

BUCKS COUNTY Courier Times

CARES offers free eye exams for service animals at Middletown center

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The exams will take place during May at the Center for Animal Referral and Emergency Services veterinary hospital in Middletown.

Free, potentially sight-saving eye exams will be offered to service animals from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware in May as part of a national effort organized by the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists.

Dr. Martha Low will conduct the free exams on eligible service dogs and cats at the Center for Animal Referral and Emergency Services off Cabot Boulevard in Middletown.

“I love participating in this event,” Low said in a press release. “It allows us to really see the impact of our work and provides a screening for early detection of ocular diseases. With early detection, diseases that can potentially cause blindness may be caught and treated early, helping these important service animals keep their vision.”

To qualify, the active “working animals” must have been certified by a formal training program or organization or be currently enrolled in a formal training program. The different types of qualified service animals include guide, handicapped assistance, therapy, detection, military, and search and rescue.

The required registration for the exams runs through April 30 at vetcare.com/acvo/. Once registered online, the service animal’s owner can contact CARES directly at 215-750-2774 to schedule an appointment. Dates and times for the May appointments are filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Almost 60,000 service animals have received the free eye exam since the ACVO/StokesRx National Service Animal Eye Exam event began in 2008.

Low is among roughly 300 board-certified veterinary ophthalmologists throughout the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico who will work with staff members at their respective facilities to provide the free screening exams.