

Outside Landmarks

- Small wind chime at the back door.
- Path of carpet runners or heavy rubber shelf liner.
- Mat under bowls; door mats at doors, steps, and stairs.
- Scents on danger areas (vanilla, citrus, furniture polish, etc.)
- You can find an Angel Vest, Doggles or Eye Shields at <http://angelvest.homestead.com>



I See You In My Heart

I cannot see you Mommy, when you cuddle me so near. And yet I know you love me, it's in the words I hear. I cannot see you Daddy, when you hold me by your side, but still I know you love me when you tell me so with pride. I cannot see to run and play out in the sun so bright, for here inside my tiny head, it's always dark as night. I cannot see the treats you give when I am extra good, but I can wag my tail in thanks, just like a good dog should. "She cannot see. The dogs no good" is what some folks might say. "She can't be trained, she'll never learn She must be put away." But not you, Mom and Daddy, you know that it's alright, because I love you just as much as any dog with sight. You took me in. You gave me love and we will never part, because I'm blind with just my eyes. I see you in my heart....By *Sherrill Wardrip*

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Living With A Blind or Visually Impaired Dog



**"My Eyes
May Be Blind
But, I Can See You
In My Heart"**

Be There For Them You Will Be Glad You Did



Regardless if you're an owner of a newly blinded dog, have adopted a blind/visually-impaired dog (or puppy) or have been at this for a while, if you're new to this situation---rest assured, it does get much better. Most dogs adjust well and lead happy near-normal lives. Before long, you will be amazed at what a blind dog can do!!!!

For the most part, a visually impaired dog is not that much different than a sighted one.

When a dog loses their sight (or was not born with sight), they come to rely on their other senses and often times these senses become even keener over time.

Reference: The Owners of Blind Dogs
www.blindogs.com

Living With Blind Dogs: A Resource Book and Training Guide for Dogs and the Owners of Blind and Low Vision Edition

By **Caroline D. Levin RN...** Excellent book covering many topics on this subject to help you and your dog.

**Visual
Dog
helps
his
visually
blind
dog
friend**



Myths vs. Reality

MYTH: Blind dogs are unadoptable.



Reality: A blind dog is a dog first! He can be too big or too small, too rough or too laid back, too independent or too affectionate, but he's a dog first and blind second. His blindness does not make him unadoptable. Blind dogs are highly adoptable and are just as sweet, friendly, loving, and gentle, as sighted dogs.

MYTH: Blind dogs are high-maintenance.

Reality: Blind dogs do not require extraordinary amounts of care, nor are they difficult to take care of, unless there is a medical or behavioral issue that is separate from their blindness. They require no more attention to detail than a sighted dog.

MYTH: Blind dogs are helpless and training a blind dog is more difficult.

Reality: Blind dogs are completely trainable. People forget that vision is not the primary sense in dogs. It may be for people, but not for dogs! The fact is, dogs don't need sighted eyes to live a normal, healthy and fun life. Blind dogs can even participate in agility training!

MYTH: Blind and blind-deaf dogs can't enjoy life so it's humane to put them down.

Reality: If they can smell, taste and feel you petting them, they're enjoying life. They enjoy the same things sighted dogs do: walks, belly rubs, mealtime, playtime and more!



**Guide Cat Helps
her Blind Dog
Friend**

Myths vs. Reality (Con't)

MYTH: Blind dogs are boring and just sit around because they can't see to run and play. They won't play with toys because they can't see them.

Reality: Blind dogs run and play just as much as sighted dogs. There are also scented toys or toys that jingle, so they can enjoy a wonderful game of "fetch", too! We've had blind dogs steal toys from sighted dogs, and even invent games (throwing a toy across the room and sniffing it out!)

New To The Family

- First, get down on the floor and crawl around at the dog's eye level to find anything dangerous.
- Have children crawl around blindfolded to see what it will be like for their new playmate.
- Try to have something familiar to the dog – toy, blanket, bed, etc. – for comfort place.
- If you have time, provide the dog with something with your scent on it so the dog can identify with you.
- Decide on a specific area that will be the dog's home base; an area where it can be comfortable. A crate where he can sleep and eat in or a blocked off area of your house that will be comfortable and safe for him.

Provide A Base

- Keep a bed in a room the dog is most comfortable, maybe one in the bedrooms and/or living room.
- A crate with an open door provides a safe haven.
- Put a mat under food and water dishes.