

Tails Of The City

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Free eye exam event for service dogs begins today

Registration for a [free eye exam program](#) exclusively for service dogs begins today and runs through May 16, 2010.



Dr. Robert Peiffer of the Center for Animal Referral and Emergency Services examines "Eagle" during the 2009 event.

For the third consecutive year, the [American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists \(ACVO\)](#) and [Merial](#) are sponsoring free eye exams for canines that selflessly serve the public, including guide dogs, handicapped assistance dogs, detection dogs and search and rescue dogs. Because their guardians rely on these amazing animals for so much, it's vital to keep their peepers shiny, focused and bright.

More than 170 board-certified veterinary ophthalmologists throughout the United States and Canada will provide free sight-saving eye exams to thousands of service

dogs, including nearly 100 dogs at Lackland Air Force Base, the top military service dog training mecca in the United States.

"We hope to identify any health issues in their early stages," says Dr. Robert Peiffer, an ACVO event volunteer. "Early detection and treatment are the keys to fast recovery."

To qualify for a free exam, dogs must be active working dogs certified by a formal training program or must be currently enrolled in a formal training program. A list of qualifying programs can be found [here](#).

Guardians must first [register their dogs online](#), today through May 16. Once registration is complete, they will be asked to contact participating veterinary ophthalmologists directly to schedule an appointment during the month of May. Appointment dates and times are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.



Dr. Cory Mosunic of Katonah Bedford Veterinary Center checks out "Pele's" peepers. Pele is from Puppies Behind Bars, an organization that provides psychiatric service dogs to soldiers returning from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Posted By: [Amelia Glynn](#) (Email, Facebook) | April 01 2010 at 11:58 AM

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By Amelia Glynn, [Read Bio](#)

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