



Celebrate! *National* *K9 Veterans Day on* *March 13th*

March 13th recognizes National K9 Veterans Day.

A lot of things changed after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. Oil, leather and rubber were rationed. Men were drafted. Women rolled up their sleeves and built war supplies.

And dogs were called to duty. During the first world war, the United States took notice of the European use of canines as sentries, message carriers and several other functions. Dogs for Defense was a program initiated by a private citizen by the name of Mrs. Alene Erlanger. Along with the American Kennel Club and a handful of breeders, the group aimed to train the dogs for military use.

By November of 1942, the first Dogs for Defense were prepared for duty in North Africa. While at first they were gun shy, they proved to be well trained.

As the war progressed, Dogs for Defense was unable to keep up with the demand and the Remount Branch, Service Installations Divisions took over training of the dogs.

Over the years the military, police and rescue have developed a variety of training methods for K9 units. Their training is tailored to meet the demands of the job and each animal and handler carries out his or her duties to the fullest.

How to Observe? Use #NationalK9VeteransDay to post on social media.

History of National K9 Veterans Day: National K9 Veterans Day is celebrated on March 13th on the official birthday of the US Army K9 Corps, which was formed in 1942. Joseph White, a retired military working dog trainer, originated the idea for the day.

A dog, companion, friend, protector, playmate and life-changer. Dogs add a dimension to our lives that otherwise would just be a vacant spot. They work for us, guard us, play with us, entertain us, love us, keep us company and change our lives.

~ H. Norman Wright

WOOHOO! DRC VOLUNTEERS ROCK!

By Jeannine Holt

In 2019, Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado took in 108 Dalmatians and Wannabes. Of these, 33 were owner surrenders, 56 came from various shelters around the country, 8 were true strays, and 11 came from assorted other sources but were at risk, nonetheless. All were cared for by our awesome team of volunteer fosters.

At the same time, we adopted 95 dogs into new, permanent family homes. Every dog that is adopted makes a space for a new dog to be saved. As of December 31, 2019, we still had 59 dogs remaining in DRC's care. It didn't take long for that to change, however, as we even took in one dog on New Year's Day of 2020.

For comparison, DRC took in 125 Dalmatians and Wannabes in 2018. 29 of these were owner surrenders, 68 came from shelters, 5 were true strays, and 23 came from assorted odd-ball sources. 109 were adopted in their "forever" homes.

Without each and every one of you - our amazing donors, our volunteer fosters, our hard-working Board, and, most especially, YOU, the adopters - none of this would be possible.

Our "spots" say THANK YOU!

Possibly The Worst Thing To Do If Your Pet Bolts

By Dr. Karen Shaw Becker, DVM

In the U.S., an estimated 15 percent of dog or cat owners have lost a pet in the past five years. The majority — 85 percent — were recovered, but not in the way you might think. It's often assumed that if your dog runs off, the best way to find him is by calling local animal shelters.

But, while you certainly should contact them if you've lost a pet, only 6 percent of dog owners and 2 percent of cat owners actually find their lost pets in a shelter, according to a survey conducted by The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

Among dog owners, the most common method that led to their dog's safe return was searching the neighborhood (for cats, most of them ended up returning home on their own). "Searching immediately when one knows the pet is lost, and searching within the neighborhood first through visual searches as well as posters and internet opportunities proved to be key," ASPCA noted, which is a sentiment echoed by "professional" dog-finding group The Retrievers.

The Retrievers Find Lost Dogs Across the US

The Retrievers, formed in 2014, is a group of 40 volunteers who donate their time and expertise to finding others' lost pets. Though they're based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, they locate dogs across the U.S., living by their motto, "Come Back Home, Puppies; Stay Warm, Puppies."

The group's founders are also volunteers for Retrieve a Golden of Minnesota (RAGOM), a golden retriever rescue organization, during which they saw firsthand that dogs in transition are often the same ones who become "lost." According to The Retrievers: "Thanks to a surge in rescue organizations over the past decade, more shy and fearful dogs are being rehabilitated instead of euthanized as unadoptable. But we're also seeing a corresponding increase in the number of dogs going missing.

Barely a day passes when we don't see a new listing on our Facebook feed for a missing foster dog, newly adopted dog, or dog that bolted during transport. A skittish dog — or any dog under stress — is a flight risk. Because rescues routinely transition dogs from one living situation to another, the odds of losing a dog are high."

Rescued dogs are not the only dogs who get lost, but it is important to use extra caution if your dog is in a transitional stage. The group provides free phone consultations to anyone in the continental U.S. whose dog has gone missing, but for those in Minnesota, they also provide assistance with live trapping. In one success story, reported by The Bark, Lindsey, an Australian Shepherd mix, went missing during a Minnesota camping trip when she was spooked by thunder and lightning from a storm.

Her owner, John Lundquist, searched for her for two days until he had to return home, more than 300 miles away. Lundquist posted the story on social media, which alerted locals to be on the lookout for Lindsey.

The dog wandered into a campsite a couple of weeks later and was captured by a father and son, who took Lindsey into town, where she was set to be reunited with her owner. Lindsey, however, ran off again, but by this time the Retrievers were on the case, mapping sightings of the dog and driving in a live trap for dogs. The Bark explained:

"A baited trap can be extremely helpful when a skittish dog resists capture (even by her family, as Lundquist can attest) but continues to frequent certain areas. The Retrievers have invented several styles of live traps, including a large enclosure called the Missy Trap.

For Lindsey, they used their smaller Cash Trap, which was named for the first dog caught in it. All are triggered by the Raytripper, an electronic sensor beam/magnet system that drops the trap's gate when the dog steps into its invisible infrared beam."

The trap worked, and within about a month Lindsey was caught and returned to her owner — and likely not a moment too soon. The dog had lost about 10 pounds, caught tapeworm and had last been spotted running away from a wolf. Today, "She's fine and healthy, gaining the weight," Lundquist told The Bark. "Most of the time, she's sitting on someone's lap on the couch."

If Your Dog Goes Missing, Act Fast

One of the greatest mistakes that pet owners make, according to the Retrievers, is not acting fast enough. Owners often search for their dogs for hours, or give them a chance to return home on their own overnight, before taking action, but this wastes valuable time that you could be on your dog's trail. They urge pet owners to take immediate action by posting lost dog signs around the neighborhood and posting on social media.

"With thousands of followers who are eager to help reunite lost dogs and their owners, Facebook's lost dog pages can be a very effective resource, not only to help spread the word about your dog, but also for recruiting help with flyering," the Retrievers note. "Be sure to give them that chance by reporting your lost dog and posting a personal plea in the comments." At HelpingLostPets.com, you can report a lost dog or cat and it will automatically post it on your state's lost pet Facebook page. You can also do this directly as well as post a notice of your lost pet on Craigslist and other local lost pet websites. The Retrievers recommending doing the following within the first hour that your pet goes missing:

- Call local police departments/law enforcement (city, township or county, as appropriate), vet clinics, animal control agencies and shelters. Be sure to include those in your surrounding counties/communities.
- Contact impound facilities in your area.
- Place missing dog ad on local Craigslist Community > Lost & Found and Community > Pets
- Report dog on Facebook lost dog pages for your area (i.e., Lost Dogs - MN)

Within the first four hours that your pet goes missing, they recommend making brightly colored lost dog flyers that include text large enough for drivers to see from the road and a photo of your dog. Within eight hours, the signs should be posted at nearby intersections, where the dog went missing and begin to be distributed around the area, including door-to-door.

Don't Chase the Dog and Other Search Strategies

If your dog doesn't turn up immediately, keep searching and don't give up hope. You can place lost dog ads in your local newspaper's "Lost & Found" section, ask your local radio station to broadcast an announcement about your missing dog and even pay for an automated robocall to be placed to alert neighbors that your pet has gone missing (Findtoto.com and petamberalert.com are two examples).

The Retrievers also recommend continuing to visit animal shelters in your area and also contacting purebred rescues (if your dog is or appears to be a purebred).

If no sightings are reported, they advise expanding your signage and flyer hand-outs by a mile per day. If your dog is spotted and appears to be frequenting the same area, The Retrievers have live trap diagrams to help you make your own live trap to help capture your dog. If you happen to spot your dog, resist the urge to chase him, which can make a frightened dog run away. Instead, run away from your dog and call his name, in the hopes that he'll pick up on this fun "game" and start to chase you back.

How to Prevent a Skittish Dog From Getting Lost

If you've recently adopted a dog, be on alert that this is a high-risk time when he may be prone to taking off — and getting lost. In addition to making sure your dog is wearing a collar with proper identification, RAGOM recommends taking extra precautions like not stopping for potty breaks for your dog on the way home from the initial adoption and crating your dog while in the car.

Once home, they suggest pulling into your garage and closing the door before letting your dog out of the car (if possible). In the first two weeks, you can help keep your dog safe by using two leashes when going for walks (holding one in each hand), not allowing your dog to charge your door when people are entering or leaving your home, and securing gates and fences in your yard.⁶ Also, be sure there are no "hidden" escape routes in your yard (like a snowbank against a fence that could allow your pet to jump over).

If you need more help on how to find a lost dog, TheRetrievers.org offers flyer templates and directions for making intersection signage, along with a lost dog action plan and videos on how to use Google Maps to help you find your lost dog. They provide a wealth of resources to reunite lost pets with their owners, but hopefully you'll never need to use them.

“A well trained dog will make no attempt to share your lunch.
He will just make you feel so guilty that you cannot enjoy it.”

-Helen Thomson

Recent Adoptees!



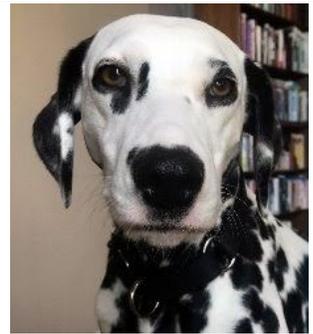
Cissy
Houston, TX



Jackson
Georgetown, TX



Dax
Wheat Ridge, CO



LouLou
Champaign, IL

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



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, 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 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), 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 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 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!



Trainer Tips

“Dogs Need Opportunities To Be Dogs”

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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 do 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 of his 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>).

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

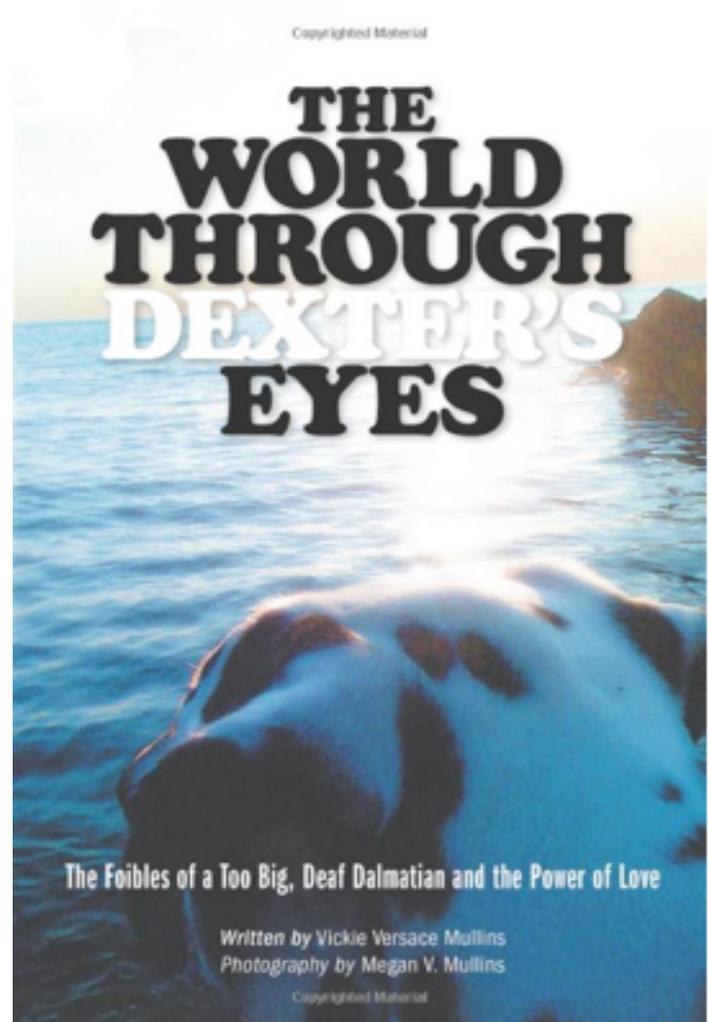
Dexter comes into the world with many problems, and he turns his family’s life upside down. Outside and lonely, he pulls the siding off the house, destroys the back door, chews up the cable wires and wood patio furniture. Inside, he does more of the same. He appears to not be trainable, so out of frustration,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

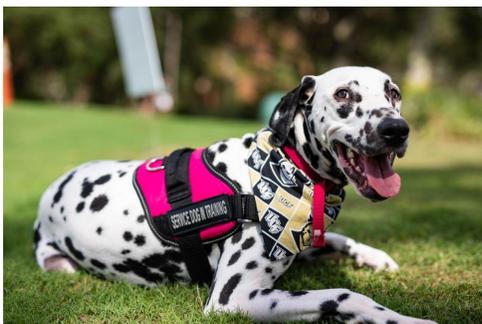
PLEASE – They need YOUR help!! Remember when your rescue Dalmatian came home with you, from the warmth of a loving foster family? If we hadn't had foster homes, you probably would not have gotten YOUR dog. PLEASE think about fostering a dog for the Dalmatian Rescue where you obtained your Dal, or the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

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

Roxie2

2 Years Old, Black Spayed Female
Reason Available: Owner Moved
Foster Home: Fort Collins, CO

Roxie came from TX like most of our really sweet, cool rescue dogs do. Her adopter has moved and could not take Roxie along. Roxie is a Heeler x Dalmatian mix and she is deaf. She is very loving of every person she meets, is very smart, learns fast, is totally housebroken and has great house manners. She is crate trained also and is excellent on the leash. She loves to hop into the car for rides, but might bark at horses or bikes passing. Roxie has been a great bed partner in the past and would love a home where she could sleep with her people. She does not get on furniture and only plays with dog toys. Currently in foster care in Fort Collins, little Roxie has been a lovely visitor. This little love bug (only about 37 lbs) would do best in a home with a male dog her size or larger. She is not good with cats or small dogs or some female dogs. For more information, contact Beth at beth@dalmatianrescueco.org. Adoption \$250.



Duchess

2 Years Old, Black Neutered Male
Reason Available: Owner Surrender
Foster Home: Greeley, CO



Mikko purchased as a young puppy to be a stud dog and make puppies. Then the owner discovered that Mikko was deaf, so that, fortunately, ended that career. Since he was being crated 8-12 hours a day and was not useful, Mikko came to DRC. Now in Greeley, he is happily playing with other dogs, asking the cats to play with him and not spending much time in the crate. Mikko is house trained and uses the dog door. He is timid in new situations, but that often comes with the age and he is currently (3/27/19) a year and a half old. Mikko has learned to respond to some hand signals and has been to training with Lorraine May Springer. He is very food motivated, affectionate and loves his toys. He has MASTERED fetch and return and loves to do it! While Mikko has made great progress, he would do best with an adopter that has experience with deaf and fearful dogs. For more information, contact Barb at Barbara.Flores@colostate.edu. Adoption \$250.

Happy Beginnings Stories

Unfortunately,

There are no Happy Beginnings Stories to share this month. If you have adopted a dog but not shared their story with us, why not submit their story today while it's still on your mind? This is the "Pay" our volunteer fosters get for all their hard work keeping your dog safe while they wait for you!

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 dalmatianrescueco@comcast.net.

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

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