

SARDA Meridian Fundraising Ideas

Many thanks for your interest in raising funds to support the work of search & rescue dogs in South East England. Please find below a few ideas to get you started. Good luck!

Artwork or photography competition

Organise a Best Dog Picture or Best Dog Artwork competition. You may have different categories, either based on a theme (e.g. dogs playing, dogs on holidays, etc.) or have different age groups. Charge an entry fee and the winner will have their picture/painting/drawing and name displayed on the SARDA Meridian website for a month. If you don't have an independent party to judge the competition for you, SARDA Meridian's committee will be happy to take on the difficult task to pick a winner. We can also issue the winner(s) with a certificate.

Auction of promises

Ask people in your office, at your dog training club, in your neighbourhood, or even at home, to write down an activity that they will promise to carry out for the winning bidder. This could be a variety of things such as making coffee every day for a fortnight for the winner, walking the dog every evening for a week, cooking the successful bidder a three-course dinner or washing the winner's car. Advertise the promises in your office/club/street/at home with a fixed day for bidders to enter their maximum bid, or organise a party and become an auctioneer for the evening. Remember to collect the bidding money as soon as the auction has ended.

Beat the search dogs

Find several people who think they can beat the search dogs and we will send you a team to (hopefully) prove them wrong! They will have a few minutes to hide in an agreed area and we will then send the dog. Charge an entry fee to take part. SARDA Meridian will issue a certificate for the person or the group who stays hidden the longest. As long as you don't hurt or scare the dog, all tricks in the book are allowed.

BBQ party

It's summer time! Feel like braving the British summer weather and organising a BBQ for your friends, family and neighbours? You can sell tickets or organise garden games or quizzes to raise money.

Dogs at work

Ask everyone to come to work with their dog. Charge an entry fee for those who do and/or a fine for those who don't. PS Soft toys accepted for those who don't have the "real thing" at home. If your workplace is not appropriate for dogs then, don't worry, instead you can organise a dress down/jeans day or a theme day (where people have to dress according to a chosen theme). Events at work help to boost employees' motivation and some employers will be happy to match the funds raised.

Dragon boat racing

Fancy having a go at dragon boat racing and competing in the prestigious Bewl Water Dragon Boat Festival? If you can gather a team of 17 dedicated and motivated people wanting to have fun while raising funds, then this is for you. If you can't quite come up with the numbers, please get in touch anyway and we may be able to find a few more dragon racers for you. For more information on the event, please visit www.funraisers.org.uk.

Good hair day

Have you always wanted to shave your head? Change your hair colour to red? Get dread locks? If you have never been brave enough to do so, ask people for a donation to see you do it. When you reach your fundraising target, then take that step and do it!

Quiz night at your local pub

How about dogs and/or search & rescue themed questions? Ask your local pub if the proceeds can be donated to SARDA Meridian and/or if they would donate a percentage of the bar takings. Advertise the quiz night by word of mouth, around the office and in local shops. SARDA Meridian will be happy to provide you with a list of quiz questions on these themes if needed.

Soft ball or football tournament

Organising a soft ball or five-a-side football tournament is an exciting way to get people involved in raising money for charity. Charge teams an entrance fee and arrange for a collection to go round the spectators.

Sponsored dog walk

Get together with a group of friends who have dogs, maybe people of your obedience or agility club, and organise a dog walk somewhere nice. Depending on the time of the year, you may be able to give the walk a theme, like a spring walk to enjoy the bluebells, or a Christmas walk to go and collect some holly and with mulled wine and mince pies waiting for people at the end.

Each of you can get friends, colleagues and family to sponsor you to complete the walk.

Personal challenge

Have you always wanted to go and do something special but have just needed that little push? What better way to get motivated than to do it for a good cause. Get people to sponsor you to achieve your goal and donate the money to support the work of the search dogs.

There is no limit but your imagination - you could go hiking, cycling, rowing or skydiving. So what will it be: Cycling London to Paris or... Pilgrim's Way? Going up Skafell Pike or... Toys Hill?

Notes:

- Remember that you will need a permit from the council for any form of street collections.
- Subject to location and availability, we may occasionally be able to send a dog team to support your event, so please make sure you give us plenty of notice.
- Contact us to set up an online fundraising page for your event. This way, the funds will immediately go to SARDA Meridian and we can put it towards our life-saving work straight away.