

Meet Dr. Moose: Virginia Tech awards one of its therapy dogs an honorary doctorate degree

Like most universities, Virginia Tech's College of Veterinary Medicine celebrated the class of 2020 with an online **commencement** ceremony. But unlike other schools, they included one very good boy in the graduating class: a dog named Moose.

commencement 毕业典礼

The **Labrador retriever**, an 8-year-old therapy dog at the Cook Counseling Center, received an **honorary doctorate** in veterinary medicine on Friday.

Labrador 拉布拉多

retriever 挽救者；寻回犬

honorary 荣誉的；名誉的

doctorate 博士学位

Moose, who has been with Virginia Tech since 2014, is one of the school's four therapy animals and ambassadors for mental health awareness.

The **fluffy pup** has helped thousands of students and assisted in more than 7, 500 counseling sessions, according to his owner, licensed counselor Trent Davis.

fluffy 蓬松的；松软的

pup 小狗

"Some humans haven't had the best experience with other humans, or even other dogs. In both those cases, Moose provides a very safe and comforting force in the room," Davis told CNN.

"The students here talk a lot about how Moose has broken down the stigma around mental health care on campus," Davis said. "Veterinarians are unfortunately a very challenged population. They have high rates of suicide, and this profession can be quite disturbing. He has really helped the students and staff at Virginia Tech."

Moose has also faced challenges of his own. He was diagnosed with **prostate** cancer and underwent radiation treatments. Moose's treatment is ongoing, but he remains his usual happy self, Davis told CNN.

prostate 前列腺

Dr. Moose can't do much with his new diploma, but he is looking forward to loads of treats, a swim at the beach and a good ol' tug of war.