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ACVO MEDIA CONTACT: ACVO® Service Animal Office | ServiceAnimal@ACVO.org

Service and Working Animals Receive Free Eye Exams During 15th Annual Event
American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists® with Epicur Pharma® Opening Registration
on April 1, 2024

MERIDIAN, Idaho – MARCH 29, 2024 – [The American College of Veterinary](#)

[Ophthalmologists](#)® (ACVO) is proud to announce registration will open for the 15th annual National Service Animal Eye Exam Event, sponsored by Epicur Pharma®, April 1 to 30, 2024. The ACVO/Epicur National Service Animal Eye Exam Event brings together more than 250 board-certified ACVO Diplomates across approximately 170 cities in the U.S.A., Canada, Hong Kong, Puerto Rico, and the United Kingdom to provide screening free eye exams to Service and Working Animals in May. Appointment availability can be limited and must be made by Service and Working Animal handlers during the registration period from April 1st to 30th, 2024.

“The ACVO/Epicur National Service Animal Eye Event is one that my colleagues and I look forward to all year. This event not only gives us a chance to give back to some of the most deserving members of our human and animal community, but it allows us a critical opportunity to protect the physical well-being and the livelihood of the animals who are working to care for their humans. This event allows us to engage with a subset of the population that we might otherwise minimally have the opportunity to interact with, to offer thanks for their service, and to offer proactive care. Although most of the working animals that we screen have normal, healthy eye exams, we have the ability to identify and resolve minor issues quickly, and on rare occasion, identify and treat issues that could result in blindness and pain. These screenings offer a different and more specialized level of eye examination than are possible during a primary care or wellness exam, and we hope that every working animal will take advantage of this opportunity with a board-certified ophthalmologist each year,” said ACVO Membership, Promotion, & Outreach Committee Chairperson, Dr. Elizabeth Lutz, DVM, DACVO.



Veterinary Ophthalmologist provides eye exam to Service Dog during the 2023 National Service Animal Eye Exam Event

“Over 250 ACVO Diplomates have volunteered their time and resources to provide free exams to all types of Service and Working Animals this year, in hopes of catching potential health concerns earlier,” said Stacey Daniel, executive director of ACVO. “The event has provided free examinations to approximately 81,000 Service and Working Animals since it was founded in 2008.”

Before registering for the 2024 event, see participating locations at acvoeyeexam.org/participating-cities. Please note that locations may have changed from previous years and can be limited. To register, visit acvoeyeexam.org/qualifications-expectations. Once registration is confirmed, the owner/handler will receive a link to a list of participating clinics and their contact information to schedule an appointment. The owner/handler must provide the registration number to the clinic when making an appointment. Please note that appointments are not confirmed until the owner/handler has contacted the clinic directly. Appointments will be held throughout May 2024, and dates and times may vary based on the availability of exams. Limited appointments are available, so those interested are encouraged to register early.

To qualify for a free eye exam, animals must be active, currently working, formally trained Service, Working, or formally trained therapy animals (with written proof of therapy training & registration). Those currently enrolled in a formal Service or Working Animal training program may also qualify for an exam based on clinic availability. Qualification paperwork for the training and current working status of either the Service Animal or registered therapy animal must be provided to the clinic at the time of the exam, in addition to the registration number provided in the confirmation email. For information on what to expect during the exam, visit acvoeyeexam.org/qualifications-expectations.

The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists® is an approved veterinary specialty organization of the American Board of Veterinary Specialties that board certifies veterinarians as ophthalmologists. The 2024 ACVO National Service Animal Eye Exam Event is sponsored by Epicur Pharma®.

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About the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists®

The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists® (ACVO®) is an approved veterinary specialty organization of the American Board of Veterinary Specialties and is recognized by the American Veterinary Medical Association. Its mission is “to advance the quality of veterinary medicine through certification of veterinarians who demonstrate excellence as specialists in veterinary ophthalmology.” To become board certified, a candidate must successfully complete a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree, a one-year internship, a three-year ACVO® approved residency and pass a series of credentials and examinations. For more information, please visit www.ACVO.org.

About Epicur Pharma®

Epicur Pharma is a division of Stokes Healthcare™ (founded in 1975), sister division to [Stokes Pharmacy®](#), and a dedicated ACVO supporter for many years. Adding a unique offering to the veterinary industry, Epicur Pharma® is an FDA Registered 503B Outsourcing Facility that follows Current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) which are FDA enforced regulations. Every drug is 100% manufactured to FDA standards so you can be confident in the quality of your pet's prescription. As a loving pet owner, you are in charge of your pet's safety and wellbeing. With medications from Epicur, you'll be fulfilling that promise. Epicur Pharma® is proud to be a pioneer in animal drug standards, offering the largest selection of manufactured drugs that are traditionally compounded. For more information, go to epicurpharma.com.