

Community Newsletter
November 2014

www.barkva.org

804-449-BARK

Bandit's Adoption and Rescue of K-9s

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Mark Your Calendars

BARK will be holding an open volunteer meeting on Saturday, December 6, 2014 at 2:00 pm at the Jessica Beath Clinic (12300 Farrington Road, Ashland). This meeting is open to all current and potential BARK volunteers!

We are also still looking for volunteers interested in participating with the Volunteer Recruitment/Retention and Fundraising committees. If you'd like to join one of these groups, please email claire@barkva.org.

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Thank You Southern States!

A huge thank you goes out to Southern States for all their help this year. In addition to multiple food and treat donations, there is also a group of employees who regularly volunteer at the farm, cleaning kennels and walking dogs. Thank you so much for your continued support!

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Helping the Community: Adoption News

Most BARK dogs are rescued from local public shelters. These shelters are open admission facilities, meaning that they are required by law to accept all unwanted dogs, such as those picked up as strays or surrendered by owners. When public shelters run out of room to house the dogs, they sometimes euthanize as a means of population control.

BARK and other rescue groups offer lifesaving alternatives by transferring at risk dogs to their facilities, where they are housed until adoptive homes are found. In addition to finding forever homes, BARK vaccinates, spays/neuters each dog and provides appropriate veterinary care.

We are proud to report that **18** dogs found loving homes in October. If you'd like to keep up with the dogs adopted each week, please become a fan of BARK on Facebook at www.facebook.com/barkva.

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Adoption Spotlight: Biscuit, Haley, and Speckles

Dogs featured in the Adoption Spotlight were selected as personal favorites by BARK volunteers. We hope you enjoy reading their comments about these wonderful dogs. If you want to know more about a dog, [click here](#) for Petfinder bios.

If you are interested in meeting a dog featured in the adoption spotlight, please submit an application online at <http://www.barkva.org/AdoptionApplication.aspx>, send an email to adopt@barkva.org or call 804-449-BARK (2275).

“Two of my favorite dogs at BARK are Haley and Biscuit,” says their volunteer friend. “I spend time with them every Monday and I think they expect it when I show up. Haley loves to be petted, as does Biscuit, and they are both so easy to get along with. A little Vienna sausage and a few scratches on the neck and they are so happy. Funny to watch Haley run and make a beeline to her kennel. What a doll. Wish I had more room. If any of mine go to doggie heaven, Haley will come here. We would make a good team. Just look at her picture, and then look at Biscuit’s.”

Biscuit appears to be a husky/shepherd mix. Almost three years old he weighs approx. 65 pounds, and is quite tall. His fur is soft like cotton and makes you want to pet him all the time (which he will happily accept). Biscuit loves going for car rides to new exciting places but would be just as content to simply hang out with you. He is still young so has plenty of energy and can sometimes play rough. He would love to have a big secure yard to run and play in. Biscuit knows a few basic commands like sit and lay down but would certainly enjoy learning some more. He walks well on a leash, listens well and is very eager to please. Due to his rough start in life, Biscuit has some insecurities to work through. He will need a strong handler who is experienced with strong breeds and can be the alpha leader in his life. He is currently being trained by our associate "Top Dog Canine Behavioral Training". He is learning a lot and doing very well. Biscuit also has a sponsorship to insure his training carries forward into his adoptive home. He is just waiting for his perfect adult family to find him and give him the love and security he so deserves. View Biscuit’s classified ad [here](#).



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Another volunteer says this about Haley, “My favorite dog is Haley. Although she has some years on her she still has a lot of energy. I bring her home whenever I am in town and she is a perfect house dog, potty trained, attentive and affectionate. She would do better in a quiet home where she receives a lot of attention and treats. I have found she loves kids and tolerates being over petted and loved by them. Additionally Haley is very respectful of cats if not a little afraid. Whenever we pass one walking she gives them a wide birth. Pretty funny for a dog who does not like other dogs.”

Haley is an adorable mixed breed gal who lost her home when her family moved and could not take her with them. Haley is one of the sweetest, most gentle and loving dogs we have. Luckily, Haley was rescued and she is looking for that perfect, loving family to share the rest of her years. Haley is medium sized at about 35 to 40 pounds and walks nicely and slowly on leash. She is very quiet, gentle and has wonderful manners. She loves to be spoiled and showered with affection. In return she will share her affection ever so gently with you (with the best puppy kisses!!). She would prefer a home without small children, as an only pet and someone with dog experience. She can be protective of her person in a home environment. At around 8 years young, Haley has plenty of spunk left in her and has a good energy level but she is still perfectly content to lay on a couch with you for some quality time or play in the yard with her soccer ball - her favorite past time (besides eating cheese slices). This sweet girl has been waiting patiently for her forever home and will make a lovely companion for the right family. She is definitely one of our volunteer favorites at BARK! View Haley’s classified ad [here](#).



Haley

“Speckles is a sweet, shy hound,” says his volunteer friend. “He is medium in size—about 40 pounds or so. He appears to be young and beyond the puppy stage. He is mostly good with other dogs. He's had a number of kennel mates, but they've been adopted and he is left behind. When I give out treats at the end of the day, he readily comes up to me, but when I go into his kennel, there is no denying how shy he is. He tucks his tail between his legs and cowers. All this poor boy needs is a home with love and security. I'm sure that with a good home, he will gain the self confidence that he currently lacks and come to understand that people can be good and not strike fear in his heart. I'm hoping that there is someone out there who really wants to make a difference in this boy's life. I'm hoping that there's someone out there with a big heart who will give this sweet boy a chance to flourish and show his true personality.”

Speckles is a 3-year-old hound mix, weighing in at 37 pounds. He is a nice size for most any home. He was found as a stray and rescued by BARK. He gets along fine with other dogs and is submissive. He appears to be housetrained. View Speckle's classified ad [here](#).



Speckles

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Volunteer Corner

Volunteer Wish List

This month we especially need:

- Donations of **canned dog food!** We are in really short supply!
- Evening feeders at the Ashland farm and volunteers for cleaning kennels (call Linda Lane at 804-883-7740).
- Donations of water at the kennels!



Doggie Stories

We need your DOGGIE story too! Since BARK has so many dogs, it is difficult for volunteers to get to know each of them in the limited time they share at the farm or at an adoption stand. In an effort to better showcase some of the wonderful dogs currently awaiting their forever homes, we are asking volunteers to share their stories of working with spending time with the BARK dogs. Please “vote” for your favorite dog and explain what makes “your” dog deserving of his or her very own forever home. Does he walk well on a leash? Does he know how to sit or shake? Does he love the water? How does he act with volunteers and other dogs? Can she fetch? Is he a good kisser? The “winning” dogs, along with the volunteer descriptions, will be featured in the adoption spotlight portion of upcoming BARK newsletters. These stories will help readers get to know the dogs and hopefully generate adoption interest. Plus, they’re a lot of fun to read! Remember, your personal experiences could make a difference in the life of a very deserving BARK dog. Submit your “votes” to robin@barkva.org.

FARM DOGGIES NEED MORE HOUSEKEEPERS and FRIENDS!!!

What better time than now - while we are all considering how we can improve ourselves, our lives and out little part of the world - to make a resolution to help the less fortunate! I have a terrific suggestion. Why not start volunteering at BARK! You will make a difference in the lives of many homeless dogs! BARK dogs are safe under our care, no matter how long it takes to find them a forever home, and they are always welcomed back should the need arise. Once a BARK dog always a BARK dog. Rescue dogs are grateful for everything they receive and will spend the remainder of their lives showing their appreciation.

Did you know that on any given day in the STATE OF VIRGINIA ALONE there are approximately 6,900 dogs in animal pounds? This does not include those dogs at rescue groups like ours. Here are a few more statistics about dogs that will knock your socks off:

Did you know that in Virginia during 2012 -

36,542 dogs were surrendered by their owner

56,800 strays were caught and taken to the pound

24,200 were reclaimed by their owner

44,566 were adopted

900 died in the pound, all alone

27,500 were euthanized for whatever reason?

So, the more volunteers we have, the more dogs we can rescue. But it takes a lot of work and we need help. Come alone, bring a friend or make it a family endeavor. You will have fun, learn about caring for and working with dogs and just enjoy their great personalities in a pretty rural setting. There are lots of activities that are very helpful: cleaning, walking, feeding, helping with medicines, grooming, even laundry! WE ALSO REALLY NEED DONATIONS AND FOSTER FAMILIES!!! Foster dogs get adopted much more quickly. Many dogs are calmer and better socialized when they can stay in a home instead of the shelter. There are loads of ways to help!

We appreciate all the help we can get and so do the dogs! Thanks for thinking about this and please pass it on to others. You can contact me, Linda Lane at: billindaphoto@mindspring.com or call me at 804-883-7740 to set-up a time to try volunteering, consider fostering or arrange to drop off donated supplies.

Please come out and help. For those interested in volunteering on Saturdays and/or Sundays, ORIENTATIONS: Arranged on an as needed basis but every Saturday at 11:00 a.m., orientations are conducted by Richard or Claire. Bring your application/waiver and make sure you have completed the required reading.

Volunteer Groups

The good news is that we have so many new and wonderful groups volunteering. The not so good news is that sometimes too many show up at the same time. So, all groups must be scheduled before they can visit the farm (experienced or not) to walk and/or help take care of the kennels. We are limiting the number of visiting groups on any one day for the safety of all. Please contact Carol Murray at murrsan@verizon.net to arrange a date.

Current Schedule for Kennel and Dog Care

Our flexible work schedule has proven a success by allowing volunteers, once they are trained, to clean any time during the day they chose to help. Every New Volunteer will receive an “Informational Package” by e-mail and every volunteer must have an orientation, provide their paper work to a crew lead at the farm (not only on line), and read the required material. Orientations are scheduled on a one by one basis. Children under 16 must be supervised by an adult. If 16 or older, the young person must have written permission to volunteer and be a very responsible young adult. For any questions or to schedule an Orientation contact Linda Lane at billindaphoto@mindspring.com or (804)883-7740.

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays: Volunteers are there at various times between 8:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. (Fridays from 10:30 am to 3:00 pm) We have morning, late afternoon and evening crews on these days. BUT we do not have volunteers there throughout the day.

Tuesdays and Thursdays: A couple of Volunteers start around noon. Others come after work.

Saturdays and Sundays: Volunteers start coming anywhere from 10:30 a.m. (or earlier).

Remember, the dogs depend on us. We are all they have until a forever home is found for them. Won't you consider giving them a little part of your week – just a couple of hours or so? The dogs would love you for it and so would we! Hope to hear from you.

New Kennel Guidelines

For safety reasons, we need to request the following:

1. No one under the age of 16 may walk on the LONG trail without the presence of a parent and without explicit permission from a crew lead. Any exception to this can only be made through the crew lead.
2. Children under the age of 16 may not be left along at the shelter to walk dogs at any time. A parent must be with them, helping them get in and out of kennels and making sure they know how to handle the dogs. Very experienced volunteers are the exception. Again, this is at the discretion of the crew lead. It is not wise to have youngsters running in and out of kennels or up and down the aisles for obvious reasons. It just gets too chaotic and causes the dogs to become too rambunctious and excitable not to mention noisy. Please make sure you read the attached guidelines for walking if you have not already and read them to your children.
3. Groups that come to help walk dogs need to make sure that there are enough adults to supervise the young people at all times. Please stay with them and help them get the dogs in and out of kennels, leash them properly, follow the walking precautions/ rules and stay safe – dog and child.
4. If you groom the dogs, PLEASE put all grooming tools back where they belong AFTER cleaning all the dog hair off the brushes and combs.

Volunteer News:

Kennel Volunteer Programs:

Thanks to a core of volunteers, we are constantly improving the **Quality of Life** for our dogs. Here are our volunteer needs:

- ◆ Walking and Exercising Program
- ◆ Kennel/Shelter Care and Maintenance
- ◆ Volunteer Follow Up
- ◆ Special Projects/Facilities
- ◆ Feeding
- ◆ Transport
- ◆ Groups and Community Service
- ◆ Medical Care
- ◆ Intake

If interested, please complete a volunteer inquiry form on our website: www.barkva.org. Please note that the majority of our volunteers work full-time jobs in addition to the time they dedicate to BARK. Please allow up to 2 weeks to receive a response to a volunteer application submitted online.

Welcome to newcomers *Casey Caruso, Nancy Claywell, Sigridur Eiriksdottir, Wells Enoch, Emily Fox, Pam & Sonja Hill, Cristina & Mikaela Kaufman, Tracey Lent, Jordan Nichols, Brett Peck, Sally Ragsdale, Jeet Ramji, Haley & Cathy Ransom, Soleil Shah, Walker Stettinius and Jessica Tow.*

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Doggone Good Info

Check out free webinars on Maddie's Fund: http://www.maddiesfund.org/Maddies_Institute/Webcasts.html

Love volunteering at BARK? Listen to Maddie's Fund's webinar "Playing With Dogs" and find out just how valuable your attention and affections are to BARK's dogs. In this 90-minute webcast, veterinarian Brenda Griffiths explains the importance of playing with shelter dogs to maintain their mental and physical health and adoptability and gives practical tips on assessing a dog's play behavior and engaging in particularly useful games and activities.

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Notes From the Farm

Hi friends!

It's been another busy month here at the BARK farm. The volunteers have been working really hard on sprucing things up around the place. We've got a bunch of new gravel on the driveway - if you come to the kennels, you know how big of a deal that is! We also have a second, super-secure outside playpen that even by escape artist buddy Larry can't get out of (and he's a pro). A huge thank you to the group from UPS that helped make the new addition possible! Lastly, my friend Bill has been working on finishing up the new addition by the porch - the floor is done and an indoor bathroom is next on the list. So, lots of progress all around!

We did have some sadness as well during the last month. Two BARK dogs went on to the rainbow bridge. One was my old buddy Chloe, who fought long and hard but lost her battle to cancer. She was so lucky to have been in a foster home this past year, surrounded by a loving family. And a huge "thank you" to everyone who helped her get the care she needed along her journey! I also said goodbye to my new friend Gideon, who passed away from complications from his heartworm treatment. Luckily, he was also with two loving volunteers when he went to the bridge. He was such a big, sweet, teddy bear, and I sure will miss him!

It's getting close to the holiday season, so hopefully lots of my remaining friends will find their homes. What a great gift that would be - a new home in time for Thanksgiving! While I love all of my volunteer friends here, I sure would like to rest my old bones on a nice, soft bed. Keep your fingers crossed and tell all of your friends about me!

Until next time!



Kelley

Happy Tails...Waggin' Good News

As you can see, everybody is settled in nicely & getting along well. Took the family camping at the end of September, it was cool, but everybody had a good time. Thanks for letting them rescue us.

BillLee & Blanche



Autumn & Rusty

Just a quick note to let you know how Lacy is doing. She has settled in well for her first day and is a quick learner eager to please. As is usual with Rotties she likes to be wherever the family is and right in the middle. She plays well with no aggression. She will take a little bit of training. She doesn't know that it isn't nice to steal chicken off the counter yet but she will learn fast as she really is a fast learner. From my perspective the house seems right again and needed a good dog to re establish the balance. We are off to the dog park today and she did very well by then end of our morning walk. I'll keep you posted. Thanks for all you and the others do at BARK.

Warmest Regards,

John (no photo included)

Skye has now been a member of our family for almost 6 months. It has been so wonderful to have her. She brings so much joy to our lives, she is always so very excited to see us when we get home (Terry thinks a little too excited!). Terry takes her to the park for walks, to Lowe's for building materials for updates around the house. She always is helping Terry cut the grass or build some stairs outside, she is very helpful, she steals his work gloves thinking they are toys!!

She and Baxter (our cat) are great friends, they play some almost every day. If Baxter is not around, Skye is looking for her, and vice versa . (She is a little too fond of the cat litter box tho!). We have installed an invisible fence around the yard. She is something to see when she is running laps around the house, a big smile on her face!

My mom is the babysitter when we go away, she does really well with Grandma! When we have her out in public, everyone just loves her, especially her ice blue eyes. She puts every pit bull preconceived notion to shame! We love her!!

Lisa

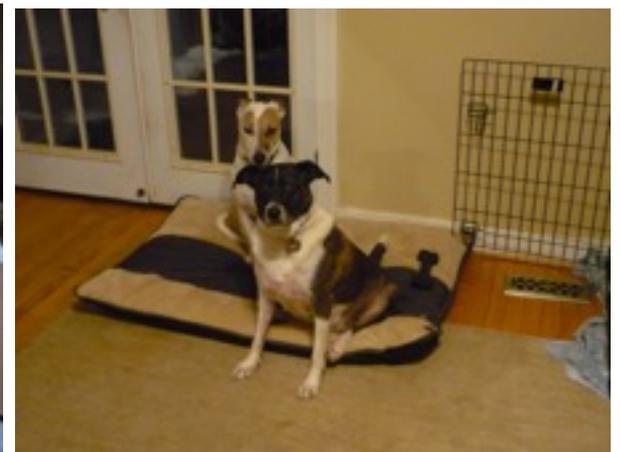
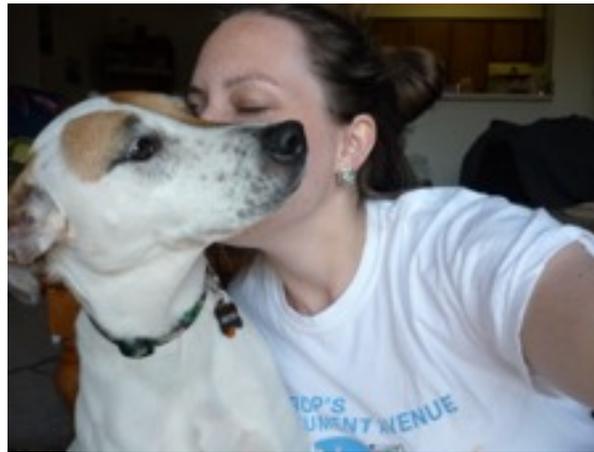


Skye

Sox and Milo have had quite an adventure! We are now stationed in Missouri, and I have to say that they are such great travelers. We visited family on the way. My grandma and grandpa aren't big fans of animals in the house, but grandma was so impressed with their behavior and said she wouldn't mind having them again!

Sox's arthritis was getting worse as was her skin condition, so we got her allergy tested and found that she was allergic to feathers... and *dogs*. Seriously. So she has been on an allergy shot routine for a few months. About two weeks ago, her joint issues seem to have disappeared overnight. The vet said that there may be a connection with her allergies and joint disease, but whatever the reason, we are so happy to have our Soxie back up and running after a year of pain and surgeries. Thank you for rescuing our sweet babies!

Andrea



Milo & Sox

We are really enjoying Sasha, we call her Zasha because of her german shepard genes! I attached a picture of her on her favorite seat, the couch. We are beginning to realize how smart she is and the many words that she already knows. More pictures to come!

Thanks,
Karolee



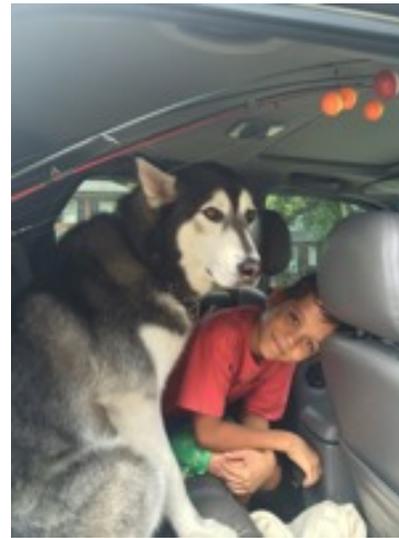
Sasha



Here are some great new pictures of Seeko, who is clearly loving life in his forever home!



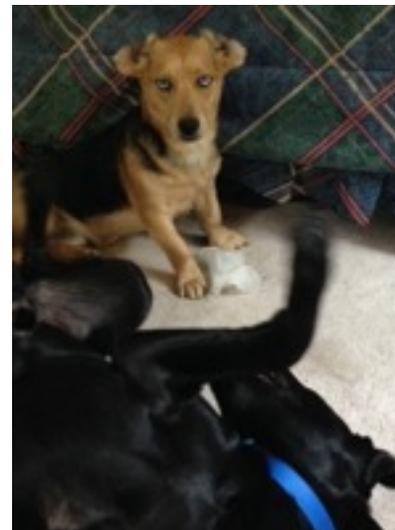
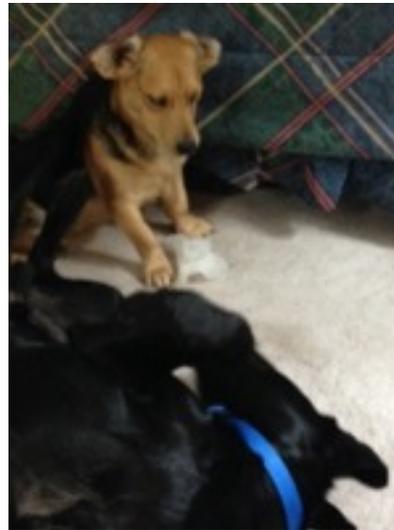
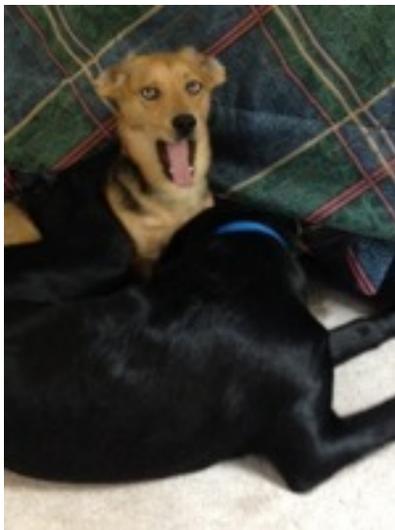
Seeko



He is Soo perfect! We are madly in love. He is spoiled rotten at this point:) Blue and Buster (Jr) are best friends. They love each other. They play play and play. I have some great pictures to send you. They even snuggle together when they have worn each other out. He has had a few accidents but I think he is getting it. Anyway we love him so much I have no idea how anyone could give him up. Let me get those pics together to send you.

Thanks!!

Shannon



Buster

Ben is great. We had an adjustment period and a few trying moments now. We re-named him to Romell and he took to it within 2 days. We are so glad to have him. Fritz and Romell play all day in the back yard, running, playing keep away and just being young dogs. At night they curl up with us and stay by our sides.

I have a little problem with jealousy as both of them decided they were attached to me. Trish has no problem with them when I go to work. Thanks him and glad to have him. Thank you.

Joe (no photo included)

If you have adopted a dog from BARK and have a Happy Tail or other contribution for the monthly newsletter, please forward it to robin@barkva.org.

Anytime is a
good time to
donate to
BARK!

Bandit's Adoption and Rescue of K-9s

Bandit's Adoption and Rescue of K-9s is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations are tax-deductable. BARK is operated entirely by volunteers, so 100% of your donation will go to the dogs. Your donation will help fund spay/neuter operations, medical treatments, and daily care and feeding costs for the dogs at the Ashland farm and in BARK foster homes. You can mail your donation directly to the address below or make a secure donation online at www.barkva.org. Remember, every penny makes a difference in the life of a BARK dog!

Please accept my donation in the amount of:

- \$25
- \$50
- \$75

- \$100
- \$125
- Other _____

Gift given in honor of _____

Gift given in memory of _____

Name _____

Address _____



P.O. Box 1682
Glen Allen, VA 23060
info@barkva.org
804-449-BARK (2275)

Other Ways to Support

In addition to direct donations, there are numerous options that allow you to help support BARK and its mission. You can donate needed pet care items, purchase BARK merchandise or use a search engine that donates to BARK. Using these websites is super easy and a portion of your purchase will go directly to BARK. Please consider using these sites when shopping for your friends and loved ones this holiday season...

- ❖ In addition to monetary donations, is always in need of various pet care and administrative items. To view a complete inventory of “wish list” items, please visit <http://www.barkva.org/Volunteer.aspx>.
- ❖  merchandise, such as apparel for you and your pet, housewares, and bumper stickers are now available online at www.cafepress.com. Check it out!
- ❖ If you shop at Food Lion, BARK is now a charity with their MVP rewards. To register your MVP card, visit <http://www.foodlionmvpwards.com/>.
- ❖ **How can you make searching and shopping for that perfect gift even more perfect? Use iGive, where with ever transaction a portion goes to benefit BARK. Raise a penny (or more) per search and generate donations from any of the 730+ stores listed with iGive, ranging up to 26%. Also, check out the new searchable coupons and deals, where you will find all available, up to the minute offers and specials. Just visit www.igive.com.**
- ❖ GoodSearch.com is a new Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up! You can even set GoodSearch as your default search engine.

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause. So, by making your regular purchases through this site, you're helping take care of the dogs while they're waiting for their forever home!

Just go to www.goodsearch.com and be sure to enter  as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word! It's a super easy way to help support the organization.

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