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Human Animal Bond Research Institute  
2024 SPRING  
**POLICY FORUM**  
Mental Health & Companion Animals

May 22, 2024  
WASHINGTON, DC



# PROGRAM



- 8:00 A.M.**..... Attendee Registration
- 8:00 A.M.**..... Breakfast  
Sponsored by **whiskerDocs**
- 8:45 A.M.**..... Welcome & Introductions
- 9:00 A.M.**..... Featured Speaker  
**Susan B. Trachman, M.D.**  
Clinical Associate Professor of Psychiatry  
George Washington University



## SECTION 1: THE MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS OF COMPANION ANIMALS

Sponsored by Mars Petcare

### IMPACTFUL RESEARCH

- 9:45 A.M.**..... Introduction  
**Dr. Meaghan Gilhooly**  
Vice President of Veterinary Affairs  
Banfield Pet Hospital
- 10:00 A.M.**..... Data on the Experiences, Benefits and Challenges Related to Pets and Mental Health  
**America Paredes, PhD**  
Chief Social Impact Officer  
Mental Health America
- 10:30 A.M.**..... The Role of Companion Animals for People Living with Mental Health Problems  
**Helen Brooks, PhD MRes BSc**  
Senior Lecturer  
The University of Manchester
- 11:00 A.M.**..... Morning Break



## SECTION 2: SUPPORTING BEST PRACTICES

Sponsored by Petco Love

### LEARNINGS FROM MODEL PRACTICES, PROGRAMS & RESOURCES

- 11:15 A.M.**..... Introduction  
**Susanne Kogut**  
President  
Petco Love

- 11:30 A.M.**..... Resources on Assistance Animals in Public Housing  
**Lynn M. Grosso**  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Enforcement  
**Tiffany Fleming**  
Acting Director  
Enforcement Support Division  
Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity (FHEO)  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)



- 12:00 P.M.**..... Lunch  
Sponsored by **American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA)**  
During the lunch hour, we will hear from our educational partners on important initiatives and programs relevant to pets & mental health

- 1:30 P.M.**..... Eliminating Barriers to Care for Pet Owners in Crisis  
**James Glenn, MSW**  
University Health, Kansas City
- 2:00 P.M.**..... Supporting Pet Owning Clients: Best Practices for Mental Health Professionals  
**Taylor Chastain-Griffin, PhD**  
Executive Director  
Association of Animal-Assisted Intervention Professionals (AAAIP)



- 2:30 P.M.**..... Afternoon Break

## SECTION 3: POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Sponsored by American Pet Products Association (APPA)

### ADVANCING PUBLIC POLICY

- 2:45 P.M.**..... Introduction  
**Julia Fidenzio**  
Chief Legal Officer  
American Pet Products Association (APPA)
- 3:00 P.M.**..... Special Guest Speaker  
**Congresswoman Claudia Tenney**  
U.S. House of Representatives (R-NY-24)
- 3:45 P.M.**..... Closing & Next Steps
- 4:00 P.M.**..... Forum Adjourns
- 4:30 P.M.**..... Reception  
Café Riggs

