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Halloween is coming!

So, it's time to talk about keeping your pets safe and sound during this spooky time of year. Dogs can get excited about the sights and sounds of Halloween or they can get anxious and frightened by them. Either way, there are a lot of things we can do to help them through the holiday safely and with as little discomfort as possible.

Costumes

Halloween means costumes, parties and scary things that can go bump in the night. So, first let us talk about costumes. Some dogs like to play dress up, but many of them don't like wearing anything more than a collar or harness. You know your dog best, so you should use your own judgement when it comes to dressing your dog up for Halloween. We recommend that you don't put a costume on your dog unless you know she loves wearing them. If your dog likes it, there are some things that you should keep in mind when deciding on her costume. You want to make sure that it is not obscuring her vision, breathing, movement or ability to eat, drink or bark. You should also make sure that you can attach a leash while she's in costume. One other thing is to make sure there aren't anything that she might want to chew on. No fringe or dangling parts.

Decorations

If you decorate your home for Halloween, please make sure that the decorations are dog friendly and not where the dog can get into trouble with them. Dogs like to investigate shiny things, so make certain that anything that reflects light or emits light is out of reach. Keep wires out of reach to avoid electrocution if the dog tries to chew on them. If you carve fresh pumpkins, please do not place candles in them if your dog has access to them. Dogs generally like pumpkin and if they accidentally knock over a pumpkin with a candle, they can get burned or even start a house fire. And the same goes for candles you might place around the house.

Parties

Now that your house is festively decorated, it's time to invite people for a party. Some dogs take increased activity in stride. Some can become extremely anxious, frightened, stressed out or even fearful. Once again, you know your dog best. But even some dogs that generally tolerate commotion can react badly to people wearing costumes. So, we would recommend that you have a safe place to secure your dog inside the house while the party is in full swing. Also, make sure that your guests know not to give your dog any treats or food.

Sweet Treats In Your Home

The candy bowl is for trick-or-treaters, not Scruffy or Fluffy. Several popular Halloween treats are toxic to pets. Chocolate in all forms—especially dark or baking chocolate—can be very dangerous for cats and dogs, and sugar-free candies containing the sugar substitute xylitol, which is extremely toxic, can cause serious problems or death to your pets. If you suspect your pet has ingested something toxic, please call your veterinarian or the **ASPCA Poison Control Center** at (888) 426-4435 immediately.



This is a photo shoot with well-behaved dogs is cute...
but these costumes are NOT dog friendly!

Trick or Treating

We recommend that you leave your dog home if you are taking your children trick or treating. All those spooky little ghouls, ghosts and goblins running around might stress your dog beyond limits. They might bite, even if they are normally well-behaved around children. Or if they are scared, they could pull away from you and run off. But if you should decide that your dog can handle it and you want to take them out with you please watch your dog for any changes in their comfort level. If they appear to be getting stressed out, take them home immediately. Make sure that your dog has current identification tags on (please see below for an example of the information we recommend for your dog's ID tags).

Do Not Leave Dogs In The Yard

Try to make sure that your dog goes out to potty before the trick or treating starts. Do not leave your dog outside unattended after dark. Vicious pranksters have been known to tease, injure, steal, and even kill pets on Halloween night. Inexcusable? Yes! But preventable nonetheless.

Keep Dogs Away From Doors

Indoors is certainly better than outdoors on Halloween, but your door will be constantly opening and closing, and strangers will be on your doorstep dressed in unusual costumes. This, of course, can be scary for our furry friends, which can result in escape attempts or unexpected aggression. Putting your dog or cat in a secure crate or room away from the front door will reduce stress and prevent them from darting outside into the night...a night when no one wants to be searching for a lost loved one.

ID's Please

As we previously mentioned... please keep current ID tags on your dogs at all times. When you adopted your dog from us he or she came with a Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado ID tag, which you should keep on their collar as an additional ID and contact. You also had to put your tag on the dog before they came home with you. Sometimes, these are hastily done and have basic info on them. We recommend that your ID tag contain the information shown below.



We recommend the words "Needs Meds – Reward" to appeal to people's sense of compassion or greed. Even if your dog doesn't need medicine, people will be less inclined to keep a sick dog or one that might need expensive medicine and are thus more prone to contacting the owner. A lot of people will succumb to greed if they think there's money in it and will call to get the cash. Even though you say you are offering a reward, it doesn't necessarily have to be cash!



A Note From The President...

I have told people for many years to please do NOT donate to the Humane Society of the US (HSUS) because they do nothing for the dogs that need help with all the funds they collect. Here is a new article that HSUS has been downgraded to a D as a charity. They also are siphoning off funds from local shelters. HSUS is incredibly wealthy and they cheat! And they do not use those many, many millions for shelter animals. The last article I read recently stated that HSUS has not even spayed or neutered a dog, cat, puppy or kitten. SO, what do they do?

If you don't believe me, read the following. So many people at HSUS dedicated to raising money, but never to use it for rescue! Please give to better charities or your local shelter, or even Dalmatian Rescue of CO because you know that every dime donated goes to paying board, vet bills, transports, etc.

- Beth White
President, Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc.

Humane Society of the United States Using Keywords to Deceive Donors

According to newly-obtained data, the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is engaged in deceptive fundraising tactics taking money intended for local pet shelters.

An analysis of Google keywords finds more than 60 keywords used by HSUS are aimed at siphoning off donations from local organizations including the Humane Society of Miami, the Humane Society of North Myrtle Beach, and the Humane Society of New York. A full list of keywords is available for [download here](#).

When a user searches for one of the keywords, it triggers an HSUS ad as a sponsored link, taking priority and top-level placement in the search engine results. Though no local humane societies are affiliated with HSUS, it's clear that HSUS is using the similarity in name to deceive and take advantage of those who are uninformed.

It is not known how long this practice has been in effect.

The respected charity evaluator CharityWatch recently downgraded HSUS to a "D" grade. Earlier this year, Charity Navigator also downgraded its rating of HSUS, while the BBB's Wise Giving Alliance pulled its accreditation of HSUS. Tax records reveal that HSUS has placed over \$50 million in Caribbean accounts.

Without any pushback or further exposure, HSUS will likely continue fundraising off the hard work of shelter workers who are actually helping animals.

For the full blog post, [click here](#).



Editor's Note: I have left this article in for a second month because I feel it is worth repeating. If you want to donate to an organization that is dedicated to helping animals in need, please research them and donate to local organizations first as they are going to help out animals in your local area. Don't forget you can always donate to [Dalmatian Rescue of CO!!](#)

Recent Adoptees!

Photo Not Available Chief4 Erie, PA	Photo Not Available Elly Austin, TX	Photo Not Available Marco Encino, CA	Photo Not Available Rona Austin, TX
Photo Not Available Corky Fort Collins, CO	Photo Not Available Domino3 Reno, NV	Photo Not Available Hershey Washoe Valley, NV	Photo Not Available Oscar Denver, CO
Photo Not Available Ember Highlands Ranch, CO	Photo Not Available Ranger Eau Claire, WI	Photo Not Available Summer Austin, TX	

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



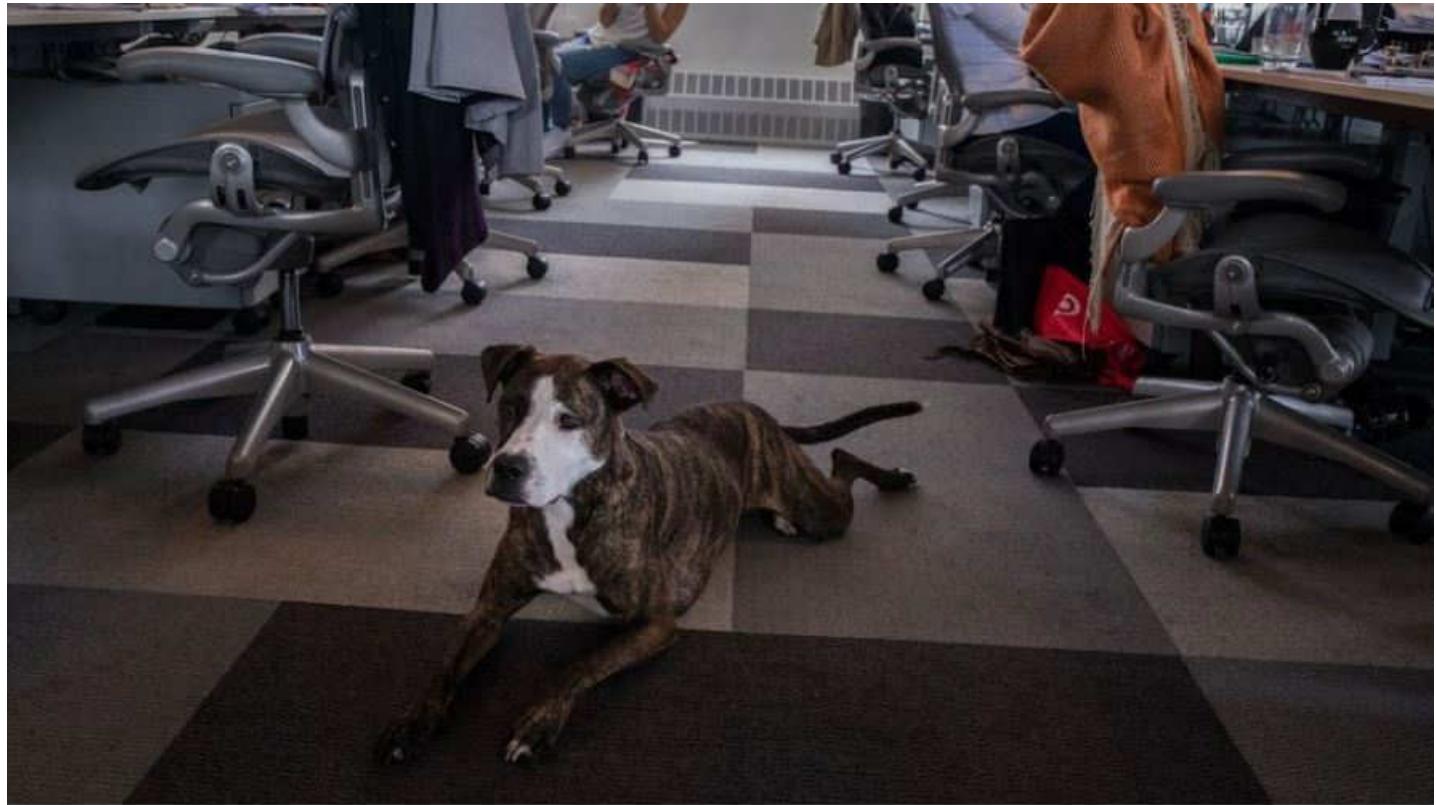
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Get Your Boss To Let You Take Your Dog To Work!



A dog visits the office of a digital marketing company in downtown Chicago. (Zbigniew Bzdak / Chicago Tribune)

Do you take your dog to work?
CAN you take your dog to work?

Want to know how to talk your boss into LETTING you take your dog to work?

According to Ladders Inc, more and more companies are “wagging their tail at the idea of dog-friendly offices, which have been scientifically proven to calm employees, while boosting morale and office interaction.”

Career and branding expert Wendi Weiner says that having dogs in the office can make you “happier, more positive, more enthusiastic about coming to work, and even friendlier.”

How to get your boss to allow YOU to bring YOUR dog to the office?

THAT is the question!

Read Ladders' take on this, "[How to Talk Your Employer into a Dog-Friendly Office,](#)" then pass it on to the Head Honcho.



Frank van Delft—Getty Images/Cultura RF

And add USA Today to the mix. In "[Dogs in the workplace: Good for you, your employees, your bottom line,](#)" they argue that dogs in the office help in recruiting and retaining employees and making it easier for employees to stay late because they don't have to rush home to walk or feed Fido.

Further, they say, having dogs in the workplace helps employees connect and communicate with one another.

In "[Why Bringing Your Dog to Work Can Be Great for \(Almost\) Everyone,](#)" Time reports that Amazon's Seattle headquarters has had dogs in the office for about 20 years and currently has over 1,000 dogs attending regularly.

Jennifer Fearing, co-author of "[Dogs at Work: A Practical Guide to Creating Dog-Friendly Workplaces,](#)" says dogs in the office encourage various departments to collaborate. The dogs, it seems, serve as social bridges.

About 11 percent of U.S. pet owners work in places that allow animals, according to the American Pet Products Association.

But, what if someone doesn't like dogs? Or worse, is allergic? (For some, that just means a runny nose, but for others... it can be life-threatening.)

Fearing proposes rules and protocols to make them more comfortable. Such as... HEPA filters, requirements to wash bedding weekly, and maintaining "Dog-Free" zones.

Still... there will always be the nay-sayers. Like Linda McCormick, writing "[Against office dogs,](#)" in The Week.

For a fair assessment of the pros and cons, see The Balance Careers piece, "[The Pros and Cons of Bringing Your Pet to Work.](#)" A plus, they say, is that a dog-friendly office improves the company image, making a company seem more progressive.

There are cons, of course... like pee pee on the carpet. Still, again, a "pet policy" and some rules go a long way...

Regardless, if you can convince your boss that dogs are cool for the bottom line... How awesome would that be to take your doggie kid to work? VERY!

'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
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A German Shepherd dog is shown sitting next to a yellow hard hat, a calculator, and a hammer on blueprints, symbolizing the practical skills taught in the manual.

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Trainer Tips

“The Complete Checklist For Evaluating Dog Boarding, Dog Kennel And Pet Sitting Options”

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Editor's Note: This article is lengthy, so it will be presented in our NewSpots! Newsletter in several parts. If you wish to get the whole article now, please follow this link <https://thelightofdog.com/the-complete-checklist-for-evaluating-dog-boarding-dog-kennel-and-pet-sitting-options/> to read the article in its entirety. And yes, while it does incorporate some self-promotion for the author's business, I feel that it contains a lot of good information that I wish I had known about during a recent vacation when I had to board my dogs briefly. This is the second part of this article.

Cleanliness

Visit New Spaces Ahead of Time

If you are not already very familiar with a place (or the people there), plan ahead and make sure you schedule a visit to a boarding location. Never consider a place without doing this first.

What to look for:

- Do the floors, walls and windows look clean and maintained?
- Does the location smell fresh and clean?
- How often is dog poop picked up?
- What is used to do spot cleaning for accidents and general facility cleaning – harsh chemicals or safer more natural items?
- How often are food and water bowls cleaned?
- Are there regulatory standards followed for cleaning?

What we do:

We vacuum regularly to pick up hair and dirt. We clean floors using Nature's Miracle Enzymatic Cleaner with a mop and bucket and do so as needed, which can range from weekly to daily depending on how many visitors we have and how much dirt is being tracked in. We use a Simple Green brand carpet cleaner. We use vinegar for all other surface cleaning.

Since dogs are lower to the ground and spend their time there, along with using their noses and sometimes eating things, we stay away from harsh chemicals that they would be more susceptible to picking up than humans. We also do not allow them in the mopped areas until they have sufficiently dried out.

We do not adhere to specific regulatory standards for cleaning as we are not a large boarding facility. We clean using common sense along with what we see and smell to help guide us.

Given the dry and sunny climate in Colorado, we keep windows open most of the time during the summer. In the winter when the weather allows, it is quite common to open windows during the day to allow for some ventilation.

We regularly check for and are extremely careful with mold growth, as Ed has a genetic disposition towards illness from biotoxins. The tool we use to help check for potential mold problems inside walls is a moisture meter.

We pick up dog poop typically daily or several times a day when we have more guests with us.

When you visit a location, you can tell a lot by the smell when you walk in. Does it smell (and look) fresh and clean? Or does it smell like chemicals? Does it smell like urine or feces? Is there a 'perfume' smell that is masking other unpleasant odors? Remember, if someone is using plug-in fresheners or sprays to mask other odors, not only is there risk they are not cleaning and ventilation properly, but there is also the risk that these 'freshener' smells can be harmful to your dogs. Remember, their noses are far more sensitive than ours.

We clean food bowls after every meal, unless the dog did not eat all the food, in which case they go in the refrigerator. Bowls get cleaned at least once per day with soap and hot water. We clean the water bowl daily with soap and hot water.

For cleaning, we use Seventh Generation Dish Soap Non-Scented.

Management of Personal Items

What to look for:

These are items the owner brings that belong to the dog, such as bedding, crates, collars, leashes, food, food bowls, toys, etc.

- How is it kept separate from other dog's stuff?
- How is it cleaned if it requires cleaning during stay?
- Make sure you list out the items that your dog might have issues with, such as chewing/ingesting stuffed or rope toys.

What we do:

We have a tack wall and each dog's collar, harness and leash gets its own hook.

We also put a guest dog's items into large plastic containers with lids to keep items secure and prevent countersurfing by other dogs.

We have a dedicated refrigerator in the kitchen area of our boarding area (separate from our personal kitchen). This makes it easy to keep refrigerated or frozen items that come with guest dogs.

Food bowls are cleaned after each meal. Water bowls are cleaned daily. Bedding and toys are cleaned as needed.

Many facilities do not allow you to bring personal items with your dog because they will get lost or destroyed. We specifically WANT people to bring items from home, such as beds and food bowls. We want dogs to settle in and feel like this is their home away from home. Bringing familiar items helps dogs to feel more at home. If nothing is familiar to them, it can be more stressful and create a less desirable experience for your dog.

Other Health and Safety Related Items

What to look for:

- Is the dog allergic to certain foods and what are they?
- Water: do the dogs have multiple sources of water? What is the water quality? Are water bowls stainless steel?
- Are birds kept away from water sources?
- What hazards exist with radio frequencies and electromagnetic radiation?
- Is there an evacuation plan in place?

What we do:

We always ask about food allergies because we often use our Peak Power Dog Treats with guests and want to make sure that the ingredients in our treat products are OK for guests. Guests are welcome and encouraged to bring their own treats, especially if dogs are on a restrictive diet.

Our water is high quality well water that we test every few years and is free of fluoride and chlorine. We only used stainless steel water bowls. Plastic and Ceramic can harbor unwanted germs and biofilms even with cleaning.

Birds do not have access to our water bowls. Water bowls are kept inside, one which is located inside the entry was to the backyard common area. During the summer or nice days when we leave the door open, dogs can come in to drink. Be careful about water kept outside that birds can access, as birds can transmit diseases to dogs via shared water sources.

RF and EMF is a growing problem with all the wireless devices we use. During the day, we need wireless to operate our business, but at night, we shut down as many devices as possible so as to minimize this issue for our guests as well as us and our own dogs.

Our biggest potential hazard where we live is wildfire. We keep the risk as low as possible through mowing and removing dead branches and trees on our property. We have water sources set up strategically throughout the property and additional equipment should a fire hazard arise. We have in place three minute, fifteen minute and two hour evacuation plans to follow should the need arise. We have a large passenger van configured to carry dogs and we can fit whatever number we have boarding at any time to evacuate quickly.

Staffing

What to look for:

- What kind of training and experience do the staff have who will be interacting with your dog? How do staff further develop and maintain their knowledge?

- In the event of a fight, do staff know the proper way to break it up?
- How many years of experience do the managers or owners have?

What we do:

The biggest area of knowledge needed is in reading and understanding Dog Body Language, which we teach in our Basic Training Class and cover in our Online Dog Training Course. Reading a dog's body language is important to understand what is going on with dog-dog interactions to prevent problems, such as guarding resources or fights. You do not want people who only react to problems. You want people who are proactive in preventing problems before they happen.

Sue is a highly skilled and experienced dog trainer and behavior consultant with over 20 years of experience. Ed, while not a dog trainer, has received extensive training from Sue in regard to reading dog body language and what things to look out for. And he has over a decade of experience in handling dogs. While we carefully screen dogs to prevent the risk of fights, there is always a risk when there are multiple dogs. If a fight should happen we know the best way to break it up to minimize risks to everyone involved. We have been boarding dogs since 2007.

Dog To Staff Ratio

What to look for:

- Colorado law requires ratios to not exceed 15-1 of dogs to staff in play environment.

What we do:

We believe a 15-1 ratio is too many dogs. If there is a serious problem, there is no way one person can keep 15 dogs safe. We never exceed 7-1 ratio, and that high number may occur on a day when new ones are coming and previous guests are leaving. If both of us are here, that is 7-2. We typically board two to four dogs at any one time with up to six on overlap. We also have the advantage of knowing almost all the dogs that stay with us, as they came to us originally through training. This allows us to make sure that whatever dogs we have at any given time are a good match for the group.

First Aid and Health Services

What to look for:

- Has staff been trained, and do they maintain their knowledge in dog first aid?
- Are first aid kits onsite, and are they maintained?
- How close are 24-hour emergency veterinary services?

What we do:

We have taken both an in-person/classroom style dog first aid class and stay refreshed using an online course.

We maintain a first aid kit that is actually both for humans and dogs. We inspect it annually and replace any items that are due to expire before the next annual maintenance review. We keep ours in a 50-cubic inch backpack so that we can quickly grab it and take it with us.

We keep a list of all vets within close proximity to us, as well as 24-hour veterinary hospitals, as most vet clinics are not open 24-hours. The downside to being in a rural area is that we do need to drive a bit farther if we need an after-hours emergency clinic. However, we know exactly where they are located, and we maintain their information in our phones so that we can call them as needed.

Monitoring

What to look for:

- When is staff present and when not?
- How are dogs monitored?
- Are there processes in place for who does what kind of monitoring?
- What equipment is used to monitor dogs?
- Are dogs monitored at meal times?
- Do they receive a body check daily?

What we do:

We are present almost 24-hours a day onsite, but at night when we sleep, our guest dogs are kenneled, restricted to our kitchen or in some sort of enclosure. One or the other of us is almost always in here, as we coordinate our schedules that way. However, once in a while we might both be gone for a couple hours. (We do once in a while need a "date lunch" out!) Most dogs spend far more time alone in their own homes than they do when they stay with us.

When dogs are out, they can roam free throughout our boarding area and if the weather is nice, outside to our fenced back yard. Most of the time one of us is in the boarding area. Ed's office is located within the boarding section, and most of the time dogs are hanging out with him where he typically spends his work days.

We use these security web cams set up to give us full visibility into all the indoor and outdoor areas of our boarding facility. So even if dogs are outside playing and we are inside, we can keep an eye on them via the security cams.

When we are not in the house or are asleep, dogs are kenneled or otherwise secured. A few of our long-time boarders that we know may get free access when we are not there, but that is not the norm. We can also access our security cams from our phones. While some locations might advertise "kennel free" environments, and that might seem ideal, unsupervised dogs should be kept safe. Running loose is not the safest option.

It is important to monitor dogs when they are eating and digesting to watch for bloat, which is life threatening if medical attention is not quickly received. We either stay with them when they are eating and digesting or we use our security cams to keep an eye on them. Playing and running immediately after eating significantly increases the risk of bloat.

We perform quick body checks daily to see if there are any foxtails or other items stuck to them, if they have any nicks, scratches or other abrasions incurred during play or if there are any other visible issues that do not look normal. We also monitor stools to help determine if everyone is feeling well and food is digesting properly.

Boarding Facility Criteria, Registration and Intake/Drop Off Boarding Service Level

What to look for:

As we listed above, boarding services can be categorized as follows:

- a pet sitter in your own home
- a home with a family member, friend or neighbor;
- a home that you found through an online service that links you up with another to look after your dog;
- a professional that operates boarding for a few dogs in a home-style environment;
- a facility that operates boarding for many dogs in commercial office/warehouse environment.

What kind

- What level of care do you want?
- Is a boarding service with other dogs at the same time as your OK with you?
- Does your dog have special considerations due to health or other issues that need to be taken into consideration?

Once further up this list may generally be better able to provide more specialized services you seek, but you have to know what you want and do your research.

What we do:

Our criteria is that dogs must be fully house-trained, crate trained, dog friendly and people friendly. We are not able to take dogs with aggression issues, dogs that can jump over a 6-foot fence, or dogs with separation anxiety issues. All dogs must be current on age appropriate vaccinations. We do not currently take young puppies or young dogs with destructive tendencies. We are not the right fit for all dogs.

We offer a home-style environment where dogs are hanging out with us and doing what they usually want as they would in your own home. We also try to follow whatever specific dog training standards the owner wants for their dogs while they are with us, such as waiting to be released for meals or through doors for walks. We treat all dogs who stay with us like part of our family so that the owners do not have to worry about them while on their travels. We want dogs and humans to be happy and stress free. Owners can enjoy and focus on their travels if they know their dogs are happy and well cared for.

Registration Information

What to look for:

Boarding service providers should require you to complete some sort of registration to get information from you. They need information to help provide the level of care that you want so review those intake forms ahead of time to get a sense if they are asking you the right questions. Anyone who takes your dog with no questions asked is a big red flag. Your dog might be easy-going and have no issues, but what about other dogs staying there?

What we do:

Our boarding registration form is [here](#).

Intake/Drop Off

What to look for:

- What are you required to bring with your dog?
- Is there a specific drop off time and pickup time that needs to be followed or is a general time frame allowed?
- What happens at drop off? How is the dog introduced to other dogs?

What we do:

We list the items owners need or are allowed to bring in our boarding registration form [here](#).

We ask owners to drop off and pick up at a specific time, or let us know ahead of time if that needs to change. We do this because we keep our gate closed and locked for safety. We only open gates when clients are scheduled to arrive.

At drop off, we remove other boarding guests from our main boarding room where we do intake. We usually let the new dog settle into the boarding room by letting them explore. For introductions, we have a 6-foot chain link fence and gate that separates an area outside our backyard door with the rest of the yard. We typically put other boarding guests outside this gate so that the new boarding dog can freely go out the door to see and sniff the other dogs through the fence, but come back in if they are not yet ready to interact with the other dogs. Some dogs are ready to interact right away. Others do best if they can acclimate more slowly. We adjust to meet the needs of each dog.

Routines

Play

What to look for:

- How are the dogs mixed and matched for play?
- When are they separated from play or given breaks?

What we do:

We typically allow all of our guests to play together. Once in a while, certain guests do not match well so we will keep them separated. We carefully observe dog body language and interactions to intervene early if we see dogs getting too amped up or are being too stressed. We will redirect or separate as needed to prevent escalations.

We do not use squirt bottles, water or other punishment-based methods as we feel that is not the appropriate way to handle dog-dog interactions. We never use choke chains, prong collars or shock collars. We will interrupt inappropriate or over-the-top behaviors and help redirect dogs to more appropriate things to do. We physically separate them if needed, but most can be easily redirected. If there is a lot of activity, we make sure there are down times when everyone can relax and rest. Non-stop activity all day can cause too much stress which can lead to crabby dogs later in the day. That makes a fight far more likely. We make sure play is broken up with rest breaks so everyone stays on their best behavior and no one gets overly tired.

We also do not allow dogs to play with collars on, to minimize the risk of a dog getting caught in another dog's collar and accidentally choking the other dog.



Kona and Sally napping in the office, while Gracie, Coda, Winnie and Zuzu take a break outside.

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/>).

“The World Through Dexter’s Eyes

- The Foibles of a Too Big, Deaf Dalmatian and the Power of Love”

Dexter comes into the world with many problems, and he turns his family's life upside down. Outside and lonely, he pulls the siding off the house, destroys the back door, chews up the cable wires and wood patio furniture. Inside, he does more of the same. He appears to not be trainable, so out of frustration, Mom contacts a dog whisperer who tells her Dexter died in a storm in a past life. And when he could not find his family on the other side, he grabbed the first body back, into the world, to try again.

There is something very familiar about this story to Mom. Then again, maybe she just feels sorry for the poor deaf guy. Whatever, Mom has tremendous compassion towards Dexter, and there was never such a bond between master and dog; one so strong, he telepathically conveys his story, to her.

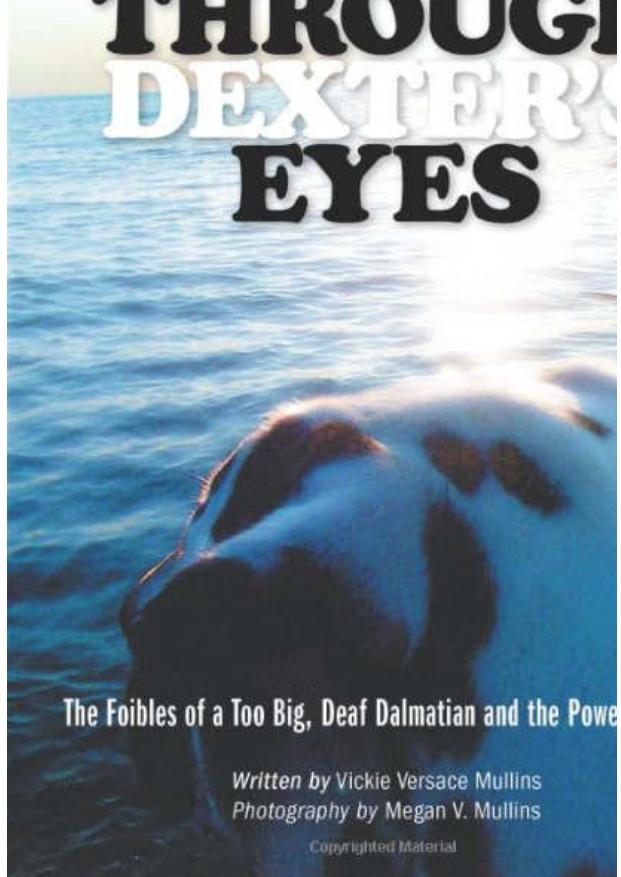
This book is funny, sad, sweet and deep and a little inverted as it is from Dexter's point of view. For all his antics, he is redeemed as all he wants to do on this earth is love. And it isn't until he and Mom figure out the riddle the dog whisperer presented to them, that Dexter becomes the dog he was meant to be. Then miracles happen; grannies die, daughters go away to school, marriages fall apart, but love prevails.

About the author

Vickie Versace Mullins is a bubbly spirit who prefers laughing through life rather than all the other alternatives. She has a B.A. in English Literature from Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio. She is a poet, and Dexter's story is her first attempt at prose. She has published poems in various local literary magazines. She lives with her family in Cleveland, Ohio.

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THE WORLD THROUGH DEXTER EYES



"The World Through Dexter's Eyes ~ The Foibles of a Too Big, Deaf Dalmatian and the Power of Love" by Victoria Mullins, is a book we all should read to understand deafness and how it is not the worst thing. There are many sites on-line to order the book and a portion of the proceeds are most generously donated to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado. Thank you, Victoria! – Beth White

What a delightful read and clearly written from the heart. This is a true story as told to us through the eyes of Dexter a Deaf Dalmatian who, as it turns out, is a larger-than-life character in more ways than one. This author's ability to entertain us when sharing our lives with a beloved pet, cannot be understated as she makes it so easy for us to make connections. Whether there is a pet in your life or not, Dexter's story will warm your heart and you will catch yourself chuckling out loud at his exploits as well as at the vulnerability of mankind when it comes to life with a pet. You come to realize that what one person deems useless will make another person's life perfect. And, as if that is not enough, this author has kindly donated proceeds from the book to Dalmatian and animal rescue, so you are passively doing a good deed when you read it... Clearly, this is a win win situation and a story to add to your "must read" list. – Michele Winner

Please help support Dalmatian Rescue and get yourself (and a friend) this really great book!

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 dalguy@comcast.net for inclusion in the next issue.

No Reader Recommendations and Tips this time around...

If you have some to share, please let me know!!

Lisa checking out the neighborhood!



I was looking through my pictures of Lisa and found these. They are some of my favorites. She is not standing on anything on the other side of the fence. When she was younger, she would jump up and grab the top of the fence and hang there while she looked around. Once she was satisfied that things were good outside the fence, she would hop down back into the yard. I never once worried about her going over the fence even though she could easily have gone over. She just wanted to see what was going on out in the neighborhood.

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Kim is your caring and compassionate pet providers who treat your furry/feathered family members as one of my own. Fresh water provided each day, provide exterior access for the dog to do their business. Texting the pet parent's updates on their "kids." Medications given as needed per parent's request. Your pets are treated as a beloved family member. Pet Sitting, Dog Walking, Dog obedience & Behavioral Training available.

Proudly serving from the South end of Fort Collins to Berthoud, Masonville to Johnstown.

Kim is an American Kennel Club certified Puppy S.T.A.R Trainer, Canine Good Citizen Evaluator, Community Canine Evaluator and Urban Canine Evaluator.

I am offering a free hour of service; dog walking or training, for adopters from Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado within my service area. Please see my website for additional information and rates beyond this free hour. Offer expires Dec 01, 2018.



In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians

Brodie and Peaches

Brodie

3 Years Old, Black Neutered Male

Reason Available: Owner Surrender

Foster Home: Fountain, CO

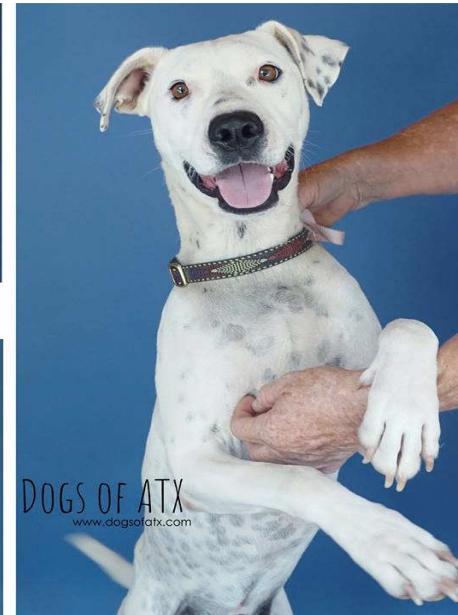
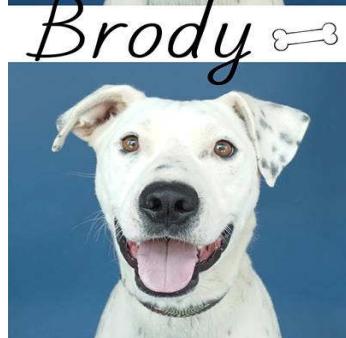
Peaches

3 Years Old, Black Spayed Female

Reason Available: Owner Surrender

Foster Home: Fountain, CO

URGENT!! Brodie is one handsome guy and Peaches is a purdy dog; a bonded pair of Dalmatian Wannabe's left behind in a Texas shelter when the family moved away. So tragic that these two wonderful family dogs nearly died in the shelter. Both Brodie and his best bud Peaches loved their kids 5-12 yrs old, were good with Chihuahuas in the last home and good with the cats there too. We can't say enough good about these guys! They were left to their fate in the shelter which was nearly an early death. Brodie is black and white although he doesn't have many body spots. His tummy is sure spotted tho! This sweetheart loves belly rubs too and to be with a person. Brodie is totally housebroken, uses the dog door, and is crate trained. He is friendly with all the foster dogs he has met and is really a quiet little guy. A lap lover if there ever was one! Brodie does enjoy his Kongs with peanut butter or hot dogs. His best buddy, Peaches is a beautiful liver and white color, when you see the spots (and they are there). She is trim and in great condition. She is an absolute sweetheart. She loves belly rubs and to be with a person. She is totally housebroken, uses the doggy door, and is crate trained. She is getting better on leash, is friendly with all the foster dogs and comes nicely when called. Peaches is a real jewel, and don't you just love her black lipstick? This pair is **TOTALLY** bonded, and we hope they go together. If one of them goes somewhere the other one is glued to that one's side! They are excellent house dogs, excellent pets, such sweet lovers and just fun to be around. They are insanely happy too. They will make you laugh! For more information, contact Lynn at hossvettec@gmail.com. The **BONDED** pair is available for the price of one. Adoption \$250. 970-226-2844 Beth. To see these guys in action visit
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/TfdGjtRqKST2fdUk7>.



Remember...
The adoption for this PAIR is \$250...
Two dogs for the price of one!!!!

Happy Beginnings Stories

Nova

We feel like we hit the jackpot with this sweet, lovable girl. We adopted her in April and she adjusted to her new home in Wisconsin very quickly. She has made great pals with our Rhodesian Ridgeback, Tuck. They are inseparable! It is so fun watching them play together. When they go for walks they wait for each other to catch up — they like to be side-by-side. Attached is a picture of them together at the dog park. We would like to express our gratitude to Beth White and the Gauthier family for allowing us to have this new joy in our lives.

— Jean M.
Port Washington, WI



Blue



My wife, Jean, and I have been in love with Dalmatians since we adopted our first back in 1996. We bought Dilly from a friend whose son could not keep her in his apartment while he was at work. Over the intervening years we adopted three more Dals. Two of them were puppies, Stoker and Mesa, who came from Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado. Dilly became a surrogate mom to both Stoker and Mesa. When Dilly passed in the fall of 2011 at the age of 16 1/2 years, we found an 8-year-old female through Dalmatian Rescue of New Mexico. Perdy had been over-weight when they got her but thanks to a diet they put her on, she soon returned to normal weight. But unfortunately, she also had heartworm which we had our vet treat when we got her back to Colorado. She responded well to the slow-kill treatment and she and Mesa became quite the pair, going everywhere together.

When Beth White heard that our 14 1/2-year-old Perdy had to cross the Rainbow Bridge last July, she quickly reached out to us to help us find a new Dal for our home. Unfortunately, we were in the midst of remodeling our home and could not adopt right away. When we finally could adopt, we saw a handsome black-and-white male named Blue2 on the website. We arranged a visit with his foster family, the Gauthiers, at the end of August. Meeting Blue for the first time, we saw he also had a weight problem. (79 lbs!) We took 10-year-old Mesa along with us and at first, she was a little intimidated by his size. Beth called him a "Big Galoot". She also said that he has had four other homes in less than three years. He was split up in a divorce, been on Craigslist and had two other owners before we were lucky enough to get him. He was just approaching his third birthday. Jean and I agreed that we liked him, and we could work the weight off him and brought him home. He has settled in nicely and is very smart. While he still pulls a little on the leash, he quickly falls back when you call his name and will walk beside me with the leash slack. He retrieves frisbees and balls and drops them at my feet when told. He even sits still while we brush and clean his teeth. And yes, he is a true velcro dog that likes to follow us everywhere and cuddle on the couch with us. It didn't take long before we knew that our home would be his fifth and forever home.

Although he is bigger and younger than Mesa, she has established herself as the alpha dog in our home. Unfortunately, we do have to keep our guinea pigs in a closed room as Blue has shown aggressiveness toward them. Once again, we want to thank Beth and everyone at Dalmatian Rescue for helping us find another wonderful Dalmatian for our family. The fifth time is the charm!

— Bill and Jean D.
Poncha Springs, Colorado

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

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