

Spring Is Coming!

Spring forward!



Don't forget to set clocks ahead one hour at 2 a.m. Sunday March 10th.



Spring is officially here on March 20th. But as we all know, here in Colorado, winter weather is still hanging around for a while. So, before you start planning your first spring outings... remember that the snow can still fall well into April. Thus, we give you these helpful tips for the final days or months of winter weather in the Rockies.

Cold Weather Safety Tips

This article is reprinted from <https://www.aspc.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/cold-weather-safety-tips>



Exposure to winter's dry, cold air and chilly rain, sleet and snow can cause chapped paws and itchy, flaking skin, but these aren't the only discomforts pets can suffer. Winter walks can become downright dangerous if chemicals from ice-melting agents are licked off of bare paws. To help prevent cold weather dangers from affecting your pet's health, please heed the following advice from our experts:

- Repeatedly coming out of the cold into the dry heat of your home can cause itchy, flaking skin. Keep your home humidified and towel dry your pet as soon as he comes inside, paying special attention to his feet and in-between the toes. Remove any snow balls from between his foot pads.
- Never shave your dog down to the skin in winter, as a longer coat will provide more warmth. If your dog is long-haired, simply trim him to minimize the clinging ice balls, salt crystals and de-icing chemicals that can dry his skin, and don't neglect the hair between his toes. If your dog is short-haired, consider getting him a coat or sweater with a high collar or turtleneck with coverage from the base of the tail to the belly. For many dogs, this is regulation winter wear.
- Bring a towel on long walks to clean off stinging, irritated paws. After each walk, wash and dry your pet's feet and stomach to remove ice, salt and chemicals—and check for cracks in paw pads or redness between the toes.
- Bathe your pets as little as possible during cold spells. Washing too often can remove essential oils and increase the chance of developing dry, flaky skin. If your pooch must be bathed, ask your vet to recommend a moisturizing shampoo and/or rinse.
- Massaging petroleum jelly or other paw protectants into paw pads before going outside can help protect from salt and chemical agents. Booties provide even more coverage and can also prevent sand and salt from getting lodged between bare toes and causing irritation. Use pet-friendly ice melts whenever possible.
- Like coolant, antifreeze is a lethal poison for dogs and cats. Be sure to thoroughly clean up any spills from your vehicle, and consider using products that contain propylene glycol rather than ethylene glycol.
- Pets burn extra energy by trying to stay warm in wintertime. Feeding your pet a little bit more during the cold weather months can provide much-needed calories, and making sure she has plenty of water to drink will help keep her well-hydrated and her skin less dry.
- Make sure your companion animal has a warm place to sleep, off the floor and away from all drafts. A cozy dog or cat bed with a warm blanket or pillow is perfect.
- Remember, if it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pet, so keep your animals inside. If left outdoors, pets can freeze, become disoriented, lost, stolen, injured or killed. In addition, don't leave pets alone in a car during cold weather, as cars can act as refrigerators that hold in the cold and cause animals to freeze to death.



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!



Max
Scottsdale, AZ



Jameson
Hoodsport, WA

Photo
Not
Available

Annee
Elizabeth, CO

Photo
Not
Available

Hunter
Highlands Ranch, CO



Bowie
Whiting, IN

Photo
Not
Available

Dean
Denver, CO

Photo
Not
Available

Kristal
Frederic, MI

Photo
Not
Available

Ruby2
Frederic, MI

Photo
Not
Available

Marshall3
Houston, TX

Photo
Not
Available

Emma2
Alamogordo, NM

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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I Totally Disagree With This Trainer



Did you know there is only one thing two dog trainers can ever agree on?

Yep... the third trainer does not know what he's doing. LOL

So, I was reading something online by a dog trainer who says that when housetraining, instead of taking your dog out regularly on a schedule, you should just let the dog tell you when he needs to go.

What the hell???

If I'm housetraining a dog, it's because he is not housetrained, right? Which means he doesn't know to come to me and tell me he has to go out.

A major part of the foundation of housetraining is that you take the initiative, you control the situation, and you take the dog out on a regular schedule.

Come on! That is A-B-C.

Further, he suggests teaching your dog to ring a bell to tell you when he needs to go.

I totally disagree with this, even for fully-housetrained dogs.

What if you're in another part of the house or you have music playing loudly and you don't hear the bell?

Chances are pretty good he is going to go right there at the bell.

When housetraining a dog, you need to initiate the process and guide your kid all the way through to completion.

You tell him when (and where) to go, he doesn't tell you. In fact, if he starts acting like he needs to go – pacing or sniffing around, you waited too long.

And the bell? Keep it for cute tricks, but not for serious business like pottying outside.

'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



Trainer Tips

“Is Your Dog Barking At Nothing? Or Is There Really Something There?”

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One morning, Zuzu was out in our back yard and started barking. We could not see anything, but clearly she believed there was something on our property but outside of our securely fenced “back yard” area. We brought her in. She continued to bark. We let her back out, she continued to bark. Though we could get her to stop for short periods, something clearly had her agitated.

Later that morning, Zuzu and I headed out for our regular morning walk. It had been perhaps an hour since the barking and I'd more or less forgotten about it. We did our usual morning route. I saw some paw prints in the snow. I assumed they were coyote prints since they were clearly too small to be Zuzu's prints and no other dogs had been out on our property (at least that I knew of) since the day prior when the snow had fallen. It's not unusual for coyotes to come around overnight or early in the morning, so I didn't think much about the footprints.

We had probably walked for 10 or 15 minutes when I spotted her. Fortunately, she had spotted us before we spotted her. And fortunately, I spotted her before Zuzu spotted her. I spotted her just as she hopped our surrounding four-foot fence and headed off onto the neighboring ranch. A bobcat. Apparently, she had hung around much longer than I thought. She didn't leave until we started getting too close to wherever it was she was hanging out. Most likely near our chicken coop, since I saw lots of prints near there.

Once I saw her, it made perfect sense why Zuzu was barking so much earlier in the morning. This was something that normally did not make an appearance on our property. In fact the only other time we have seen a bobcat (or signs of one) on our property was two years ago. At that time, the dogs treed the bobcat and once she left, we didn't see her again. At least, not until now, if this was the same cat.

So while some people might have been upset about their dog barking – and not terribly willing to stop barking – I was not. I know Zuzu well enough to know that she barks sometimes. But not a lot. And not excessively unless she's really excited about something. I knew she sensed or smelled or heard or saw something out there. And based on her barking, I knew it was not something she noticed regularly. And if there's something out there we don't usually see, then I actually do want my dogs to bark and try to scare it off. I don't really want bobcats or bears or mountain lions or skunks or porcupines hanging out close to home. So if my dogs can discourage them from coming around too often, I am perfectly happy to let them bark a bit and make it less appealing for those animals to hang around.

So barking is not always a bad thing. Sometimes I DO WANT my dogs to bark. Sometimes there is a very good reason, even if I do not know what it is. Good girl, Zuzu!

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”

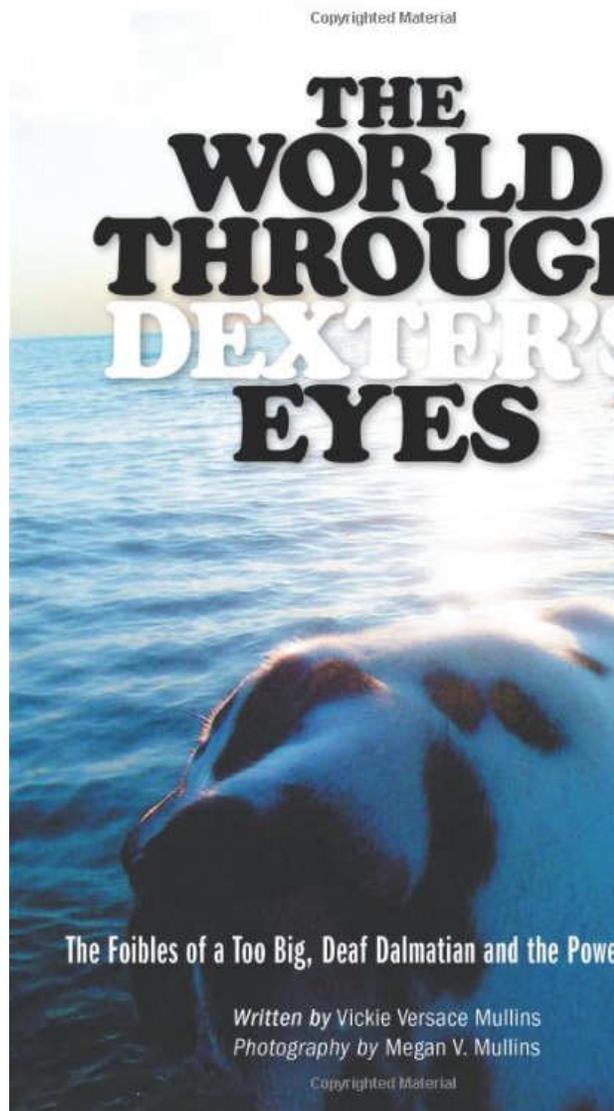
Dexter comes into the world with many problems, and he turns his family’s life upside down. Outside and lonely, he pulls the siding off the house, destroys the back door, chews up the cable wires and wood patio furniture. Inside, he does more of the same. He appears to not be trainable, so out of frustration,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



"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!!



In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians

Dax

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

WHY DO WE STILL HAVE HANDSOME DAX? He's too nice a dog to not have his own home! Dax was our "S" dog because he came to us with Severe Sarcoptic mange, Skinny and covered in Sores. He is a boy that no one cared for, for sure! Pulled from a large city TX shelter after being left by his owner with another dog, Dax took a while to make healthy and presentable. He was heartworm positive and is finishing that treatment. His owner really was a louse to neglect a dog this way! Dax is housebroken now, and crate trained. Poor Dax missed out on so much in his early life that most dogs had, when they learn so much. He definitely does not like to be dragged around by the collar, but who would? We suspect that might have been done to him a lot. This big boy would do best with no young children and no seniors in his new home as he is a strong dog, just now learning to mind his own strength. An experienced dog owner would be best for Dax and he probably would do best with only female dogs. He likes the ladies but not the gents so much. Cats are unknown. Dax is now in a foster home outside of Houston, TX. For more information, contact either Natalie at txdogwrangler@gmail.com or Tena at tjp@grandecom.net. Adoption fee \$300.



Xena

6 Years Old, Black Spayed Female
Reason Available: Owner Surrender
Foster Home: Concordia, MO



Xena Warrior Princess Dog, or Xena for short, was taken into animal control as a stray. Xena was severely underweight, covered in fleas and heart worm positive at that time. She has gained weight and is on heart worm treatment, and her health has greatly improved since arrival in her foster home in Concordia MO. If you want a companion with lots of personality, this is the girl for you! Xena is good in the house, does like to sit on the furniture at times and will check out the counter tops and she is crate trained. Xena gets along well with other dogs, but she has not been around cats. She could be okay, but we just don't know. Xena also does well in the yard because she doesn't dig or try to climb or jump the fence. She enjoys the sun and the space. For more information contact Jon at js86bacon@gmail.com. Adoption \$300.

Happy Beginnings Stories

Bowie

I've been trying to wait out sending our story that way I could provide everyone with some spectacular lakefront shots of Bowie but alas it's the middle of winter in Chicago and the weather here has been unforgiving. We adopted Bowie last month driving through some treacherous Midwest winter weather to pick him up. What should have been a 10 hour round trip turned out to be 14 due to the driving conditions. However, it was all worth it. He was surprisingly well-behaved in his crate for the duration of the trip home. The only time he barked was when my daughter was enjoying her Happy Meal in the back seat. Apparently, he wanted in on the action! Since he's come into our life, his personality is starting to blossom. He's extremely clever and very affectionate. He loves my daughter and has been her constant companion since he arrived.

My other animals, one cat and a dog, took some time warming up to him. I was concerned that his puppy energy would get the best of his ability to take it slow but so far, he's been pretty good about knowing his limits within the household. Today, my daughter stayed home sick and she has her buddy Bowie by her side to help ease her sniffing nose.

My experience with Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado has been a wonderful one. The foster parents worked with me and everyone involved was informative and professional. I'm thankful for everything working out the way it did. Stay tuned for some spring pictures of Bowie! For now, he'll be sporting the knit sweater we bought him. He can't leave home without it!!

– Amie B.
Chicago, IL



Jameson



Pictured (left to right) Stanley and Jameson

February 22, 2019 - a very special day! This is the day we met our new boy, Jameson! He is a sweetheart and fit right in from the first moment. As we made the 7plus hour drive home, our 5 1/2-year-old, Stanley, immediately became more relaxed in the car than we'd seen him since losing our sweet boy, Ernie, last October. He spent the trip resting on Jameson and Jameson seemed to like it! Since arriving home, Jameson has easily adapted to our routine, found his place on the dog couch and in our hearts!

– Gillian R.
Hoodsport, WA

Bowie and Jameson's stories are the only Happy Beginnings Stories that we have received for 2019.

Please if you have adopted your pup from us, regardless of when, and have not submitted their Happy Beginnings Story yet, why not do it now while it's fresh on your mind? These stories are the "pay" that fosters get for all their hard work!!

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: dalguy@comcast.net

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

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<http://www.dalmatianrescueco.org>
