

## FOOD AND TREAT RECALLS

### Redbarn Bully Stick Dog Chews Recall

February 10, 2018 – Redbarn Pet Products, LLC of Long Beach, CA is voluntarily recalling its Redbarn Naturals 7-inch Bully Stick Dog Chews 3-pack because it has the potential to be contaminated with Salmonella.

#### What's Recalled?

The recalled products were distributed in pet specialty retail stores. Affected product comes in a 2.4 ounce, green plastic bag marked with an expiration date of 112120ABC stamped on the side. The product UPC is #7 85814 25105 8. No illnesses, injuries or complaints have been reported.

#### What Caused The Recall?

According to company President, Jeff Sutherland:

“On 2/5/2018, we were notified by the Colorado Department of Agriculture that a single sample collected from a retail location detected Salmonella. At Redbarn, we test every product lot before it leaves our manufacturing plant. This lot code, expiry date 112120ABC was tested both at our Redbarn lab and by a third-party testing facility. Those tests were negative for Salmonella or pathogens. Despite not being able to replicate these test results or receiving any negative reports from customers regarding these chews, we feel the best course of action is to recall this lot code of the product and keep our customers safe. In issuing this voluntary recall in conjunction with the FDA, we are standing by our core values of quality and integrity. At Redbarn, we do the right thing for our customers. That means that we hold ourselves to the highest safety and quality assurance standards and take all precautions to prevent situations like a recall from happening. Family-owned Redbarn takes the safety of our product, pets and customers as a number one concern. Redbarn employs an extensive Quality Assurance team that run over 400 safety tests on their products every week. Products like the 7-inch bully sticks are tested multiple times, for bacteria like Salmonella, coliforms and enteros. A product is declared safe to ship only after it tests negatively for these bacteria and other pathogens.”



#### What To Do?

Consumers are encouraged to check the lot code to see if their product was affected. Pet owners who are in possession of the affected dog chews are urged to discontinue use of the product immediately.

Consumers who purchased 7-inch Bully Stick multipacks with the affected lot code are urged to return them to the place of purchase for a full refund. Consumers with questions may contact the company via email at [info@redbarninc.com](mailto:info@redbarninc.com) or by phone at 800-775-3849, Monday thru Friday 5 am to 5 pm, PT.



### Darwin's Dog Food Recall of February 2018

February 12, 2018 – Darwin's Natural Pet Products of Tukwila, Washington, has notified its customers that it is recalling select lots of its Darwin's ZooLogics dog food due to possible contamination with Salmonella bacteria.

Note: No product photos of the affected products were supplied by Darwin's. The image (at left) was downloaded from the company's website and may not be an accurate representation of the actual recalled products.

#### What's Recalled?

The following products are affected by this recall:

- ZooLogics Chicken and Vegetable Meals for

Dogs Manufactured 11/2/17

- ZooLogics Duck and Vegetable Meals for Dogs Manufactured 11/16/17

No further information relative to the actual identity of the affected products has been made available to The Advisor.

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## Message From The Company

The following message was taken from a letter sent to Darwin's customers by company founder, Gary Tashjian: "We believe most of this product has already been consumed, for the most part without incident, as most dogs' and cats' digestive systems are able to process pathogens such as Salmonella without harm. We are aware of a single case of a pet being affected, which involved a dog who was already ill with other conditions."

What To Do?

U.S. citizens can report complaints about FDA-regulated pet food products by calling the consumer complaint coordinator in your area or go to <http://www.fda.gov/petfoodcomplaints>. Canadians can report any health or safety incidents related to the use of this product by filling out the [Consumer Product Incident Report Form](#).

**Editor's Note:** The above recall articles were originally published by [www.dogfoodadvisor.com](http://www.dogfoodadvisor.com). This site is a valuable resource for pet owners and we recommend you visit their site and sign up for their recall advisories.

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## About Salmonella

Salmonella can affect animals eating the products and there is risk to humans from handling contaminated pet products, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after having contact with the products or any surfaces exposed to these products.

Healthy people infected with Salmonella should monitor themselves for some or all of the following symptoms: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, abdominal cramping and fever. Rarely, Salmonella can result in more serious ailments, including arterial infections, endocarditis, arthritis, muscle pain, eye irritation, and urinary tract symptoms.

Consumers exhibiting these signs after having contact with this product should contact their healthcare providers.

Pets with Salmonella infections may be lethargic and have diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, fever, and vomiting. Some pets will have only decreased appetite, fever and abdominal pain.

Infected but otherwise healthy pets can be carriers and infect other animals or humans. If your pet has consumed the recalled product and has these symptoms, please contact your veterinarian.

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# Pet Memorials: A Good Goodbye

By Jean Stracy

"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



Willie

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.

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

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,

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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.



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# Spring is here, Summer is coming

With the approach of spring and summer comes warmer weather. Your pets will want to be outside more often, and you should be out there with them. So now is an appropriate time to remind you about warm weather safety.

## Easter treats and decorations

Keep lilies and candy in check. Chocolate goodies are fatal to dogs and cats. And true lilies are fatal to cats if ingested. Be careful of the plastic 'grass' in baskets. Dogs and cats might be tempted to nibble on it and if eaten, it can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting and dehydration. This in turn would result in an unwanted and likely expensive visit to the vet.

## Buckle Up!

Most dogs love to go for a ride in the car. They enjoy the feeling of the wind on their furry little faces. But allowing them to ride in the beds of pick-up trucks (which is expressly prohibited by the contract you signed with Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado) or sticking their heads out of moving car windows is dangerous. Flying debris and insects can cause inner ear or eye injuries or lung infections, and abrupt stops or turns can cause major injury or worse! Pets riding in cars should always be secured in a crate or wearing a seatbelt harness designed especially for them.



## Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning is a time-honored tradition in many homes. Be sure to keep all cleaners and chemicals out of your pets' reach! Almost all cleaning products, even all-natural ones, contain ingredients or chemicals that may be harmful to

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pets. The key to using and storing them safely is to read and follow all label directions.

### Home Improvement 101

Products such as paints, mineral spirits and solvents can be toxic to your pets and cause severe irritation or chemical burns. Carefully read all labels to see if the product is safe to use around your furry friends. Also, be cautious of physical hazards including nails, staples, insulation, blades and power tools. It might be wise to confine you dog or cat to a designated pet-safe room during home improvement projects.

### Let Your Garden Grow – With Care

Gardens can be very beautiful. But they can also be very dangerous to your pets. Fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides keep plants and lawns healthy and green, but they can also be dangerous to your pets if they ingest them. Many popular springtime plants – including rhododendron and azaleas – are also highly toxic to pets and can prove fatal if eaten by them. Make sure to consult the plant labels to make sure you plant only pet safe plants in your garden.

### Ah-Ah-Achoo!

Like us, our pets can have allergies to foods, dust, plants and pollens. Allergic reactions in dogs and cats can cause itching, minor sniffing and sneezing, or life-threatening anaphylactic shock to insect bites and stings. So, if your dog – like mine – likes to try to eat bees... don't let them! If you suspect your pet has a springtime allergy, please visit your veterinarian as soon as possible.

### Pesky Little Critters

April showers bring May flowers – and a whole bunch of bugs! Make sure your dog is on year-round heartworm preventive medication, as well as a flea and tick control program (if they are a problem in your area). Ask your veterinarian for a plan designed specifically for your pets.

### Out And About

Warmer weather means more trips to the dog park, longer walks and more chances for your pet to wander off! Make sure your dog has identification tags. We recommend the tags contain your dogs' name, your last name, two phone numbers and the words "Needs Meds – Reward".



This helps get your dog returned to you quickly and safely by appealing to people's sense of compassion or greed. The "reward" need not be extravagant. But without stating what it is, people will want to return the dog to get something from their 'kindness'.

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# Recent Adoptees!

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|--|---|--|---|
|  <p><b>Bart</b><br/>Houston, TX</p> | <p>Photo<br/>Not<br/>Available</p> <p><b>Vegas</b><br/>Florence, MT</p> | <p>Photo<br/>Not<br/>Available</p> <p><b>Arnold</b><br/>Florence, MT</p> | <p>Photo<br/>Not<br/>Available</p> <p><b>Jewels</b><br/>Waco, TX</p>      |
| <p>Photo<br/>Not<br/>Available</p> <p><b>Maisy</b><br/>Albuquerque, NM</p>   | <p>Photo<br/>Not<br/>Available</p> <p><b>Autumn2</b><br/>Omaha, NE</p>  | <p>Photo<br/>Not<br/>Available</p> <p><b>Bubba</b><br/>Omaha, NE</p>     | <p>Photo<br/>Not<br/>Available</p> <p><b>Jagger2</b><br/>Longmont, CO</p> |

## 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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# Doggie Parenting

Tips and tricks on loving and living with dogs!

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# What Can You Do To Protect Yourself If Approached By Aggressive Dogs?



Boomer was a happy, playful, fun, 13-year-old Australian Shepherd, who loved his walks, according to Mom Tanya Strejc, of Beaverton.

She almost went to the gym that day, but decided Boomer needed his walk, so off they went.

Two dogs came from out of nowhere, Tanya said, and one of them, a mastiff mix, attacked - and killed - her baby Boomer. (It turns out, this dog killed another dog in 2015.)

Absolutely heartbreaking.

And possibly PREVENTABLE.

We must be prepared to protect our dogs when out on walks. Carry pepper spray or pepper gel! It is non-lethal and will deter most dogs most of the time. (No product will stop every dog, every time. Depends on how aggressive the dog is and how competent you are at using the product.)

I have had to use Pepper Spray twice to protect my girls from advancing, aggressive dogs zeroed in on them. Scary... but it worked both times.

**ALWAYS USE PEPPER SPRAY/GEL AS A LAST RESORT. IT WILL CAUSE SUFFERING** (burning sensations in the eyes, nose and mucous membranes) to the animal, and please remember, no behavior, not even aggression toward people or other animals, is the dog's fault.

Someone, somewhere along the line, failed him in his socialization, training, management, supervision.

Last resort only.

The online [Pepper Spray Store](#) has information on how to help a dog that has been pepper sprayed.

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The problem is that you probably can't help him. He's going to be running away, hiding, growling. Unable to see well (or at all), he could get hit by a car.

That said... I am going to do whatever is necessary to protect myself and/or my pet.

I've never had a dog come after me when I was alone, but I certainly have had dogs come after my DOGS when we were together. I once used citronella spray (less effective than pepper spray or pepper gel) to chase off an aggressive dog coming after my Doberman, Dancer. All I had to do was spray it TOWARD the dog when he was about 15 feet away. I didn't even get any on him, but he turned and ran away.

Here's a story from the online store [Sabre](#) about a [Yorkie who lost his life](#) after being attacked by another dog.

I so wish the owners had had pepper spray (or even citronella spray) with them.

I wish Tanya had had pepper spray or gel to protect Boomer.

I highly recommend the product from Sabre called "The Runner."



This is really cool 'cuz it has a strap so it stays in the palm of your hand without you having to grasp it all the time, which means you can have it handy (forgive the pun) and still hold other items and use your fingers for other tasks. And, when you have it in your palm and feel the need to "get ready just in case," it takes just a flick of the thumb to arm it. It's very subtle... and when the "threat" passes, a flick of the thumb disarms it.

In addition, when you need your hand free to grasp or carry something, flip it around so it's resting on the top of your hand.

They also have one called "The Cyclist" which attaches to your bicycle in a way that you can easily remove it if needed.

The Pepper Spray Store has traditional sprays but also some that look like [lipstick and a pen](#).

NOW... Pepper spray formulated for humans is twice as strong as pepper spray formulated for dogs, because dogs have a much stronger sense of smell than we do. So pepper spray formulated for humans will ward off dogs, but could also cause even more suffering to them.

Ideally, I'd want to carry one for dogs and one for humans, right? But for me, that's not practical, so I chose the stronger one.

Also, keep this in mind: The spray is better for distance and gel is better for close range. Spray shoots farther than gel, but can more easily blow back on you in the wind or if you hit a dog or person at close range.

Gel sticks, so is better in the wind and at close range, but be aware that it doesn't shoot out as far. Ideally, you'd carry spray AND gel and when threatened, hope you have the presence of mind to choose the right one.

Now... back to citronella spray. It's definitely more humane, but as I said, not as effective. Petsafe says their product, [SprayShield Citronella Spray](#), defends against aggressive dogs, and that it is effective for dogs with low to medium

aggression.

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Here's the problem: it's really hard to be totally prepared. If you were, you would have citronella spray, and pepper spray and gel for dogs (and, as far as I'm concerned, pepper spray and gel for humans). And when fighting off an attacking dog, pick the appropriate weapon based on the dog's distance and aggression level.

The problem is that it's hard to carry all these tools and this all happens so fast, it could be difficult or impossible to properly evaluate the threat and pick the best defense.

I guess for me, I want to have the most effective product and guess what? If I think the dog is not as big of a threat, I can spray AROUND the dog instead of directly ON the dog. I hate to say this, but I'd rather have my biggest gun and try to shoot it with less force than to have my lightest gun and possibly find it's ineffective against a particular aggressor.

I care about the other dog, but to be honest, I care more about the safety of my (innocent) dog, and... I didn't choose to be in this situation. It's a tough choice.... I wish everyone

luck making the best choice for him or herself.

By the way, I also recommend my students NOT walk their dogs in neighborhoods. Stay on busy streets. You can encounter (and get attacked by) loose dogs in neighborhoods, but you rarely find a loose dog on a busy street. We need to protect our kids. If a dog gets attacked, obviously, it can lead to his injury or death but there's something else: even if he survives the attack physically, it can damage him mentally. It's not unusual for dogs to become dog-aggressive after being attacked, and this is often something we cannot fix.

Be prepared.

Oh! Here's another idea: For those of you who go to dog parks... carry your spray/gel (it's good for breaking up dogfights) and also carry Binaca breath spray.

A lot of dogs are annoying, bothering other dogs and trying to jump on or even mount them. Often the owners are all the way on the other side of the park, not paying any attention. If you spray the dog in the mouth, he won't like the taste and will probably go away.

Don't worry, if some of it over-sprays into his eyes, he will air it out. Worst case scenario, if you get in too much, the owner may have to wash it out with water, but that's not likely since you are close to the dog and aiming for the mouth.

Before I ever suggested a student do this, I got my veterinarian to look at the ingredients in Binaca and ok it, and then I sprayed it directly into my eye to test it. Sounds crazy, but I held my eye wide open and I sprayed directly onto my eyeball from just a couple inches away. And I did it five times! Only once did I have to wash it.



So, order your pepper spray/gel and get down to the pharmacy for some Binaca.

We need to be prepared to protect our kids. Period.

'Til next time, "kiss the kids"  
Tori (Mom of Jetta WAC, CGC)

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

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# Trainer Tips

## “Dog Trainer’s Traveling Tips from Sue Brown at The Light Of Dog”

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This post was originally published on [El Perro Tambien](#) and is an interview with Sue about travel tips with your dog. It is republished below.

**Tell me about yourself as a trainer. How did you get started, how long have you been training, and where do you work now?**

I currently run my own business, The Light of Dog, just south of the Denver metro area. We offer group classes, private in-home training, boarding and behavior consultations. I also have two books, write a regular Ask the Trainer column for a newsletter, and we produce our own food and treat products and toys. I have been in this industry for over 20 years. I started out as a volunteer, learning on my own, attending seminars, reading everything I could, etc. I am a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant through IAABC and a Certified Professional Dog Trainer through CCPDT. I feel it’s important that we as an industry make an effort to begin setting some minimum standards to adhere to. As a trainer, I focus on positive reinforcement based training and being instructive to our dogs. I look at it as teamwork and both the canine and the human side need to learn to communicate and work well together. I believe my students are better trainers for their own dogs when they learn to listen to their dogs and not just focus on their dogs listening to them.

**What three behaviors would you consider “must-have” for a dog that will be travelling a lot?**

Rather than three specific behaviors, I look at it from a slightly different perspective. I look at two more general things a dog needs to be able to do. First is respond reliably to what you ask. Whether that is sit, stay, come, or some other cues, I think the specific cues will depend to some degree on what activities you plan to do. But is the ability to focus and respond quickly there? The second is to stay tuned in. If you’re away from home, it’s critical that your dog learn to stay tuned in to you and know where you are. Let’s say you plan to always have your dog on leash and don’t think you need off leash reliability. But what happens when your dog’s leash breaks, or you drop the leash, or any number of circumstances that can and will happen when your dog suddenly is not on leash? The goal if travelling a lot should be for off leash reliability even if you never plan to use it, because you never know when you will need it. So I’d say two things: responsiveness and tune-in.

**Do you have any favorite exercises for starting to teach those behaviors?**

Yes, I start out training with a new dog (regardless of age) with rewarding anything they offer that I like. Capturing and/or shaping behaviors that I like before I start working on putting anything on cue. From the get-go, my dogs learn that great things in life come from me. And that the most fun is to be had WITH me, not without me. So I start capturing things I like and then work to put those on cue, such as sit, down, come, stay, etc.

But my primary exercise getting started is eye contact. My dogs learn that eye contact is the best way to ask permission for things or to do things. It’s the best way to ask for help if they are unsure about something. It’s the best way to connect back and tune in with me. I spend more time on eye contact than any other thing in the early stages. When people meet my Vizsla, Romeo, they always comment on how tuned in he is with me. They are amazed at his focus on

me. That did not come naturally! I worked hard on that, but I feel confident taking him lots of places because of that. He's always aware of where I am and does not stray far.

### **What training foundations do people need before starting to go on outdoor, off-leash adventures with their dogs?**

When I ask my students what they think is most important, they most often say a reliable Come is the top of the list. I tell them that I disagree. I think connection (for me, that comes through eye contact) is my most critical skill for off-leash adventures. My philosophy is that if my dogs are tuned in with me and staying connected, I rarely ever need a reliable Come since they do not take off in the first place. While I certainly do want a reliable Come, I don't want to need it very often.

Impulse control is another. Whether that is a Wait or a Stay or something else, the point is that if my dog cannot control his impulse to race off every time he gets excited about something, he's not going to earn off-leash privileges. And travelling is going to be more difficult. One of the first ones I teach is door manners or a Wait at all doors, gates, car doors, etc. Any time we are moving from one situation into another, my dogs have learned to connect on both sides so I can ensure it's safe to proceed. This also helps prevent dogs from door darting. This can be especially dangerous when travelling if your dog darts out an unfamiliar door and takes off into unfamiliar territory.

As I mentioned earlier, I think the two most important things are reliable responses to a few things (for example, watch me, stay, and come) but also learning to stay tuned in and knowing where you are at all times. My Greyhound is super fast and her coloring blends in beautifully with the scrub oak in our area. So no matter how hard I try to keep track of her, it's very easy for her to end up somewhere completely different from where I thought she was. So it's critical that she knows where I am. I need her to understand that I don't mind her having some fun within reason, but she needs to check back in as soon as she's done. I can't keep up with her, but if she's making good choices, I can give her some leeway that I otherwise could not.

### **What (management) setups do you use while hiking or camping to keep your dog safe?**

While our dogs mainly walk off-leash, we always have leashes and will leash up or ask our dogs to heel if we are close to other people or dogs. They don't know our dogs or how reliable they are or are not. They don't know how friendly or not they might be. So out of courtesy to everyone, we leash up (or heel) when nearby and save our freedom to run around for when we have more space. We always try to respect the space of others. No one loves our dogs as much as we do, so we do our best to be courteous and respectful of others when out. And of course, follow local leash laws, if applicable.

We always have clear ID on our dogs as well as have them microchipped. No matter how well trained your dogs are, things happen. If we do get separated from our dogs, we want to ensure we have done all we can to make sure they can get back to use safely. Our ID includes our cell numbers we have with us so people can reach us immediately.

We use travel crates when driving. Our dogs have very comfortable travel crates (not too small) and are great in the van. On long trips, we ensure we get frequent breaks to get out and stretch legs and get water. If camping or just taking an extended picnic break or such, we can also use tie-outs for safety if being off-leash is not a good idea in some spots. For example, we never have our dogs off-leash at a rest stop along the interstate. That close to a road with high speeds, I will never have my dogs off-leash no matter how much I trust them.

### **What's a training or behavior concept that will help keep your dog comfortable along the trip?**

I teach my dogs "default" locations. At home, when they are young, their crate is one of those locations. When in doubt, the best place to show up is one of your "default" locations.

Heel (at my left side) is another default location. When on a trip, a default Heel is a good one to have. When you are out somewhere and nothing else is familiar, heel is a good spot to default to. Mat training can also be a good default. I have travel mats (they look sort of like a sleeping bag) that I always bring on our road trips. If we are staying with family, renting a cabin, staying in a hotel, etc., I bring in the mats and set them down wherever I want my dogs to lie down. They know that is their spot. If my dogs want something or are feeling unsure, going to a "default" location is a good bet.

### **What do you bring with your dog to help soothe him/her along the way?**

When travelling, I always want my dogs to have something familiar with them to sleep on. Depending on where we are going and how much space we have, we might bring along their dog beds. If we have less space, we will bring their travel mats. We prefer to feed them out of their regular bowls they eat from at home. We want them to have things that are familiar and comfortable to help them settle in wherever they are.

I had a previous Greyhound who got very stressed riding in the car. No matter how many fun places we went (the majority of our car rides were for hikes) she was always stressed on the ride. She always wanted to go and loved being wherever I was. She just did not enjoy the ride. I started giving her Rescue Remedy about 30 minutes before we would depart. From then on, she would lie down instead of pace the entire trip. She still never loved rides, but she was better able to tolerate them with the Rescue Remedy.

### **What equipment would you never leave behind on a trip?**

The leashes or long lines that we use when first getting going or in places where we need dogs leashed up use carabiners to attach to their harnesses, not clips. We have seen clips break or accidentally unclip. We always use carabiners that secure so we are less concerned about equipment failure.

We always have spare equipment along. Collars or harnesses can break or get chewed through. Leashes can break or get chewed through. Sometimes we encounter loose dogs who have escaped their collars or leashes. We try to have

spares along in case of emergency.

We always have spare bowls in the vehicle for food or water in case we forget to pack our regular bowls.

We always have lots of poop bags to clean up! We always try to be courteous and never leave anything behind. We never want to contribute to dogs losing access to places because people do not clean up after their dogs.

We always bring high value treats along too. On one recent hike, we were out enjoying ourselves, had not seen anyone at all. We walk around the bend and suddenly see emergency vehicles and several people standing around. Next thing we know, a helicopter is circling and lands close by. Fortunately, our dogs did not panic. But they had never been anywhere near a helicopter before, let alone one flying over our heads. I had no idea how they would react, so we ensured lots of positive associations and they did fantastic!

#### **What can travelers do to help their dogs acclimate?**

Start with short trips. My Greyhound, Zuzu, used to be pretty cautious when we would go to new places. We would have to scope the place out for 10-15 minutes before she would move away from our vehicle. She needed to feel safe. So we did lots of short trips to check out new places before we did any travelling with her. Now, when we get to a new place, she will get moving right away. But she had to develop that confidence first.

#### **How do you exercise your dog on the road? How do you find those locations if it's not just a leashed neighborhood walk?**

I have several options for exercise. While physical exercise is important, it's not our only option. I certainly want my dogs to have options to stretch their legs and burn some energy especially if we are spending a lot of time driving and cooped up in our vehicle. But sometimes that's not an option. One year we took our two dogs to visit our in-laws on California. Great weather there, dogs did great. But we took our time returning to Colorado and hit some spots along the way, including the Grand Canyon. We figured a winter visit would mean fewer crowds. Great idea, right? Except we hit a blizzard when we got there. Standing on the edge of the Grand Canyon and you could not tell you were there! White out conditions, part of the road was closed because it was too icy and cars were in danger of sliding off the roads. Below zero wind chill. We ended up having to stay overnight in a hotel nearby that we had not planned. How did we exercise our dogs? Lots of mental stimulation in the hotel. We practiced our tricks, did some training, and set up find it games to use their noses.

A quiet hallway worked great for working on some heel work and other training that required more space than we had in the room.

#### **Any tips for keeping your routine while travelling?**

Dogs tend to love routine and predictability. So I want to make sure I can provide some of that to my dogs, even if we are in an unfamiliar environment. For example, I might be covering a lot of miles and not in any one place for very long. But I can still provide some consistency by having a routine every morning when we get up. Or find a time each afternoon along our route to take a break and do something that helps my dog feel like this is "normal". For example, my Vizsla, Romeo, gets nervous about a few things (gunfire for one). So if there is something that makes him nervous, we do some heel work or some tricks for treats to get his brain focused on doing something he knows. That always helps calm him down by doing something we work on anywhere and everywhere. He knows it, he enjoys it, and it helps him feel like he has some predictability in that situation.

#### **With that, are there any characteristics that are red flags for you prior to travel?**

I want to ensure my dogs are pretty well socialized and acclimated to a variety of places, people, things, noises, and such before any long trips. If I have a dog who is very insecure and panics, I might run into some serious trouble on a long trip. While you can't plan for everything that could happen, I want to ensure that I have a dog with either enough confidence to handle new things and/or a dog who trusts me enough to help them through something they are not sure they can handle.

I would also consider things like. . . do I have a dog who gets very stressed during thunderstorms? Am I travelling during thunderstorm season and likely to encounter trouble? Do I have a plan for how I am going to handle that?

#### **Are there situations where it might be best to leave Fido behind?**

As mentioned above, if I have a dog who gets very stressed during thunderstorm season, I might avoid travel during that time. Or leave Fido behind on that particular trip. As much as I love having my dogs with me, I also don't want to force something on them that they will not enjoy.

#### **What sort of things do you see stressing dogs out that their owners might miss?**

I sometimes see dogs who have started to shut down or avoid whatever is stressful to them, and owners often misinterpret that as the dog being "fine" with something. I think it's important that people really learn to read their dogs and understand what information the dog is giving by how they are acting. I think far too often that we assume our dogs are fine if they are not trying to run away or trying to bite someone. We don't have to wait for extreme responses before we can recognize that our dogs are uncomfortable or so afraid that they just shut down.

#### **Trainers are human, too. Do you have any funny/embarrassing stories from traveling with your dogs?**

My very first Greyhound, Gunner, and I did a lot of hiking. He was awesome and always stayed near me. It was quite a while before I would allow him to do part of our hikes off leash if no one else was nearby. So we had taken a short trip to get away, stay in a cabin and do some hiking. It was a pretty quiet area, so I let him off leash. Any time we would get near a blind turn, I would tell him to wait and he would wait for me to catch up before we proceeded. At one point, he went

around a blind corner and I told him to wait, and assumed he was waiting just around the corner. Except, I got around the corner and he was not there. So I called him. And I called him. And I called him. So I started picking up my pace because I was starting to get worried now, because he had always responded quickly to me. So a minute or two goes by, which of course felt a LOT longer than that at the time. Finally, I hear someone off in the distance say, "He's down here!" When I finally find the people and my dog, there is Gunner just hanging out with his new friends. They told me they saw him come out of the trees and were startled at first, not knowing what was coming at them. But Gunner was always very friendly and calm, so he had heard these people talking and decided to go make some new friends. You can bet he went back on leash for a while after that! But that never happened again for the rest of his life. He was an awesome hiking buddy.

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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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# Unfortunately, we have no Reader Recommendations and Tips for this

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**issue.**



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## **In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians**

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### **Jordan**

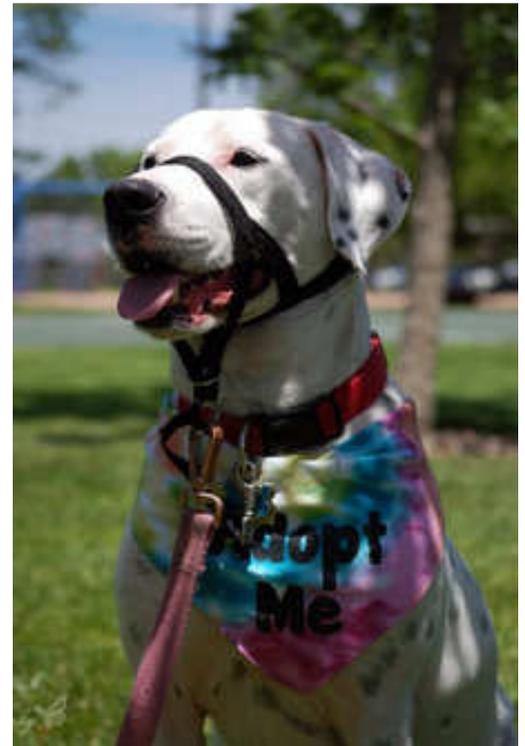
**3 Years Old, Black Male**

**Reason Available: Stray**

**Foster Home: Temporarily in Virginia, returning to Colorado soon.**

**CURRENTLY IN VIRGINIA!** Jordan almost crossed the River Jordan. When we were notified of him at the high kill TX shelter, he was quite ill. **BUT**, with love and care of his TX foster mom, Jordan has come around and now is happy and healthy. He was found to be heart worm positive and has been on treatment for that. This handsome, energetic fellow with the striking good looks, loves all people. He always has a happy attitude and he is not a barker which is always nice. Jordan recently graduated from beginner obedience and is smart and so eager to please. He is also crate trained & house trained. He loves to play, run and be outdoors and would make a great running partner! Although Jordan gets along great with his foster sister, he can be selective about other dogs and requires proper introductions. His ideal forever home would have an experienced human leader to continue teaching and training Jordan as he blossoms into the amazing dog he is meant to be, and who would cater to Jordan's high activity level. Jordan would be fine as an only dog or could live with a female dog with proper introduction. Jordan is currently in foster in Gunnison, CO.

For more info, contact Donna at [rockngeologist@yahoo.com](mailto:rockngeologist@yahoo.com). Adoption \$300. Jordan is visiting VA while his foster mom is helping her mom. She is driving back to CO eventually and could deliver this good boy along the way if there is a home for him. Not sure yet of the timing, but sometime this spring is the trip VA to CO.



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### **Georgia1**



Georgia is a lovely, very young Dalmatian mix puppy. She loves to cuddle, play, run and give and get kisses. Georgia was being fed by a family who moved away and asked their neighbor to feed her. When Georgia refused to eat, she was brought to the shelter to be cared for. Now in a foster home with young boys 3.5 to 16 years plus several dogs, Georgia is in her element, overcoming fear of abandonment and really blossoming! Georgia has a unique and strong personality. She loves sticks... She will run into the yard, find a stick, and run up to show you but dash away the minute she gets too close. And squirrels... She has tried to climb a tree to catch those pesky animals. She runs from one end of the yard to the other, following her nose. She is very playful and loves to be cuddled. Very energetic, as are most puppies but eager to learn. She is not a very large girl (weighing in at 48 pounds), so will fit just about anywhere! She has lots of growing to do yet, and lots of learning. Won't you be her teacher and show her that not all people leave little girls behind! For more information contact Sandy at [sandy@ksold.com](mailto:sandy@ksold.com). Adoption \$250.

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## Happy Beginning Stories

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### Autumn2



We adopted this sweet girl on January 8, 2018. Eight-year-old "Autumn" lived with an older gentleman in Houston, TX for the last 2-1/2 years. Unfortunately, her owner died very unexpectedly. When I saw Autumn's video on Facebook, with her foster Mom, I couldn't stop thinking about her and I knew I wanted to be her new Mom.

Autumn is very sweet and gets along great with our pack of three other pooches. She was brought to Kansas City by transport, where I picked her up and brought her to Omaha. Originally, the older gentleman adopted her from Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado... talk about the Circle of Life!

We love her dearly! ❤️ Look at that sweet face. Thanks to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado for making this possible.

– Joyce G.  
Omaha, NE

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Unfortunately, Autumn's is the only Happy Beginnings Story we have - so far - this year.

But as you saw, in the recently adopted section above, we have adopted many dogs already. If you haven't already sent in your

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dog's story, please do send it in very soon along with some great photos of your doggo. These stories are the payment our volunteers work so hard for, so... PLEASE pay them!!!!



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**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!!

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