



## For Immediate Release

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### **America's VetDogs Receives Parasite Protection from Novartis Animal Health for More Than 1,100 Dogs**

SMITHTOWN, NY (October 19, 2009) – [America's VetDogs](#) and the [Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind](#) today announced a partnership with [Novartis Animal Health US, Inc.](#), which is providing a one-year supply of Sentinel<sup>®</sup> (milbemycin oxime/lufenuron) Flavor Tabs<sup>®</sup> for the more than 1,100 canine graduates, dogs in training, and puppies of both organizations.

America's VetDogs trains and provides guide dogs for veterans who are blind or visually impaired and service dogs for those with disabilities other than blindness at no cost to the veteran. The Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind provides guide dogs free of charge to people who are blind and who seek enhanced mobility and independence.

“Assistance dogs from America's VetDogs and the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind improve the quality of life for people with disabilities,” said Wells Jones, CEO of both organizations. “We want to ensure that the people we serve enjoy a long, healthy partnership with their guide or service dog, and Novartis is helping us keep these dogs healthy by supplying their premier product, Sentinel Flavor Tabs.”

[Sentinel Flavor Tabs](#) are broad-spectrum, preventive tablets that protect against five major parasites – heartworm, roundworm, hookworm, whipworm and fleas – in one convenient monthly dose.

“We strive to ensure that our dogs receive the highest quality veterinary care possible,” said Grete Eide, director of canine care. “Novartis Animal Health's generous donation will not only provide our dogs with protection against heartworm and fleas, but will also provide some much-appreciated financial support to our guide and service dog users.”

Novartis Animal Health is making the donation in recognition and gratitude for the sacrifices made by the U.S. servicemen and servicewomen who risk their lives on behalf of the country.

G.C. Ritchie, DVM, is a reserve officer in the U.S. Army Veterinary Corps and a Novartis Animal Health Senior Professional Services Veterinarian based in North Carolina. Colonel



Ritchie has served in Kosovo and Iraq, and during both deployments he provided care for military working dogs and support for the local population through various programs.

“Novartis Animal Health is donating Sentinel Flavor Tabs to America’s VetDogs because of the vital services the dogs provide to veterans with disabilities,” said Ritchie. “Novartis appreciates the sacrifices these men and women made for their country and we want to do our part to help keep their dogs healthy.”

It is vital that assistance dogs stay healthy to ensure that those who receive dogs from America’s VetDogs or the Guide Dog Foundation do not have to worry that their dog will become sick and miss time on the job. Similar to the Sentinel Flavor Tabs tagline, “Better Together,” disabled veterans’ lives are better when they are together with their service dogs.

One example of the way guide dogs and disabled veterans are “better together” is evident with Seymour Lederman, a War World II veteran who has received guide dogs through the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind since 1963.

“As a World War II veteran, I know how important independence is. As a guide dog user for almost 50 years, I know how the Guide Dog Foundation and America’s VetDogs work to enhance the independence of people who are blind or have other disabilities.

“My current guide dog, Lucy, was specially trained to work with both me and my wife Millie. When I’m with my guide dog, I can go anywhere. Thanks to Novartis Animal Health, Lucy can stay healthy and continue to provide independence for me and my wife.”

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**Note:**

Dogs must be tested for heartworm prior to use. In a small percentage of treated dogs, digestive, neurologic and skin side effects may occur. Please see full Sentinel Flavor Tabs [product insert](#) for more information.

**High resolution photos are available for download here – <http://www.flickr.com>.  
Additional images are available by request**

**About the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind**

Since 1946, the Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind has provided guide dogs and training free of charge to people who are blind or visually impaired or who have disabilities other than blindness. For more information, visit [www.GuideDog.org](http://www.GuideDog.org).

**About America’s VetDogs**

Created in 2003 by the Guide Dog Foundation, America’s VetDogs provides guide, service and therapy dogs at no cost to disabled veterans of all eras and active duty personnel. For more information, visit [www.VetDogs.org](http://www.VetDogs.org).

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