

Registration starts for free dog eye exams



File photo by Philip Wood

As part of last year's National Service Dog Eye Exam week, Dottie Michelmore of Carmichael brought her schnauzer, Bear, in for a free eye exam with Dr. Lana Linton at Rocklin's Animal Eye Center. Bear was training to be a trailing search and rescue dog, following human scents.

Service dogs sometimes act as the "eyes" of their owner, guiding them around safely. Because of the importance of service dogs' eyesight, a national campaign called the ACVO/ Merial National Service Dog Eye Exam Event was launched, offering free eye exams for service dogs.

"If we can assist more dogs, then the dogs can better assist people," said Stacey Daniel, executive director of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists. "This event is a success each year due to outstanding support of our volunteer ophthalmologists, our sponsors and the service dog community. All are instrumental in helping these dogs."

To qualify, dogs must be active "working dogs" that were certified by a formal training program or organization or currently enrolled in a formal training program. Owners must first register the animal via the online registration form through May 16.

For more information, go to acvoeyeexam.org.

~ Staff report