

To Dog Park Or Not To Dog Park... That is the question for many dog owners



Dog parks can be a polarizing topic both for dog owners and among dog professionals. With the Denver-metro area being such a dog-friendly city, dog parks are part of the day-to-day for many people. Let's get down to it – are dog parks great? Are they bad news? Are they good for every dog?

It's important to recognize that dogs are active, social creatures who love to run.

Playtime with other dogs can be a wonderful outlet for them. This means, for the right dogs, dog parks can be a fantastic way to:

- keep their social skills fine-tuned
- their bodies well-exercised
- their minds enriched

This is especially true in a busy metropolis where many dogs live in apartments without the luxury of a large, securely fenced-in yard. For some dogs though, they're an absolute nightmare!

So how do you know if your dog is dog-park appropriate?

1. Your dog should be physically healthy and up-to-date on all vaccinations, including Bordetella (kennel cough).
2. Your dog should have good play or social skills – watch closely for play invitations, role reversals, and natural pauses. Also, monitor if your dog reacts well to being told “no” by their playmate. Dogs will correct each other for rude or annoying behavior, and it is important your dog can take the hint without escalating into a scuffle.
3. As dogs get older, many of them become less tolerant of rude behavior and become choosier about their buddies. You may even notice an overall decline in the desire to play as your dog matures.

There are also some dogs who may be able to become dog-park dogs with a bit of work!

These dogs include dogs who may not seem to know how to play, seem awkward, or sometimes escalate play into scuffles (so long as no one is getting hurt!). If your dog falls into this category, consider working with a force/fear-free trainer who specializes in dog-dog dynamics.

There are some dogs who just shouldn't go to dog parks.

They include dogs who are very fearful or nervous around other dogs – overwhelming them with lots of dogs all at once can make their fear more intense or may cause them to escalate into a fight or flight response. Instead, work with a professional fear/force-free trainer to get them more comfortable and work through their fears. These pups may never be dog-park aficionados, but they might grow to have a small circle of friends and be able to engage in play, either with a small group or one-on-one.

Dogs who have a history of injuring other dogs during fights or scuffles, even if those scuffles are rare, should not attend parks.

These dogs are likely to bite with the same force again - which is not a fair risk to another family's dog. Dogs who are aggressive, assertive, or always escalating into scuffles should not attend dog parks.

When you are at the park, pay attention to what is going on.

And don't be afraid to leave if you see an inappropriate dog at the park. Listen to your dog! Not all dogs enjoy the company of other dogs, and it's unfair to force them into uncomfortable situations just for the sake of "socialization."

Your pooch probably prefers the company of you over other canines if they are:

- frequently tense
- retreating from other dogs
- always telling them off when they get close

And that's OK! Not all of us are social butterflies.

Lastly, take ownership of your own dog

– If they are frequently the problem child, maybe it's time to mark "dog parks" off the list of recreational activities. With the help of a professional, however, you may be able to get your dog's social skills back on track.

[Here is more info on all of Denver's amazing dog parks!](#)

Kids And Dogs

By Pat Miller, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA



Is the child about to be bitten? Or does the dog adore the kid? We don't know! This is a stock photo! The dog may be trying to avoid the child, or just turning her head . . . However, we can say that this isn't something that you should allow your child to do with any but the most rock-solid, kid-loving dog – and if this is the only type of dog your child has experience with, you will have to make sure he doesn't have the opportunity to try it with dogs whose kid-tolerance is unknown.

These days, it seems that every time someone posts a picture on social media of a child with a dog it is immediately followed by a spate of posts expressing horror at the anticipated savage attack likely to follow.

Granted, some of those photos do, indeed, show dogs displaying body language signals that suggest a significant amount of discomfort at the proximity of the child, and real potential for injury. But many of them also, in my opinion, depict normal, healthy interactions between dogs and young humans.

Dogs and kids have been happy buddies for centuries. While dog bites to children are nothing new (I was bitten by a stray puppy at age five, in 1956) we seem to be much more reactive to them as a culture than we used to be. When did we become a society so phobic about any dog/kid interaction? And, perhaps more important, how do we help people recognize and create safe, healthy relationships between dogs and children?

A commonly quoted statistic states that some 4.7 million dog bites occur in the U.S. annually, with 42% of the victims age 14 or under.

As staggering as though those numbers may be, and as sensational as the "Dog Mauls Toddler" headlines are, they are also somewhat misleading. A very large percentage of those

millions of bites are relatively minor, so the situation isn't nearly as dire as it first appears.

Still, even one preventable child-mauling incident is one too many, and many of them are, in fact, quite preventable.

Supervisor Needed

Supervision of interactions between dogs and children is, indeed, critically important, at least until it is crystal clear that the child and dog are safe together. The "You must supervise kids and dogs!" mantra has been repeated so many times I would be surprised if there's even one parent in the Western world who hasn't heard it.

But here's the rub: A significant number of kids suffer from dog bites even when the parent or other caretaker is directly supervising the interaction. If "supervision" is the holy grail of dog-kid interactions, how does this happen?

It seems that, over the years, as we trainers and behaviorists have repeated "Supervise, supervise, supervise!" until we're blue in the face, we have somehow neglected to do a thorough job of helping parents and caretakers understand exactly what they are looking for when they are supervising.

It's not just about being present, it's also about watching closely, preventing the child from interacting inappropriately with the dog, and watching the dog for body language signals that communicate some level of discomfort with the child's presence and/or interactions.

Upper Level Management

Management – controlling your dog's environment and access to unsafe or undesirable things or practices – is a vital part of any successful behavior and training program. With kids and dogs, it's even more critical. When you aren't able to actively supervise (no TV! no texting!), you must manage. The price for management failure is simply too high.

Even if your dog adores children (and especially if she doesn't!), management and supervision are vitally important elements of successful dog/baby/child-keeping. There are a staggering number of serious child-bite cases (and fatalities) where the adult left the room "just for a minute."

That's why dog training and behavior professionals are well-known for repeating the warning, "Never leave dogs and small children together unattended." This means, not for a moment. Not while you take a quick bathroom break, or run to the kitchen to grab a snack. Even if the baby is sleeping! Take the dog with you if you leave the room where the baby is sleeping or the child is watching a video. Put the dog in her crate. Shut her in another room.

Training

Of course, you want to do everything you can to help your dog love children. Even if you don't have small humans of your own, your dog is likely to encounter them at some point in her life, and things will go better for all involved if she already thinks kids are wonderful.

Ideally, every dog should be well socialized with babies and children from puppyhood. Many young adults adopt a pup at a time when children are, if anything, a distant prospect, without thinking about the fact that kids could easily arrive within the 10 to 15 years of their dog's lifespan. Even if there will never be children in the dog's immediate family, chances are she will encounter small humans at some point in her life. By convincing her very early on that children are wonderful, you greatly reduce the risk that she will ever feel compelled to bite one.

If an adult-dog adoption is in the works and there will be (or are) children in your world, remember this critically important caveat: Dogs who are going to be around babies and/or children must adore kids, not just tolerate them. A dog who adores children will forgive many of the inappropriate things young humans will inevitably do to dogs, despite your best efforts at supervision and management. A dog who merely tolerates them will not.

Teach Your Children

Safe child-dog interactions start with teaching children – even very young children – how to respect and interact appropriately with dogs. If a child is too young to grasp the information, then the supervising adult must physically prevent the child from being inappropriate.

Babies and toddlers often flail their hands at new or exciting stimuli – like dogs. Not surprisingly, many dogs are likely to find this quite aversive! When young children are introduced to dogs, the adult needs to hold the child's hand(s) and guide them in appropriately using their hands to touch the dog appropriately (gently and slowly) and without any flailing.

It's equally important to teach children that dogs are not toys to be treated roughly. Even if your family dog tolerates – or even loves – being hugged, allowing your young child to hug your dog can prompt her to hug the next dog she meets – with possibly disastrous results. Until your child is old enough to understand that some things that are okay with your dog are not okay with other dogs, you are far safer not allowing her to do those things with your dog, either.

Ideally, engage your child to assist with your dog's training at the earliest possible age using positive reinforcement-based methods that teach your child the importance of cooperation and respect, so your child learns how to interact appropriately with other sentient creatures. At the same time, you will be strengthening the positive association between your dog and your child.

Watch that Body Talk

Any time your dog shows any sign of being uncomfortable with your child's presence, you must separate the dog and child to protect them both. Of course, in order to do this you must understand dog body language well enough to recognize when a dog is expressing discomfort.

People often say, "If my dog could only talk..." They actually do communicate! But their mode of communication is body language – and too few humans take the time to learn that language, or "listen" to what the dog is telling us.

In the sidebar below, we share some different ways your dog may be telling you she's uncomfortable. This is an extensive list, albeit not necessarily a complete one. Study it, and then watch your dog for any of these behaviors, both with children present and absent.

Any time you observe stress signals from your dog in the presence of children (or elsewhere!) it's wise to take immediate steps to reduce her stress.

If, while you're managing, supervising, and training your dog around kids, you're having trouble determining what your dog is trying to tell you with his body language communications, ask a force-free dog training professional to help you. It could save your dog's life. And your child's.

It's Not Cute, It's Abuse

There is a truly horrendous video on YouTube of parents encouraging their very young child to abuse their Rottweiler. The child runs over to the dog, who is lying on the floor, climbs on his back, hugs him violently – and when the dog gets up to try to move away from the abuse, the adults call him back and make him lie down for more child torture. Meanwhile the child has lost interest and walked away and the parents insist that he come back and interact with the dog more.

This time the dog is lying on his side, and for the remainder of the two-minute clip the child climbs on and violently bounces up and down on the dog's ribcage; grabs his jowls, cheek, and nose; and puts his face directly in the dog's face, all the while with encouragement and laughter from the parents. Through it all, the dog is giving off constant signs of stress and distress – whale eye, panting, tongue flicks, gasping for air, and more. (If you really want to see it, we made a shortcut to a copy of the original video that someone captioned with notes about the dog's warning signs: tinyurl.com/WDJ-abuse.)

This should be prosecutable child endangerment as well as animal abuse. Someday, if the incredibly tolerant Rottweiler has finally had enough and bites the child, the parents will be aghast. "We don't know what happened – he was always so good with little Bobby!" And if the defensive bite is serious enough, the dog is likely to lose his life as a result. Meanwhile, if the child tries this incredibly inappropriate behavior with a less tolerant dog (which would include most dogs on the planet), he's likely to be very badly bitten, and again, the unfortunate dog might easily pay with his life. What were these parents thinking?

A DICTIONARY OF CANINE STRESS SIGNALS

- Anorexia Stress causes the appetite to shut down. A dog who won't eat moderate- to high-value treats may just be distracted or simply not hungry, but refusal to eat is a common indicator of stress. If your dog ordinarily likes treats, but won't take them in the presence of children, she is telling you something very important: Kids stress her out!
- Appeasement/Deference Signals Appeasement and deference aren't always an indicator of stress. They are important everyday communication tools for keeping peace in social groups and are often presented in calm, stress-free interactions. They are offered in a social interaction to promote the tranquility of the group and the safety of the group's members. When offered in conjunction with other behaviors, they can be an indicator of stress as well. Appeasement and deference signals include:
 - Lip Licking: Appeasing/deferent dog licks at the mouth of the more assertive/threatening/intimidating member of the social group.
 - Turning Head Away, Averting Eyes: Appeasing/deferent dog avoids eye contact, exposes neck.
 - Slow movement: Appeasing/deferent dog appears to be moving in slow-motion.
 - Sitting/Lying Down/Exposing Underside: Appeasing/deferent dog lowers body posture, exposing vulnerable parts.

- Avoidance Dog turns away, shuts down, evades touch, and won't take treats.
- Barking In context, can be a "distance-increasing" stress signal – an attempt to make the stressor go away.
- Brow Ridges Furrows or muscle ridges in the dog's forehead and around the eyes.
- Difficulty Learning Dogs (and other organisms) are unable to learn well or easily when under significant stress.
- Digestive Disturbances Vomiting and diarrhea can be a sign of illness – or of stress; the digestive system reacts strongly to stress. Carsickness is often a stress reaction.
- Displacement Behaviors These are behaviors performed in an effort to resolve an internal stress conflict for the dog. They may be performed in the actual presence of the stressor. They also may be observed in a dog who is stressed and in isolation – for example a dog left alone in an exam room in a veterinary hospital.
 - Blinking: Eyes blink at a faster-than normal rate
 - Nose-Licking: Dog's tongue flicks out once or multiple times
 - Chattering Teeth
 - Scratching (as if the dog suddenly is very itchy)
 - Shaking off (as if wet, but dog is dry)

○ Yawning

- Drooling May be an indication of stress – or response to the presence of food, an indication of a mouth injury, or digestive distress.
- Excessive Grooming Dog may lick or chew paws, legs, flank, tail, and genital areas, even to the point of self-mutilation.
- Hyperactivity Frantic behavior, pacing, sometimes misinterpreted as ignoring, “fooling around,” or “blowing off” owner.
- Immune System Disorders Long-term stress weakens the immune system. Reduce dog’s overall stress to improve immune-related problems.
- Lack of Attention/Focus The brain has difficulty processing information when stressed.
- Leaning/Clinging The stressed dog seeks contact with human as reassurance.
- Lowered Body Posture “Slinking,” acting “guilty” or “sneaky” (all misinterpretations of dog body language) can be indicators of stress.
- Mouthing Willingness to use mouth on human skin – can be puppy exploration or adult poor manners, but can also be an expression of stress, ranging from gentle nibbling (flea biting) to hard taking of treats to painfully hard mouthing, snapping, or biting.
- Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders These include compulsive imaginary fly-snapping behavior, light and shadow chasing, tail chasing, pica (eating non-food objects), flank-sucking, self-mutilation and more. While OCDs probably have a strong genetic component, the behavior itself is usually triggered by stress.
- Panting Rapid shallow or heavy breathing – normal if the dog is warm or has been exercising, otherwise can be stress-related. Stress may be external (environment) or internal (pain, other medical issues).
- Stretching To relax stress-related tension in muscles. May also occur as a non-stress behavior after sleeping or staying in one place for extended period.
- Stiff Movement Tension can cause a noticeable stiffness in leg, body, and tail movements.
- Sweaty Paws Damp footprints can be seen on floors, exam tables, rubber mats.
- Trembling May be due to stress – or cold.
- Whining High-pitched vocalization, irritating to most humans; an indication of stress. While some may interpret it as excitement, a dog who’s excited to the point of whining is also stressed.
- Yawning Your dog may yawn because he’s tired – or as an appeasement signal or displacement behavior.
- Whale Eye Dog rolls eyes, flashing the whites of his eyes.

The Whole Dog Journal

Standard First-Aid Kit for Dogs

Find a sturdy bag or plastic box for your kit. Remember, this is just a guideline, and since every dog is different, be sure to consult with your vet.

☐ Collect Important Phone Numbers

Collect the phone numbers for your holistic vet, the vet nearest you, AND the nearest emergency veterinary clinic. Also, ask your vet for the number for the Animal Control Center nearest you.

☐ Gather a Comfy Blanket and Towels

Include a warm thick blanket and a couple of clean towels you can use to keep him warm on the way to, and at the vet’s office. Keep some clean towels, too. They can be useful if your dog is bleeding.

☐ Flower Remedies for Shock

Rescue remedy, or any other brand of flower essence therapy for shock is crucial. You’ll need to keep your dog calm, and this is key for that. The most common brand is Rescue Remedy, but your vet can recommend others.

☐ Dressings for Wounds

Include plenty of gauze pads, cotton, bandage tape, q-tips, and elastic bandages to ensure you’re prepared for any flesh wounds. Don’t forget scissors, adhesive tape, and tweezers!

☐ Pure Water (Spring or Distilled)

☐ Clean tools and vessels

Make sure you have a clean spray bottle, measuring cups and spoons, an eyedropper, and one or two clean glass (preferred) or plastic bottles.

☐ Hydrogen Peroxide

Use this on any open wounds in order to prevent an infection.

☐ Baking Soda, Cider Vinegar, and Soap (Castile, or other natural type)

These can help with a variety of topical issues like itching due to allergic reactions.

☐ Homeopathic remedies

These are the 6c potencies that you should have: Aconitum, Apis mel., Arnica Montana, Hepar sulph, Hypericum, Ledum, and Silicea.

☐ Herbal Cleansing Solutions

Calendula and hypericum are two common solutions.

☐ Herbal Topical Remedies

Lastly, include some goldenseal, echinacea, and Chinese Yunnan Pia Yao, available in health food stores.

To see the poster full size and get ideas that might help your dog in a time of emergency, please click the link:

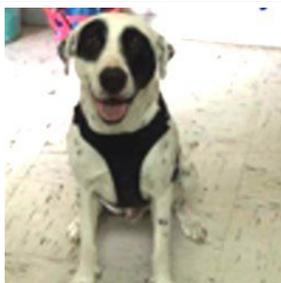
https://s28489.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/WDJ_FirstAid_Checklist.pdf

And while you’re there, why not subscribe to their newsletter? A lot of what appears herein our NewSpots! comes from The Whole Dog Journal!

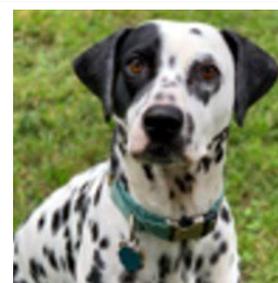
Recent Adoptees!



Sapa Giseka Kola (aka Chance)
Jackson, MI



Quinn
Gering, NE



Scarlett
Aurora, CO

Photo
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Available

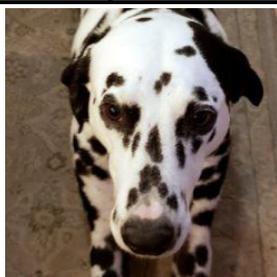
Milo
Flagstaff, AZ

Photo
Not
Available

Pongo19
Portsmouth, OH



Boomer3
Colorado Springs, CO



JamesonA
Williams, AZ



BreckA
Denver, CO

Attention Adopters!!!

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!!
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

*Properly trained, man can
be dog's best friend!
-Cory Ford*

Equally Painful for You and Your Pet, This Seasonal Mishap Can Be Fatal

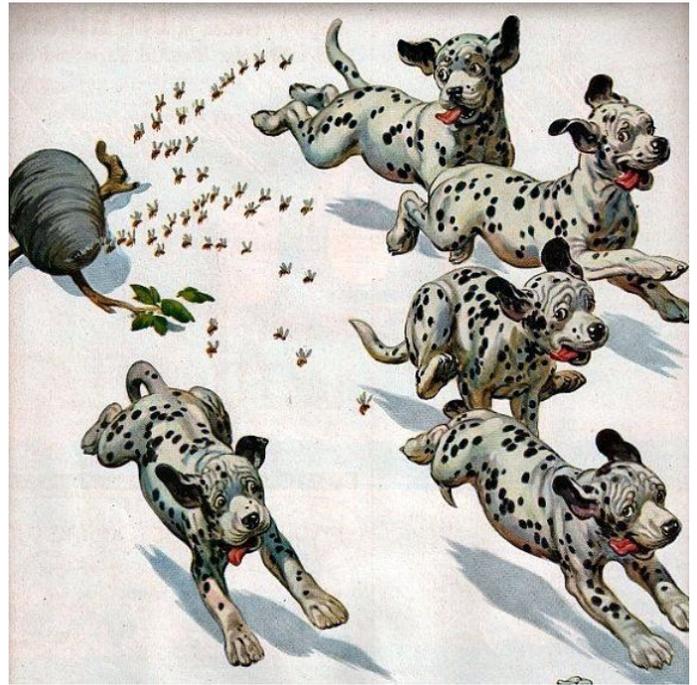
By Dr. Karen Shaw Becker

Despite their fur-covered bodies, dogs can be stung by flying insects like [bees](#), wasps and hornets just like people can. This is especially true for dogs who become curious or stalker-ish when they spot a stinging insect.

Unlike humans who typically dodge, weave and run away from the tiny buzzing beasts, many dogs try to move in closer for a better look, and some even snap at the insects with their mouths. If your furry family member gets stung, rest assured the bite is just as painful for her as it would be for you. Even more worrisome is the possibility of a serious or even life-threatening allergic reaction when a dog is stung.

How to Know if Your Dog Has Been Stung

The three areas of your dog's body most likely to be stung are the nose, mouth, and less frequently, the paws. Certainly a swollen muzzle is a sign your dog may have encountered a stinging insect. A dog who has been stung may also suddenly begin running in circles, yelping, and/or pawing at his face or rubbing it against the ground. If this is happening to your dog, chances are you'll find evidence in the immediate area such as a beehive, [wasp nest](#) or insects buzzing around.



Like humans, dogs experience a variety of reactions to being stung, including scratching, licking and biting the area where the sting occurred. You might also notice a patch of red, inflamed skin. These are relatively benign reactions to a sting. In more serious cases, the dog's muzzle, head or neck area will swell noticeably. There may also be extreme pain, the appearance of hives, vomiting and difficulty breathing. This is considered a severe allergic reaction that can progress quickly to [anaphylactic shock](#), which is a life-threatening emergency.

Like people, some dogs are more sensitive to insect stings than others. Smaller dogs often don't fare as well as the big guys, and swarms of bees are especially dangerous — even fatal.

If Your Dog Has a Severe Reaction to a Sting

The reason dogs' noses are so often stung is because canines go through life nose-first. And dogs who like to snap at flying insects can also be stung inside the mouth or even in the throat.

If a serious allergic reaction occurs after a bee sting to your dog's nose, mouth or face, the resulting swelling can interfere with her ability to breathe. This is a special problem for [dogs with flat faces](#) (brachycephalic breeds, e.g., the Boxer, Bulldog, and Pug). Needless to say, if you know or suspect your dog has been stung by an insect and her muzzle or face begins to swell, you should get her to your veterinarian or an emergency animal hospital right away. Do the same if your pet has been attacked by a swarm.

Home Care for Nonemergency Stings

If the situation isn't an emergency, you'll need to try to find and remove the stinger as soon as possible to reduce the amount of venom that gets into the bite. Tweezers aren't a good tool for this job. Instead, use a credit card from your wallet to gently scrape away the stinger, ensuring the venom sac comes out with it.

After removing the stinger, you can make a paste of [baking soda](#) and water, and apply it to the area to help soothe the itch and irritation. Prevent your dog from licking the area and rinse away the paste after about 15 minutes. You can also offer Apis Mel, which I call "homeopathic Benadryl" along with quercetin ("nature's Benadryl") if you have it, or real Benadryl if you don't, with a starting dose a milligram per pound of body weight.

If the diphenhydramine (Benadryl) isn't working, it's time to head to the closest veterinary clinic for further treatment to prevent the inflammatory response from escalating. It's also important to remember not to let your dog back into the area where he encountered the stinging insects. If he's stung again right after the original sting, there's a good chance he'll have a faster and more serious allergic reaction.

If your dog tends to snap at and swallow bees and wasps, consider giving him quercetin before allowing him outdoors during the warmer months of the year. Also talk with your veterinarian about other preventive measures.



Trainer Tips

“My Puppy Started A Fire! How Can You Prevent It From Happening To You”

© 2004-2019 The Light of Dog



I received an email from a client with the header: “My puppy started a fire. . .”

Those are the emails you are afraid to open and read!

She continued. . .

“So we are all ok and the damage was contained to the kitchen but we had a really scary night.”

Well, at least she noted right away that everyone was ok!

Read on for what happened and how you might be able to prevent a potential disaster in your own house.

This puppy is a large breed dog and is around five months old at the time this happened.

She continues with her email:

“We had a pizza box on the stove top. (Puppy) put his paws up there to try to get it and his paw turned the burner on.

“We didn't notice (it's electric so it takes awhile to get hot).

“(Puppy) and I were hanging out in the family room and I kept smelling something but it didn't register at first that it was something burning.

“I finally went to investigate and there were flames coming from the stove area. Huge flames!!

“We got the fire extinguisher and put it out but by then the entire house was filled with smoke.

“We got the kids and animals outside and then opened all windows and doors.

“We lost our microwave and stove and probably will have to redo the backsplash.

“Could have been so much worse so we're thankful.

“But boy what a mess!! Adventures in counter surfing....ugh! ”

Thank goodness no one was hurt. Can you imagine if that had happened and then everyone had left the house for school or work or what-have-you? Yikes!

Please keep in mind how easy it can be for accidents to happen. While we cannot prevent all accidents, there certainly are things we can do to minimize the chances of something disastrous happening.

In this case, making sure things like pizza boxes, dish towels, etc. are never put on the stove would have helped.

Make sure if you are cooking on the stove, no pan handles hang over the edge that a puppy could catch with their paw and knock off a pan filled with something hot.

Make sure you always check the stove is off before you head to bed or exit the house!

Teach puppies to stay AWAY from the stove altogether. Teach puppies that countersurfing (or stove surfing) is not acceptable behavior by making sure they NEVER get rewarded for jumping up or putting paws up. Make sure they are rewarded for keeping all four paws on the floor, especially when in the kitchen.

Try not to leave any food unattended on stove or countertops. Or anything that smells like food. Whether or not there was any pizza left in that pizza box, I bet it still SMELLED like pizza!

Take a walk through your kitchen and the rest of your house. Take a look at it from your puppy's perspective. Put yourself in their place and see if you can determine what might peak their interest. Smells, sights, sounds. What could get them in trouble? What can you do to prevent it?

Let's hope you never have any stories like this to share!

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”*

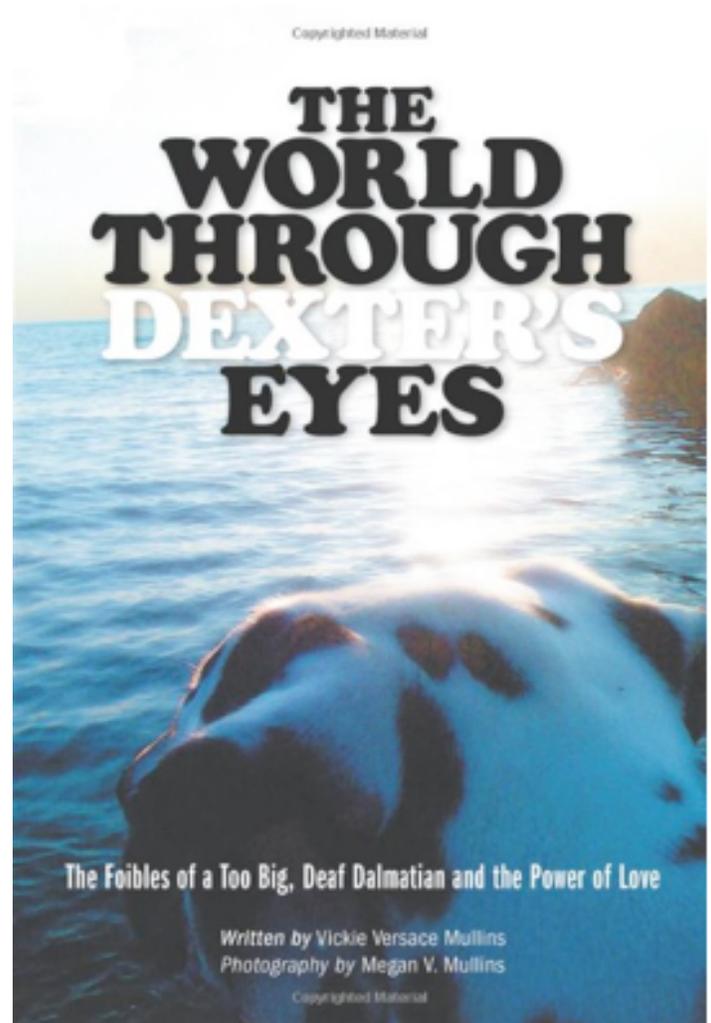
Dexter comes into the world with many problems, and he turns his family’s life upside down. Outside and lonely, he pulls the siding off the house, destroys the back door, chews up the cable wires and wood patio furniture. Inside, he does more of the same. He appears to not be trainable, so out of frustration,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

*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 karl@dalmatianrescueco.org for inclusion in the next issue.

Unfortunately we did not have any reader recommendations to include in this issue of NewSpots!

I often get emails thanking us for publishing things in the Reader Recommendation section. So I know that people read it and like it. But it only works if you, the reader, make submissions to help out everyone else. I implore you, if you have any recommendations, tips, or anything to help make life easier for others... Send it in today!

Please send submissions to karl@dalmatianrescueco.org

In The Doghouse...Our Featured Dalmatians

Dustin

1½ Years Old, Black Neutered Male
Reason Available: Stray
Foster Home: Denver, CO

Dustin is an easy-going dog, loves everyone! He is great with kids, dogs of all sizes, male and female. Dustin is crate trained, housebroken and living in a foster home with kids, cats and dogs in the south Denver area. He is good with dogs of all sizes and both boys and girls. He is just the sweetest guy going. For more information, contact Jonathan at jonathan_thoma@yahoo.com. Adoption \$300.



Tara2

2 Years Old, Black Spayed Female
Reason Available: Stray
Foster Home: Farmington, MN

Tara is looking for a new home! This little girl (38lbs) is a sweetheart! She loves her people, LOVES other dogs, her ball, and tug of war. Good on lead, housebroken, prefers to sleep in bed with you and thinks dog parks are a blast! This is a fun dog who does somersaults on the couch when she's excited. Tara needs a home with another friendly dog. Although she is crate-trained, we've learned she has some anxiety in her crate without another dog around, as she had in her foster home. Tara is young and active. She learns new things quickly. Highly food motivated and will do just about anything for peanut butter. She needs an active owner and a 6ft fence. No cats. Tara is currently in Minneapolis, MN but we may be able to get her back to TX or CO. Adoption donation \$350.00 For more info, contact Tena at tjp@mygrande.net



Happy Beginnings Stories

Milo (aka Milo4)



We love Milo! He is such a lovable dog and a great addition to our family! He loves to play in the dog park and takes long walks. Milo gets along well with his poodle "brother" and other dogs. He has gained 10 pounds since we adopted him. Below are some pictures of Milo.

- T.W.
Irving, TX

Mason (aka Mason2)



Love at first sight is an understatement when it comes to our boy, Mason! We saw him on the Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado website and immediately inquired about him. Two days later, he came over for a home visit, and the rest is history! He has adjusted very well to our active lifestyle in our new home. He loves to go on hikes with us, and to splash in the creek at Cherry Creek State Park on our weekly trips. His joy blossoms when he's out on an adventure, but the same happy smile comes out when he's cuddling with us at home. He came to us with lots of anxieties and insecurities, but with work and lots of love, he is right at home in our family.

PS... Watch out for the 7-8pm zoomies "witching hour" :)

- Kaylin & Louis
Aurora, CO

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!

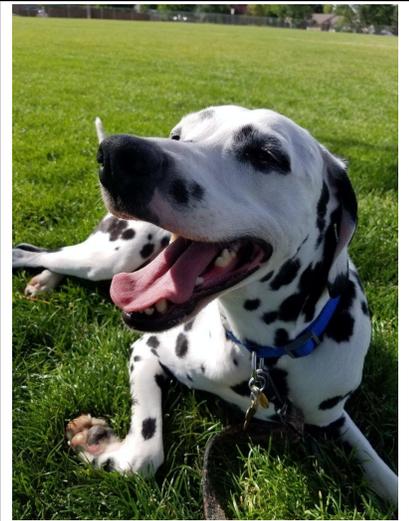
Breck

When we met, my husband, Chris had a Dalmatian, Casey, whom we loved dearly, and I know my husband still missed despite her passing over a decade ago. So, to mark our 15th wedding anniversary, I brought up the idea of adopting another Dalmatian to add to our family. Chris wasn't too sure at first that we were in a position to handle another pet, but then we heard Breck's story of repeated loss and abandonment.

In his three short years, through no fault of his own, he was surrendered twice, been in foster homes and shelters. This little lost boy needed a safe and loving home we knew we could provide.

Despite being understandably distrustful of new people and situations, Breck is sweet and loving. He likes nothing better than to have his belly rubbed and to take walks around the neighborhood. He is warming to us and our two sons and loves all his new toys and big bed. He is also starting to get along with his older "brother" Henry and "sister-cat" Pumpkin. We are so happy to be able to give Breck his forever home!

– Karie, Chris, Ethan & Cooper F.
Berthoud, CO



Jamie (aka Jameson)



I have been rescuing Dalmatians for thirty years. I lost my 13-year-old male Dalmatian the end of April. His Dalmatian sisters Libby and Kelsey missed him a lot. I did too. So, I began the search for a new Dalmatian family member. I applied to several Dalmatian Rescue organizations and began a conversation with Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado. That is when I first eyed Jameson. He was living fairly close --- Las Vegas --- a three-hour drive from my home in Williams, Arizona.

So, in the heat of the summer, my two girls and I drove to Las Vegas to spend the night at a pet friendly hotel for a "meet and greet" with Jameson the next morning. It was love at first sight! We spent good time together with Jameson's foster parents and their three Dalmatians. Then, Libby, Kelsey, and Jameson hopped into my truck and we began our journey back to cooler mountain weather. While I liked the name Jameson, it was too formal for my TEAM DALMATIAN. So, we shortened his name to Jamie. Jamie is a big boy --- about six or seven years old and 70+ pounds! So, I brought out an old large kennel that I had for many years. Unfortunately, my smallest --- Kelsey --- decided she wanted that kennel. So, here is the kennel line-up from left to right: Libby, Jamie, and Kelsey. Jamie is a happy and mellow fellow, and he loves all the walks I take the dogs on in the neighborhood. Cataract Lake is one of their favorites!

Thank you, Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado! We are thrilled to have Jamie join our home and our life!

– Becky
Williams, AZ

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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