

## *Celebrate!* *National* *Love Your Pet Day* *On Feb. 20th*

On February 20th, pet lovers everywhere observe National Love Your Pet Day. This holiday is a day set aside to give extra attention to and pamper your pets. This is a good day to focus on the special relationship that you have with your pets.

How To Observe? Bring your pet a special treat, take an extra long walk, treat them to a pet spa day or just simply give them more love and attention on National Love Your Pet day (and every day!). Whatever you decide to do, spoil and appreciate your pets! Use #NationalLoveYourPetDay to post on social media.

## *Your Dog Is Being Very Intentional When He Does This*

By Dr. Karen Shaw Becker, DVM



I'm sure that you, like most dog parents, are keenly aware of which verbal cues and physical gestures your four-legged family member is most likely to respond to. But how often do you think about or even notice the signals your dog uses to get a response out of you? As it turns out, our canine companions are extremely proficient at persuading us to do their bidding, and a new study published in the journal *Animal Cognition* provides some fascinating insights into yet another skill at which dogs excel.

### **Study Says: Dogs Use a Variety of Pointing Gestures to Ask for Things from Their Humans**

Two biologists at the University of Salford School of Environment & Life Sciences in Manchester (U.K.) have identified 19 gestures dogs make to humans and the behavior they expect in return. In addition, our furry friends often give us a "hurry up" signal when our response takes too long, or switch to a different gesture to get us moving!

The researchers deliberately flipped the script on the usual studies examining dogs' ability to understand humans by looking at doggy gestures and how well humans perform in response to them. "What we see is how dogs are really adept at using what's termed 'referential gestures' which in the human world are things like pointing and waving," explains Ph.D. researcher and study co-author Hannah Worsley. "For instance, we found that when dogs want a scratch, they use as many as 14 different gestures to coax their owners to do it."

Referential (pointing) gestures are used to draw attention to a specific object, individual or event in the environment. For their citizen

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science project, the research team recruited 37 volunteer dog parents and asked them to use their mobile phones to collect videos of their pets communicating with them in everyday situations over a period of several weeks.

The group of dogs ranged in age from 18 months to 15 years, and included 21 males and 16 females. All the dogs had lived with their humans for at least five months prior to the study. The researchers then analyzed over 1,000 video clips and whittled the dogs' behaviors down to 47 potential referential gestures. Next, they narrowed their list to 19 gestures that met the five criteria of referential signaling:

1. The gesture is directed toward an object or specific area of the signaler's body (the signaler in this case is the dog)
2. The gesture is aimed at a potential recipient
3. The gesture receives a voluntary response
4. The gesture is mechanically ineffective
5. The gesture has intention

## The 19 Gestures

Gesture	What It Looks Like
1. Roll over	Rolling onto one side of the body and exposing the chest, stomach and groin
2. Head forward	Moving the head forwards and up to direct a human's appendage to a specific location on the body
3. Head under	Plunging headfirst underneath an object or human
4. Hind leg stand	Lifting front paws off the ground and standing on hind legs, front paws are not resting on anything
5. Head turn	Head is turned from side to side on the horizontal axis usually between a human and an apparent object of interest
6. Shuffle	Shuffling whole body along the ground in short movements, performed whilst in roll over position
7. Back leg up	Lifting of a single back leg whilst lying on one side of the body
8. Paw hover	Holding one paw in mid-air whilst in a sitting position
9. Crawl under	Moving entire or part of body underneath an object or a human's appendage
10. Flick toy	Holding toy in the mouth and throwing it forwards, usually in the direction of a human
11. Jump	Jumping up and down off the ground, human or an object, usually while staying in one location
12. Paw reach	Placing a single paw or both paws underneath another object to retrieve an object of apparent interest
13. Nose	Pressing nose (or face) against an object or human
14. Lick	Licking an object or human once or repetitively
15. Front paws on	Lifting both paws off the ground and resting them on an object or human
16. Paw rest	Lifting a single front paw and resting it on an object or human
17. Head rub	Involves rubbing the head against an object or human on which the signaler is leaning on
18. Chomp	Involves opening the mouth and placing it over the arm of a human whilst repeatedly and gently biting down on the arm
19. Paw	Lifting of a single front paw to briefly touch an object or human

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## *Most Doggy Gestures Are a Request for One of These Four Things*

Next, the researchers placed the gestures into four categories based on their "apparent satisfactory outcome," defined as the dog wanted something, gestured to a human and the human responded in a way that ended the gesture. The four categories the researchers settled on were:

1. Give me food/drink
2. Open the door
3. Fetch my toy/bone
4. [Scratch me](#)

The most common signal the dogs gave was the head turn (No. 5 in the chart), which was recorded 381 times, and was used to achieve all four outcomes. Thirty-five of the 37 dogs used it. The paw hover (No. 8) was used most often to ask for food or drink; the roll over (No. 1) was used 100 percent of the time to say "Scratch me" and the head under maneuver (No. 3) was invariably used to say "Fetch my toy/bone."

The researchers also observed that the dogs' use of their nose (No. 13) could signal any of the four requests. In addition, both the number of people in the household, and the length of time the dog had lived with those people influenced the gestures the dog used. "We see how dogs with a larger number of people to communicate with possess a greater number of gestures to call upon since they have had more opportunities to learn," says Worsley. "This implies that dogs are very much aware that they can't just make a gesture, they also need to ensure that gesture is understood by the recipient, and if necessary make it easier or clearer for the message recipient."

"What is clear," adds Worsley, "is that after 30,000 years of cohabitation, dogs and their human companion have become skilled at identifying and understanding each other's referential cues. Perhaps another reason why man and dog seems to be such a satisfying relationship."

### How Many Referential Gestures Does Your Dog Use to Communicate With You?

Just in case any of you reading here today don't fully understand the significance of this study and what it says about your dog, allow me to elaborate just a bit.

Referential gestures are considered incredibly rare in nonhuman species. Apes use a couple of different signals to communicate with one another, and occasionally with human caretakers in the case of [captive apes](#). There are also reports of limited gesturing among birds and certain species of fish, but again, the signals are used only to communicate with others of their kind.

Referential gesturing by one species to another species is almost unheard of, and no other species possesses the incredibly wide variety of gestures [domesticated dogs](#) do when communicating with people. There are plenty of studies showing [dogs are uniquely skilled at understanding our communication gestures](#), but this study is the first to show that dogs also use an impressive array of gestures to communicate with us. And perhaps best of all, just as they understand our nonverbal signals, we understand theirs as well.

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## Recent Adoptees!



**Cecil**  
Boulder, CO



**Bridger (aka Spot)**  
Undisclosed per request



**Jayden**  
Underwood, WA



**Hailee (aka Harley)**  
Georgetown, TX



**Percy**  
Littleton, 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](mailto:DalmatianRescueOfCO@comcast.net)



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# Help Us Raise Money While You Shop!!

## What's It All About?



## AMAZON.SMILE

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com), you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado.

To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same. On your first visit to AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com)), you need to select the charitable organization (Dalmatian Rescue) to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation.

You can change your charity any time. Your AmazonSmile purchases after the change count towards your newly selected charity. To change your charity, sign in to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) on your desktop or mobile phone browser and simply select "Change your Charity" in "Your Account." You can choose from over one million eligible 501(c)(3) public charitable organizations. Look for Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado to make us your charity of choice!

## KING SOOPERS/CITY MARKET COMMUNITY REWARDS



For Colorado supporters (or anywhere King Soopers or City Market operates), Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado has also enrolled in the King Soopers and City Market Community Rewards Program.

To Use the King Soopers or City Market Community Rewards Program, simply visit the appropriate link below.

For King Soopers Stores - go to <http://www.kingsoopers.com>

For City Market Stores - go to <http://www.citymarket.com>

Once logged in to your King Soopers or City Market account, search for Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc., either by name or FR415, and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a loyalty card.

\*Customers must have a registered King Soopers or City Market loyalty card account to link to our organization. If you do not yet have a King Soopers or City Market loyalty card, they are available at the customer service desk at any King Soopers or City Market.

REMEMBER, purchases will not count for our organization until after you have registered your loyalty card (the same card that you use to build fuel points). You must swipe your registered King Soopers or City Market loyalty card or use the phone number that is related to the registered King Soopers or City Market loyalty card when shopping for each purchase to count. This does not affect your fuel points!

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## *How To Stop Your Dog From Jumping*

By [Michelson Found Animals](#)

Why do dogs jump? In short, a jumping dog is a dog who is looking for attention, and it doesn't matter whether that attention is positive or negative. Dogs have spent thousands of years evolving alongside humans and over that time they have learned what appeases us when we are angry with them (puppy eyes anyone?), what facial expression and silly antics earn our affection, and what behaviors get them what they want.

If your dog wants attention, affection or petting and they have learned that they can get it when they jump, then guess what? They will continue jumping! But what if you don't lavish your dog with cuddles when they jump? What if you have tried other training methods in the past, such as kneeling your dog in the chest, pushing them off of you or shouting commands like "Off!" "No!" or "Down!" without success?

When you push your dog off of you, you have touched them, and therefore rewarded the behavior. When you shout commands at your dog that they do not understand or have not learned well, you are speaking to your dog, giving them attention. When you knee your dog in the chest or step on their paw? Even that may be reinforcing your dog's behavior, because to a dog even negative attention is better than no attention at all. This is why dogs who have been abused in the past may still remain loyal to their owners, because negative attention is better than being ignored.

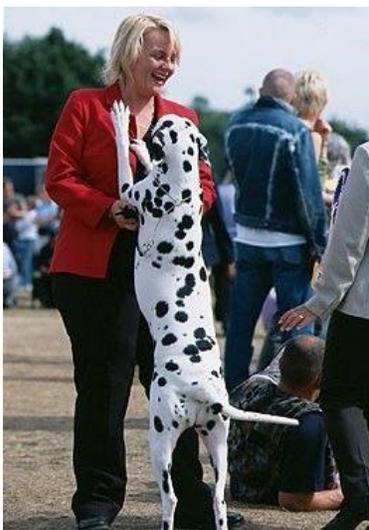
So what is so wrong with jumping? Well, aside from being a very rude, pushy doggie behavior, a jumping dog can hurt someone, causing split lips, bruises and black eyes, toppled toddlers and even grown adults who aren't expecting it. Dogs want to please us, and we hate to be jumped on, so why do they do it?

In a dog pack, alpha dogs are the only dogs who are able to get away with rude, demanding physical solicitations like jumping or pawing, so a dog who is jumping up may be anxious and confused about what he is supposed to be doing and what is expected of him. He may also misread your commands of "No! No! Stop!" and attempts to push him down as an invitation to play. When you train your dog to stop jumping, you may find that your dog will be calmer and more relaxed because they understand clearly how they need to behave to earn your love and affection.

So how do you stop the jumping? Adopt a rule called "Four on the Floor." This means that unless all four paws are on the ground, you pretend that your dog does not exist. Don't look at them, touch them, talk to them or acknowledge them in any way unless all four paws are on the ground. If your dog jumps on you, cross your arms and look away. When your dog has all four paws on the floor, lavish him or her with attention. After repeating this a few times, your dog will get the idea and learn that when all four paws are on the ground, they are the light of your life. When they jump? Nada, zero, zip, no attention whatsoever.

It may sound like a cruel idea, but it works. In order to be good pet parents, you have to establish clear rules and effective leadership in order to take away our pet's stress and anxiety that unclear leadership always brings.

Another method you can try is to ask for a counter behavior. For example, if you can tell that your dog is about to jump, ask for a sit instead. If your dog is sitting, they can't be jumping. Reward your dog regularly for sitting and they will learn that sitting is more profitable and gets them what they want more often than jumping does. If your dog jumps only when they are overly excited, then do everything you can to take their excitement down a notch when it reaches the point where jumping is imminent. For example, if your dog jumps all over you when you get home from work because you greet them enthusiastically and lavish them with kisses and attention, try calmly walking through the door and ignoring your dog for a few minutes until they are over their initial peak of excitement and are in a calmer state of mind.





## Trainer Tips

# “Should Dogs Be Allowed On Furniture?”

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When I arrive for an in-home consultation with clients, I always want to know where dogs spend their time, where they are allowed or not, and what the household rules are. People who allow their dogs on the furniture are often sheepish about admitting it. I often hear things like “I know we shouldn’t, but we do allow our dog to snuggle on the couch with us.”

People will assume that I will tell them they should not do this. They will assume that I will try to change that. I rarely do. As with many other things that dogs do, many people have been led to believe that this behavior will cause a dog to think he is dominant or alpha in the household. That is simply not true. The same goes for dogs going through the door first, dogs walking in front of you on a walk, dogs eating dinner before you eat your dinner, and so many other things. If you’ve been told that, strike it from your memory right now! It is simply not true.

My dogs are allowed to snuggle with me on the couch. My dogs quite often walk ahead of me on walks. My dogs are usually fed dinner before I sit down to relax and eat my own dinner. Are my dogs dominant? Are they trying to take over the household? Am I subservient to them? Absolutely not!

Years ago, I didn’t allow my dogs on the furniture. I was afraid of getting my couch dirty with muddy feet. I now put a blanket on the couch that I can pull off and easily wash whenever I need. I have always loved to snuggle with my dogs, but I used to sit on the floor to snuggle with them. It was very uncomfortable, but it was a sacrifice I made to snuggle with them. Then one day I decided this was absurd. If I loved snuggling but it was more comfortable on the couch, why not allow the dogs up there with me? So I did. And I have never once regretted it. My dogs all love to snuggle with me and I with them.

Romeo, my Vizsla, has been a master snuggler since day one. He will snuggle with me no matter how small the space and no matter how warm it is. His favorite place in the entire world is in his momma’s lap! Zuzu, our Greyhound puppy, was not much of a snuggler at first. I think she gets too warm much easier than Romeo does. She is becoming more and more of a snuggler with me, but she will often end up moving to the floor where it’s cooler after a bit.

Now, I do have rules in place. If my dogs were being possessive of the couch and not allowing us to join them if they are already there, then they would lose their privileges. My rules for couch-sharing are these:

1. If I say, “Off!” dogs must immediately get off the couch.
2. If I say, “Move!” dogs must immediately get up and move over so I can sit in my usual spot. Once I am settled in, they are welcome to come back and snuggle with me.
3. Couches/chairs are for napping only. Dogs are not allowed to play on the couch. Dogs are not allowed to chew bully sticks on the couch. Dogs are not allowed to chew on the couch.

I do not allow my dogs on the bed. As much as I like to snuggle, I also like to sleep. And I know I would not get a good night’s sleep if they were snuggled with me at bedtime.

These are my rules when it comes to furniture. I’m not saying you should allow your dogs on the furniture. That’s entirely up to you. What are your rules?

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For additional training tips and information, you can read our blog at <https://thelightofdog.com/read/> or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

 <https://thelightofdog.com/>

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(This “Ask The Trainer” article is reprinted with permission of Sue Brown, co-owner of The Light Of Dog, a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant. The Light of Dog Training is located in Sedalia, CO and services the Denver Metro Area. <https://thelightofdog.com/>).

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## *“The World Through Dexter’s Eyes - The Foibles of a Too Big, Deaf Dalmatian and the Power of Love”*

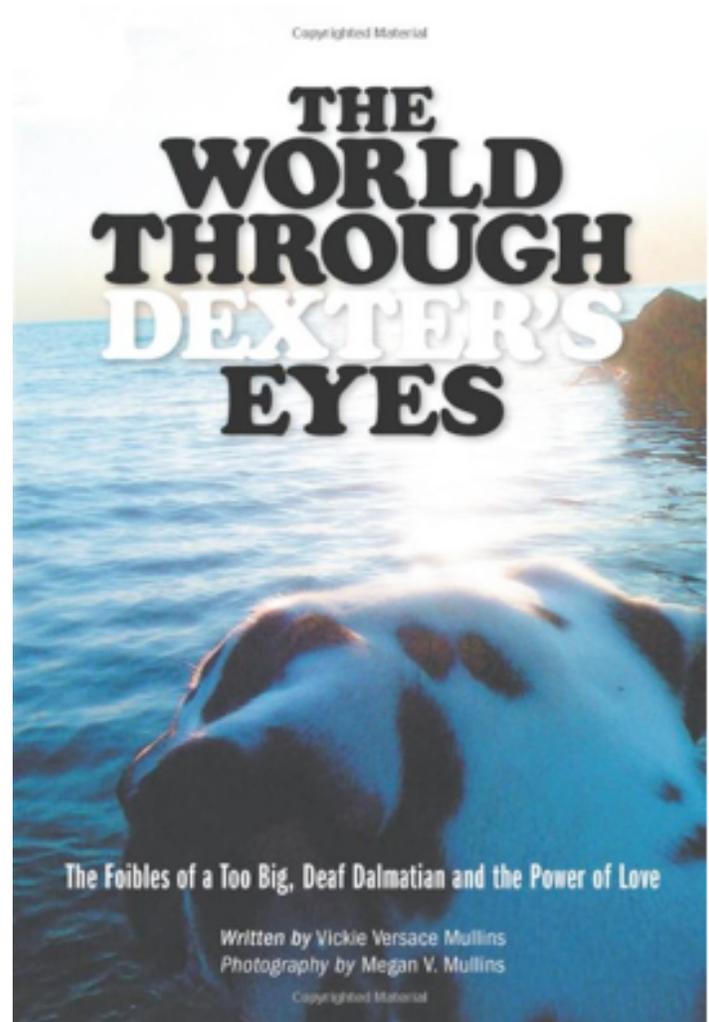
Dexter comes into the world with many problems, and he turns his family’s life upside down. Outside and lonely, he pulls the siding off the house, destroys the back door, chews up the cable wires and wood patio furniture. Inside, he does more of the same. He appears to not be trainable, so out of frustration,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

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

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

### About the author

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



*“The World Through Dexter’s Eyes ~ The Foibles of a Too Big, Deaf Dalmatian and the Power of Love” by Victoria Mullins, is a book we 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!*

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## *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](mailto: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 \*\*\*\*\****

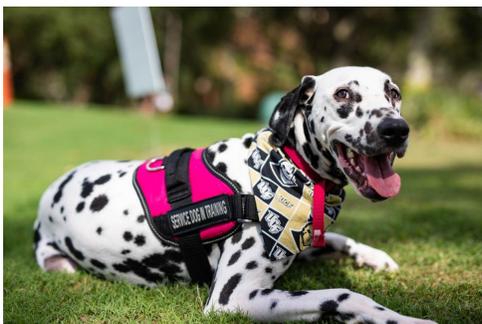
PLEASE – They need YOUR help!! Remember when your rescue Dalmatian came home with you, from the warmth of a loving foster family? If we hadn't had foster homes, you probably would not have gotten YOUR dog. PLEASE think about fostering a dog for the Dalmatian Rescue where you obtained your Dal, or the 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](mailto:karl@dalmatianrescueco.org) for inclusion in the next issue.

*Sadly, There are no reader recommendations or tips this time around. If you have any that you think might be helpful or informative for our readers, please send them in and see your recommendations and tips in our next issue!*



# *In The Doghouse...Our Featured Dalmatians*

## *Marina*

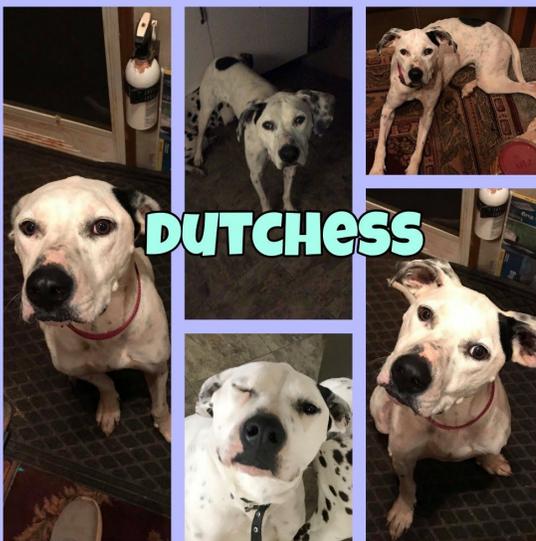
**2 Years Old, Liver Spayed Female**  
**Reason Available: Stray**  
**Foster Home: Grand Junction, CO**

**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](mailto:mcfallexplore@hotmail.com) or Beth at [beth@dalmatianrescueco.org](mailto:beth@dalmatianrescueco.org). Adoption \$250.



## *Duchess*

**2 Years Old, Black Spayed Female**  
**Reason Available: Stray**  
**Foster Home: Lexington, NC**



Duchess is a lovely, spirited two-yr old dal mix from a South Carolina shelter where she was the star of the doggie day care play groups! She is a happy, happy spirited young girl who loves her foster siblings & Dad! She is crate trained House broken, UTD, microchipped. She loves everyone she has ever met, whether that be 2 or 4 legs!! Duchess deserves a forever family of her own who will love & care for her forever. For additional information, please contact [sandy@dalmatianrescueco.org](mailto:sandy@dalmatianrescueco.org). Donation is \$250.00

## *Happy Beginnings Stories*

### *Maddie Mo (aka MaddieB)*



In early 2019, we lost our beloved Black Lab, Sadie, to old age. After several months, we decided we were ready and started our adoption search. As there were no Dalmatians for adoption in our immediate area, our family and our references were interviewed and we tripped to Ft. Collins to meet Beth, the president of the CO chapter and her dogs, and to Greely to visit Barb's dogs and to meet Maddie, who originally came to the rescue in TX with her brother. Maddie had been adopted out twice before and returned thru no fault of her own. We fell in love and she's been with us since November 2019 (that is my son in the pics with her). Thank you for the great work you guys do for the fur babies!

~Kimber





**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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net).

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

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**Rescue Hotline: 303-281-8963**

**Fax: 970-377-9509**

**Website: <http://www.dalmatianrescueco.org>**