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## Free eye exams for service dogs at Ohio State Veterinary Hospital

Columbus, OH - Veterinary ophthalmologists from The Ohio State University Veterinary Hospital will offer free eye exams for service dogs on Monday, May 4 and Wednesday, May 6 at the Veterinary Hospital, 601 Vernon Tharp St.

Drs. Anne Metzler and David Wilkie, board certified by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists, are two of more than 150 board certified veterinary ophthalmologists across the U.S. and Canada offering these eye assessments to thousands of service dogs nationwide as part of the ACVO®/Merial® National Service Dog Eye Exam Day.

This is the second year that ACVO®/Merial® has sponsored the event and the first time that Ohio State has participated. Service dogs include those who assist people with physical limitations, as well as search and rescue dogs, lead dogs, and pilot dogs.

"We decided this would be a nice service to provide," said Dr. Metzler. "We really have no idea how many participants we'll get." A variety of specific assessments are performed on the dogs as part of the exam. "We look at several things," she said. "To assess vision, we can check the dog's response to motion near the eye, and observe them navigating through an obstacle course. We also talk with the owners. Often owners may have noticed changes in behavior such as bumping in to objects or missing a treat, which could indicate a vision problem." Medical exams include looking at the eyelids, cornea, lens, retina and optic nerve for abnormalities.

In order to participate, dogs must be working dogs that were 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 web site; owners or agents for the dog(s) will register the animal online at [www.acvoeyexam.org](http://www.acvoeyexam.org).

Once registered, the owner or agent can call The Ohio State University Veterinary Hospital at (614) 292-3551 and ask to speak to Kelley Norris or Chris Basham to schedule an appointment. The exams are sponsored by Merial, Hill's Pet Nutrition, OPTIGEN, and Kong Veterinary Products.

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