

Free Eye Exams for Service and other Qualified Working Dogs

She has been blind for 13 years. So, when Lisa Davidson, of Warminster, PA found out about the ACVO/Merial National Service Dog Eye Exam event, she was elated. She completely relies on her guide dog, Eagle for assistance. "I think it's great these animals are being represented because they have a very special job to do," says Ms. Davidson. "Eagle has opened many doors for me, to allow me to become independent. It's so important that his eyes are working."

And, that's exactly the reason for the event. Guide dogs, handicapped assistance dogs, detection dogs, search and rescue dogs, and therapy dogs (such as [Delta Society Pet Partners](#)) selflessly serve the public. So, for the month of May 2010, the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) is launching the 3rd annual ACVO/Merial National Service Dog Eye Exam Event to help serve these dogs who dedicate their lives to serving us.

More than 170 board certified veterinary ophthalmologists in the U.S. and Canada will provide free sight-saving eye exams to thousands of service dogs. Stacey Daniel, executive director of the [American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists](#) (ACVO) says, "If we can assist more dogs, then the dogs can better assist people. This event is a success each year due to the outstanding support of our volunteer ophthalmologists, our sponsors and the service dog community. All are instrumental in helping these dogs."



Picture courtesy of ACVO. Cory Mosunic, a veterinary ophthalmologist examines Pele during last year's event.

At Katonah Bedford Veterinary Center, in Bedford Hills, NY, Pele, a young Labrador retriever was examined by board certified veterinary ophthalmologist, Dr. Cory Mosunic during 2009's event. "We're looking for any retinal disease or early cataracts," says Dr. Mosunic. 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 a scratch of the cornea. It's a complete ocular exam."

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE 2010 EVENT:

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. The certifying organization could be national, regional or local in nature. To learn more, please visit the event's [website](#). Please note registration ends May 16th.

Posted by [JoAnn Turnbull](#) at April 5, 2010 12:00 a.m.

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