



BULLDOG CLUB OF AMERICA

RESCUE NETWORK

Hundreds of Bulldogs in pitiful condition are abandoned, lost, turned over to animal shelters or to veterinarians to be destroyed every year.

Because buyers are so intrigued by their many charms, Bulldogs are ranked among the top 25 most popular breeds in the United States. Many pet owners later discover, however, that Bulldogs require a great deal of *special care* due to some of the breed's unusual characteristics.

Neglect, mistreatment and genetic abnormalities caused by careless, indiscriminate breeding practices are among the most common reasons so many Bulldogs need to be rescued.



The good news is many of these dogs are rescued and recycled into loving, new homes every year by approximately 100 members of the Bulldog Club of America's **Rescue Network**.

These BCA rescuers are active in 40 states and three provinces of Canada. Many Bulldogs are also rescued and placed by private individuals, all-breed rescue groups and humane societies.

A typical rescue dog is middle-aged, probably has several medical problems that can be treated successfully and has never been given heartworm preventatives. Yet they are still lovable, forgiving and eager to try again in a new family setting!

Most *used Bulldogs* come from homes or kennels where for a variety of reasons the owners are no longer able to keep them. The most common of these are deaths in the family, divorces, forced relocation to places that do not permit dogs, unemployment and, perhaps, problems involving infants.

As a rule, rescue dogs are from indiscriminate breeders and puppy farms that sell to pet shops. Very few are strays, but most have been neglected with respect to routine medical care, annual immunizations and improper socialization and training.



The Rescue Network involves:

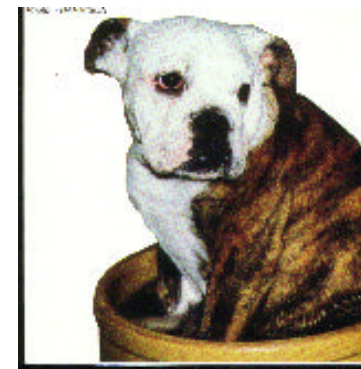
Acquisition – Rescue network volunteers must respond quickly to recover dogs that require rescuing. They must obtain appropriate legal documents and rights to the dog to be rescued, have the ability to properly transport the dog and demonstrate good public relations skills.

Fostering – Volunteers must provide food and medical care to restore the dog's health while new homes are being sought. Cooperating veterinarians often offer needed treatment at discounted rates.

Adoption – A prospective family must complete an application form, be interviewed and visited by rescue workers to determine whether the family's circumstances are suited to the dog available for adoption. An adoption contract must be signed and a donation to the BCA's

rescue fund is required. The contract specifies the responsibilities of the adopters and requires them to return the dog to the Rescue Network any time circumstances prevent the adopter from keeping the rescued dog.

Detailed information on the BCA Rescue Network is included on the Bulldog Club of America's internet website, <http://thebca.org>.



Telephone numbers of rescue volunteers are provided there. Easy access to network workers also makes them likely candidates for the counseling of Bulldog owners and adopters who may have problems or questions about their dogs. Better education about responsible Bulldog ownership is ultimately the best way to reduce the number dogs requiring rescue.

A common problem with the Bulldog is heatstroke. Excessive panting and difficulty in breathing are symptoms of overheating. The dog must be cooled off *immediately* using a hose or a tub of cool water and ice. **Bulldogs cannot tolerate prolonged exposure to extreme temperatures, either inside or outside under the hot sun.**

You can help by joining the BCA Rescue Network's core of volunteers. Or you can donate money to the BCA's rescue efforts and, of course, adopt a Bulldog that needs a good home. Contact the BCA's Rescue Network chairman by calling **248-945-8009**.

**The Bulldog Club of America
EDUCATION COMMITTEE
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