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CALLING ALL SERVICE DOGS THROUGHOUT NEW YORK CITY

April 16, 2008

Free Eye Exams in May Will Help to Preserve Sight for Working Canines

New York, NY—NYC Veterinary Specialists & Cancer Treatment Center in Manhattan is teaming up with The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) to get the word out to service dog handlers and take part in the ACVO National Service Dog Eye Exam event. This unprecedented event will provide free sight-saving eye exams and preventative health reports to service dogs throughout New York City.

Service Dog groups include: guide dogs, handicapped assistance dogs, detection dogs, and search and rescue dogs. Dogs must be ‘working dogs’ which were certified through a formal training program or organization to qualify. The goal of this event is to make a large impact and to help preserve the sight of these animals whose partners depend upon them. In addition to the eye exam, participants will receive a Pet Wellness Report (preventative health diagnosis) and blood panel through their primary care veterinarian.

Participants who qualify MUST first register online for the event at www.acvoeyeexam.org Click on Dog owners/ participants at the top of the page and follow the instructions. Once a participant is registered, they can contact NYC Veterinary Specialists at (212) 767-0099 and let them know they are registered for the ACVO Service Dog Event and need to make an appointment.

NYC Veterinary Specialists & Cancer Treatment Center in MANHATTAN will have appointments available on Monday, May 12th through Friday, May 16th. Dr. Vanessa Kuonen, a board certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist will be seeing patients. She says, “We are excited to be part of the ACVO National Service Dog Exam Day. Screening eye examinations can detect ocular diseases at an early stage when treatment can be most successful.”

More than 140 board certified veterinary ophthalmologists and 1,300 general veterinarians across the US will work together in May to provide these services at no cost to service dog groups. Between 5,000 and 10,000 Service Dogs are expected to participate. An ACVO Diplomate recently hosted a local ‘test’ event in Memphis, TN and examined 87 Service Dogs. The local event was so successful that ACVO decided to offer this program on a national scale. One seeing-eye dog, “Quest”, was diagnosed with a possible sight-robbing tumor, which would be devastating to both him and his owner, Mr. Ron McKenney. We are hopeful that through the partnership of a veterinary oncologist and veterinary ophthalmologist Quest may be able to retain his sight.

MEDIA OPPORTUNITIES: The media is invited to interview Drs. Vanessa Kuonen and Jennifer Welser. They are also welcome to take video/photos of patients undergoing exams, both in advance of the events and day of the events.

About NYC Veterinary Specialists and Cancer Treatment Center: Opened in the fall, 2006, NYC Veterinary Specialists was founded with the concept of providing a superior level of patient and client

care through close cooperation with the family practitioner. In addition to referral appointments, the hospital is open 24 hours a day for case transfers by the family practitioner and after-hours emergencies. NYC Veterinary Specialists serves as an extension of the general practice. Their specialized services include Behavior, Cardiology, Critical Care, Dermatology, Emergency Medicine, Internal Medicine, Neurology/Neurosurgery, Oncology/Radiation, Ophthalmology, Radiology and Surgery.

NYC Veterinary Specialists is open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and is located in Manhattan at 410 W. 55th St. between 9th and 10th Avenues, across the street from the Alvin Ailey Dance Theatre. For more information, visit www.nyc-vs.com.

About the ACVO: The ACVO is an approved veterinary specialty organization of the American Board of Veterinary Specialties, and is recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Its mission is “to advance the quality of veterinary medicine through certification of veterinarians who demonstrate excellence as specialists in veterinary ophthalmology”. To become board certified a candidate must complete their DVM program, a one year internship, a three year residency and pass a series of credentials and examinations.

The ACVO National Service Dog Eye Exam Day is a ground-breaking event that will help preserve the eyesight of thousands of Service Dogs across America. The following non-profit organizations are supporting this effort: American Animal Hospital Association, American Veterinary Medical Association, state Veterinary Medical Associations (USA and Canada), American Society of Veterinary Medical Association Executives, Veterinary Hospital Managers Association, Veterinary Ophthalmic Technicians Society, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Guiding Eyes for the Blind, North American Police Dog Association, National Narcotic Detection Dog Association, Patriot Paws Service Dogs, and Service Dogs of America. More organizational support is pending.

Find out more at: <http://www.fetchingcommunications.com/news/www.ACVOeyeexam.org>

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