

Protecting the vision of working dogs with free exams

Kris Vera-Phillips Last updated 16 days ago



Dr. Nick Faber examines a dog for the National Service Dog Eye Exam Event.

SLIDESHOW: National Service Dog Eye Exam Event.

RANCHO CORDOVA, CA -- As service dogs go above and beyond the call of duty for their humans partners, ophthalmologists around the country are helping out man's best friend with free eye exams.

The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists is holding the third annual ACVO/Merial [National Service Dog Eye Exam Event](#) through May 16.

Veterinary ophthalmologists, including Dr. Nick Faber with the Animal Vision Center in Rancho Cordova, will conduct free exams that could help protect and possibly save the sight of service dogs, from K-9 officers to guide dogs for the deaf and blind.

According to Faber, clear vision is crucial for working dogs because poor eyesight could compromise their service.

During the exam, Faber said veterinary ophthalmologists are looking for physical changes

in the dog's eyes.

"It doesn't have to be as obvious as bumping into a door or walking to a glass," Faber said. "It can be something as simple as not recognizing their owners. Or behaving differently around other animals."

Faber also notes that changes in vision may also be caused by changes in the canine's behavior.

In order to sign up for free eye exams through the National Service Dog Eye Exam Event, dog owners need to register. The website also has more information on the qualification requirements for service dogs and the location of veterinary ophthalmologists who are participating in the event.

By Kris Vera-Phillips,

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