



For Immediate Release

ACVO® Media Contact:
ACVO Service Animal Office
ServiceAnimal@ACVO.org

Registration Now Open for 2022 ACVO® and Epicur® Service Animal Eye Exam Event

MERIDIAN, Idaho (April 1, 2022) – [The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists \(ACVO®\)](#) is proud to announce that registration for the 2022 [ACVO/Epicur National Service Animal Eye Exam](#) event is now open. Service and Working Animal owners and handlers across the United States of America, and limited locations in Canada, Hong Kong, Puerto Rico, and Spain can register their animal through April 30th, to receive a free screening eye exam from one of 200+ veterinary ophthalmologists participating in the program in May 2022.

Once registration has ended, thousands of Service and Working Animals are expected to receive free screening eye exams throughout the month of May. The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists developed the annual ACVO/Epicur National Service Animal Eye Exam event in 2008 as a national platform to address eye health, which is critical for the safety of these animals and their handlers. Since its inception, the program has provided more than 76,000 free screening eye exams in the U.S.A. and several countries.

Over the 13 years of the program, most of the participating Service Animal handlers have been reassured of their partner's vision and eye health by receiving this complimentary service. On rare occasions, when a problem was discovered, awareness allowed for early treatment when possible. And in the extremely rare case where treatment wasn't an option, early awareness allowed the handler to approach the situation proactively. Our ophthalmologists are happy that 99+% of these important animals are healthy, but they also are glad they can help protect the handlers too, allowing them to plan.

"Sight is essential for these important Service Animals," said, ACVO's Executive Director, Stacey Daniel. "It is a fantastic experience to assist our boarded ophthalmologists to be able to provide these services to this valuable community. Our doctors affirm that early diagnosis is key to treating ocular disease."

Service and Working animals can be registered through the month of April at www.ACVOeyeexam.org. Approximately 200 board-certified veterinary ophthalmologists will donate their time and resources to provide free screening exams to qualified dogs, horses, miniature horses, donkeys, alpacas and cats. Active working animals include: guide, hearing assistance, drug detection, police/military, search and rescue, therapy and disability assistance animals trained through a formal program.

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. This year's event is sponsored by [ACVO®](#) and [Epicur Pharma®](#), as well as several generous industry sponsors.

HOW TO REGISTER FOR THE 2022 EVENT:

To qualify, Service and Working Animals must be “active working animals” that have been trained through a formal training program or organization or are currently enrolled in a formal training program. The training organization could be national, regional or local in nature. [More qualification details are available here.](#)

Owners/agents for the animal(s) must FIRST register the animal via an online registration form beginning April 1 at www.ACVOeyeexam.org. Registration ends April 30. Once registered online, the owner/agent will receive a registration number and will be allowed access to a list of participating ophthalmologists. Then, they may contact a specialist to schedule an appointment, which will take place during the month of May. Times may vary depending on the facility and are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, so owners/agents are encouraged to register and make appointments early.

Please note that due to limitations/shortages resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, not all clinics may be fully staffed and locations and/or appointments may be limited in your area. Due to these limitations, we ask for patience and kindness to the clinics' staff, as we would love for this event to continue to be a positive experience for everyone involved.

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), and Stokes Pharmacy® is a sister division that has been a dedicated ACVO supporter for many years. Adding a unique new offering to the veterinary industry, Epicur® is a manufacturer, producing drugs such as Tacrolimus Eyedrops, Buprenorphine Injection and Gabapentin Tablets. Epicur® is overseen by the FDA and is considered a 503B Registered Outsourcing Facility. Epicur® follows Current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) which are the same rules and regulations as the pharmaceutical companies. Epicur Pharma® is proud to be a pioneer in animal drug standards, offering the largest selection of manufactured drugs that are traditionally compounded.

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