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## Thousands of service dogs to receive the gift of

(4/15/2008)

**Meridian, ID, April 15, 2008** – The [American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists \(ACVO®\)](#), [Pet Health Systems \(PHS\)](#) and [Merial](#) are launching a [Dog Eye Exam](#) event the week of May 12, 2008. This unprecedented event will provide sight-saving eye exams and preventative health reports to 5,000-10,000 board certified veterinary ophthalmologists and 1,300 general practitioners. The event will work together to provide these services at no cost to Service Dogs, handicapped assistance dogs, detection dogs and search and rescue dogs. ACVO® and PHS hope to give back to these animals who selflessly serve their owners without compensation. They will accomplish this goal while donating \$1 million to the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists. Merial, (ivermectin/pyrantel) and FRONTLINE®, is the official event sponsor.

An ACVO® Diplomate recently hosted a local test event in Meridian, ID for Service Dogs. The local event was so successful that ACVO® is expanding the event to a national scale. One seeing-eye dog, "Quest", was diagnosed with a tumor, which would be devastating to both him and his owner. However, Quest is hopeful that through the partnership of a veterinary oncologist, Quest may be able to retain his sight. Mr. McKenney stated:

*"If the ACVO® Eye Exam Event can help my dog, and give him the chance to see before it gets too advanced, just think what it can do for the hundreds of other dogs that will be able to participate in the nationwide event. I can't imagine my friend, Quest. I depend on him for everything, but more importantly, he's my life. I thank Dr. Bill Miller for the Eye Exam Event, the excellent care vet, and Pet Health Systems for all they've done to help Quest."*

Quest was one of many dogs who benefited from the local event. View a [video](#) describing the program and local coverage of the event. See a [video](#) describing the program and local coverage of the event.

Never before has an event been held that benefits 5,000-10,000 dogs. Participating Board Certified Diplomates of the ACVO® will provide an eye exam to Service Dog groups including: guide dogs, handicapped dogs, and search and rescue dogs. Dogs must be working dogs and have completed a formal training program or organization to qualify. Many of our veterinarians provide similar services to their Service Dog clients throughout the year. This event will make a large impact to help preserve the sight of these animals.

them.

In addition to the eye exam, participants will receive a Pet We health diagnosis) and blood panel through their primary care v doctors), sponsored by Pet Health Systems. The system is ar owner to register and agree to receive information regarding t owner has registered they receive updates on their pet's healt veterinarian recommended products and services to address Read the [Daily News article](#) on this system and how it helped Tennessee.

#### **About ACVO**

The ACVO® is an approved veterinary specialty organization Veterinary Specialties, and is recognized by the American Ve mission is “to advance the quality of veterinary medicine throu who demonstrate excellence as specialists in veterinary ophtf certified a candidate must complete their DVM program, a one residency and pass a series of credentials and examinations. to learn more.

#### **About ACVO National Service Dog Eye Exam Day**

The ACVO® National Service Dog Eye Exam Day is a gronc preserve the eye-sight of thousands of Service Dogs across A organizations are supporting this effort: American Animal Hos Veterinary Medical Association, state Veterinary Medical Assc American Society of Veterinary Medical Association Executive Association, Veterinary Ophthalmic Technicians Society, Guic for the Blind, North American Police Dog Association, Nationz Association, Patriot Paws Service Dogs, and Service Dogs of support is pending. The public may learn more or register to p <http://www.acvoeyexam.org/>.

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