Seeing Clearly

by Houndztooth on May 16, 2017

Pruny here at the keyboard writing about my recent trip to the eye veterinarian.

If you've read the blog for awhile, you might remember that in the past, Küster and I get annual vision exams because we are considered working dogs. The American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) provides free vision exams for dogs with jobs in the month of May. Since Küster is a registered SAR dog and I'm a registered therapy dog, we both qualify. There are two places in our state that host the exams, and one of them is the University of Illinois Veterinary College. Recently, it was time for us to get our eyes checked again.
A lot of humans don't realize that there are special vets for canine vision, but there are. Each year when Kızı and I get our exams, not only are they helping us make sure our eyes are healthy, but we get to help them become better veterinarians, too. Everybody wins.

This year, the vet mentioned to my human that I have something common with older dogs called iris atrophy. It's nothing serious. It just means that my eyes dilate slower than they used to when it gets darker or lighter quickly. It's why I squint a lot when my human takes pictures, but I still love to pose anyway.

In the past, they've always dilated our eyes for part of the exam, but this year, they decided to do it only when they felt something needed a closer look. Neither Küster or I minded that one bit and it meant we thought the whole thing was an awesome experience. The vet tech remembered us from past visits and was happy to see us. The veterinarian fluffed over us and I really liked her. I wanted her to keep petting me after my exam when it was Küster's turn. We even got a goody bag when we were done.

Of course, I was a model patient. Küster had the same problem as always, he doesn't like to be still, even for a few seconds. The doctor didn't say it, but I'm sure she could tell who the Greyhound in the family was, and which one was the Infidel, even if he was raised by Greyhounds mostly. At least no one can accuse him of a lack of enthusiasm. He's actually a great traveling partner when he's not standing on the admissions desk.
We were going to visit Allerton, one of our favorite places, when we went done, but it turned out to be a much hotter than usual day. We decided to stop and visit a covered bridge on the way home instead. It was a perfect little break in the shade.

The good news is that we are good to go for another year now. We are so thankful to the ACVO and the U of I for this great opportunity and service. It makes the lives of working dogs and their humans a little easier. They serve SAR dogs, police dogs, service dogs and therapy dogs all in the month of May. Seeing clearly is one of the most important things a dog with a job needs.
Sue Dyer • 12 hours ago

Glad you and Kuster got the all clear. Polly has the start of Cataracts. Here they rarely remove them unless it's a young dog. Vet said Polly would very slowly lose her sight, but she would adjust.

Hope you have a lovely day. Sue, Polly & Honey

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