

Happy New Year!



As we begin the New Year, we here at Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado want to wish you a very Happy New Year filled with LOTS of SPOTS, wagging tails and puppy love. We hope that you will be able to help us make this a successful year filled with wonderful new homes for all our spotted friends who began this year homeless. It is our mission to find each and every dog in our program a home that they can call their own that will truly be a forever home.

We seem to be off to a great start but there is, obviously, a long way to go. And we cannot do it without the assistance of each and every one of you. Whether you are fostering, adopting, transporting, vetting, or any of the numerous other tasks that go into the rescue and rehoming of our dogs... you are a key part of our success. Here's to a very successful 2019!

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A COYOTE WHILE WALKING YOUR DOG

Written by Jaymi Heimbuch and originally from the Urban Coyote Initiative website (www.urbancoyoteinitiative.com)

Many urban residents see coyotes or have interactions with coyotes while out walking their dog. Coyotes are rarely interested in humans, but add a dog to the mix and their interest is piqued. Larger dogs may be viewed as competition or threat, while smaller dogs may be viewed as potential prey.

When it comes to urban coyotes, what most parks officials will tell you is that keeping the peace isn't about managing coyotes, it's about managing people. If urban residents know what to expect and how to alter their behavior to avoid interactions with coyotes, conflicts can be dramatically reduced.

Four basic rules for walking dogs in coyote territory

1. Keep your dog on a 6-foot leash.

This length is long enough to let your dog have some freedom but not so long that you can't easily control your dog should you need to, especially at a moment's notice. Retractable leashes are of little help to a dog owner, since it is very difficult to reel your dog back in if they are pulling on a long line way ahead of you.

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2. **Avoid areas known to have coyote activity, especially during breeding and pupping season.**
If there are signs posted or you've heard neighbors report coyotes sighted in a certain area, make the common-sense decision to avoid walking your dog in those areas. This is especially important during the pupping season when mother and father coyotes will be more defensive of their den sites.
 3. **Stick to trails and open paths and avoid areas with thick brush.**
Going off trail, following game trails or heading into areas where there is thick brush lining the path increases your chances of running into a coyote. Staying on trail in open areas gives you plenty of time to spot and react to a coyote.
 4. **Avoid walking your dog at sunrise and sunset hours.**
Coyotes are naturally active during the day, though urban coyotes usually switch to nocturnal behavior. Either way, they are often active at twilight hours. If you're walking your dog during sunrise or sunset, be aware that it increases your chances of an interaction with a coyote.

If you follow these simple rules, you're way ahead of the game in enjoying a quiet walk with your dog with little chance of seeing, let alone interacting with a coyote. Truly, the most important rule is simply following all leash laws. Even if there is an area of open space where dogs are allowed off leash, unleash your dog **ONLY** if your dog has a solid and reliable recall. This simple behavior alone would send the number of dog-coyote conflicts plummeting.

Unfortunately, not everyone is going to abide by leash laws, nor will many people stop using retractable leashes that allow a small dog to wander a dozen feet or more away from their owner – far enough for a coyote to feel minimal threat from a human while eying the small dog as a possible meal. Large natural areas that welcome off-leash dogs are also welcoming to coyotes, and thus create the possibility for dog-coyote interactions and conflict

In these areas and situations with a higher likelihood of running into coyotes, it is important to know to do if you come across one.

What To Do If You And Your Dog Encounter A Coyote

1. **Leash your dog.**
Pick up and carry small dogs. It is important to have full control over your dog so that they do not run toward, away from, or otherwise engage the coyote.
2. **Stand tall and assertive.**
Coyotes are wary of humans and your presence is usually enough to drive off a coyote. Maintain eye contact. Do not turn your back on the coyote and do not run. Running away can trigger a coyote's prey drive and may cause him or her to chase you.
3. **Haze the coyote until it leaves the area.**
This may come easy to some but to others seem abusive or unkind. But every coyote advocate will agree, the kindest thing you can do for a coyote is to scare it away, especially if he or she is overly curious about dogs. Keeping up a coyote's natural fear of humans is the only way to keep urban coyotes alive, for a coyote that becomes too brazen is sure to end up euthanized.

Outside of pupping season (or, between the months of August and January) haze the coyote by yelling, stomping your feet, shaking a jacket or noise maker, popping an umbrella, flashing a flashlight, tossing rocks or branches at the ground near the coyote and anything else that will frighten the coyote off. If the coyote freezes, or runs a little away and turns to watch you again, continue hazing and moving toward the coyote until he or she leaves the area entirely. Then calmly and assertively walk out of the area.

If it is breeding and pupping season (which is between the months of February and July) you may be near a den and considered a threat. It is important not to haze coyotes as normal, because coyotes will defend their den site and you'll only be escalating a situation, causing undue stress on the coyote and potentially forcing the coyote to act out defensively. During these months, the best thing to do is to slowly and calmly walk away without ever turning your back on the coyote. Stay tall and assertive as you leave the area, even if it means walking backwards. Coyotes will sometimes follow you for a distance to escort you out of their territory, and turning your back may invite them to come in closer to hurry you on your way. Maintaining eye contact and an assertive and an assertive posture keeps things balanced by letting the coyote know they do not have the upper hand while still respecting the coyote's defense of their den site.

4. **Report overly brazen coyotes.**
If a coyote comes too close, follows you for too long, acts overly assertive or does not respond to hazing, report the coyote to city authorities. The coyote may have become habituated to humans or is being fed by someone, which can result in aggressive behavior or, as unfortunately is often the case, may have to be removed.

The media is rather one-sided when it comes to coyotes, reporting with sensationalistic fervor all the instances that coyotes have conflicts with pets, but ignoring the instances where an encounter is harmless, or a coyote is actually defending itself or territory against an intruding dog, rather than being the aggressor. This results in myths and misconceptions about life among coyotes.

While there can be misunderstanding about what is happening during an encounter, what is readily apparent is that the best thing for humans, dogs and coyotes living in the same area is to minimize the possibility of an encounter. Play your role in maintaining a coyote's fear of humans, and by extension, maintaining their distance from pets.

More Ways To Keep Your Pet Safe

In addition to knowing what to do when your dog is on leash, you can also take steps to keep coyotes away from your neighborhood and your pets safe at home. These steps include:

- Do not let your pet outside alone, especially at night.
- Do not keep pet food outside.
- Haze coyotes every time you see them, regardless of if you have a pet with you (unless it is during pupping season).
- Avoid having any attractants in your yard, which means picking up fallen fruit from trees, cleaning the BBQ grill, securing lids on trash cans, covering your compost piles, and removing anything else that might be a food, water or shelter source for coyotes.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A COYOTE WHILE WALKING YOUR DOG

Leash your dog.
Pick up and carry small dogs.

Report overly brazen coyotes.
Notify your local Animal Care and Control or Humane Society.

Stand tall and assertive.
Maintain eye contact.
Scare the coyote away by yelling, stomping, waving your arms, or shaking a jacket.
Then calmly walk out of the area.

"If it is pupping season (February-July) you may be near a den and considered a threat. Instead of hazing, calmly walk away without turning your back on the coyote."



the
URBAN COYOTE
INITIATIVE

UrbanCoyoteInitiative.com

What Dog Owners Need to Know About the FDA's Grain-Free Diet Alert

The [FDA launched an investigation](#) into potential links between canine heart disease and diet — specifically grain-free diets. We've compiled the information you need to know to understand this recent development.

What is the FDA Investigating?

It is easy to jump to conclusions anytime we see an FDA headline about pet food. After all, our dog's health is important to us, and we know that diet can make a big difference in a dog's wellbeing. We reached out to Dr. Jerry Klein, the Chief Veterinary Officer of the AKC, to hear his thoughts on the investigation.

“The FDA is investigating a potential dietary link between canine dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) and dogs eating certain grain-free pet foods. The foods of concern are those containing legumes such as peas or lentils, other legume seeds, or potatoes listed as primary ingredients. The FDA began investigating this matter after it received a number of reports of DCM in dogs that had been eating these diets for a period of months to years. DCM itself is not considered rare in dogs, but these reports are unusual because the disease occurred in breeds of dogs not typically prone to the disease.”

After the advisory, 149 new cases of DCM were reported to the FDA.

What is Dilated Cardiomyopathy?

Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) is a type of canine heart disease that affects the heart muscle. The hearts of dogs with DCM have a decreased ability to pump blood, which often results in congestive heart failure.

Some breeds, especially large and giant breeds, have a predisposition to DCM. These breeds include [Doberman Pinschers](#), [Great Danes](#), [Newfoundlands](#), [Irish Wolfhounds](#), and [Saint Bernards](#). While DCM is less common in medium and small breeds, [English](#) and [American Cocker Spaniels](#) are also predisposed to this condition.

When early reports from the veterinary cardiology community indicated that recent, atypical cases in breeds like [Golden Retrievers](#), [Labrador Retrievers](#), [Whippets](#), [Bulldogs](#), and [Shih Tzus](#) all consistently ate grain alternatives in their diets, the FDA took notice.

Should you be Concerned About Grain-Free Diets?

According to Dr. Klein, “At this time, there is no proof that these ingredients are the cause of DCM in a broader range of dogs, but dog owners should be aware of this alert from the FDA. The FDA continues to work with veterinary cardiologists and veterinary nutritionists to better understand the effect, if any, of grain-free diets on dogs.”

In the Dec. 1 version of the [Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association](#), Lisa M. Freeman, DVM, PhD, DACVN, provided an update to the research on DCM and emphasized the issue is not just grain-free diets. She calls the suspected diets “BEG” diets (boutique companies, exotic ingredients, or grain-free diets).

“The apparent link between BEG diets and DCM may be due to ingredients used to replace grains in grain-free diets, such as lentils or chickpeas, but also may be due to other common ingredients commonly found in BEG diets, such as exotic meats, vegetables, and fruits,” Freeman wrote.

Freeman emphasizes that although there appears to be an association between DCM and BEG diets, the relationship has not yet been proven, and other factors may be equally or more important.

As a general rule of thumb, the best thing you can do for your dog's dietary health is to consult your veterinarian, not the internet. Together you can weigh the pros and cons of your dog's diet and if necessary monitor your dog for signs of DCM.

Editor's Note: This article originally appeared on the American Kennel Club website (www.akc.org). While this article does not specifically mention the Dalmatian breed, it should be noted that as many foods go to a grain-free formula they are adding more vegetables. Remember that pea and chickpea protein is NOT good for Dalmatians as they are a high uric acid source.

Do You Know About The Latest Dog Food Recalls?

If not, I recommend that you sign up for alerts from the great folks at Dog Food Advisor. They are where we get our recall alerts! I cannot recommend them enough if you want timely and informative recall alerts.

You can sign up for their email alerts at <https://www.dogfoodadvisor.com/dog-food-recall-alerts>.



Xylitol

Warning!!!!



Once again, I am reminding everyone about the dangers of Xylitol. If you haven't seen my past articles or any articles on this dangerous substance... **FOR THE LIFE OF YOUR DOG, PLEASE READ THIS!**

Xylitol is a substance most commonly used as an artificial sweetener in sugar-free gums and candies. But since it is so effective at replacing sugar, it has found its way into other foods as well. You can now find it in some peanut butters. Thankfully it hasn't made it (as far as I know, at the time of this writing) into the 'mainstream' peanut butter brands like Jif, Peter Pan or Skippy. It can also be found in other items like medicines and cosmetics. I recently learned that it is an ingredient in the Biotene product line (for dry mouth relief). Some other common items that use Xylitol are toothpastes, baking powders, multivitamin compounds, chocolate, food storage containers, breath fresheners, moisturizing nasal washes. Please read the ingredient lists every time you buy any of these products and do not allow any product with Xylitol into your house!

Xylitol toxicity can kill a dog in very short order. Many veterinarians are not familiar with Xylitol toxicity and will treat the symptoms (which present like so many other non-life-threatening maladies) and the dog may end up dying because it was not treated properly. Signs of toxicity can be seen as quickly as 15 to 30 minutes after Xylitol ingestion.

Xylitol produces toxins that destroy the liver by way of rapid insulin release which causes a sudden decrease in blood glucose. Symptoms of Xylitol poisoning include vomiting, followed by symptoms associated with the sudden lowering of your dog's blood sugar level such as decreased activity or lethargy, weakness, staggering, incoordination, black-tarry stool, jaundice, malaise, collapse, tremors, seizures and even coma or death.

If your dog has ingested (or is suspected of ingesting) Xylitol, contact your veterinarian or animal emergency clinic immediately. Be prepared to tell them how much Xylitol (or product containing Xylitol) the consumed, how long since your dog ingested it, approximately how much your dog weighs, and any symptoms your dog is having.

Key Facts

- Dogs that ingest >0.1 g/kg of xylitol are at risk for developing hypoglycemia.
- Dogs that ingest >0.5 g/kg are at risk for developing hepatotoxicosis and acute liver failure.
- Hypoglycemia usually occurs within 30 to 60 minutes after ingestion.
- Dogs may present with acute liver failure without initial clinical signs of hypoglycemia.
- For dogs that develop acute liver failure, the ingested dose does not appear to correlate with survival.
- For dogs that ingest 0.1 to 0.5 g/kg of xylitol, treatment consists mainly of hospitalization, monitoring and treating for hypoglycemia, and monitoring and treating for liver toxicity.
- For dogs that ingest >0.5 g/kg of xylitol, treatment consists of hospitalization, dextrose supplementation, monitoring, and treating for acute liver failure.
- The prognosis for dogs that develop uncomplicated hypoglycemia is good, whereas the prognosis for dogs that develop hepatotoxicosis and liver failure is guarded to poor.

Some products containing xylitol

Candies

Sweeteners

Chewing gums

Natural sweeteners

Toothpastes

Baking powders

Multivitamin compounds

Chocolate

Food-storage containers

Mouthwashes

Fresh-breath capsules

Moisturizing nasal wash

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: You may have seen this before, but 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 help our dogs by donating to [Dalmatian Rescue of CO!!](#)**

Recent Adoptees!

Photo
Not
Available

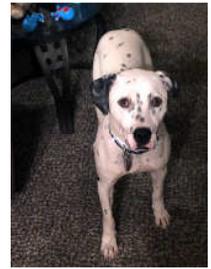
Annabelle
Salt Lake City, UT



Lillee
Westminster, CO



Toby (aka Tobias)
Centennial, CO



Damon
Box Elder, SD

Photo
Not
Available

Paisley
Knoxville, TN

Photo
Not
Available

Tessa (aka Pinky)
Westminster, CO

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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What If Your Dog Can't Get Blood When Needed?



Has your dog ever needed blood?

If he's NEVER needed blood...

What if he DOES need it some time?

Illness? Car accident? Other injury? What about Police Dogs getting injured on the job?

Hemopet – the non-profit canine blood bank in California – provides 40 percent of the nation's canine blood to Veterinarians to use in emergencies involving dogs needing blood.

PETA is threatening closure of Hemopet.

Dr. Jean Dodds – one of my Doggie Heroes – has run Hemopet for 25 years. I will let her speak for herself on how PETA is threatening your dog should he need blood in an emergency:

Dear Friend of Hemopet:

I regretfully announce that Hemopet - the non-profit canine blood bank is in peril due to an unfounded attack from PETA against our Greyhound programs that is alleging animal abuse and trying to close us down.

Lifesaving blood transfusions for dogs across America have been provided by Hemopet, the non-profit canine blood bank I started 25 years ago. Our services to you are now being endangered by these slanderous and libelous PETA accusations.

While these accusations are outright lies, they pose a threat to our ability to continue providing 40% of the nation's lifesaving canine blood. Each year our blood is used to treat about 7,000 dogs. So, the consequences of

a Hemopet closure would be disastrous to the health of pets across our nation.

Canine blood is donated by Hemopet for police, military and security dogs across the nation when they are injured or shot in the line of duty. Hemopet blood is also donated when search and rescue dogs are injured trying to save lives. For 25 years Hemopet has been able to take in and house thousands of greyhounds retired from racing and get them ready for adoption as loving family companions. During this time, these Greyhounds, which have been pre-selected for the true “universal donor” blood type, donate a pediatric unit of blood twice a month for not more than a year. Transfusions of their blood have saved tens of thousands of dogs across America. When a dog is hit by a car, in need of surgery, or has many types of illness, an immediate blood transfusion is often needed to save that life.

It is important to note that PETA’s lies about the treatment of our Greyhounds are not supported by any independent facts. Hemopet is licensed by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and subject to their annual inspections as well as visits at any other time. We have always been given exemplary reviews.

Amy Taxin of the Associated Press described her [recent Hemopet visit](#). Her article compliments our programs and services, although it doesn’t emphasize the legal California requirements for licensed “closed colony” commercial animal blood banks. These requirements provide a medically superior and safer blood supply. The safety, efficacy, logistical and cost issues of using volunteer animal blood donors is oversimplified – because they are not screened each time for transfusion-transmitted diseases before releasing the units for veterinary use.

In the State of California, individual veterinary hospitals are not allowed to operate their own community-based animal blood banks, and can only supply themselves from licensed “closed colony” commercial animal blood banks like Hemopet. They can operate a community-based animal blood bank for their own purposes, but just not distribute or sell these blood products to others. All states accept these California standards for animal blood banking, and thus we are allowed to ship our blood products throughout the US. More information can be seen on the “[Fido and Wine](#)” video link below.

Thank you for being a supporter of Hemopet. We are now celebrating 25 years of our charitable programs and services. Please help us continue our good work with a donation that will allow us to continue the care and support of our greyhounds, until they are adopted as family companions, and to assist us in being viable in defeating this outrage. 100% of your donated funds will be used for the care and well-being of our greyhounds. Please share this message with your friends.

With best regards and reverence for all life,

W. Jean Dodds, DVM

www.hemopet.org

Relevant earlier and follow up links are listed below:

AP News: [California canine blood bank disputes PETA abuse claims](#) and [photos of our Hemopet staff at our canine blood bank](#)

ABC News: [Late-Summer Shortages at Canine Blood Banks](#)

Fido and Wine TV show: [Documentary explaining Hemopet non-profit animal blood bank and greyhound adoption non-profit PETA Kills Animals](#)

The Washington Post: [At PETA’s shelter, most animals are put down. PETA calls them mercy killings](#)

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

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

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

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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 third part of this article.

Feeding

What to look for:

- How are dogs fed?
- How often?
- Do dogs require medication or have other special needs?
- For dogs who need to chew, is time provided for chewing on bones/bully sticks/ etc.?

What we do:

Depending upon the dogs, during food prep we may or may not keep them separated. We absolutely separate them when they are eating, unless the owner specifically tells us that dogs from the same household should be together.

We watch for speed of food consumption and for those dogs that eat too quickly, we use slow feeder bowls or food puzzle toys to slow them down. We then give them one hour rest before play, and for breeds that have higher risk of bloat, two hours.

We feed as often as required by the owner, but most eat twice a day.

For dogs who take medication, we administer as needed. And we are careful to store medication per instructions and to prevent other dogs from being able to get into medication. We do our best to accommodate any special needs that visiting dogs might have.

We generally ask that people include some type of safe chew item (such as bully sticks, bones, etc.) for their dogs. Some dogs need some down time, and something to chew on during those times can be helpful. When we help dogs settle down in the evening, before bedtime, we will sometimes separate out dogs and give everyone a chew that has been provided by their owners.

Exercise

What to look for:

- Besides play, or if it is not offered, what other forms of physical and mental exercise are provided, if any?
- Are supplemental training sessions available?

What we do:

We provide additional exercise as needed depending on whether or not dogs are playing. Some dogs do not play much with other dogs or just need to burn off more energy. Some dogs love to play fetch, and we do our best to accommodate those needs. (We can't play fetch ALL day, though some would really like it if we did!) Some dogs need extra mental stimulation through food puzzle toys or other options. If there is only one or two boarding guests, we will typically walk them with our dogs to give them more exercise.

While we do not offer Board & Train options, we do sometimes have clients who ask us to fit in some training sessions while their dog stays with us. Training sessions can be purchased by the hour during their stay providing Sue has time to fit in sessions during the stay.

Sleep

What to look for:

- When do dogs wake and when are they let out, and when do they go to sleep?

What we do:

We normally wake around 6:00 to 6:30 a.m. and let the dogs out. We help dogs start settling down around 8 p.m. (varies depending on the time of year and the daylight hours) and they are put to bed usually around 9 p.m.

Owner/Boarding Facility Contact

What to look for:

- How do owners get updated information about their dog during the stay?
- Are there webcams that owners can log into to see their dog?

What we do:

We maintain a boarding log on each guest that we update daily to a Google Doc. We share this link with owners so they can pop in at their convenience. Email or text messages to us are also welcome and we are happy to respond. We upload photos to this doc so owners can see photos and sometimes videos of their dogs at play or just hanging out. Some clients check in daily and some never do. Rest assured, if there are any emergencies, we will contact you as soon as possible.

We do not allow client access to our security cams.

You can see our boarding log template at the end of this article.

Costs and Other Items

Included costs vs extra costs

What to look for:

- What are all costs and are there extra costs incurred for certain services?

What we do:

We do not charge anything extra. We have a flat daily rate for our boarding and include all care as needed into that. That can include walks, extra play and attention, washing bedding if needed, providing medication if needed, etc.

The only extra cost is if people purchase additional training during their dog's stay. But the costs of general care and boarding are all included in the daily rate.

Licensing and Insurance

What to look for:

- Is the boarding service provider licensed and insured?

What we do:

We maintain proper licensing with the State of Colorado for boarding facilities through PACFA.

We maintain commercial liability insurance for our boarding operations.

Prior Medical Incidences

What to look for:

- Has the facility ever had prior incidences where the dog required veterinary medical care? Explain how it happened and how the facility can prevent that in the future.

What we do:

We have had one medical incident where a dog slipped on ice and required surgery to repair a tendon. This incident was covered by our insurance. As a result, we installed gates onto our back deck as well as barriers to slow dogs down from running onto the deck especially when it's wet or icy.

How does your dog feel about his stay?

What to look for:

If you have used this service before, is your dog happy to return?

What we have seen and clients have told us:

When our regular visitors arrive, they are excited. They can't wait to see which of their friends are here this time, or what new friends there are to make. They are rarely concerned about their people leaving.

Several owners tell us their dogs know when they are getting close to our farm because they start to get excited in the car.

We had one dog who stayed with us regularly, and one day his family returned to bring him home. When she went to leash him up to leave, he dove into one of our kennels and would not come out. He did NOT want to leave!

The dogs who stay with us regularly consider us their home away from home. And that makes their owners feel good about bringing them here. That is the kind of boarding environment we strive to create and why we do what we do.

End

Editor's Note: Once again, I wish I would have had this article when I needed boarding on my recent vacation. You can download the boarding facility checklist that takes this article and condenses it to just the headers and "what to look for" items. It is a Google Doc that you can save to your Google Drive or download in a Microsoft Word or PDF format.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/18hQeF2fPHidR3DhWJ6DpZo6p_n1R-9MFCAooYFzoqjU/edit.

I want to thank Ed Soehnel for this great tool to use in evaluating boarding facilities.

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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“The World Through Dexter’s Eyes

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

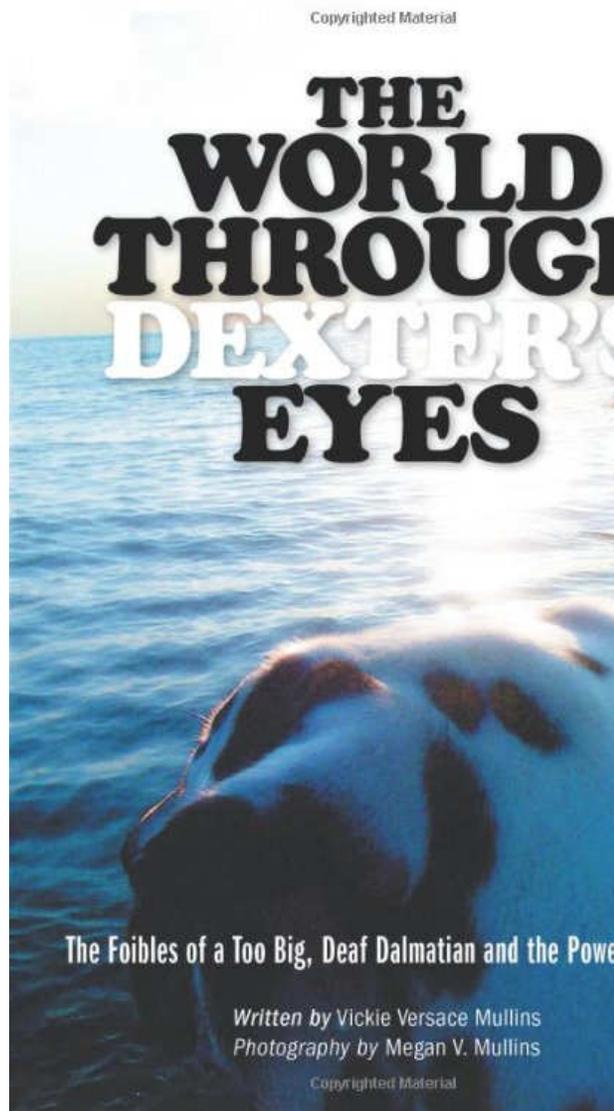
Dexter comes into the world with many problems, and he turns his family’s life upside down. Outside and lonely, he pulls the siding off the house, destroys the back door, chews up the cable wires and wood patio furniture. Inside, he does more of the same. He appears to not be trainable, so out of frustration, 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.



"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 dalquy@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 provider who treats your furry/feathered family members as one of her 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.



In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians

Cleopatra

3 Years Old, Black Spayed Female
Reason Available: Owner Surrender
Foster Home: Colorado Springs, CO

Cleo's birthday is coming up on January 23rd... her only wish is for a forever home before she turns four years old!!!

Cleopatra (Cleo) is a great little girl who loves to snuggle and sleep with you. Full of energy, she would do great with an active family and really wants an active playmate. Cleo might take a bit to warm up to some strangers, but she does warm up quickly. Sadly, no cats for Cleo. She gets along well with larger dogs but doesn't do well with smaller dogs; we were told by her previous owner. But we have seen no evidence. Cleo knows some basic commands like sit, stay and speak and is working on the rest in her foster home in Colorado Springs. She is house and kennel trained and rides well in the car. Cleo loves to give kisses, almost to the point of being obnoxious. Snuggling in bed is very important to her. Don't you need a sweet bundle of energy to keep you fit?? For more information contact Karl at dalguy@comcast.net. Adoption \$400.



Cinder4

1.5 Years Old, Black Spayed Female
Reason Available: Stray
Foster Home: Leo, IN



URGENT!

This beautiful girl is currently located in Leo, IN. She needs a home or new foster asap. Please share! Cinder is a very sweet girl still very much in a puppy mode. She was found as a stray, very thin with a few medical issues probably caused by neglect. Now she is completely healthy and looking for her forever home. She will sit for treats without being told and really loves to fetch balls. She is very playful and good with other dogs although she may play too intensely for small dogs. Cinder is house and crate trained and is not a barker. She is still in that puppy chewing stage and needs to always have a hard-chewing toy to nibble on or be crated. Otherwise she will find something on her own! If she has a chew toy, Cinder can be quite content for some time. Because of her time as a stray, she somehow lost part of her tail but it has healed and causes her no problems. Cinder would love to be your lap sitting, kissing girl! For more info, contact Kathy at kharmeyer47@msn.com. Adoption \$250.

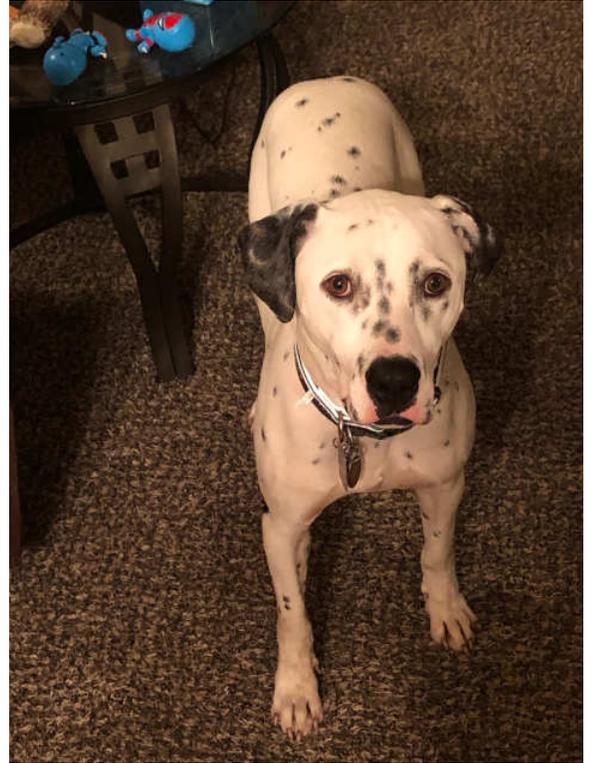
Happy Beginnings Stories

Damon

Sweet Damon joined our family in mid-December, and what a blessing he has been to us! He came with his name, which means “gentle” and “loyal friend,” and this could not be more fitting for his amazing personality. He is a complete sweetheart, cuddle bug, and goofball all rolled in to one adorable package. He previously had not had much (if any) exposure to children, but it took no time at all for him and the kiddos to become best friends. He helps wake them up in the morning with kisses and sniffs and tucks them in at night with snuggles. He loves to go on runs with me and my husband and, much to our oldest son’s delight, has recently discovered the thrill of playing fetch (our kids are convinced he’s the smartest dog in the world ~ can’t say I disagree). ;) Thanks to his great foster parents, he came to us with good manners, and he’s been quick to learn everything we’ve tried to teach him.

This wonderful dog has filled our hearts to the brim and his joyful soul radiates happiness throughout our home. We are so lucky that the wiggly, waggy bundle of joy that is Damon found his way to us! Many thanks to the Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado for our sweet boy!!!

– Charli, Russ, Nate, & Kael
Box Elder, SD



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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