

Toxic plants

Now that summer is almost here, it's an appropriate time to remind everyone to be vigilant about the plants in your house and yard. I am including this story below as a cautionary tale. This was originally posted on Facebook by a woman named Alicia on September 4, 2011.

FB friends, we got the biopsy report back and with great sorrow I must share this.... Our darling girl died from the toxin in this plant that I have on my deck. It is called heliotrope and is highly toxic, causes total liver destruction. The pathologist said our angel had the worst liver damage he's ever seen. Goldie would nibble at the leaves of this plant every so often and we had no clue it was toxic. (It can come in white or purple.) Please share with any dog owners you know to hopefully prevent their dog from becoming a statistic like Goldie. We are even more heartbroken now knowing her death was preventable. Please share her story so that something positive may come of it and create awareness of toxic plants. Our own vet had no idea this was a toxic plant!!



People must make themselves aware of toxic plants to prevent this sort of thing from ever happening to a fur baby in the future!



There are plenty of places to get information on toxic plants, but one of the best resources I know of is the ASPCA website for poisonous plants. <https://www.asPCA.org/pet-care/animal-poison-control/toxic-and-non-toxic-plants>. They have currently listed over 1,000 plants on their list.

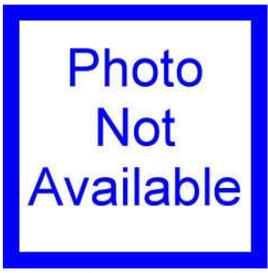
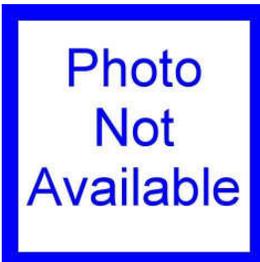
Sago Palms are another very toxic plant that is commonly found in houses and yards as a decorative plant. Please get rid of them IMMEDIATELY if you have them in your house or yard. Sago palms are naturally found in tropical/subtropical environments; they are also used as ornamental Bonsai houseplants. These palms are members of the Order *Cycadaceae*; genera *Cycads*, *Macrozamia*, and *Zamias*. Examples of the cycad family include Cycad (*Cycas cirinalis*), Japanese cycad (*Cycad revolute*), Coontie plant (*Zamia pumila*), and Cardbord palm (*Zamia furfuracea*). All parts of sago palm are considered poisonous, with the seeds (nuts) being the most toxic part of the plant. Sago palm contains cycasin, which is the primary active toxic agent resulting in severe liver failure in dogs. Ingestion results in acute gastrointestinal signs (e.g., drooling, lack of appetite, vomiting, diarrhea) within 15 minutes to several hours after ingestion. Central nervous system signs (e.g., weakness, ataxia, seizures, tremors, etc.) and severe liver failure can be seen within 2-3 days post-ingestion. Clinical signs include vomiting, diarrhea, lethargy, lack of appetite, abnormal fluid accumulation in the abdomen, abdominal pain, jaundice, and black-tarry stool. Aggressive decontamination and treatment should be initiated. Even with aggressive treatment, the survival is about 50%.

Common signs to watch for:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Lethargy
- Lack of appetite
- Abnormal fluid accumulation in the abdomen
- Abdominal pain
- Jaundice
- Black-tarry stool



Recent Adoptees!

 <p>Fancy1 Fort Collins, CO</p>	 <p>Lotus Colorado Springs, CO</p>	 <p>Sparky Wills Point, TX</p>	 <p>Ben (aka Gabriel) San Diego, CA</p>
 <p>Izzy (aka Lizzy) San Diego, CA</p>	 <p>Lisa Vail, CO</p>	 <p>Austin3 Denver, CO</p>	 <p>Milo Denver, CO</p>
 <p>Ellie Model-Thatcher, CO</p>	 <p>Clover Edmond, OK</p>	 <p>Lexington Omaha, NE</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



One of our own "graduates" of DRC is KC; shown here competing in obedience at the 2018 Dalmatian Club of America national show, held May 7-12 in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

You might notice that KC is a long coat Dalmatian. His hair is longer and thicker than regular Dalmatians. Long coats exist when both parents carry the gene and also share it. KC is quite pretty, very loving and such a good performance dog.

He is owned by Lyn Melin of Albuquerque, New Mexico. Lyn also does Dalmatian rescue in Albuquerque, but she just couldn't give this boy up!

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Here's How Sparky Got Shot

Sparky, a 1-year-old Lab mix, was a “skittish” puppy when brought to live with the family next door to Donna, one of my readers in the Midwest.

Fearfulness is torture for an animal, and often leads to aggression.

Donna has some dog training experience and offered to help them help their pup to get over his fearfulness, but they declined. The family never socialized Sparky and his fearfulness got worse.

As he got older, he got more aggressive, eventually becoming very intense and serious. He started growling and baring his teeth as he charged the 4-foot chain-link fence separating him from Donna and her 19-year-old Chihuahua, Missy, 14-year-old Chihuahua, Tigger, and 10-year-old, 60-pound mixed breed, Alie.



Eventually, in his apparent determination to attack her and/or her dogs, he started attempting to climb the 4-foot chain-link fence.

Donna got scared enough that she called me for help.

I gave her some suggestions on how to train Sparky through the fence. BUT... my ideas involved feeding treats to Sparky, and Donna chose to ask permission first.

The answer: NO!

“Since I won’t feed someone else’s dog without their permission, I went next door and asked if I could use treats to try to start making friends,” she says. They said they didn’t want anyone but them feeding their dog.”

I suggested calling Animal Control and she laughed. “There are only 1,500 people here. We have no animal control. The nearest vet is 40 miles away. We have only two cops – the Chief of Police and his deputy. Out here, people are very independent, and we take care of ourselves.”

We discussed different fencing options, but before Donna could do anything, about a week later, I got this email from her:

“As I've said, this is a little-bitty town, and I live less than a block from the high school, but my only close neighbors, other than that, are the next-door neighbors, and neighbors across the street. The neighbors across the street have three kids (12, 14 and 16) and two medium-sized mixed-breed dogs. Their dogs are great escape artists, but nobody cares because they know to avoid cars, and are no danger to anyone.

I was outside, starting to go to the store, the teens across the street had just gotten home and were playing with the dogs (who were in the unfenced front yard, as is usual when the kids are due to be home from school).

Sparky got agitated and finally made it over the fence, ran across the street and attacked the smaller of the two dogs who was playing with the 12-year-old girl. He got hold of the dog who was on top of the 12-year-old, and then bit her, a

couple of times, badly, when she tried to push him away.

Their other dog got into it; bit and was bitten.

The 14-year-old girl grabbed little sister, trying to pull her away, so she was bitten. By that time, I'd gotten across the street and grabbed Sparky by his hind legs. (Note to readers: this is called "Wheelbarrowing" a dog – one method for breaking up a dog fight. PLEASE don't do this without learning more about it. As we all know, it's very dangerous to break up a dog fight.)

The 16-year-old boy tried to get Sparky away, and was also bitten when he grabbed their dogs by their collars.

Their Dad came out the front door and shot Sparky.

All three of their kids were bitten and I was bitten, but we will be OK. It was a melee, and I'm not sure how badly their dogs were injured. (They're still with the vet.)

Next-door-neighbors are furious at neighbors across the street, and a bit angry at me. WHY ARE THEY ANGRY AT OTHERS, when they're the ones who wouldn't train or socialize, their dog?!

Poor Sparky..."

About four days later, the family got another puppy. This time Donna intends to make friends, using treats, regardless.

Moral of the story: Dogs need socialization! Without it, they become fearful which CAN lead to aggression.

A puppy's most vital socialization period is over at four months of age. It's OVER! The best time to get a puppy is at eight weeks of age and then make it your mission to properly socialize that pup for the next two months. The work you put into him at that age, pays off for the rest of his life.

An adult dog with serious fear issues can be helped, but not cured. There's a lot we can do though. (BTW, it's not "dog training," it's behavior mod.) Being in a fearful state is torture for any living creature... Torture. They need help to feel safer and more confident, and that makes them safer for us to live with.

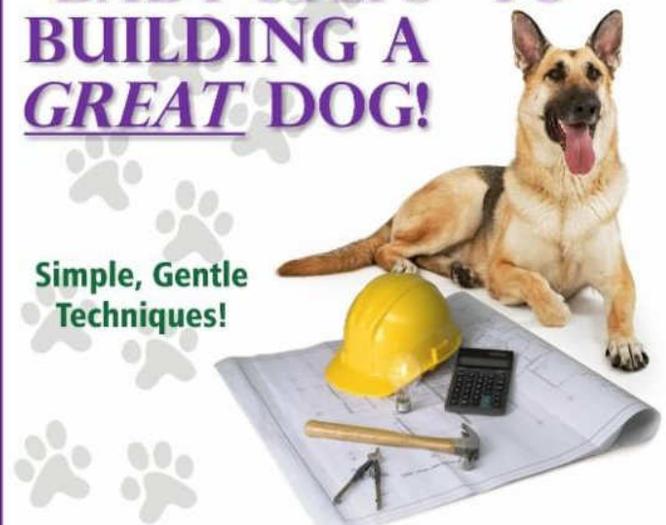
I wrote a piece on how to properly socialize a puppy. Contact me if you want me to send it to you. It's the most important thing we need to know about dogs!

'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.

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Trainer Tips

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FEND FOR HIMSELF



NOT ENOUGH QUALITY
TIME WITH HIS HUMAN



EXPECT YOUR DOG TO KNOW
SOMETHING YOU HAVE NOT TAUGHT



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We all have plenty of stressors in our lives. I bet you could quickly name ten things that cause you stress without even hesitating.

Can you name ten things that stress your dog?

We often tend to think that our dogs have it easy. If I could have my dog's life, I would have no stress! While our dogs might not have the same worries we do, there are plenty of stressors for them as well.

Anything we can do to reduce our own stress, makes our lives better. Anything we can do to relieve our dogs' stressors, makes their lives better.

Let's look at some of the possible causes of stress in your dogs' lives:

-
1. **Lack of predictability.** One of the greatest stressors for living creatures is lack of predictability. If you don't know when your next meal is coming, if you are bounced around from home to home, if there is no consistency to what happens and when, life is stressful. While many of our homes provide predictable lives for our dogs, many dogs do not live with that same predictability.
 2. **Lack of consistency.** One day your dog gets a walk. One day he doesn't. One day he is allowed to pull on the leash. The next day we get upset and punish him for pulling. One day we allow our dog to snuggle on the couch with us. The next day we say it's off limits. We should be clear and consistent. If we are not, it adds stress to your dog's life.
 3. **Not enough appropriate outlets for a dog's energy level.** If you have a high energy dog and you are not giving him outlets for that energy, you add stress. He has to find ways to burn that energy, and it often comes out in inappropriate ways if we don't give them the right outlets. Then you get stressed and further stress your dog.
 4. **Lack of mental stimulation.** If you have a smart dog, he needs outlets for his brain not just his physical energy. Dogs who are not given outlets to use their brains find ways, just as they do with physical energy. One way or another they are going to burn off that energy. By not providing good outlets, we add further stress.
 5. **Scolding or punishing your dog for something they did "wrong" that they do not know is wrong.** Yelling at, scolding, hitting, yanking, or other confrontations aimed at your dog for things you think are wrong but have never explained to your dog adds further stress. Help your dog understand what TO DO and what you consider the "right" thing before you assume they know what the "wrong" thing is. We add stress by scolding a dog for something they have no way of knowing they were not supposed to do.
 6. **Inability to be a dog.** Many behaviors we consider unacceptable, wrong, inappropriate, etc. are very natural dog behaviors. Barking, digging, jumping, nipping, running, chasing, chewing... many of the behaviors that irritate us are perfectly natural to them. If you try to eliminate all of them, you are not allowing your dog to be a dog. Find ways to allow your dog outlets to just be a dog and do what comes naturally. Within reason, of course!
 7. **No safe space.** Does your dog have a safe space where he can have some alone time? Does he have a space where no one can bug him when he needs some time to himself? Everyone should have a space they can go to just have some quiet time. Uninterrupted nap time is crucial for dogs. We all do better when we get adequate rest.
 8. **Expect your dog to know something you have not taught him yet.** Don't keep saying Heel or Come or Stay if you have not taught your dog what those things mean. By simply repeating things over and over and over again, your dog will not likely learn what those things mean. If you want a dog who responds reliably, you first need to define your Cue, then be sure to convey that meaning to your dog step by step. It's stressful having someone expect you to know something but never take the time to explain it to you in the first place.
 9. **Leave your dog to fend for himself.** Is another dog bullying your dog? Is a person being inappropriate to your dog? Is someone greeting in a rude manner? Is someone teasing or taunting your dog? Do not allow it! And certainly never do it yourself. Do not expect your dog to handle things on his own. You are responsible for looking out for your dog. If someone is being inappropriate, step in and help out. Let your dog know you have his back.
 10. **Not enough quality time with his favorite human.** Do you spend enough quality time with your dog? Our lives get busy. We start a new job. We move to a new location. We get married. We have kids. We get involved in new activities. Our time gets spread thin, and that leaves less time for our dogs. Your dog does not understand that, and if he always comes in last, that adds stress. Make sure if you have a dog that you have time for a dog. It will reduce both of your stress levels if you assure quality time for the both of you.

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



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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/>).

Bits & Pieces

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 and he will work with you to provide your ad and place it prominently within the newsletter.

*******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!

Reader Recommendations and Tips

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 for inclusion in the next issue.

Unfortunately, we have no Reader Recommendations and Tips for this issue. ☹️



In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians

Cinder

7 Years Old, Black Neutered Male
Reason Available: Owner Surrender
Foster Home: Manvel, TX

Cinder is a happy laid-back kind of guy abandoned by the owner to be put to sleep due to family squabbling! Shelter would not put down such a nice dog and neither would we. He loves to lounge but also has a playful side to him as well. He loves his floppy raccoon, but fetch is not one of his favorite games! He is good with cats and small children! Cinder can be selective about other dogs, so we prefer an only dog home or a home with an experienced adopter and stable dogs. He doesn't mind a kennel but does not need one. He also loves car rides and does great on walks, even walking next to a stroller. He does not pull while being walked on a leash as well. Thunderstorms mean nothing to him and Cinder prefers his bed over a couch but doesn't mind giving some snuggle time if you ask for it. He knows basic commands and loves being rewarded with treats. Says his first foster mom: Cinder is such an amazing dog and we have been honored to have him in our home. Cinder is now in Manvel, TX foster home. For more information contact Tena at tena@dalmatianrescueco.org. Adoption \$250.



Emma2

2 Years Old, Black Spayed Female
Reason Available: Stray
Foster Home: Alamogordo, NM



Dear sweet Emma found herself in a "way" and had a litter in the shelter. Nearly feral herself (we can only imagine her prior life), she was separated from her pups when the time was right and went into foster care in NM. Still fairly shy, Emma, however, now sleeps on the bed with mom and will go on her own to a crate to sleep. She does not need to be crated because she is so good in the house. This little lady is good with many sized dogs and cats too. She is still somewhat timid with new people but when she relaxes, she will give little licks on your fingers. Emma is not food aggressive and she lays on the floor with a leg on each side of the bowl when she eats. So cute! She only barks when she should, otherwise she is quiet. We are guessing that she is possibly a herding breed x Dalmatian.

With one ear up and one ear down, she is most unique. How about a Uni Que for Ewe? For more information, contact Beth at beth@dalmatianrescueco.org. Adoption \$250.

Happy Beginning Stories

Fancy1



We adopted Fancy on May 5th, 2018. Since we got Fancy, she has been a sweet love to this family and even to the cat. She loves her walks and car rides. Fancy is loved by so many kids and we could not ask for greater and more loveable new family member. Thank you to Dalmatian Rescue, and, Karl and Beth for helping us find the perfect dog for our family.

Sincerely,
– Lula H.
Fort Collins, CO

Sonny

I heard about Sonny through my boss at work. She had showed me a picture of the cutest little puppy with raccoon eyes! I had originally wanted to change his name to “Meeko” in homage to the raccoon in Pocahontas but after hearing this little guy’s story, I didn’t have the heart to change it. When his Foster mom got him, he was stained with urine from being stuck in a crate all day and had gone through a couple different names. When I got Sonny, I didn’t want to change a thing about him. I wanted him to have consistency in his life and to know that he had gotten his “forever” home. Sonny & I instantly hit it off. We got back from our 8-hour road trip (4 hours there & 4 hours back) on my birthday and awkwardly sat in my living room for a couple minutes trying to figure each other out. We both curiously looked at each other and just connected. He is such a light and brings joy to our lives. If he isn’t following me around he is cozied up next to my husband. Sonny is such a loyal best friend and a great addition to our family! He keeps us on our toes and always laughing with his crazy faces. We are so grateful to Michelle and the rest of the Dalmatian Rescue family for making our family whole.

– Brittany M.



Ben & Izzy

(aka Gabriel and Lizzy)



We adopted Gabriel and Lizzy on May 8, 2018. The entire process was quite the adventure for all of us! We live in California but fell in love with Gabriel of Colorado from his description on the website. Although there were other dogs available closer to us, we kept going back to look at Gabriel's info. We just knew he was the one! So, we planned a vacation to Colorado to pick him up. Just before we left on our trip, we got a call about Lizzy who had just arrived in Colorado. We were a 2-dog family previously and it seemed a good fit for us, so after hearing what a sweet dog she was, we decided to adopt her as well. We were slightly nervous about their first meeting, but they are both so good natured they hit it off immediately! We have started calling them Ben (instead of Gabriel) and Izzy and they are adapting well to life in California. We look forward to many years of

adventures with them both! Thank you, Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado for finding our dogs!

– Paul and Jenni Z.
San Diego, CA

Rocky and Tilly

(aka Arnold and Vegas)

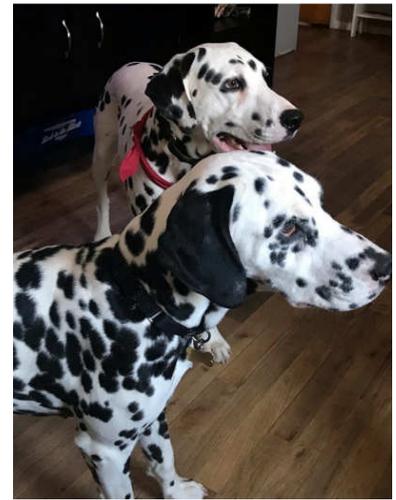
Vegas is now Tilly which means "strength in battle". Arnold is Rocky as in Balboa. These siblings were 2 of 3 kept in a rabbit hutch before the kind folks at Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado saved them. They are amazing dogs with so much potential. I am eternally grateful for all of you who help so many. Special thanks to Foster Moms, Anna Naumann (Vegas) and Erin Holste (Arnold). I can't even imagine what these pups were like when they arrived to the care of such amazing, generous women. Tilly still carries around the stuffed toy from Anna.

I flew to Omaha, rented a van and drove to MT in winter conditions with these traumatized puppies who had no idea what was up. We arrived safely to their new home in the Bitterroot Valley of MT. They enjoy their daily walks with their Auntie Mazie the 15-year-old Bluetick/Walker hound. They are very active on canine social media around the neighborhood. They send replies to all the pee mails. They have met many of the human neighbors and are quite popular.

Despite all the adversity in their past young lives, they are very forgiving. Rocky had a very hard time adjusting and still has fears but is so much better than when he initially arrived here. Tilly is a love-bug! She swallows socks whole any chance she gets. I have to hide my laundry basket from her.

I previously had 7 Dalmatians. I am thrilled to once again have spotted dogs in my house, my life and my heart. Thank you so much for saving them and all the other dogs fortunate enough to find their way to Dalmatian Rescue of CO.

– JoAnne Foley and Mazie the Hound
Rocky and Tilly The Spotted Dogs



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 25th 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

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