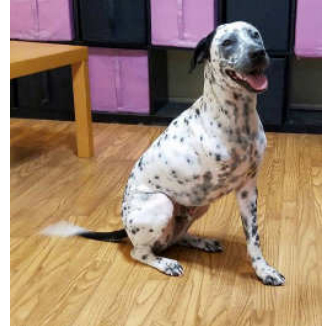


## Nemo's Story... A Cautionary Tale

By Tena Price

Initially posted to Facebook on December 22, 2016

Nemo's story...I want to share this with all of you. I think it's important and may save other lives. Thanks to alert foster parents and our willingness to follow our gut, Nemo is alive today. Nemo wasn't quite himself Sunday. He vomited once, had a bit of diarrhea, and only ate half his food that morning. He was fed earlier than usual, so not much was thought of him not eating. He was still cuddly, active, gums pink. He had no major outward signs of a bigger problem. Monday, same thing: one vomit episode, not as interested in food, minor diarrhea, but otherwise ok. As the evening came, he showed signs of minor distension. No burping, gas, but abdomen seemed firmer. Still, no signs of pain when palpated, tail wagging, active. No hunching, nothing to indicate pain or discomfort normally associated with obstruction. As the night continued, he just wasn't quite right. Victoria and I decided it was enough out of character to get him in first thing Tuesday morning. I was concerned about obstruction but nothing was missing from the house, no toys, shredded remains. And Nemo in all his time with three fosters, has not been observed to eat items. He never tore up his crate bed, chewed blankets or cables, or destroyed anything. When I saw Nemo at the vet, he was bouncy, loving, kissy, happy and everything that makes Nemo the amazingly sweet boy he is. Actually, I wondered if I was just paranoid and we had wasted a vet trip. Surely this happy, tail-wagging boy who is standing on his hind legs isn't obstructed? The vet, (not our usual clinic) examined him thoroughly, heard bowel sound, felt nothing upon palpitation, no fever, runny stool, good color... nothing to indicate obstruction. We were relieved but still worried. He calmed out fear, saying that it is clear when a dog is obstructed. They are miserable, distended, in obvious distress. Looking at Nemo, that was far from his condition. Just a happy boy with diarrhea and a bit of vomiting. So, we went home with Cerinia, Metronidazole and Endosorb. No food till that evening, when he received I/D. He ate the entire can of food pretty quickly, like he was feeling better. Nemo had a bit more loose stool, nothing dramatic. Wednesday morning, Nemo is happy! Eating well, playing, running, what minor distension he had, was gone. Whew! Surely, it was just something he ate, gastric bacteria, just a bad tummy day. Then... it's evening, Nemo isn't eating and something isn't right. No major symptoms, no fever, no distension, poop is semi-formed now but he is straining. Then... Nemo is whining, curled into a ball, wants to be himself. We know now, something is really wrong but still, no classic symptoms of obstruction. Off to the ER Vet at 2 a.m. Physical exam doesn't show anything odd but he obviously isn't feeling well. X-ray was done. Results showed a stomach twice the normal size, full of something. Intestines a bit gassy but not out of the ordinary. He is obstructed but they feel he can wait till the morning to see our normal vet. Fast forward to morning, still not distended but not a happy Nemo. He managed to throw up quite a bit of half-digested kibble (he hadn't eaten kibble since Sunday) and the remains of toys. We were hopeful he had gotten everything out of his system. We had to make a decision... do the exploratory surgery and probably find nothing just to be safe, or wait it out a bit longer. We decided on the surgery. The results were astounding. Nemo's stomach was filled with two pounds (no that's not a typo) of rocks, several different toys, rags, bits of plastic! And his intestine had a rag of sorts obstructing it, so a second surgery was performed. So, Nemo was obstructed in two different sites. And we would have lost him very quickly. As Dr. Rafferty said, "a true emergency". We get really lucky... no infection at either site, no loss of tissue. Barring any infection related to the surgery, he should fully recover.



Our point in sharing all the details is simple. We have learned that obstruction can be very subtle not anything like the textbook, heaving, crying, belching, gassy, miserable and horribly distended picture many of us have been taught to expect.

It's not easy to make the decision, especially such a costly one, but it saved his life. THAT cost would have been too much to bear.

Follow your gut; we sure are glad we did. Victoria Nations, thank you for knowing his needs, seeing the ever so subtle signs and keeping me in the loop so we could get him the care he needed.

Huge thanks to Dr. Rafferty, Dr. Ackers and the staff at Animal Hospital of Waco. I can't thank you enough for working us in, on such a busy day. You saved his life!

Nemo gets to come home Tuesday. Heck of a way to spend his Christmas but we'll make up for it when he is feeling better. Nemo's vet visit, ER visit, and surgery will cost \$1950. Any help of any amount is greatly appreciated. Donations can be sent directly to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, 6828 Rimrock Valley Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80526 or online via PayPal at <http://www.dalmatianrescueco.org>.

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# Pet Memorials: A Good Goodbye

By Jean Stracy



Willie

“We who choose to surround ourselves with lives even more temporary than our own, live within a fragile circle, easily and often breached. Unable to accept its awful gaps, we would still live no other way.” – Irving Townsend

People love their pets and consider them members of their family. They live beside us without judgment, they accept us, unconditionally, teach us, and keep us connected to the natural world. Pet owners celebrate their pets' birthdays, consider them equal companions on the hiking trail, confide in their animals, and even carry pictures of them in their wallets. When your beloved pet dies, it's not unusual to feel overwhelmed by the intensity of your sorrow. Animals provide companionship, acceptance, physical and emotional support, assistance, and unconditional love during the time they are with us. Our animal friends serve as our most important and primal connection to nature, and remind us daily of that aspect within ourselves. When we understand and accept this precious bond between humans

and animals, we've already taken the first step toward coping with pet loss: knowing that it is okay to grieve when a pet dies.

It is a growing trend for pet owners to have a personal memorial service for their friend and family member in order to pay tribute to a pet's life. Ceremony offers ways to celebrate our pets and animal companions throughout their lifetimes. This special ceremony offers comfort, allows family members and friends to express themselves, embraces the grieving and transition process, and acknowledges their relationship with their pet. It is an opportunity to remember all the wonderful times, unique qualities of their pet, and to look back at their life together, celebrating the companionship. My name is Jean Stracy. I am a Certified Life-Cycle Celebrant. I assist my clients in creating meaningful and satisfying ways to celebrate and mark their personal achievements, transitions, and life events. I write and perform weddings, funerals and memorials for people who wish to celebrate or honor their lives or the lives of those beings they love in a personal and authentic way. Each ceremony that a Celebrant composes is unique and is customized to serve our clients' needs and beliefs. One of the main reasons I chose to study Celebrancy was to design and offer ceremonies that would honor animal lovers and their relationships with their beloved animal companions.

As the proud “parent” of an energetic rescued Dalmatian, Willie, I understand the amazing bond we humans have with our canine companions. I also have mourned the loss of a much loved pet, including my first rescued Dalmatian, Chester, and I find that this work I do as a Celebrant – helping others deal with this very real and many time overlooked milestone in life – brings me great satisfaction.

## End-of-life Ceremonies

Our animal companions cannot speak in words, but we can hear their pain. As caretakers of our pets, we are in the difficult position of choosing when and how to relieve their pain. Some people opt for humane euthanasia, surrendering to the inevitable that comes to all, whether animal or human. Whether euthanasia occurs in the office of your pet's vet or in the comfort of the family home a memorial service offers comfort, embraces the grieving process and acknowledges your relationship with your pet.

Memorial services with family members and friends who knew your pet can be held after the death of your pet. These planned services are especially helpful when children are involved. A funeral or memorial service provides an opportunity to celebrate the life of your pet and to remember all the wonderful times and special qualities of your pet. It is a way to share stories, create a memorial space or simply meditate with your memories. However, you affirm that your pet has died, remember your pet through shared stories and release your pet by saying goodbye, our beloved pets' spirits live on in our hearts forever.



Jean A Stracy  
Life-Cycle Celebrant  
[www.blueskycelebrations.com](http://www.blueskycelebrations.com)  
(303)388.9706 h (720)240.8191 c

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# Car Safety Harness by Kurgo

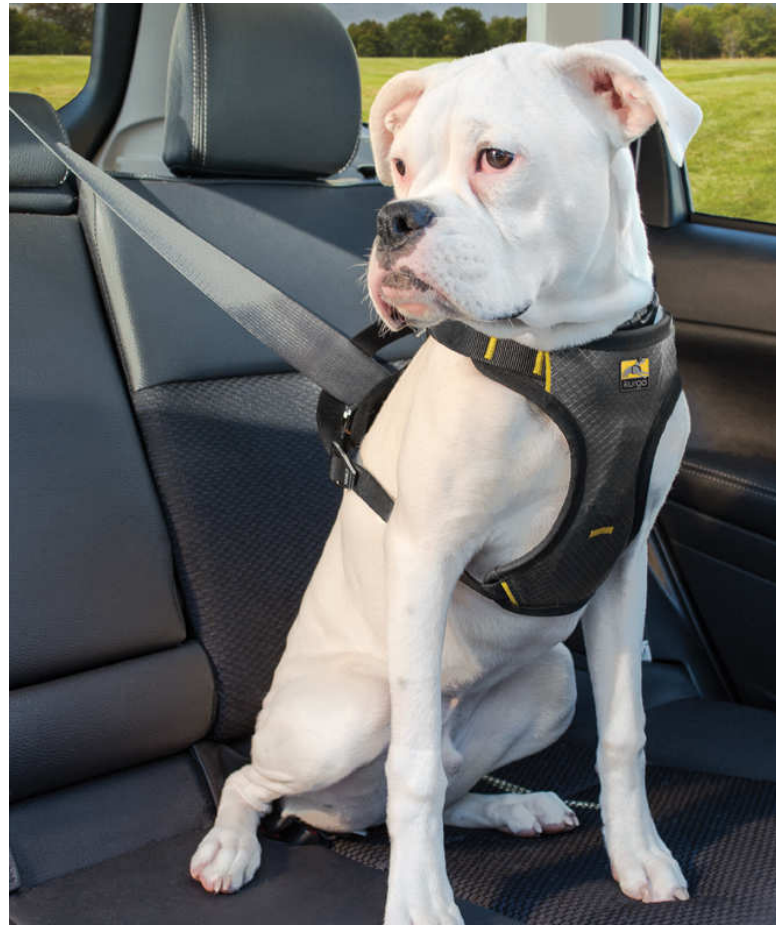
The Kurgo Impact Harness is the next generation in Kurgo crash-tested car harnesses. Based on 8 years of engineering car harnesses, the Impact Harness is a totally new harness design using a single piece of high tensile tubular webbing with reinforced bar tacking. It is purpose built for car safety as well as your dog's comfort which reflects all of the knowledge we have developed over the last 12 years developing pet travel products.

This harness has been tested at an established University testing facility using the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard for child restraint systems. It has been tested with a 130 pound simulated dog.

## Features:

- Crash tested with a 130 pound simulated dog.
- Lightweight and integrates directly with your car seatbelt system. No additional seatbelts, straps or attachments necessary.
- Constructed of a single piece of 4,000 pound tubular webbing with all-steel nesting buckles.
- Design reduces excursion (pitching forward) in case of impact.
- 4 adjustment points for a perfect fit on all shapes and sizes.
- Broad, padded chest plate for extra protection and comfort.
- Machine washable. Line dry.

<http://www.kurgo.com/harnesses/impact-dog-harness/>



## Recent Adoptees!



**SugarA**  
Colorado Springs, CO



**Diego**  
Conroe, TX

Photo  
Not  
Available

**Indiana Blue**  
Portage, MI



**Kenny**  
Westminster, CO



**Shadow**  
Mancelona, MI



**Dante**  
Pinedale, WY



## **Attention Adopters!! – Yes, I'm talkin' to you!**

If you haven't already submitted your Happy Beginnings Story, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE take some time to do it now! Yes, I am begging. We really would like to have your stories on the website and make you a star here in the NewSpots!! So, what are you waiting for? Submit your stories and a new photograph of your fur kid(s), and yourself if you want, to me today! [dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net](mailto:dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net)

## **Want To See Your Dog In Print?**

### **(or on our website or advertising flyers, etc.)??**

We are seeking reader submitted photos! So get busy with your camera and start sending the photos in today. We prefer either TIF or JPG format and sized no smaller than 640 x 480 pixels. Please include some descriptive text to help identify what's happening in the photo(s) and be sure to include your dog's name(s), your name, city and state (so that I can give you credit for the photo). Send photos to me at [dalguy@comcast.net](mailto:dalguy@comcast.net). I cannot guarantee that we will use all photos submitted. The more interesting and unusual the photo, the better the chance of it being used. Some ideas of photos could be your dog 'reading' a newspaper (hint, hint) – even better if he'll wear glasses while doing so; your dog watching television; sitting in the driver's seat; wearing a harness (this one could be used for a safety article); costumed up ready for Halloween. So there you have it... time to get busy with the camera and submit your photos today!

*People who say  
"money can't buy  
you happiness"  
have never paid  
an adoption fee*



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# Can Barker Kill Elderly Woman?

## Read on to find out what happened



Someone I knew a few years ago had... not HAS... that's one of the tragic consequences of this story...

She HAD a beautiful dog – gorgeous show dog actually – who didn't care much for other dogs. And when a dog walked down the street, past her house, he'd get up in the window and bark his fool head off 'til the other dog passed.

And he WAS ALLOWED to do this, right? She never trained him not to do it... just tolerated it and would sometimes tell him to stop (that's not training) – and this went on for YEARS!

Well, this unaddressed behavior led to an old woman's death.

One day this elderly woman was walking her golden retriever on the street, past this barking dog's house, and he got up in the window, barking, barking, barking... and a family member walked in the door... and at that moment, the beautiful barking show dog charged out the door and attacked the golden. The old woman tried to fight off the attacker and protect her beloved pet... and had a heart attack... and died.

The barker's owner got sued and also had to euthanize her precious kid she adored.

Tough lesson.

Does your dog bark at other dogs or people walking past the property?

In my opinion, this is rude and unnecessary behavior. You don't own the street. LOL

When I had my girls – Dobermans – I was always quite concerned about them not doing anything to scare the neighbors. I never wanted poison meat thrown over my fence. So, I trained my dogs to be quiet in the yard. They could go up to the fence and say hello but no chasing, stalking or barking.

Makes them better neighbors and less threatening to people.

'Til next time, "kiss the kids"

Tori (Mom of Jetta WAC, CGC)

Want more Doggie Parenting tips and tricks? Visit my website below to subscribe to my free 4,000-subscriber e-newsletter. I have *hundreds* of tips to help living with dogs easier and more enjoyable.

Victoria Rose/Miss Manners For Dogs Training and Behavior Modification offers dog training/behavior modification in-home, by phone and via her "Baby Steps" training manual. All services are guaranteed; payments accepted. Visit

[www.MissMannersForDogs.com](http://www.MissMannersForDogs.com)



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# Trainer Tips

## “The Causes Of Disease And Health Problems In Our Pets And The One Major Thing You Can Do To Help Prevent Them”

© 2004-2016 The Light of Dog

Medical research tells us that health challenges result from any or a combination of the following:

1. Nutritional deficiencies
2. Exposure to environmental toxins
3. Pathogen overgrowth

While genetic makeup can play a role, research is telling us that it takes its cues from what is going on in the above three areas before expressing itself.

Pathogen overgrowth also is normally not a problem. But when health is compromised due to nutritional deficiencies or exposure to toxins, then pathogens are able to get stronger footholds and become a problem.

So, the best way to maximize your dog's health (or yours, for that matter) is to minimize the potential for nutritional deficiencies and keep exposure to environmental toxins at a minimum.

For the remainder of this article, we will focus on minimizing nutritional deficiencies because if you do that, then the body is much more able to clean out exposures to toxins and keep them in check.

Here's how to get your dog the nutrition they need from their food:

1. We hear all the time that humans should eat less processed and packaged foods in favor of fresh, whole, unprocessed foods. The same is true for our dogs. They were not made to eat processed kibble day in and day out. All research is absolutely clear on this. Dogs need fresh, RAW dog food.
2. Dogs also are designed to get the majority of their nutritional needs from meat-based protein. Yet so much of our dog food is made up of inferior sources of plant-based proteins and carbohydrates, because plant-based proteins and carbohydrates are cheaper than meat-based protein. The optimal diet for a dog is one that approximates the dog ancestral diet with at least 70% comprised of meat-based protein.

Feeding your dog a predominantly meat-based, RAW dog food diet is a lot easier than you think and is something you can easily incorporate into your normal food shopping and preparation that you already do for your family.

We feed RAW to our dogs and when we first started out, we had no one to guide us, so it took us some time. We were disappointed in the information we were getting out of books written for loving and passionate dog owners like us who wanted to switch their dogs to a raw food diet. They were very general and missed so many details that it was impossible to use them reliably to provide our dogs with a nutritious and well-balanced diet. And this was book after book after article after scholarly source... we think we read them all.

But we figured it out and put together our RAW dog food video-based training so that others do not have to do the research and trial and error we did.

Or, there are more and more options available online and in local pet food stores to purchase pre-made RAW dog food. While commercial RAW foods are still not as healthy as your own RAW dog food, they are still a major step up from kibble. And if you do go this route, be careful to avoid RAW dog foods that use high-pressure processing (HPP) and irradiation, as they are no better than dry dog foods.

So for the health of your dog and to maximize their well-being and how they feel, please stop listening to what anyone says about the dangers of RAW dog foods. Make the switch to RAW now. It is really a lot easier than you might think.

For additional training tips and information, you can read our blog at <https://thelightofdog.com/read/> or find us on Facebook and Twitter.



<https://thelightofdog.com/>

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(This “Ask The Trainer” article is reprinted with permission of Sue Brown, co-owner of The Light Of Dog, a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant. The Light of Dog Training is located in Sedalia, CO and services the Denver Metro Area.

<https://thelightofdog.com/>

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# Bits & Pieces

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Do you have a business or a hobby that other adopters, fosters, and volunteers might be interested in? Let us help you spread the word by 'advertising' in Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado's monthly newsletter – NewSpots! We currently notify about 700 people of the new editions of NewSpots! That's a lot of word of mouth and print advertising for FREE!!

## **Advertising in NewSpots! is free!!**

Simply contact the editor, Karl Schill, at [dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net](mailto:dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net) and he will work with you to provide your ad and place it prominently within the newsletter.

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## **\*\*\*\*\*Be A Pal, Save A Dal\*\*\*\*\***

PLEASE – They need YOUR help!! Remember when your rescue Dalmatian came home with you, from the warmth of a loving foster family? If we hadn't had foster homes, you probably would not have gotten YOUR dog. PLEASE think about fostering a dog for the Dalmatian Rescue where you obtained your Dal, or the one closet to where you now live, so they can save lives like they saved your dog's life!! PLEASE give a warm home to a dog who can relax, show his true personality, enjoy a thick bed rather than a concrete floor in a shelter and get ready for a new home. PLEASE help rescues and the dogs so that others might have a dog that is well socialized, trained and ready to love. PLEASE think about this... Dalmatians are everywhere and are literally dying to meet you or someone willing to give them a "spot" to LIVE until their forever home comes along. PLEASE be a spot for rescue and for them?

We thank you and you know any dog you help your local rescue save will be eternally grateful! PLEASE submit a foster application if you can possibly help your local rescue and them! PLEASE take your cookie... good boy/girl!

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# Reader Recommendations and Tips

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This is where we share recommendations and tips from and for our readers. Our newsletter is read by as many as 650 people each month. That number constantly increases as we have more adopters and adopters recommend it to their friends and family as well. So go ahead... share your tips and recommendations. Please send along any information you want to share with others, like products that you would recommend, dog toys, great pet insurance, good vets (or bad ones to avoid as well), etc. Is there anything you wish someone had told you about that you have found? Pass it along. Send your ideas, recommendations and tips to Karl at [dalquy@comcast.net](mailto:dalquy@comcast.net) for inclusion in the next issue.

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## The ThunderShirt



The advertisement features two dogs sitting on a white couch. The dog on the left is a brown and white dog wearing a dark blue ThunderShirt. The dog on the right is a white and brown dog wearing a purple ThunderShirt. The background is a bright, indoor setting.

**The Better Calming Solution**  
Already Helping Millions of Dogs  
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<http://www.thundershirt.com>

The ThunderShirt (<http://www.thundershirt.com/>) is a very convenient and effective way to help calm a dog who is frightened of thunder storms, fireworks or any other loud noises. Simply put it on and let the 'swaddling' effects calm your dog. On a personal note, I have used it on several foster dogs and they have calmed down immediately during our often loud and scary storms here in Colorado. I recommend them without hesitation!! --Karl.

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# In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians

## Pongo14

1 Year Old, Black Male  
Reason Available: Stray  
Foster Home: Danville, IL

Pongo is a lively young boy. Why he was in the shelter we don't know, but he is now in a foster home in IN. There he lives with small male and female dogs and a cat. He's a typical Dalmatian puppy, loving to play, romp and get his own way if allowed. Pongo is a happy Jack in the Box, jump here, look there, not the best manners but not the worst either. He will need a 6' fence as the 4' fence is no challenge. He is housebroken, good with dogs and good with people. He is crate trained but doesn't like to use it. His foster calls him a "gem." For additional information please contact Terri at [tjhelms2@yahoo.com](mailto:tjhelms2@yahoo.com). Adoption \$400.



## Mickey

11+ Years Old, Black Neutered Male  
Reason Available: Owner Surrender  
In: Austin, TX



Our sweet Mickey boy needs a new home. Mickey was surrendered to us in Oct. when his Dad went into assisted living. His foster mom and dad fell in love with him and planned on adopting but due to unforeseen circumstances, can no longer keep him. They are heartbroken but it has to be. Please help me find Mickey a forever home. He is such a sweetheart. Mickey is 11yrs old, fully vetted, neutered, HW negative, had a full dental just 2 months ago, lab work is great. He is VERY loving, wants to be by your side as all Dals do. He is friendly, great with other dogs, small, large, male and female, loves children, easy on a lead. Mickey is not crate-trained, MUCH prefers (actually insists) on sleeping in bed with his human. I'm sure he has done that with his previous owner for his whole life. Mickey is housebroken but doesn't understand the doggie door, preferring his human go out with him. He doesn't always ask so you have to let him out regularly to avoid accidents. This beautiful boy is loving, easy-going, well-behaved...the perfect companion. He loves his walks, loves to go out and visit his friends. He is active, curious and has a lot of life left to enjoy. If you'd like to be loved by Mickey, please contact Tena Price at [tjp@grandecom.net](mailto:tjp@grandecom.net). Mickey is currently located in Austin, TX.

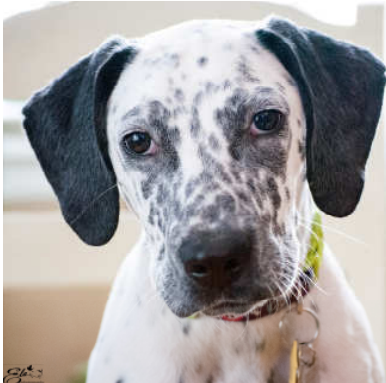


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# Happy Beginning Stories

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## Damian (aka Dante)



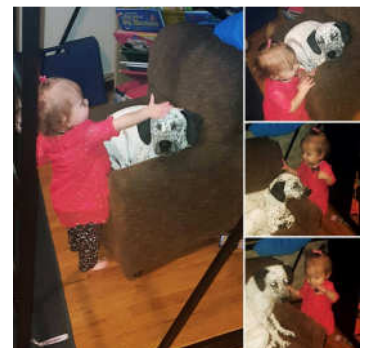
Let's start off by saying I have always wanted a Dalmatian. In the 4th grade my best friend had a liver spotted dal and while he wasn't very friendly he was so cute! After talking to breeders and being wait-listed for so long we decided to look into a rescue. I knew exactly what I wanted... a female, sweet as can be, and at least 3 or 4 years old so we could be well past the puppy stage. I found the Dalmatian rescue of Colorado online and since we are live in Wyoming it was perfect. I checked their website and filled out an application. Beth quickly called me and we started talking dogs. I told her what I was looking for and they had just the dog, her name was Sugar and she was currently being fostered back east. So I hopped back on the website to look at her pictures and get the email address to contact her foster family and that's when we saw Dante's photo.

He was a 5 month old pup who was found in Texas covered in ticks and alone...

His speckled little face instantly stole the hearts of my family. I reached out to his foster mom that same night and ended up spending almost an hour on the phone with her... he was the perfect pup for my crazy family of 6. The next few weeks went by so slowly. There was a lot to be done as Dante was being fostered in Houston TX and we are about 1600 miles away. We needed to have our local rescue conduct a home check, while we waited for our references to check out. We hit a few snags in the road but finally after what seemed like months but was really just 2 weeks Dante was finally booked on a transport van from Houston to Denver, on my birthday of all days!

He left Houston on Tuesday morning and would be arriving around 4 pm the next day in Denver. The morning he left Houston we had a huge winter storm hit causing the roads to close with hurricane force winds around 70 mph. We panicked. How were we going to make the 450 mile drive to pick up our boy with closed roads? I started reaching out to family and friends if anyone knew a dog loving friend in Denver who could pick up my boy in case of an emergency if I couldn't get through. One of my dear friends called her sister in law who lives in Denver and was coming to Wyoming for Christmas, and she was more than happy to pick him up for us, and keep him safe until the roads opened. So Wednesday the transport van arrived in Denver and Brittoney picked up Dante (we decided on the name Damian) the highway opened and the winds stopped. Brittoney and her family headed to Wyoming with Damian to finally meet his forever family!

We feel so blessed that he was able to make the journey home and that all the pieces fell into place perfectly to get him home. Damian fit right in with our family from the minute we met him. Our older dog Kaspur not only puts up with having a puppy around but he likes him enough he even shares his bed now! Of course as a puppy he isn't without fault. We've spent the last few weeks teaching him to potty outside (he hated the snow the first week he was here) not to jump up on the kids, the difference between baby toys and puppy toys but through all of it he is so loved. Our rescue experience has been nothing short of a miracle. Beth, Tena, and all the fosters are so helpful and work so hard to really help the families and dogs fit together. Our family is now complete.



***Please don't forget... if you haven't sent in your Happy Beginnings Story yet, why not do it right now while it's fresh in your mind! It's never too late to see your story in print!!***

***NewSpots is published and released on the first calendar day of the month. The deadline for submissions for future issues of NewSpots will be the 25<sup>th</sup> of the previous month. Submissions received after the deadline may be delayed in publication until the following month, subject to the Editor's discretion.***

***Send submissions to the Editor at: [spotted-dog-designs@comcast.net](mailto:spotted-dog-designs@comcast.net)***

**Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible!!**

**6828 Rim Rock Trail, Fort Collins, CO 80526 [Rescue Hotline: 303-281-8963](tel:303-281-8963) Fax: 970-377-9509**

**<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org>**

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