcu-dogs-on-call-as-a-model-program>



CHAI

in the press (continued)

Tupponce, J. (2023, April 20). First Lady of Virginia celebrates National Donate Life Blue and Green Day with VCU Health Hume-Lee Transplant Center. **VCU News**.
<https://www.vcuhealth.org/news/first-lady-of-virginia-celebrates-national-donate-life-blue-and-green-day>

WTVR CBS6. (2023, May 18). Dogs on Call visit CBS 6 [Video]. **Yahoo! Life**.
<https://www.yahoo.com/lifestyle/dogs-call-visit-cbs-6-150419862.html>

Godoy, M. (2023, August 2). Weekly Dose of Wonder: Spending time with a dog can be good for your health [Radio broadcast]. **National Public Radio**.
<https://www.npr.org/2023/08/02/1191671789/weekly-dose-of-wonder-spending-time-with-a-dog-can-be-good-for-your-health>

Drevets, T. (2023). Paws Up: 7 Ways to Celebrate National Dog Day. **The Expression**.
<https://blog.personalizationmall.com/celebration-ideas/celebrate-national-dog-day/>

Sexton, C. (2023, August 9). Petting a dog, even when it's not your own, can boost your health for months. **Earth**. <https://www.earth.com/news/petting-a-dog-even-when-its-not-your-own-can-boost-your-health-for-months/>

Spivack, E. (2023). Can pets make us less lonely? This unlikely creature might be best for our mental health. **Inverse**. <https://www.inverse.com/health/pets-loneliness-science-health-which-animal-is-best>

Leonard, J. (Host). (2023, August 19). The disabled TV director pushing for change [Audio podcast episode]. **In The Happy Pod**. **BBC Global News**.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0g7jxtd>

Minnicks, M. (2023, August 20). An anthrozoologist at Virginia Commonwealth University explains how dog therapy works with students. **Newsbreak**.
<https://original.newsbreak.com/@margaret-minnicks-1587632/3129731452689-an-anthrozoologist-at-virginia-commonwealth-university-explains-how-dog-therapy-works-with-students>

Whitley, H. L. (2023, August 31). Stressed out? Here are 5 science-backed ways to relax. **Yahoo! Life**. <https://www.aol.co.uk/lifestyle/stressed-5-science-backed-ways-120040135.html>

Austin, D. (2023, September 19). Do pets really make people happier and healthier? **National Geographic**. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/premium/article/benefits-pet-dog-ownership-mental-health>

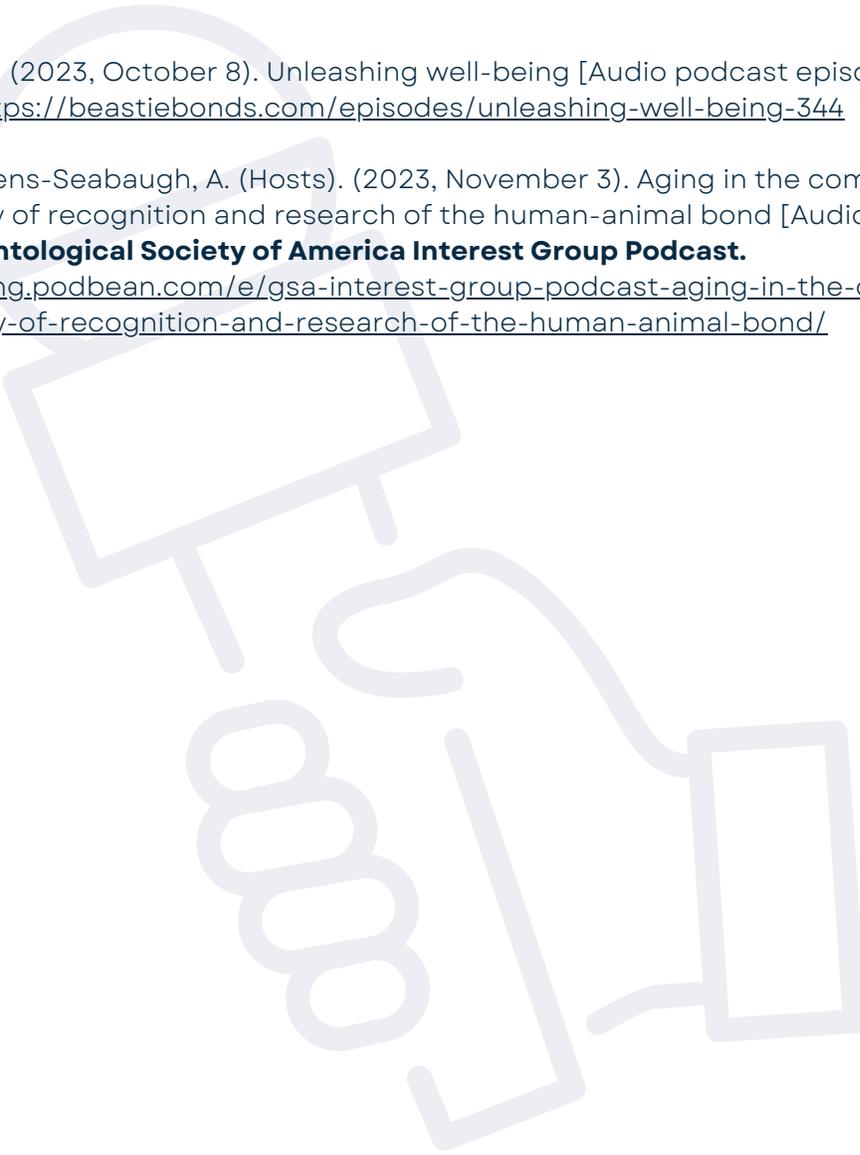


CHAI

in the press (continued)

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