



## **BRIGHTEART VETERINARY CENTERS GIVE BACK TO DOGS THAT SELFLESSLY SERVE OTHERS**

Veterinary Centers in Bedford Hills, NY and Fairfax, VA Participate in the ACVO®/Merial® National Service Dog Eye Exam Event

Armonk, NY – Katonah Bedford Veterinary Center and SouthPaws Veterinary Specialists & Emergency Center, members of the BrightHeart Veterinary Network, are teaming up with The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists®. Both centers will take part in the ACVO/Merial National Service Dog Eye Exam event, **May 4 – 8, 2009**. This endeavor will provide free sight-saving eye exams to service dogs throughout Virginia, Washington D.C., Maryland, New York and Connecticut.

This will be the second year BrightHeart Veterinary Centers will participate in this national effort. Last year, more than 1,500 service dogs were examined across the U.S. and Canada. "I feel it's really important for us to give back to the dogs that do so much for us," according to Dr. Nancy Bromberg, Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist at SouthPaws Veterinary Specialists & Emergency Center. Dr. Cory Mosunic, Board Certified Veterinary Ophthalmologist at Katonah Bedford Veterinary Center adds, "Being out of work, even for a few days is a big deal for these dogs, so we'll be looking for any retinal disease or early cataracts. We're also looking for things that will limit their vision down the road, whether it's an ingrown hair or anything that can result in the scratch of the cornea. It's a complete ocular exam."

Once the free eye exam has been completed, the participants will be asked to take the report back to their primary care veterinarian for general health visits.

### **How to Register**

In order to qualify, dogs must be active "working dogs," certified by a formal training program or organization or currently enrolled in a formal training program. The certifying organization could be national, regional or local in nature.

\*Specific service groups are listed on the website at [www.acvoeyeexam.org](http://www.acvoeyeexam.org).

\***Owners/agents for the dog(s) must first register online at [www.acvoeyeexam.org](http://www.acvoeyeexam.org).**

\*Once registered, the owner/agent can contact Katonah Bedford Veterinary Center (914-241-7700.) or SouthPaws Veterinary Specialists & Emergency Center (703-752-9100) to schedule an appointment.

**\*Registration Ends April 29<sup>th</sup>**

### **About BrightHeart Veterinary Centers**

BrightHeart is the national network of advanced-care veterinary facilities that works closely with referring veterinarians to ensure the delivery of the highest standards for diagnostic and therapeutic pet care. Veterinary services include: Behavior, Cardiology, Dermatology, Emergency/Critical Care, Internal Medicine, Oncology, Ophthalmology, Radiology, Rehabilitation and Surgery. For more information about BrightHeart Veterinary Centers, visit [www.brightheartvet.com](http://www.brightheartvet.com). To learn more about Katonah Bedford Veterinary Center, please visit [www.kbvetcener.com](http://www.kbvetcener.com). And, for more on SouthPaws Veterinary Specialists & Emergency Center, visit [www.southpaws.com](http://www.southpaws.com).