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Local Service Dogs Eligible for Free Eye Exam at University of Illinois Veterinary Clinic

*Deadline to Register Online **Extended** to May 8*

URBANA - Veterinary ophthalmologists--eye specialists--at the University of Illinois will devote one day in May to free eye screening exams as part of the National Service Dog Eye Exam event, an effort organized through the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) to provide free potentially sight-saving exams and preventive health reports to thousands of dogs across the country.

To participate, dogs must be active "working dogs"--including: guide dogs, handicapped assistance dogs, detection dogs, and search and rescue dogs--that were certified by a formal training program or organization. This event seeks to make a significant impact on preserving the sight of these animals whose partners depend upon them.

Dog owners must register via the ACVO Web site - www.ACVOeyexam.org - to qualify for a free eye examination at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital. The deadline for registration has been extended to May 8.

The ACVO is a veterinary specialty organization devoted to advancing the quality of veterinary medicine through certification of veterinarians who demonstrate excellence as specialists in veterinary ophthalmology. Merial, makers of veterinary pharmaceuticals, is the official event sponsor. In addition, Pet Health Systems is providing no cost follow-up blood work.

More than 40 veterinary specialists at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital provide care to more than 15,000 animal patients every year. More information about the hospital is available at www.vetmed.illinois.edu/vth/.

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