

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Veterinary Dentists Launch Complimentary Program for Service Dogs in US and Canada**

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – The first annual American Veterinary Dental College (AVDC) Service Dog Oral Healthcare Exam program will be held in August 2012. The event will honor the dogs who selflessly serve the public – guide dogs, handicapped assistance dogs, working and military dogs, and search and rescue dogs. Complimentary oral healthcare examinations will be provided by AVDC veterinary dentists.

These AVDC veterinary dentists will look for signs of periodontal disease, fractured teeth, discolored teeth, oral masses, and other oral and dental diseases that can cause pain or discomfort for service dogs. As part of the examination in select areas, OraStrip® QuickCheck Canine, a new diagnostic test for periodontal disease, will be used to detect periodontal infection, which occurs without visible signs.

If oral or dental abnormalities are found, a treatment plan will be laid out that the owner or handler can elect to pursue at a later date. The veterinary dentists will also teach service dog owners and handlers about the benefits of preventative oral health care.

Many AVDC veterinary dentists have treated service dogs in the past and are well aware that oral pain can prevent these dogs from working effectively. This program will help ensure that America's service dogs are able to do their important work at peak efficiency.

Owners and handlers of service animals who are certified from a formal training program, or enrolled in a training program can register on-line before August 15 at the AVDC website: [www.AVDC.org](http://www.AVDC.org). Once registered, owners or agents will receive a registration number and a list of participating veterinary dentists in their area whom they can contact to schedule an appointment during August. Times may vary depending on the facility, and appointments are provided on a first-come, first-serve basis.

For more information about this event and others pet health news, visit [fb.com/socalvetdentist](https://www.facebook.com/socalvetdentist) and [twitter.com/socalvetdentist](https://twitter.com/socalvetdentist).

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