



Blind Dog Rescue Alliance

Blind Dogs See With Their Hearts

www.BlindDogRescue.org

Welcome to Blind Dog Rescue Alliance! We are a group of volunteers spread out throughout the United States and Canada who are dedicated to advocating for blind and visually impaired dogs of all breeds by rescuing dogs in shelters, helping blind dog owners, and educating the public. We formed in 2009, though our members have many years of experience with blind dogs, and with rescue.

Blind Dog Rescue Alliance
P.O. Box 63401
Philadelphia, PA 19114

Phone:
877-BLIND-01
877- 254-6301

info@BlindDogRescue.com
www.BlindDogRescue.org
twitter.com/BlindDogRA

What's Inside?

One Volunteer's Story ... page 2
Available for Adoption .. page 3
Summer Pet Safety Tips page 4
BDRA in the News page 5
Events page 6
Thank You Sponsors ... page 7

Dedication and Love Create Formula for Success

It has been a busy ten months for volunteers of the Blind Dog Rescue Alliance. As the saying goes, though, time flies when you're having fun.

"Saving these dogs is serious and dedicated work," says Karen Belfi, President of the all volunteer nonprofit organization. "But that doesn't mean we don't have fun. Folks in this group love the dogs and want to help out in any and every way possible to find that loving home for just one more dog."

And how does that all add up? To date, the Alliance has more than 100 volunteers across the United States and Canada; 2,249 fans on Facebook; saved 47 dogs; provided transport for 44 of them; and 27 dogs are now in their permanent homes. All that in just under 10 months.

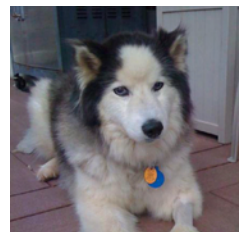
"To make the group successful and save as many dogs as possible requires volunteers involved in all aspects of the rescue," says Colleen Little, BDRA Vice President and also team coordinator for the Transport and Foster teams. "Calling shelters, pulling dogs, coordinating transportation -- some very long, complex routes, too -- raising funds, encouraging members, interviewing potential adoptees, attending events and getting the word out all pays off when a dog is saved."



Noodles of Fun and Funds Anticipated for Upcoming Spaghetti Dinner!

The Blind Dog Rescue Alliance is excited to be having our first annual spaghetti dinner on June 5 at the American Legion Post 5, 581 Maple Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey. The delicious spaghetti dinner will be cooked by one of our dedicated volunteers. In addition, the early evening event will feature door prizes, a 50/50, and raffles with all proceeds going directly to help with the vet work needed on our foster dogs. See page 7 to review 30-plus Spaghetti Dinner sponsors!

Chip In for Carly's Care!



Carly is a 6 year old Siberian Husky found wandering in a swamp in South Carolina. She came into Blind Dog Rescue Alliance on May 7th, 2010; within

a day or so in her new foster home, Carly became very listless, almost lethargic. She was taken to the ER. After numerous tests, it was then diagnosed that Carly is severely heartworm positive and having heartworm in her pulmonary artery.

Carly is undergoing heartworm treatment, which originally meant a month of crate
(continued on page 4)

One BDRA Volunteer's Story: Strengths and Weaknesses



Rescue work is not for the faint of heart. It involves a great deal of heartache, struggle, and many a sleepless night for those of us who help animals in need. To “pull,” or remove an animal from a shelter, and get it to safety is just one of the many issues involved. There is a great degree of pressure and stress in this first step, as most animals we try to help are facing euthanasia. If the animal is older, or has medical issues, that risk is magnified.



Dog-sense tells BDRA that these pups pictured above are not Dachshunds!

I am a Dachshund rescuer who specializes in helping “senior” Dachshunds. All of the Dachshunds I have helped were on the euthanasia list at their respective shelters; age is considered a disability in a pet. No longer beautiful, fun-loving, or able to “keep the pace” of the family, they are discarded in shelters all across the country. Their only fault? They are old. If there is a medical problem that needs attention, that problem makes that senior dog even less likely to be adopted. Owner-surrendered dogs have even less chance in most cases. I work well with my local shelter, which will advise a dog owner who needs to give up its Dachshund to contact me first, before bringing the dog to the shelter, in hopes that I can help find it a home. I have received many calls from owners recently but the one that really touched my heart was the story of Maggie May, formerly Sandi.

Maggie May was owner surrendered; her owner was to go into an assisted-living facility due to health issues, and was not able to have a pet at this facility. Maggie May was her beloved Dachshund-mix, who had been her “special girl” for eight

years. The owner was very upset about what would happen to Maggie May. With the help of her sister, she reached out for help with adoption. None was forthcoming. Maggie May was not only a “senior” Dachshund, she was BLIND as well.

Concerned for Maggie May’s safety and comfort, they made the decision that it would be kinder to Maggie May to euthanize her; they had an appointment to do so, if no help could be found. The sisters said something that really made an impression on me: if Maggie May was to live, they wanted her to find a home where her disability would be “respected.” We had many a conversation.

I, too, have rescued and worked with blind Dachshunds. One I had placed in a wonderful home; the other three had lived out their “senior” lives here at my home. I can assure you, no dogs were more adored! We talked a lot about Maggie May’s limitations; they seemed few! Health issues seemed minimal; blindness and age her only obstacles. As I have all the dogs I can care for now at my home, I needed to find a caring foster home for Maggie May, if I was to help her.

Feeling the time constraint, my heart ached, and I did not sleep, as I worked toward finding Maggie May a safe place. Enter the Angels from Blind Dog Rescue Alliance!

(continued on page 5)

BDRA WANTS YOU! Volunteer on BDRA Teams

We are always looking for volunteers! Let us know if you want to help blind dogs and come to know what we mean when we say “blind dogs see with their hearts.” There are so many ways for volunteers to help with animal rescue! Within “Blind Dog”, there are 11 different teams one can join. Each team is critical to the care, fostering, and placement of our dogs. Teams are: Adoption • Application • Events • Foster • Fundraising • Intake • Internet • Newsletter • Owner Surrender • Transport • Volunteer.

Interested in helping out? Please email:



- Adopting: adoption@BlindDogRescue.com
- Volunteering: volunteer@BlindDogRescue.com
- Having your blind/visually impaired dog re-homed, or related questions on: os@BlindDogRescue.com
- Informing us about a great fundraising idea: fundraising@BlindDogRescue.com

For all other questions: info@BlindDogRescue.com

AVAILABLE for ADOPTION: HELP THEM FIND THEIR SEEING EYE PERSON!

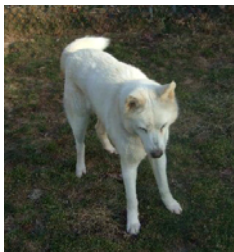
SAY HELLO TO VLAD

Vlad is best described as a happy, loving, huggable, playful dog needing a forever home and willing to make a family happy they chose him. Vlad was once very loved; his owner passed away and relatives allowed infection to set into Vlad's eye before dumping him at the pound, where Vlad was attacked and bitten in face and foot. BDRA took in Vlad, he's been vetted and healed up, is completing heartworm treatment. Once completed, Vlad will be given a clean bill of health.

About four to five years old, Vlad is a medium- to large-sized dog, enjoys play, balls, water, long walks, and being hugged and loved on. Vlad is ALWAYS happy, his beautiful thick tail wagging each time he sees his family. Vlad loves kids, adults, and gets along fine with other dogs. Vlad loves being outside, runs and plays and is just a joy to be with. Vlad is "dog" at its finest! Ask about adopting Vlad today!



Available for Adoption Today



Nadya - A very quiet girl, this sweet 4 year old Siberian Husky is completely blind and deaf. She does well with other dogs.

Odessa - Relaxed describes well this 6 year old female Catahoula. Her cataracts impair her vision from only seeing light/dark. Currently being fostered with 4 other dogs, Odessa loves to snuggle and lounge around with her other foster friends.

Quade - A fun-loving sweetheart, this little guy is an 8 year old Australian Terrier who has diabetes which caused him to be nearly completely blind. He does well with his shots and is learning to have better manners on leash.

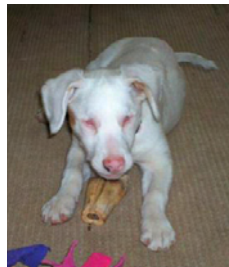
Xinda - A well-trained, playful sweetie pie, this girl is a mixed breed and can only see out of one eye due to trauma. Xinda gets along very well with other dogs. She knows the usual commands including give paw, sit, and beg.

Bon Jovi - Gorgeous and gentle, this sweet 1-2 year old Siberian Husky has limited vision in one eye and does well with children. He has lots of love to go around.

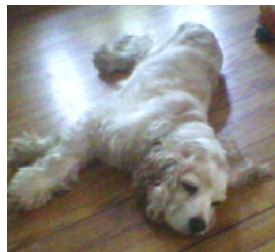
Evita - Read of her tale on page 7.

Carly - Read her cover story on page 1!

Delta Dawn - An adorable young puppy, this Australian Shepherd Mix is deaf and blind in both eyes. She does well with crate, housebreak training, and walking with the leash. She is respectful with cats, but loves to be rough in her puppy play.



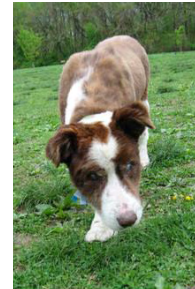
Maggie May - This 9 year old Doxie Doodle mix/Dachshund mix is fully blind due to cataracts. She is great with dogs and cats and learning to walk with the leash. Kids adore her because of her calm, low energy and sweetness that she has about herself.



Gibson - He is an 8-9 year old Cocker Spaniel who is completely blind because of glaucoma. He is a joy on the leash, housebroken, and well behaved -- an irresistible sweetheart!

Harmony - This happy girl is a 6-7 year old Miniature Pinscher who is blind because of diabetes. She loves to curl up next to you and loves to be taken for walks. She's an upbeat positive girl that warms anyone's heart!

Floyd - A sweet 13 year old boy who adores being outside, Floyd is an Australian Shepherd mix who is mostly blind because of cataracts. He has a skin allergy that will go away with proper medications. He was taught to climb upstairs but needs a little help getting down.



Queeny - Gorgeous and happy go lucky is the best description of this 8-9 year old Chow girl. She has a lot of energy, walks well on leash, and is very capable of getting around the house or yard. When called, Queeny comes running wagging her tail and so happy to have been given a second chance.

Ozzie - This little Chihuahua is a mush and will stop at nothing to give you as many kisses as he feels is necessary! At 7-8 years old, Ozzie is the tiny prince you are looking for!

Louie - An amazing 3-4 year old Shepherd mix, Louie is completely blind since birth. He is very intelligent and has the sweetest face! Be ready to fall in love with Louie!

Journey - A sweet little Pomeranian girl, Journey is black and tan. Just 6 years old, she is good with both dogs and cats.

*Interested in adopting?
See how on page 5.*

PLEASE DONATE TODAY!

Carly, Vlad, Kazoo, and Harmony need you! Please reach into your hearts and help save these dogs and so many more.

Your donation will go to help us pay veterinary expenses such as:

- \$10 for one Rabies Vaccine
- \$20 for one DHPP Vaccine
- \$25 for one Heartworm Test
- \$50 for Heartworm Preventative for one year
- \$100+ to Neuter one 30 lb. male
- \$135+ to Spay one 30 lb. female

This does not even begin to cover the expensive eye operations that many need!

We need your help to continue rescuing our dogs in need, restoring them to health, and placing them in their "forever homes."

Won't you please help us by sending your tax-deductible donation today?

Send donations to:

BDRA

P.O. Box 63401

Philadelphia, PA 19114

Visit www.BlindDogRescue.org and donate via PayPal!



Summer Time Tips for the Pooch Pack

- **Never leave your pet in the car.** Never leave your dog (or cat) alone in a parked vehicle. On a warm day -- even one that you may think is "safe" -- temperatures inside your car can rise to temperatures of 100 degrees or more in just a matter of minutes. Even with windows cracked or open, it is not safe, and possibly fatal, for your dog. Remember, dogs cannot perspire; they stay cool (dispel heat) by panting and through their paw pads - that's it. Your dog could suffer from heat exhaustion or heat stroke, brain damage, or die.
- **Give your dog extra water, but be careful!** Don't let the water bowl sit too long in the sun; bacteria can form and make your pooch ill. Change the bowl often.
- **Watch the "puddles."** Puddles are the ground can be just about anything; do not assume it is water. Antifreeze and other dangerous chemicals abound. If your dog pants, give water to your pup.
- **Beware of fertilizers, deadly plants, and mulch!** Gardening is great in the spring and summer but fertilizers and insecticides can be fatal, if ingested. Cocoa mulches on the market are deadly to your dog. 700 "common" plants are harmful or even deadly to your pet.

Carly (continued from page 1)

two more injections, and more crate rest. But Carly's recovery and health is a scary uphill battle, with every moment gained a treasure.

Just a week later, Carly was back in ER. Luckily her oxygen levels are improving and she is breathing a little better, but much rest is needed. In addition, she has seen a cardiologist twice, and received the first of three injections for her heartworms.

Carly is very sweet, and has remained so throughout all her treatments. She wags every time you walk up to her, and loves to give kisses. Carly is completely blind. Her vet bills are now over \$3,500, and she still has an overnight stay scheduled to finish her heartworm treatment.

Won't you please help Carly with a special donation? Every little bit helps. Please donate if you can. BDRA has setup a special link on the homepage at www.BlindDogRescue.org, or use the link below to donate specifically to the care and vet bills of this fantastic dog!

BlindDogRescue.chipin.com/carlys-vet-bills



Volunteer

(continued from page 1)

The sisters called me; they were very excited! They had received a call, with an offer of help for Maggie May! Had I heard of “Blind Dog Rescue Alliance?” “Did I think it would be a good place for Maggie May? What could I find out for them? They expressed their comfort level with me; I told them in return that we would find out together if Blind Dog Rescue Alliance was the place Maggie May should be! It was time for me to do my research! I looked the organization up online; their website was beautiful, and I admired their goals, and presentation of dogs. It was a small group with an impeccable reputation, and was working hard to save blind dogs, and place them in loving homes! I called, and left a message of interest, and concerns for Maggie May; I received a callback from a wonderful representative who was closest to my home a short time later!

That representative and I shared two lengthy conversations, and I felt as if I had found a new “best friend!” Yet, what impressed me most of all was the “organization” of the organization itself! This group’s care and concern paves the way for everything it does to happen in a timely manner. This is a “lost art” in rescue work, and a quality we should admire!

By the time I had completed my “research.” I was so impressed with Blind Dog Rescue Alliance, I joined the group myself! We made sure that our dear little Maggie May got on her way to her great new foster home, where she flourishes under the special TLC of her new foster family! Her photos show her looking healthy, happy and content. Her former owner is able to keep in touch via email, to check on “her girl.” The peace of mind that Blind Dog Rescue Alliance has brought to this woman is truly a miracle.

I have been reminded that we cannot save ALL of the animals in need in the world, but what we do means THE WORLD to the ones we DO save! They, in turn, are eternally grateful, with a special sixth sense all their own, that you have to feel to understand! Come on out, and join us! You don’t have to foster a blind dog to make a difference! We all have our strengths and weaknesses; don’t let fear of a weakness keep YOU from feeling this special magic! The dogs we help have never let fear get in their way!

Story written and contributed by Kim K., BDRA volunteer. Thank you, Kim!

On the Scent Trail: BDRA in the News!

The Alliance has been getting plenty of press and exposure this spring. *Dog Fancy* magazine interviewed BDRA President Karen Belfi on how to train your blind dog. In addition to discussing specific commands such as “down,” “watch,” and “step,” the June 2010 article plugged the Alliance several times and included our web address for more information.

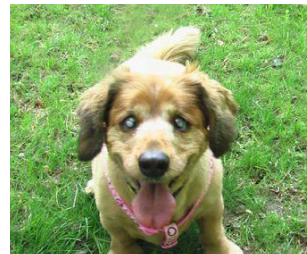
Most recently, two BDRA foster dogs appeared on a local morning TV show. Fox 29 Philadelphia’s “Fox Fursday” segment spotlighted the “Super Adoption Day” at the Piazza at Schmitts outside of the city. During the 3 minute studio session, a representative from the Citizens for No Kill Philadelphia organization introduced Bon Jovi and Evita. BDRA Volunteers Eric and Steve were on hand as well. Philadelphia is the fourth largest TV market in the U.S.

Other recent publicity includes the dog parade at select Trenton Thunder baseball games and event articles in local weekly newspapers, such as *The Sandpiper* (a New Jersey publication).

To read the article or view the Fox video, visit www.BlindDogRescue.org.

HOW THE ADOPTION PROCESS WORKS

Blind Dog Rescue Alliance is always taking in new foster dogs. In this newsletter and on the website, you’ll find a few of our blind and visually impaired foster dogs available for adoption. In addition, we’re in touch with owners looking to re-home their best friends, too.



Interested in adopting a BDRA Dog? Simply fill out our application found under the “Our Dogs” tab at www.BlindDogRescue.org and within each dog’s bio page. All of our dogs are spayed or neutered, up to date on vaccinations, heartworm negative, and on heartworm and flea/tick preventive. We ask a \$200 adoption fee. This does not begin to cover the network we do on our dogs, which is why we are always fundraising!

- Please email info@BlindDogRescue.com with any questions.
- If you are interested in adopting any of our dogs, please email today at adoption@BlindDogRescue.com.

.ORG vs .COM?

You may have noticed that the BDRA website is listed here as www.BlindDogRescue.org, but our email addresses are “.com.” Anyone can find BDRA online at the “.org” or “.com” URL address; however, to reach us by e-mail, please use the “.com” (BDRA email addresses ending in “.org” will not be received by the group or individuals within the group). Thank you!

Who Let the Dogs Out?

BDRA Events



One of the best ways to get out the word on Blind Dog Rescue Alliance and help the “pups” is BDRA Events! Events help educate the public about blind and visually impaired dogs, build awareness, generate much-needed funds to help pay for vet and medical bills for our foster dogs, and introduce fosters to potential new homes! Since we began in the summer of 2009, we’ve been active in local fundraising events, which always prove fun for all involved!

WHERE WERE WE?

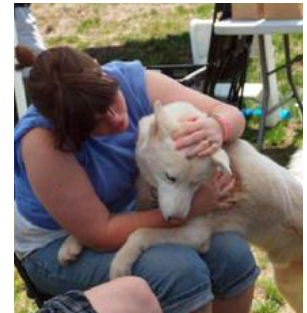


- * 9th Annual Delaware Dog Fest, Avondale, PA (April)
- * Barnegat Pet Day, Barnegat, NJ (May)
- * Hair of the Dog 5K Run and Event, Robbinsville, NJ (May)
- * ARK Animal Rescue and Kare Day, Huntingdon Valley, PA (May)
- * 8th Annual DeBella Dog Walk, Green Lane, PA (May)



Who’s the Pooped Pup?

Odessa is taking a well deserved break after much fun and sun in the vineyard at the Hair of the Dog 5K Run fundraising event at Silver Decoy Winery in New Jersey.



Where can you find us next?

Team members will be at numerous events across the continent, raising funds and getting the word out about BDRA and especially how wonderful these dogs are! Look for BDRA at: Walk & Festival for the Animals in Philadelphia (June); Pet Expo in Torrington, CT (June); Ocean County Fair in Berkeley Township, NJ (July); L’Oreal’s Your Dog Is Worth It, Too event and fundraiser for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research Foundation in New Jersey (August 21); Bensalem Township Fall Festival, Bensalem, PA (September); Doggie Dive-in in Lewisville, TX (September); and Chatsworth Cranberry Festival (October, NJ). Visit our website for all current events.

Have a good venue for BDRA to attend? Please email your suggestion: info@BlindDogRescue.com



Thank You To All Our Sponsors!

BDRA's First Spaghetti Dinner Is Ready To Cook

Blind Dog Rescue Alliance thanks all of our sponsors for our first spaghetti dinner on June 5. Pet companies, local businesses, national chains, and individuals, among others, have donated a wide variety of items and gift cards. With these donations, BDRA volunteers created 48 baskets (and counting!) to raffle off at the late afternoon event. Donated items include pet toys, collars, leashes, and pet treats, along with gift cards, vacation passes, soaps, golf accessories, and much more! L'Oreal (host of the annual NJ-fundraising event called "Your Dog Is Worth It, Too" to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research Foundation) donated two full basket of company products worth more than \$3,000! As with all donations to BDRA, all proceeds go to vet bills and the care of the rescued dogs and pups. Please review our sponsor list (as of our publication date) and remember these companies and individuals for their good deeds! Also, a special thank you to BDRA Volunteer Angela for spearheading this sure-to-be fantastic evening!

- **Build-A- Bear Workshop**
- **ShopRite (at Morrell Plaza)**
- **Gertrude Hawk**
- **Bertucci's**
- **Maggianos**
- **Robbins Diamonds**
- **Nupro**
- **Redbarn**
- **Dutch Wonderland**
- **Please Touch Museum**
- **Vermont Teddy Bear**
- **Sand Castle Winery**
- **Blue Dog Bakery**
- **Royal Canin Dog Food**
- **myonlinetrainer.org**
- **Sherpa Pet Group**
- **Hershey Bears**
- **Yummy Chummies**
- **Merrick**
- **Pabby's Pet Pantry**
- **US Bones.com**
- **Purrfect Expressions.com**
- **The Body Shop**
- **Hill's**
- **Necco**
- **spiffydog.com**
- **doggonegood.com**
- **Precious Moments**
- **Sesame Place**
- **Wysong**
- **Kao**
- **Waggers Pet Products**
- **Green Mountain Coffee Roasters**
- **Cinnabon**
- **Dr. Pepper**
- **Panera Bread**
- **Remmeer.com**
- **Stop 'n Shop (Whiting, NJ)**
- **Linda Elfick, C21 Pacesetter Realty agent**
- **Nylabone**
- **L'Oreal (pictured to the left)**



EVITA: The Dog Behind The Dinner

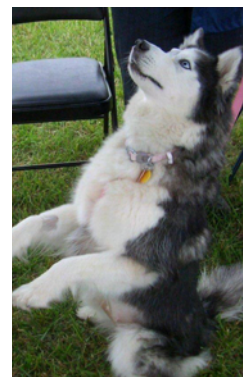
Patti Lupone sang of her on Broadway, and Madonna in the movie theaters. Yet, this pup sings of herself with the same fierce determination; "I love you and hope you love me." Evita, BDRA's foster dog, is a darling female Siberian Husky who has pep in her step. She is blind in one eye and since being fostered, had that eye removed. Evita's other eye is perfectly healthy.

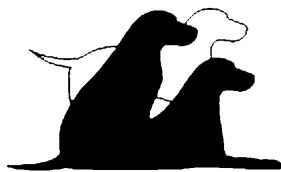
What is Evita's story? Evita's owner passed away and their beneficiary took Evita in with hopes of keeping her, but Evita was too much for them and turned her over to a shelter. Rescue volunteer Angela contacted BDRA with news of Evita to see if the group could pull her from the shelter and then find her a good home.

Evita is a very gentle and loving dog. She walks nicely on leash, although she does try to pull, but quickly stops when she is told "easy." At treat time she is all over the place, but is respectful of the other four Siberians in the foster home. Evita can easily trump the other dogs, ensuring she receives a treat: Evita has the cutest beg ever! Evita is learning table manners and that the dinner table is not the place for her to be begging. Evita will simply steal your heart away!

Just the facts: Siberian Husky; estimated to be 3 years old; 42 lbs.; blind in right eye; no health issues; good with dogs, but not good with cats.

If you are interested in adopting Evita, please fill out an adoption application. If you would like to donate to Evita's care, please send funds to: BDRA, P.O. Box 63401, Philadelphia, PA 19114





Our Wish List

BDRA is always in need of donated items. Here is a list of items we need:

- Collars
- Leashes
- Dog beds
- Blankets
- Dog crates
- Dog treats
- Dog toys
- Frontline
- Interceptor
- Dog food
- Gift cards to Petco, PetSmart, or other pet supply stores
- Gift cards for gas stations to help volunteers with transports
- Postage stamps
- Office supplies
- Printers, Computers, Fax machines

We also need items donated to sell on eBay for fundraising. Email: info@BlindDogRescue.com to find out if we can use your item! Thanks!

12 Ways You Can Help BDRA!

1. Spread the word about the Alliance. Just talk. That's it: talk to pet-friendly colleagues, your family, and friend; or the other patrons at the hair salon, or while shopping at the supermarket. Talk up BDRA!
2. Donate: funds always help, and time works, too!
3. Volunteer.
4. Ask your vet if they will display this newsletter in their waiting room. Just print out a copy and bring it with you on your next regular visit!
5. Shop the 700+ stores at the virtual mall at iGive.com. Remember to name Blind Dog Rescue Alliance as your selected cause!
6. Give the gift of reading magazines: subscribe friends to popular magazines at magfundraiser.com/blinddogrescuealliance. Hundreds of magazines to choose from!
7. Send the rescue an item on our wish list.
8. Remember, animal rescue means good recycling when done right.
9. Visit the BDRA homepage and click into our Avon link.
10. "Cars for Causes"
11. Partake in one of our many BDRA fundraisers! Check the site for the latest.
12. Apply for the Blind Dog Rescue Alliance credit card.

Have a happy, healthy, and safe summer!

*Thank you from all of us at
Blind Dog
Rescue Alliance!*

ViRTUALLY YOURS!

Follow Blind Dog Rescue Alliance online:



facebook



Show your support with every purchase you make!

APPLY FOR THE

Blind Dog Rescue Alliance Credit Card

To learn more, visit

www.CardLabConnect.com/bdra

Automatic donations when you use the card

- **\$50 donation** after your first purchase
- **2%** of your gas and grocery purchases
- **1%** of all other purchases
- **Up to 10%** of purchases at select merchants

*Have a Wonderful and Safe Summer!
Thank You for Your Support!*

**BLIND DOG RESCUE ALLIANCE / BDRA
P.O. Box 63401 * Philadelphia, PA 19114**



**Phone (877) BLIND-01 • (877) 254-6301
info@BlindDogRescue.com • www.BlindDogRescue.org**