

Dalmatian Rescue *of Colorado*

NewSpots!

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Volume 13, Edition 8

Fort Collins, CO

Aug 1, 2019

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Be A Hero For Buddy!



Buddy's surgery was Tuesday (July 30, 2019)! He is such a happy 7-year-old boy who joined Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado just a week or two ago. He was dumped in a shelter in Nevada in early July, unaltered and apparently unvaccinated. One of our volunteers pulled him from the shelter and had him vaccinated and neutered. Buddy has two highly suspicious masses - one on his beautiful tail and one on his elbow. Our vet is recommending removal of these two masses as soon as possible, before they become a threat to his movement or even his life. The cost to do so is \$1100 - \$1500. Our goal is \$1700 (to cover any contingencies associated with his surgery) to get this boy on the road to good health for the rest of his life. Any excess funds will be used for the many other Dals and Wannabes in our care who are also facing substantial medical issues. Buddy is so happy! Even with his health challenges, he remains energetic with a very happy face and plays daily with his foster sister. Won't you be a hero for Buddy? He will be available for adoption in September.

To donate to this fundraising campaign, please visit [GivingGrid](#) today!

Feds Urge Halt To Sale Of All Pig-Ear Dog Treats In Salmonella Outbreak

By Kate Gibson, CBS News, July 31, 2019



Consumers are being urged against buying or feeding their pets any pig-ear dog treats, while retailers are being advised against selling the product for now due to possible salmonella contamination. A multi-state outbreak of salmonella infections tied to pig ears sold as dog treats has expanded since Pet Supplies Plus recalled the product earlier this month, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. At least 127 people from 33 states have now been stricken with the bacteria, with 26 of them hospitalized.

The [warning](#) issued Wednesday (July 31, 2019) by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention comes amid an investigation that has prompted [two separate recalls in recent days and weeks](#). The agencies also advised retailers to stop selling all pig ear treats for now.

Some of the pig ear treats originated from Argentina and Brazil, the FDA and CDC said.

"We believe the most effective way to protect public health at this time is to warn consumers to avoid purchasing or feeding their pets all pig ear treats and for retailers not to sell these products," Steven Solomon, director of the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine, stated in the advisory. "We also continue to advise those who may have come into contact with potentially contaminated products to practice safe hygiene, including thoroughly washing hands and disinfecting any surfaces that have touched pig ear pet treats."

The FDA will provide additional updates as its investigation progresses, Solomon added.

Salmonella can affect animals eating contaminated products as well as the humans who handled the sickened animals or the infected product. In people, the salmonella infection causes symptoms including nausea, vomiting, bloody diarrhea, abdominal cramping and fever; in rare cases, it can cause more serious ailments. Affected pets may become lethargic and have diarrhea, fever and vomiting.

Illnesses in the outbreak have been reported in the following 33 states: Alabama, Arizona, California, **Colorado**, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, North Carolina, North Dakota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wisconsin.

The 7 Habits Of Highly Effective Dog Owners

These powerful lessons can improve your overall relationship with your dog and improve his behavior as a positive side effect.

By Tiffany Lovell, CPDT-KA, CSAT, AAI



Almost 30 years ago, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People* by Dr. Stephen Covey was published for the first time. The self-help book went on to be called the “most influential business book of the 20th century.” To date, more than 25 million copies of the book have been sold.

As a small business owner, I found the book very enlightening and helpful, but mostly I found myself relating to Dr. Covey’s “7 habits” as things that would really help anyone who lived with and worked with dogs!

As a professional dog trainer, I get to work with people from all walks of life and the dogs they love. Interestingly, no matter who they are, what they do for a living, or what kind of dog they have, their issues are similar: They call me because they want their dog to stop doing “X”. Usually, they say they have “tried everything, but the dog just won’t listen.”

I love the opportunities I have to work with so many amazing dogs. But a lot of what I do comes down to coaching the dog’s owners on how to look at things differently to obtain a new outcome.

With Dr. Covey’s “seven habits for success in business” in mind, allow me to apply them to people who want a more successful relationship with their dogs.

1. Be proactive.

Much of the old-fashioned dog training we were exposed to growing up focused on waiting for the dog to make a mistake and then harshly correcting him. While most of us simply accepted this as “how you train a dog,” we were missing the bigger picture. This method never taught the dog what he was supposed to do in that situation next time.

It doesn’t make sense to let an untrained dog loose in your house and then follow behind correcting him with “No! Don’t! Off! Stop! Get Down! Quit that!” for every wrong decision he makes. It is much more effective and productive to take the time to teach this new family member how to act appropriately in your home.

In modern, science-based animal training we understand the importance of teaching the learner, in this case the dog, what to do by being proactive. To use the example above as what not to do when you bring your new dog or puppy home, start things off on the right foot by first showing your new family member where she is supposed to go potty - before your ever bring her indoors! Stay out there and immediately reward her with treats and praise!

Then, instead of turning her loose in her new home, allow your new dog to have access to just one room or area in the house at first - a place where she won’t be able to make mistakes like jumping up on the bird cage, soiling a precious rug, or chewing up a family heirloom. Allow her to relax in an area where it’s safe to explore with being able to make any major mistakes and where her water, food, toys and beds are located. Reward her for sitting politely as she meets each member of the family and each visitor to the home!

Dogs do what works for them and what’s safe for them. If you introduce behaviors that are safe for the dog and work for you both, your dog will begin to choose them naturally.

2. Begin with the end in mind.

To change an unwanted behavior, you first need to decide what you want your learner to do instead. It is very easy to say, “I want my dog to stop jumping” or “I don’t want my dog to bark at the mailman.” You need to turn that around and decide exactly what you’d rather have your dog do in those moments.

To modify the unwanted behavior, we must be able to picture the final goal. If your dog is jumping on guests, you would probably prefer that he sit politely instead. If your dog is barking, you may decide you want him to play with his toy or go to his bed while the mailman passes by. These are the finished behaviors you can have in mind so you know exactly what you’re going to teach your dog to do.

If you don’t have a goal in mind you’re only focused on stopping a behavior, your dog will never learn what he’s supposed to do the next time a guest comes to visit or the mailman delivers a package. This will set up an endless cycle of wrong behavior, harsh correction, confused and scared dog, frustrated guardian. This cycle can be broken easily if you begin dealing with your dog with your end goal in mind.

3. Put first things first.

Prioritizing is a necessity in all aspects of our lives. Working with your dog is no exception. There will probably be several things you wish to change or work on with your dog, but certain ones should take precedent. Any behavior that is necessary to keep

your dog and other family members safe should be a top priority. This could be teaching your dog to come when called because you live near a busy street. It may be working on creating positive associations for your dog with babies because you're expecting. If you've recently brought home a new puppy, proper and humane socialization should be your number one priority due to the brief window of time puppies have to learn about their world and whether it's safe.

Focus on teaching your dog whatever behaviors meet your immediate needs; usually, the rest can be handled with proper management such as baby gates, fences, a leash, stuffed toys, etc. There is nothing wrong with using management to keep everyone safe and happy until you have a chance to work on the next issue with your dog.

4. Think win-win.

Always think in terms of mutual benefit when working with your dog. I doubt you added a dog to your family to spend the next 10 to 15 years in an adversarial relationship. Therefore, it's not helpful to think in terms of dominating your dog or expecting your dog to spend his life trying to please you.

Instead, make the things you ask your dog to do just as beneficial for him as they are for you. Thankfully, this couldn't be easier, since most dogs will gladly work for food, toys, praise, and/or petting.

Your relationship with your dog should be like any other in your family, built on mutual respect and love for one another. If you stop and consider how your dog must feel in a given situation - just as you would for your partner or child - you can then approach it in a way in which you both receive what you need in that moment: a win-win.

5. Seek first to understand, then be understood.

Humans are quick to demand full and complete comprehension from our dogs. It's surprising when you consider we expect this from an entirely different species - one that doesn't speak our language! On the flip side, consider that dogs speak to us all day long with their ritualized body language. Sadly, the majority of humans have never learned this language.

Dr. Covey wrote in his book, "Seek first to listen with the intent to understand the thoughts and feelings of others, then seek to effectively communicate your own thoughts and feelings."

We must remember that our dogs have their own thoughts and feelings and that the environment we subject them to affects both. If you cue your dog to sit or lie down while at the vet clinic or on a busy street corner and he doesn't do it, it's not because he is being stubborn. Your dog may be scared, anxious, or overwhelmed in this situation and feels that it would be unsafe or uncomfortable to sit or lie down. He is not defiantly disobeying your orders. He is responding to his instinct and emotions in the moment. Every one of us does this when we feel scared or threatened.

Learning how your dog communicates with his body means you care about this family member with whom you share your life. It also shows your dog that he can trust you to help him out of overwhelming moments and you will understand what he needs. What an amazing gift to be able to offer him!

6. Synergize.

This means recognizing your own strengths and celebrating the strengths of those around you. You may have adopted a dog because you thought it would be nice to visit nursing homes and cheer up people with a sweet, fluffy therapy dog. However, the dog you end up with might be full of energy and better-suited for an agility field.

Instead of seeing this as a failure in your dog's ability to be a therapy dog, consider the amazing possibilities you could have doing something more active together. Perhaps this unexpected development will open up a new world to you, with like-minded friends and fun travel. (And perhaps your dog will grow to share your interest in providing comfort to people later in his life!)

Just as you would with a child, try meeting your dog where he is, accepting him for who he is today. Be open to discovering the wonderful gifts he can bring to your life right now.

7. Sharpen the saw.

There isn't an individual on this planet that ever stops learning. In fact, learning is always taking place, even when we don't realize it.

If you think of training a dog as something you do haphazardly (when you find the time) for the first few weeks he's in your home, you will not be happy with the results. Alternatively, if you weave training into your everyday life with your dog, thinking of each brief interaction as a teaching moment, you will be amazed by the outcome. Your dog will receive clear and consistent messages from you in all types of settings and situations. This will allow him to develop into a calm, confident dog who truly understands what is expected of him and which behaviors are appropriate to choose on his own.

It's not uncommon for someone to ask me, "How long will it take before my dog is trained?" The truth is, there really isn't an answer to this question because there should not be an "ed" on the end of the word train. As long as we are alive, learning is always happening and none of us is ever fully "trained."

Instead of being disappointed by this and thinking that you will have to train your dog for the rest of his life, I encourage you to flip that narrative and become excited about the opportunity to share a mutual journey in learning alongside each other - a journey that builds a bond like no other.

Say Goodbye To Begging, Leash Pulling and Jumping

By Dr. Karen Shaw Baker

Experts generally agree that a dog's behavior is almost always linked to something his owner, caretaker and/or trainer did or didn't do at some point in his life. Interestingly, there are three behaviors in particular that most dog parents don't appreciate but may be unintentionally reinforcing: begging, jumping and leash pulling.

These behaviors have been driving pet parents bonkers forever, and they seem almost impossible to extinguish - perhaps because it's actually easier to inadvertently encourage them than to train dogs not to perform them, and once trained, it's also easy to undo your hard work.

The Beggar

Most dogs are good eaters, which is a nice way of saying they'll eat anything that isn't nailed down. Dr. Jules Bensen, Vice President of Veterinary Services at PetPlan Pet Insurance, explains the phenomenon this way:

"Looking at the domestic dog's nearest wild relative, the grey wolf, they are adapted to a feast-or-famine diet and can go many days without fresh prey. They achieve this through eating large amounts when food is available, food caching (may be analogous to burying bones in the garden!) and scavenging (watch out for the kitchen trash can!)."

In other words, it's natural for our canine companions to eat whenever food is around, and not necessarily because they're hungry right that second, but because they're never 100% sure meals will continue to be available like clockwork every day of their lives. Sadly, it's also possible some formerly abused or neglected dogs harbor memories of starvation from earlier life experiences and will forever view food as a rare and precious resource.

With that said, assuming your dog is otherwise healthy and eating a nutritionally balanced, species-appropriate diet containing the right number of daily calories to maintain her ideal body weight, it's reasonable to assume the begging is a learned behavior, meaning you've reinforced it often enough that it's now a habit. Tips and tricks for dealing with a begging dog:

- Ignore the begging - You must stop responding to her begging or she'll never stop begging. In addition, you run the risk of making her overweight with too much food and/or treats. Giving in just once can undo all your hard work up to that point.
- Use her food obsession to train her - At least once a day hold short training sessions with your dog. She'll likely learn new commands and tricks quickly once she realizes snacks are involved. Be sure to use very small portions of healthy treats, for example, frozen peas or tiny squares of cheese.
- Be her food substitute - In other words, as often as possible, distract her from begging. Get in some playtime; take her for a nice walk, a ride in the car or a trip to the dog park.

At the end of the day, it's all about loving your dog more than your dog loves food by not giving in to her food-seeking behavior. The most loving thing you can do is to consistently redirect her energy and focus toward training, exercise, playtime and other non-food related activities.

The Jumper

Unlike other undesirable behaviors that can be ignored when necessary, it's nearly impossible to not react to a dog who's jumping up on you. "Reacting to a leaping dog is almost reflexive," writes dog trainer Victoria Shade, "and that's exactly how jumping becomes a habit." And as veterinary behaviorist Dr. Valerie Tynes explains in an article for veterinary journal dvm30:

"Many dogs are highly motivated to greet people by getting close to their faces. In most cases, kneeing or kicking such a dog is less powerful than the dog's desire to greet people by jumping on them." (These dogs are the canine version of people who greet everyone they meet with a big hug and a kiss.)

Since not everyone the jumping dog meets responds to his behavior with a knee or a kick (thank goodness), the punishment he receives is intermittent, and therefore ineffective. In addition, there are dogs who don't perceive being kneed as punishment, but rather reinforcement because they're receiving attention, albeit negative attention.

Kneeing a jumping dog or worse, kicking him as a form of punishment (or simply to keep him off you) doesn't teach him a more acceptable behavior to replace the unacceptable one. In addition, you can cause injury to the dog and/or yourself using your knee or foot against him. And there's also the issue of unintentionally reinforcing the bad behavior because you're paying attention to him when he jumps.

This dog needs a replacement behavior that is equally motivating. Tynes suggests teaching him to sit to greet everyone. Sitting becomes the alternative behavior that gets rewarded with petting and/or a food treat.

While he's being taught to sit to greet people, it's important to stop reacting when he jumps on you. Turn your back, stand straight

and ignore him. This is the opposite of what he wants (attention) and sends the message that you don't welcome his exuberant jumping routine.

The Leash Puller

This is such a natural behavior for most dogs that it's easy to overlook, especially if you're walking a small- or medium-sized dog whose tugging doesn't threaten to pull your arm from its socket. But if you allow it, your dog will learn very quickly to interpret leash tension as the signal to go full speed ahead.

Leash pulling is not only annoying, but potentially dangerous. If the leash is attached to your dog's collar, it can cause injury to his throat, neck or back. If he's a large or giant breed, he can cause you injury, and even pull you off your feet. These are the general steps involved in training your dog to walk on leash:

- Allow him to walk around dragging the leash for a bit, then pick up the opposite end. Let him lead you for a few seconds while you hold the line just off the ground. Slow down so he's forced to slow down, ultimately to a stop. Take a short break for praise and affection.
- Next, let him trail the line again, but when you pick up your end this time, call him and stand still. If he pulls, hold your ground without pulling him in your direction. The goal is to teach him to put slack in the line himself by moving toward you. When he puts slack in the line, praise him and call him to you.
- If he comes all the way to you, deliver more praise and a training treat. If he stops on his way to you, tighten the line just enough to apply a tiny bit of pull to it. Immediately call him to come again. Give praise as he moves toward you and treats when he comes all the way back. Two or three repetitions are all many dogs need to understand lack of tension in the line is what earns praise and treats.
- When your dog has learned to come towards you to relieve tension on the line, you can begin backing up as he's coming towards you to keep him moving.
- Next, turn and walk forward so he's following you. If he passes you, head in another direction so he's again behind you. The goal is to teach him to follow on a loose lead.

Depending on your pet's temperament, five- to 15-minute sessions are sufficient in the beginning. Practice controlling your dog on the lead for 30-second intervals during each session. The very first second you begin leash training, make sure that your dog accomplishes nothing by pulling on his line.

It takes some dogs longer than others to learn to keep the leash loose. Exercise patience and don't engage in a battle of wills with him. Don't snap, yank or otherwise use the line for correction or punishment. Stop before either of you gets frazzled or tired. After each short session on the lead, liberally praise your dog and spend a few minutes playing ball or some other game he enjoys.

No matter what you're trying to train your dog to do or not do, consistency is the key to success. If your mind is often elsewhere during interactions with your dog, in an instant you can begin to unravel days or weeks or even months of training - especially with the three behaviors discussed above.



Recent Adoptees!



Oreo7
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Not
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Pepper (aka Tia)
Austin, TX



Breck
Berthoud, CO



Cosmo (aka Moses)
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Breton
Colorado Springs, CO

The Best Food-Dispensing Toys 2019

These food-dispensing toys and tools make your dog eat more slowly, keeping him challenged and entertained (without getting fat!).

If you're not using treat-dispensing toys with your dog, you're missing out on one of the greatest training inventions of the last 100 years - seriously!

These wonderful tools and toys can help you with a long list of dog-training and management challenges, including boredom-busting, excessively fast eating, high-energy consumption, building mental skills, counter-conditioning, redirecting inappropriate behavior and much more.

In the mid-1980's, when I acquired my first Australian Kelpie, food-stuffed toys were an unknown. A tennis ball was "the thing" - and Keli, my Kelpie, was quite addicted to hers. Then we discovered the Kong. Still perceived primarily as a fetch toy in those days, the hollow, snowman-shaped, hard, rubber toy delighted my dog with its high-flying unpredictable bounces. Almost as good as herding sheep! She switched her allegiance from ball to Kong.

Then one day Jean Donaldson - dog trainer, founder of the Academy for Dog Trainers, and book author extraordinaire, suggested stuffing treats in the Kong's hollow interior in order to entertain otherwise bored dogs. The food-dispensing dog-toy revolution was on.

The market has expanded since those early days when the Kong Company pretty much had a food-toy monopoly. Or should I say exploded? Today your options include an almost endless variety of products that contain food that will entice and challenge your dog. These products encourage him to chew, lick, nudge, paw, and toss in order to find and reach the food.

We still love the basic Kong toy, as well as the variety of other toys made by Kong. But we have to admit, we also love many of Kong's competitors in the food-stuffable toy category. In fact, there are so many it's hard to even have favorites anymore! But at a minimum, we think you should be aware of how many options are available to you and your dog today, so you can select the ones that are best suited to your own dog's needs and wants.

Snuffle Mats

It's a simple concept: short pieces of fleece tied onto a flat plastic or rubber frame, creating a tufted surface, ideal for scattering or hiding kibble or treats. Originally, the snuffle mat was a takeoff on the idea of scattering a dog's food in some grass, so it would take him a while to find and eat his meal.

When I first heard of snuffle mats, they were a do-it-yourself project. Not long after, I started seeing mats made by individuals and sold in a small cottage industry, and not long after that, the concept became quite commercialized. While you can still easily make a snuffle mat for your dog, you can also purchase several creative variations, with rubbery fingers instead of fleece tufts of varying lengths and patterns, and activity mats that include pockets and other treat-finding challenges in addition to the tufts and fingers.

These mats can serve several different purposes. They are perfect for dogs who eat too quickly and are at constant risk of choking on a bowlful of unchewed food or inhaling bits of food. Sniffing out and retrieving bits of food from the many mat crevices is guaranteed to slow down the most ravenous speed-eater.

Snuffle mats are also useful for keeping your dog occupied during events when she might otherwise get fussy. My dog Kai's snuffle mat was a godsend while he impatiently waited his turn at agility class. The mat kept him calmly and happily searching for treats instead of barking from frustration and arousal at the sight of other dogs running the course.

The mats also may be used to keep your dog from getting bored when left alone (not recommended for a persistent or aggressive chewer!). Just load the mat, set it down for her in her "home alone" space, and you're good to go.

Some dogs, especially the gentler, less aggressive ones, need a little help learning how to use the mat. You may need to start by dropping treats on top, rather than burying them deep in the mat. As your dog gets the idea, you can start pushing treats deeper and deeper into the tufts, until your dog really has to work to get them.

Benefits

- Toss in the washing machine when they start getting sticky, stinky, or moldy; many can also be put in the dryer.
- The dog gets to use her sense of smell, touch, and taste to find food.

Caution

- Dogs can chew these up (and ingest them!). Do not leave your dog alone with a snuffle mat if she's an aggressive chewer and/or prone to ingesting non-food items.

Fill-with-Food Toys to Lick and Chew

The snowman-shaped Kong toy is still around, of course, and is still a great choice for stuffing food into, as well as a fetch toy. While not indestructible, the black Kongs are very tough and a wise choice for the aggressive chewer. In fact, I still have the original black Kong that Keli happily chased some 30-plus years ago. It's a little worse for wear, but it's still here!

In addition to the classic red and black Kongs, the Kong Company also offers "puppy" Kongs in pink and blue that are a little softer and easier to chew.

Between Kong Company and their competitors (including Busy Buddy, Idepet, Tixie and others), there is an almost endless list of food-stuffable toys of various shapes, colors, sizes, and materials. Some are grooved, inviting your dog to lick squeeze cheese or peanut butter from the grooves. Some are hollow, encouraging chewing more than licking. You can stuff your dog's entire meal into a few hollow toys, and even freeze them, to slow down the fast eater and keep the bored dog occupied for a longer time. Our freezers almost always contain a few!

Benefits

- Most are dishwasher safe.
- Wide variety of products; novel products will keep your dog engaged.

Cautions

- Some dogs have little interest in actively chewing to access treats and food. You may have to encourage yours, or choose a different type of food toy.
- Dogs can chew these up (and ingest them!). Either select super-tough toys specifically designed for aggressive chewers or do not leave your dog alone with her food-stuffed toy if she's an aggressive chewer.

Kibble-Dribbling Toys

I call these products "push toys," because dogs need to push and roll them around in order to get kibble to fall out of them. What they all have in common is a compartment that you can fill with kibble or other small, hard treats, and a hole for the treats to spill out of, provided the dog rolls it over and over.

The first product like this that I ever saw was the Buster Cube - a hard plastic cube with rounded corners and a hole on one side for the treats to spill out of. Omega Paw's Tricky Treat Ball was similar but made of a softer vinyl material that didn't make such an ungodly racket as a dog rolled and bashed it around, making the food fall out a piece or two at a time.

Today, there are many variations of these kibble-dribbling toys, including those original products. Look for products that won't spill all the goods too quickly, but aren't so difficult to get food out of that your dog gives up in frustration. Another nice feature is the ability to open the toy in order to empty it completely every so often; you don't want pieces of kibble to get stuck inside, grow moldy, and only then fall out and be eaten by your dog.

Kong came out with a product that we like a lot: the Kong Wobbler, which is shaped like the original Kong, but made of two hard plastic halves that screw together, making it incredibly easy to load with kibble or treats and open afterward for cleaning. The bottom half is weighted so that the toy rights itself after each push, which increases the interactive nature of the toy and makes it a bit more engaging than some of the other push toys. Our pot-bellied pig, Dexter, happily eats part of his meal from a Kong Wobbler!

Note that, depending on the level of difficulty, your dog may need to be taught how to use these toys. Roll or push it over several times so she can see the treat fall out (and eat it) each time. Encourage her to use her nose and/or paws to engage the toy until she realizes that she can make the treats appear.

Benefits

- More interactive than most of these other products; playful dogs will particularly enjoy these.

Cautions

- Because these toys are meant to be pushed or pawed around in order to dispense the treats, they are not necessarily able to withstand chewing (unlike the products mentioned in the previous category, which are designed to give up their food stuffing by being licked and chewed). These products would not be appropriate for dogs whose go-to tactic is to try to chew the food out of the toy. Dedicated chewers can damage, chew, and ingest pieces of these toys if they are so inclined.
- Be aware! These toys can be very noisy, especially on hard floors.

Slow Feeder Bowls

In contrast to the push-around toys, these products are designed to be stationary - though they, too, are meant to slow down speed eaters. Slow feeding is believed to decrease the potential for life-threatening choking or bloat, a not-uncommon problem in dogs who inhale the meals.

These products are usually grooved or have pegs in the bowl requiring dogs to use their tongue to reach the food. They are often weighted and/or equipped with non-skid feet and a wide base to minimize spillage. They may not be quite as challenging as some of the other food-toy products, though this makes them a good choice for dogs who get easily discouraged and stop trying to get treats from the more difficult designs.

Benefits

- These products work equally well for feeding dry food, wet food, raw frozen or home-prepared.
- Most are dishwasher safe.

Cautions

- The grooves in some designs can make these bowls difficult to wash without a dishwasher.
- Most of these products are made for larger dogs; fewer models are available for small dogs.

Licky-Sticky Things

Compared to some of the other food-dispensing toys, "licky-sticky" is a relatively new concept. This category describes products that are meant to be filled with a type of food that the dog can remove only by determined and prolonged licking, such as peanut butter, cream cheese, yogurt, baby food, or a pt-type canned food - and that are designed to be affixed to a stationary position (usually with suction cups).

Prior to the invention of these products, I've suggested to clients that they just smear cheese or peanut butter on the refrigerator door or shower wall. I can see how some might prefer this alternative!

The thing I like best about these is that they can keep your dog relatively immobile, happily occupied, and licking/eating, while you attend to a husbandry task that requires two hands, such as buckling a muzzle, bathing, grooming, taking a temperature, etc. That's so useful that I actually squealed with delight the first time I saw one!

Benefits

- Because the dog can't carry off to enjoy in private, these are great for keeping him in one spot, without force or restraint.
- The dog's enjoyment of delicious treats may classically condition him to associate grooming (or whatever you are doing to him while he licks the food) with good things, making him more happier to cooperate and participate.

Cautions

- These products may not be a good choice for a dog who has food-guarding behavior, unless and until behavior modification has been done.
- If your dog is prone to chewing up toys, don't leave him unattended with any of these products. Most are flexible and not durable, as they are meant for licking, not chewing.

Interactive Toys and Dog "Puzzles"

Interactive toys have become very popular since they first appeared a decade or so ago - and with good reason. They make a dog work for her treats, with her brain and well as her body! Brain games are incredibly useful for keeping dogs mentally as well as physically healthy.

Swedish dog-toy designer Nina Ottosson started developing her line of interactive toys in 1990. Today, there are dozens of her products on the market, as well as many from other designers. Some are clear-cut imitators, others are quite innovative and original. All are guaranteed to provide dogs with fun and stimulation.

Benefits

- These are fun for all dogs, but especially useful for helping to entertain and occupy senior, handicapped, or rehabilitating dogs who need to be kept calm.
- Because most of these were designed to have the human interacting with the dog as the dog interacts with the toy, they are also good for relationship-building.

Cautions

- Some of these interactive toy puzzles are quite complex and challenging. Your dog may need some assistance, at least at first, to help her succeed and learn, and avoid frustration. Start with simpler toys and work up to the more challenging ones once she understands how the games are played.
- The early Nina Ottosson toys were made of wood - easily chewed and hard to clean. More recent models are made of plastic; still some have small pieces that your dog can chew up if you are inattentive.
- These toys are designed to be used under human supervision. Many of them are easily destroyed if left with your dog unattended.

Electronic Treat Dispensers

Last, but by no means least, is a new generation of computerized electronic food-dispensing toys, giving a whole new look and feel to the treat-dispensing toy market.

The earliest products in this category allowed you to use a remote control to release a treat to your dog at a distance from you. Next, they came with timers, so you could release meals or treats at pre-set or random intervals (helpful for preoccupying dogs with separation anxiety or isolation distress). Today, some allow you to dispense treats to (and sometimes, communicate with) your dog from remote locations, via an app on your phone or computer!

Many dog owners and trainers are fascinated with the technology. Some products can be set to beep randomly to signal your dog that a treat is coming, and some will actually take pictures of your dog as she arrives to eat the treat.

I will confess I'm a technology troglodyte and am pretty intimidated by these products! But I do love the remote treat-dispenser function that allows you to signal to your dog the opportunity for a treat from 50 to 500 feet away, depending on the brand. This type of toy has many helpful applications, such as when visitors arrive, you can use its function to move your dog away from the door (as he runs to get his treats from the machine that you have set up elsewhere). Other training and management applications include situations where you want the dog to go to her bed, move away from begging at the table, stop obsessing over squirrels or UPS trucks outside, and more.

Benefits

- Brilliant for engaging dogs who are easily bored when left home alone. Anticipation of random treats can keep the canine brain engaged and out of trouble.
- Surveillance features (still camera, one- or two-way audio, video, and/or live stream monitoring) ease owner anxieties about home-alone dogs, too.

Cautions

- The remote treat-dispensing function can potentially cause problems in a multi-dog household, especially if there is competition for resources. Be careful!
- Some of the fancier high-tech products require a fair amount of Internet bandwidth to function. If you are on satellite/limited bandwidth, they may not work or be optimal for you.
- You do need to be somewhat tech-savvy - or have access to someone who is - to figure some of this stuff out!
- These can be quite pricey.

Lots to Choose From

As you can see, there are many options for teaching your dog to play with her food. Find the ones that are likely to appeal to her - and you - and get started!

Author Pat Miller, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA, is WDJ's (Whole Dog Journal's) Training Editor. She lives in Fairplay, Maryland, site of her Peaceable Paws training center.

If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went.

~ Will Rogers



Trainer Tips

"Dogs Need Opportunities To Be Dogs!"

© 2004-2019 The Light of Dog



Dogs need opportunities to be dogs! When dealing with the antics of an adolescent dog, it is easy to forget why you love dogs in the first place - because they're DOGS and not humans!

You probably spend a lot of time trying to stop your adolescent dog from acting the way dogs so naturally - barking, licking, digging, jumping, chewing, sniffing, peeing, running, chasing, and rolling in stinky stuff.

This doesn't mean you need to allow him to do these things anywhere and everywhere, but you do need to give him outlets for some natural behaviors.

Humans bred dogs to perform certain jobs, so by all means, find appropriate outlets for your dog to do what he does best! He will appreciate it and you'll have fun watching his sheer joy at doing what he loves to do.

Here are some ideas for some outlets:

- If you have a terrier who loves to dig for rodents, give him a place where he's allowed to dig up toys or treats.
- If your herding breed dog loves to chase moving objects, allow him to gather the family when it's time for dinner.
- If your sighthound loves to run, don't keep him on leash every moment he's outside. In safe situations, of course.
- If your scenthound loves to use his nose to track bunnies, by all means, give him some time when it's appropriate to do so.

For those who are not familiar with the Vizsla breed, Vizslas are the Hungarian Pointer, bred to point out birds and also retrieve. I am not a hunter, so I won't be killing any of the animals my dog Romeo points out, but I can still allow him the thrill of finding a scent and trailing it. When he has the opportunity to romp through the fields off leash following whatever scent catches his interest, he has a look of sheer joy about him. I expect a lot from him, but I also know I need to give him time to be himself and do what comes naturally to him. It clearly makes him happy, and that makes me happy too.

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>.)

One reason a dog can be such a comfort when you're feeling blue is that he doesn't try to find out why.
~ Author Unknown

Everything I Need To Know I Learned From My Dog

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.

Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure ecstasy.

"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

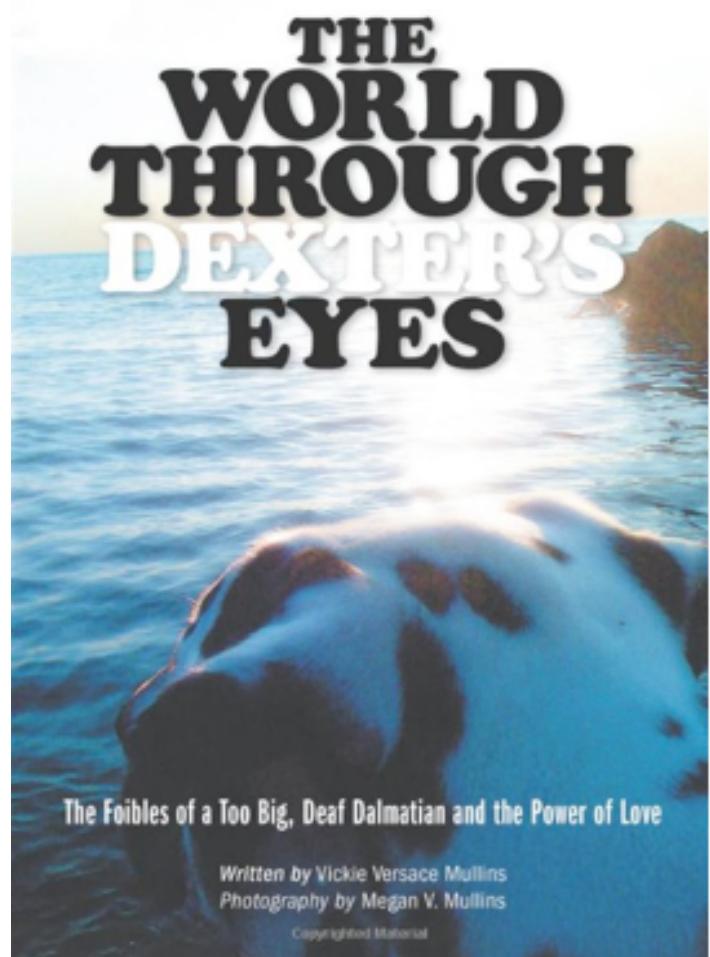
Vickie Versace Mullins is a bubbly spirit who prefers laughing through life rather than all the other alternatives. She has a B.A. in English Literature from Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio. She is a poet, and Dexter's story is her first attempt at prose. She has published poems in various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

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

Bits & Pieces

Advertising in NewSpots! is FREE!!

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!

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 ********

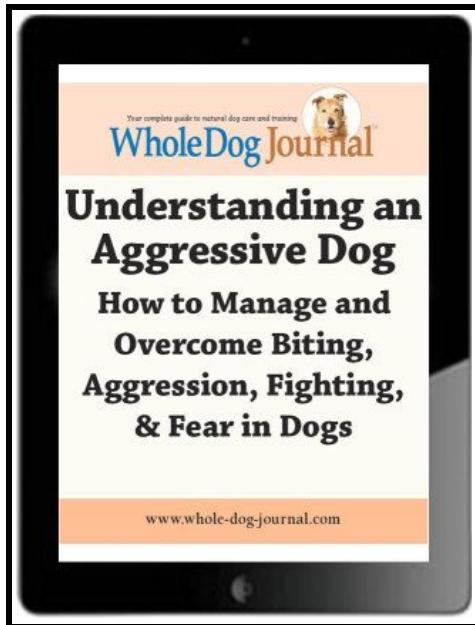
PLEASE – They need YOUR help!! Remember when your rescue Dalmatian came home with you, from the warmth of a loving foster family? If we hadn't had foster homes, you probably would not have gotten YOUR dog. PLEASE think about fostering a dog for the Dalmatian Rescue where you obtained your Dal, or the one closest 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 1800 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 dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net for inclusion in the next issue.

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|  <p>Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D. The Cautious Canine How to Help Dogs Conquer Their Fears SECOND EDITION P&C</p> |  <p>Patricia B. McConnell, Ph.D. I'll Be Home Soon! How to Prevent and Treat Separation Anxiety P&C</p> | <p>You've trained your dog's actions ("Sit", "Stay", "Come"), but you also need to train her emotions! Strangers, the vet, even hats – these are all things that can scare your dog (for reasons you may never know). With <i>The Cautious Canine</i> you'll learn what it takes to understand when your dog is scared, what "triggers" are causing her to be afraid, and how to teach her to overcome her fears.</p> <p>Your dog is stressed when you leave the house (and sometimes behaves badly in your absence). There's a simple program that will keep him happy when he's alone! You love your dog but you also love your home. If your normally well-behaved dog is not-so-well-behaved when you leave, there's a good chance he's suffering from separation anxiety. This common condition may not sound like a big deal to us humans, but to your dog, it's the equivalent of a panic attack! With <i>I'll Be Home Soon!</i> you'll discover the process that will teach your dog to be comfortable when you leave your home.</p> |
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Understanding an Aggressive Dog

Aggression is a very common condition in dogs. But a dog's aggressive behavior can fall on a wide spectrum of actions. It's extremely important to understand where your dog falls on the aggression spectrum so you can act appropriately and correct the behavior. Let Whole Dog Journal's eBook ***Understanding an Aggressive Dog*** be your guide the behavior management techniques and communication tactics to help your dog.

Understanding an Aggressive Dog focuses on your dog's good traits. Every dog has them. By identifying them, we lay the foundation for strengthening those strengths and bringing out the best in him.

Download ***Understanding an Aggressive Dog*** now, exclusively from [The Whole Dog Journal](#) for only \$9.95.

You might have noticed that a lot of our articles and recommendations have come from [**The Whole Dog Journal**](#). We use them regularly for story ideas and ebook recommendations because they are a reliable website that provides a wealth of information for dog owners. We highly recommend that you subscribe to their newsletter, if you haven't already. For your convenience, you can access their newsletter subscription page directly by simply [**CLICKING HERE**](#).

If you have a deaf or blind dog or just need some extra notice for your dog... check out these collar or leash sleeves that will help get the message out to people you may encounter. These sleeves are durable and highly visible from a distance. You can order them from [Amazon.com](#) for around \$6.00 to \$16.00.



They also have some that are not so serious!



In The Doghouse...Our Featured Dalmatians

Marina

2 Years Old, Liver Spayed Female

Reason Available: Stray

Foster Home: Grand Junction, CO

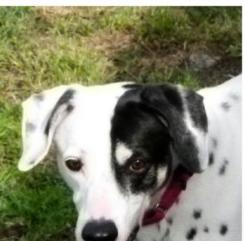
*******URGENT*******

URGENT! MARINA'S FOSTER FAMILY IS READY FOR SUMMER TRAVEL. Marina needs a new foster home or better yet a forever home! Time for her to find that... Marina, what a beautiful name for such a beautiful girl! Her deep dark eyes will convey love and joy or mischief. Miss Marina came from a high-kill shelter in Texas and is now in a foster home in Grand Junction, CO. Marina is a perfect size, about 40 pounds, is spayed and current on shots. Our girl is not always comfortable with other dogs and is choosy about who she might like. Marina would do best in a very calm, predictable environment with a firm, consistent, and experienced dog person that will continue to help her be mannerly around other dogs. She is a real people pleaser! Sometimes there might be a ride available to the Denver Front Range area. For more information, contact Jean at mcfallexplore@hotmail.com or Beth at beth@dalmatianrescueco.org. Adoption \$250.



MARINA

Scarlett



JAZZY

2 Years Old, Black Spayed Female

Reason Available: Shelter Stray

Foster Home: Waco, TX

RIDE AVAILABLE TO COLORADO. Arriving June 2, so let us know where to meet you with Scarlett. She is a typical adult dalmatian, pretty, loving, active and a velcro dog, without the neediness. She has had puppies before, but thankfully her Texas city litter will be her last as she is now spayed. She loves cuddling, but she is also a master hunter! She would LOVE a home with trees in the backyard to hunt squirrels. She loves all people but she has had some issues with dogs that challenge her. No cats for this girl! She enjoys playing fetch, but the toy must squeak! Those are her favorite. And...she really likes sleeping with you, if you're up for that! Scarlett is crate-trained, knows SIT, OFF, COME and is good on lead using her Freedom Harness. She also uses a dog door. Scarlett is a very beautiful and happy girl who will make anyone proud to own her. For more information contact Tena at tjp@grandecom.net. Adoption \$350.

Happy Beginnings Stories

Sasha

I am excited to share my Happy Beginning story about Sasha. I adopted her March 31st, 2019.

Sasha's story just broke my heart, she had been very scared in a shelter and had some health issues. When I met her, I fell in love with her immediately! She was so sweet and shy that I worried about her rough housing with her new brothers but it didn't take long for her to claim her bed, pick out her new toys (all of the toys have become her toys by the way) and put her new brothers under her spell of sweetness! With her new brothers she loves to give kisses, play wrestle and her face cleanings have become a morning ritual

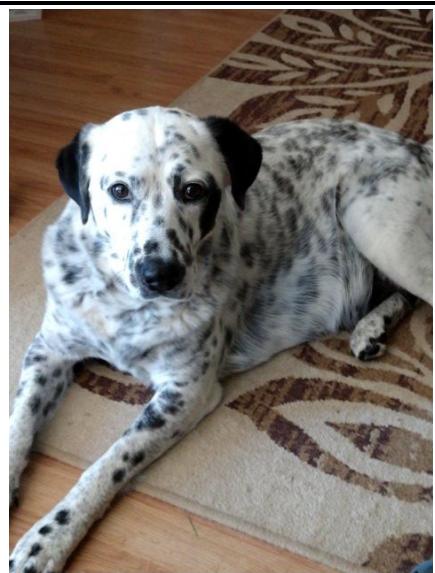
At first, she was a little nervous playing chase and wrestle but now she instigates the games and usually has grass stains on her head from all her acrobatics and goofy antics. She is silly, jumps and almost dances when she gets excited and is quick to wag and approach people on our walks to make as many new friends as she can.

I absolutely love watching her try to decide which toy to take to her dog bed because she ends up carrying up to 7 toys to her bed before she lays down for her naps. The family walks are the highlight of my day - she walks with such pride and sneaks little kisses to her brothers along the way. When she isn't playing, walking or napping I can find her sitting quietly in the yard with several of her toys and then suddenly rolling onto her back with legs straight up and a toy in her mouth. She is a silly goose and seems to get younger and more puppyish every week.

At night she cuddles close to me and never moves but I have found her one and only flaw... SNORING! Oh wow, does she ever snore!! It's darling, just like Sasha. We love her with all our hearts (and spots)!

Sasha is my 6th adoption from Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado. Thank you for once again improving my life with your wonderful, loving, silly and lifesaving dogs!

Amy, Longmont, CO



Penny



Editor's Note: While Penny was not adopted from Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, we are happy to include her story on our website as a great example of the benefit of adopting, especially a deaf dog. Just because a dog is deaf doesn't mean that he or she can't provide lots of love, experiences and in this case education and fundraising!

Lucky Penny is a 7'ish year old rescued Dalmatian who lives with Joann. Penny, her call name, was rescued from Dalmatian Rescue of Southwest Virginia. She is Joann's 7th dalmatian, and her 5th adopted dalmatian-child. Penny fooled us on the ride home, as she sat quietly for 2+ hours. After she figured out she was in her forever home, she has blossomed into a well-rounded competitor. She enjoys CAT and FastCAT and runs human-dog 5K runs to raise funds for dog rescues. She and her mom are members of the Dalmatian Trail Blazing Group. Penny and her mom have walked every greenway trail in Cary, NC, and are now starting to walk the trails in county and state parks close to home. Penny is well known in her neighborhood for her wiggle-butt. I can't imagine life without this girl. By the way, Penny is deaf. But like the Tennessee Safety Spotters, she doesn't let her deafness define her. We talk to her all the time.

Thanks,
Joann K., Raleigh, NC

Seamus (aka Bleu)

We have had Seamus (formerly named Bleu) for just over a month now! I didn't realize how big of a hole I had in my heart until he came to fill it! He's the most fun-loving sweet pup and has stolen the hearts of everyone he meets! Although he's deaf he hasn't had any problems learning commands and adapting to his new life in the city!

Thank you, DRC, for adding all this love to our family!

– Michael F.

Brooklyn, NY



Sir Beckett



Mr. Beckett as we call him! He is our fourth Dalmatian and third rescue from Colorado Dalmatian Rescue. When we got Beckett, he didn't know any of the following. Stairs, Dog door, Cookies but all this was fixed in the first weekend! We think he is a mix of our last three little girls. His Spots from Bailey (a Texas rescue), his mellow disposition from Meah (a Colorado rescue) and his love from our first Dalmatian, Buttons, who started it all as a little pup. Beckett now has his forever home with us. A backyard with plenty of trees and shade where he works all day long to find the best place to lay. A number of toys to keep him happy, car rides to PetSmart and the hardware store. Renee' and I are happy to have Beckett as a part of our family; he is the happy face you see after a long day at work. We look forward to having him with us for a long time. I would also like to thank Beth and Tena for all their help and time to take care of our little spotted friends!

– Blaise & Renee' F.

Parker Colorado

It's never too late to see your story in print!

If you have adopted your pup from us, regardless of when, and have not submitted their Happy Beginnings story yet, please do it now while it's fresh on your mind.

These stories are the "pay" that fosters get for all their hard work!

About Us

NewSpots is published and released on the first calendar day of the month. The deadline for submissions for future issues of NewSpots is 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 dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net.

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

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