

# *Understand Why Your Dog Growls*

## *Why you should never punish your dog for growling*

By Pat Miller, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA



Clients always appear a bit stunned at first when I tell them their dog's growl is a good thing. In fact, a growl is something to be greatly treasured.

These are my aggression consultation clients, who are in my office in desperation, as a last resort, hoping to find some magic pill that will turn their biting dog into a safe companion. They are often dismayed and alarmed to discover that the paradigm many of us grew up with – punish your dog harshly at the first sign of aggression – has contributed to and exacerbated the serious and dangerous behavior problem that has led them to my door.

It seems intuitive to punish growling. Growling leads to biting, and dogs who bite people often must be euthanized, so let's save our dog's life and nip biting in the bud by punishing him at the first sign of inappropriate behavior. It makes sense, in a way – but when you have a deeper understanding of canine aggression, it's easy to understand why it's the absolute wrong thing to do.

### **A Growl is a Communication Effort**

Most dogs don't want to bite or fight. The behaviors that signal pending aggression are intended first and foremost to warn away a threat. The dog who doesn't want to bite or fight tries his hardest to make you go away. He may begin with subtle signs of discomfort that are often overlooked by many humans – tension in body movements, a stiffly wagging tail.

"Please," he says gently, "I don't want you to be here."

If you continue to invade his comfort zone, his threats may intensify, with more tension, a hard stare, and a low growl.

"I mean it," he says more firmly, "I want you to leave."

If those are ignored, he may become more insistent, with an air snap, a bump of the nose, or even open mouth contact that closes gently on an arm but doesn't break skin.

"Please," he says, "don't make me bite you."

If that doesn't succeed in convincing you to leave, the dog may feel compelled to bite hard enough to break skin in his efforts to protect self, territory, members of his social group, or other valuable resources.

### **Aggression is Caused by Stress**

What many people don't realize is that aggression is caused by stress. The stressor may be related to pain, fear, intrusion, threats to

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resources, past association, or anticipation of any of these things. An assertive, aggressive dog attacks because he's stressed by the intrusion of another dog or human into his territory. A fearful dog bites because he's stressed by the approach of a human. An injured dog lacerates the hand of his rescuer because he's stressed by pain.

When you punish a growl or other early warning signs, you may succeed in suppressing the growl, snarl, snap, or other warning behavior – but you don't take away the stress that caused the growl in the first place. In fact, you increase the stress, because now you, the dog's owner, have become unpredictable and violent as well.

Worst of all, and most significantly, if you succeed in suppressing the warning signs, you end up with a dog who bites without warning. He has learned that it's not safe to warn, so he doesn't.

If a dog is frightened of children, he may growl when a child approaches. You, conscientious and responsible owner, are well aware of the stigma – and fate – of dogs who bite children, so you punish your dog with a yank on the leash and a loud “No! Bad dog!” Every time your dog growls at a child you do this, and quickly your dog's fear of children is confirmed – children do make bad things happen! He likes children even less, but he learns not to growl at them to avoid making you turn mean.

You think he's learned that it's not okay to be aggressive to children, because the next time one passes by, there's no growl.

“Phew,” you think to yourself. “We dodged that bullet!”

Convinced that your dog now accepts children because he no longer growls at them, the next time one approaches and asks if he can pat your dog, you say yes. In fact, your dog has simply learned not to growl, but children still make him very uncomfortable. Your dog is now super-stressed, trying to control his growl as the child gets nearer and nearer so you don't lose control and punish him, but when the scary child reaches out for him he can't hold back any longer – he lunges forward and snaps at the child's face.

Fortunately, you're able to restrain him with the leash so he doesn't connect. You, the dog, and the child are all quite shaken by the incident.

It's time to change your thinking.

## **When Dogs Cry for Help**

A growl is a dog's cry for help. It's your dog's way of telling you he can't tolerate a situation – as if he's saying, “I can't handle this, please get me out of here!”

Your first response when you hear your dog growl should be to calmly move him away from the situation, while you make a mental note of what you think may have triggered the growl. Make a graceful exit. If you act stressed you'll only add to his stress and make a bite more, not less, likely. Don't worry that removing him rewards his aggression; your first responsibility is to keep others safe and prevent him from biting.

If the growl was triggered by something you were doing, stop doing it. Yes, your dog learned one tiny lesson about how to make you stop doing something he doesn't like, but you'll override that when you do lots of lessons about how that thing that made him uncomfortable makes really, really good stuff happen.

This is where counter-conditioning comes in. Your dog growls because he has a negative association with something – say he growls when you touch his paw. For some reason, he's convinced that having his paw touched is a bad thing. If you start by touching his knee, then feeding him a smidgen of chicken, and keep repeating that, he'll come to think that you touching his knee makes chicken happen. He'll want you to touch his leg so he gets a bit of chicken.

Note: Make sure your dog's discomfort with you touching his paw is not related to pain. If it hurts when you touch him there, counter-conditioning won't work. It's a good idea to get a full veterinary workup if there's any chance your dog's growling may be pain-related.

When you see him eagerly search for chicken when you touch his knee, you can move your hand slightly lower and touch there, until you get the same “Where's my chicken?!” response at the new spot. Gradually move closer and closer to his paw, until he's delighted to have you touch his foot – it makes chicken happen! Now practice with each foot, until he's uniformly delighted to have you touch all of them. Remember that the touch comes first, so it consistently predicts the imminent arrival of chicken.

If at any time in the process – which could take days, weeks, or even months, depending on the dog and how well you apply the protocol – you see the dog's tension increase, you've moved too quickly. Back up a few inches to where he's comfortable being touched and start again. Or, there may be other stressors present that are increasing his tension. Do an environment check to be sure nothing else is happening that's adding to his stress. Have the rowdy grandkids leave the room, give him a little time to relax, and start again.

Remember, dogs can't tell us in words what's bothering them, but they can communicate a lot with their body language and canine vocal sounds. Pay attention to what your dog is telling you. Listen with heart and compassion. Be gentle when your dog tells you he needs help. Come to his rescue. Treasure his growl.

-Pat Miller, CPDT, is WDJ's Training Editor. She is also author of *The Power of Positive Dog Training*, and *Positive Perspectives: Love Your Dog, Train Your Dog*. Miller lives in Hagerstown, Maryland, site of her Peaceable Paws training center.

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***Make your home smell great and help  
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**Join our virtual “hostess” Tena Price, and Pink Zebra consultant, Abigail Boylan, for this great DRC fundraiser.**

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**Visit Tena on Facebook or find the event on our DRC Facebook page. Click the invite button to add all your friends!**

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Photo  
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Available

**Pogo (aka Pyro)**  
Boulder, CO

Photo  
Not  
Available

**Oscar**  
Undisclosed Location

Photo  
Not  
Available

**Tino (aka Valentino)**  
Bountiful, UT



**Griffin**  
Sioux Falls, SD



**River**  
Colorado Springs, CO



**Cora**  
Greeley, CO



**Kai**  
Denver, CO



**Riley2**  
Denver, CO



**Abbey (aka Cinnamon)**  
Kemah, TX



**Queso**  
Peoria, AZ

## *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>

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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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## Trainer Tips

# “Walk the dinosaur – I mean, the dog. Leash manners with Zooka”

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Remember the song Walk the Dinosaur? You know the song by Was (Not Was) released in 1988. Maybe you don't. I was an 80's girl. Play 80's music for me and I feel right at home. But I digress. . .

Does walking your dog sometimes feel like walking the dinosaur? Some dogs quite naturally pick up nice leash manners without much effort. Consider yourself quite lucky if you get one of those! Because most of us don't get those dogs. More often, we are likely to get the dog who does not feel the leash is necessary for them. Who likes to be restrained, after all?

We have been working on Zooka's leash manners since we picked him up from his breeder in July 2019 at nine weeks old. At this writing, he's 8.5 months old. We got lots of chances to practice as we made our three day drive home from North Carolina to Colorado. Fortunately, the breeder had already

done some work to acclimate all of the puppies to a leash before we picked them up. (Most pups have never been introduced to a leash – or perhaps even a collar – by the time you pick up a puppy.)

We work with Zooka on a variety of length leashes. But we never use retractable leashes. (That is a whole other conversation that we don't have time for in this post.) For Zooka, we use [eight foot, ten foot and twenty foot lines](#). I am sure at some point we probably used a six foot leash in there too, but we rarely ever use a six foot leash.

Regardless of what length of leash you use, you should have clear expectations for what behaviors you want (and don't want) when your dog is on leash. When we have students struggling with leash manners, in most cases, there really is not a clear enough expectation. And if there is, it has not been clearly communicated to the dog.

Whether Zooka is on an eight foot, ten foot or twenty foot line, his expectation is the same. [We expect a loose leash](#). We expect him to be tuned in with us. With the person holding the leash. We expect some checking in. Checking in voluntarily. Not just when we ask for it.

We also expect that Zooka will do some exploring and sniffing. We WANT him to do that! But not at the expense of tuning us out. Those two things might seem contradictory but they are not. It takes some work to learn how to do both. But it's do-able and preferable, as far as we are concerned.

We expect Zooka to keep a loose leash, but he can walk ahead of us, behind us or even cross sides. We do NOT expect him to walk at our left side for an entire walk. Though there are times I do expect him to come to my side or even stay at my side for a short stretch.

Your expectations might depend on where you walk. Crowded areas? Sidewalks? Along busy streets? Past soccer games at the park? In (dog-friendly) stores? On hiking trails? On bike paths? In open fields? Clearly in more crowded places, you need your dog closer to you and under better control. In more wide open spaces without others around, your dog can have more freedom.

For Zooka, most of his walks are on trails on our property or out on hiking trails where there are not many other people around. So Zooka's walks are more often on a 20 foot line than on an eight foot leash. The eight foot leash is for areas where we need to keep him closer. The vet's office. The local dog-friendly stores. Etc.

As Zooka gets older and listens better, he gets some walk time off leash. Our goal with him is the same as it was for our previous dogs. Off leash control so that most of their walks can be off leash.

We still have the same expectations. Stay tuned in. Check in with me regularly without me having to ask for it. Listen when I ask you to do something. Have fun. Have fun WITH ME.

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My dogs all learn that walks WITH ME are way more fun than walks without me. I want them to assume walks are always done as a team. Walks are a social activity between us. Sometimes with friends.

My dogs also learn that we do NOT greet other dogs on walks. We are on OUR walk. Those other dogs and their people are doing THEIR walk. We mind our own business. This is a hard one for Zooka, and he's still learning. He wants so badly to socialize with EVERYONE.

Again, I have clear expectations. If he does get to greet people, he has to be polite. People need to ask if they want to greet. Zooka needs to ask if he wants to greet. But mostly, we are doing our own thing.

His walks in his usual areas are great. He understands his expectations and does quite well with them.

His walks in other areas, such as local stores or parks, are more challenging at this stage. We just have not been getting out to them often enough that his manners are as solid in those areas. He is still very distracted by everything and everyone. He's getting better, but if we don't get out regularly to practice, it's easy for those things to backslide.

We still have lots of work to do before he's where I want him to be everywhere and anywhere. But we'll get there! I have lots of patience and clear expectations. So we will meet our goals. I am not worried. He's a very good boy. He will be a great young man.

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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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# *National Specially-Abled Pet Day - May 3rd*

## **NATIONAL SPECIALLY-ABLED PETS DAY**

Annually on May 3rd, National Specially-abled Pets Day shines a spotlight on the needs of pets with disabilities.

This day is set aside to educate the public about caring for disabled pets. The day features disabled animals looking for a home. It also encourages animal lovers to consider choosing a disabled pet when they are looking at adopting a new pet family member. Before you adopt a pet with special needs, consider the time, energy, and financial needs, too.

- Do you need special training? Depending on your pet's needs you may need to learn some new skills. If your pet requires injections or certain types of therapy, you will be the one to provide the services.
- If your pet is deaf or blind, you will need to be aware of their needs and safety concerns.
- Is your home adapted to their needs? Amputees and blind animals will need accommodations.
- Specially-abled pets require more veterinary care. The costs can add up, so consider your finances before you adopt, not after.



**National Specially-abled Pets Day**

[www.NationalDayCalendar.com](http://www.NationalDayCalendar.com)

While pets with disabilities require additional care and accommodations, they still bring much love and joy to a home.

## **HOW TO OBSERVE #SpeciallyAbledPetsDay**

Consider adopting a specially-abled pet. Learn about fostering specially-abled pets, too. Bringing home a pet is always exciting. Visit with someone who is the pet parent of a specially-abled pet to learn more. They will provide insight and helpful tips. If you already love one, share your experiences and post pictures of your beautiful furbabies using #SpeciallyAbledPetsDay on social media.

## **NATIONAL SPECIALLY-ABLED PETS DAY HISTORY**

Animal advocate, author, and pet lifestyle expert Colleen Paige founded National Specially-abled Pets Day.

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

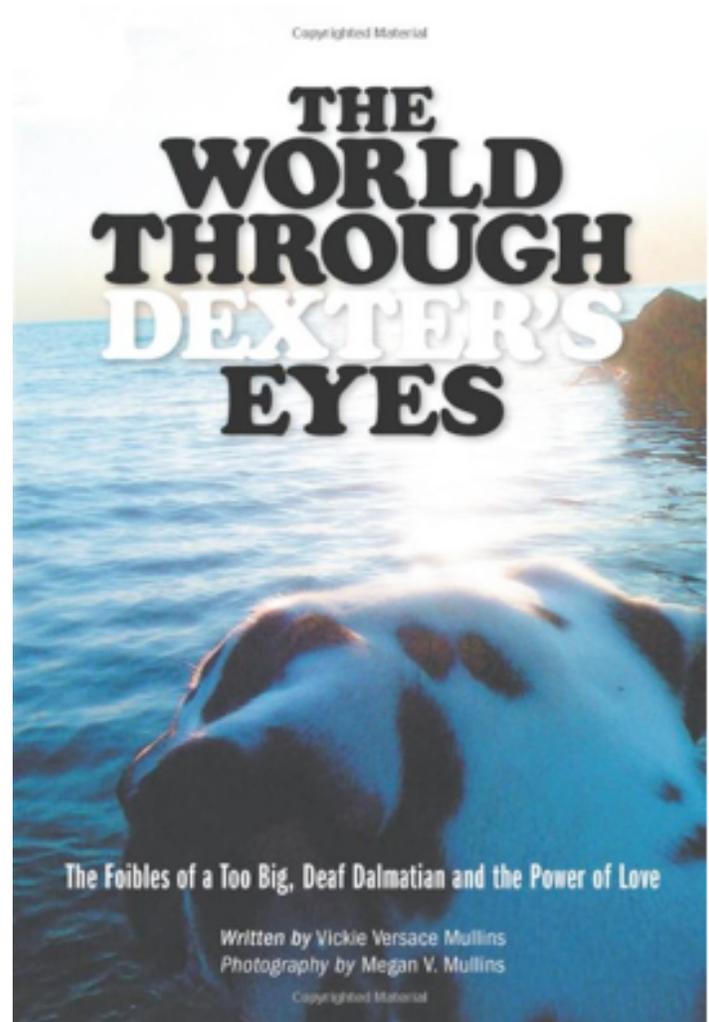
Dexter comes into the world with many problems, and he turns his family’s life upside down. Outside and lonely, he pulls the siding off the house, destroys the back door, chews up the cable wires and wood patio furniture. Inside, he does more of the same. He appears to not be trainable, so out of frustration,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

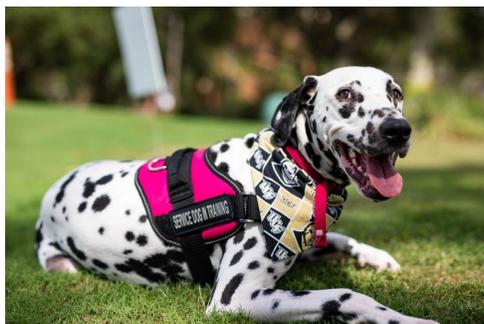
PLEASE – They need YOUR help!! Remember when your rescue Dalmatian came home with you, from the warmth of a loving foster family? If we hadn't had foster homes, you probably would not have gotten YOUR dog. PLEASE think about fostering a dog for the Dalmatian Rescue where you obtained your Dal, or the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

## Joleen

**4 Years Old, Black Spayed Female**  
**Reason Available: Stray**  
**Foster Home: San Antonio, TX**

Joleen is a 4yr old Dalmatian, excited to find her new home. When she came to us from the shelter she needed some medical care and was heartworm positive. She's responded well, is now in tiptop shape, and is heartworm free! Joleen is ready to find her new family. Joleen loves everyone she meets and is especially affectionate giving kisses. She's a typical Dalmatian with lots of energy but also lots of love! Sometimes she wags her tail so hard it "helicopter spins"! When out on walks she often seeks out the sounds of children playing, standing sweet and gently while taking in all of the attention they give her. She walks great on the leash, not pulling and listening to instructions. Joleen is housebroken, and she's happy in her crate or sleeping on her bed or your bed! Joleen loves to play fetch and will even bring the ball back to you. She does find it great fun to be chased when she has the ball but does well playing alone and entertaining herself with toys too. Like most Dalmatians, she's a power chewer. Her favorite toys are Benebones. Princess Joleen is looking for a kingdom of her own. We don't know her history before she came to us but it has left her aggressive with other dogs. Her foster family has received guidance and worked with her for some time, but Joleen still sometimes reacts negatively. This means no dog parks or play dates with other pups. And cats are a no-no as well. Some people may find this disappointing but Joleen assures us she is very excited to have a family's love all to herself, and we think she deserves it! Joleen is located in San Antonio, TX. Contact Mary at [marygduke@gmail.com](mailto:marygduke@gmail.com) or Tena at [tjp@grandecom.net](mailto:tjp@grandecom.net) for more info. Adoption \$450.



## BaileyA

**6 Years Old, Black Neutered Male**  
**Reason Available: Owner Surrender**  
**Foster Home: Colorado Springs, CO**

Originally from a rural shelter, Bailey is an active 6-7 year old neutered male dog with lots of love to give the right family. He is so sweet! He loves to run and, with a little more training, could run beside a bike. Bailey can be a little reserved when he first meets you, but doesn't take long to warm up. He enjoys walks but really needs to run for more exercise. Bailey can be strong-willed, so continuing obedience training is a must! Bailey is mellow, a cuddler and a kisser, and always wants to be by your side. He is crate trained, has good house manners and likes car rides. There are no birds in the backyard, because he chases them off; he does not do well with cats. Bailey enjoys watching over his family and house from a deck or porch during the day and capturing your bed at night. Currently in a foster home in Colorado Springs, Bailey needs a home with another dog for company and romping, and at least a 5 ft. fence for security. For more information, contact Jeannine at [jeannine@dalmatianrescueco.org](mailto:jeannine@dalmatianrescueco.org). Adoption \$250.



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# *Happy Beginnings Stories*

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## *Freckles*



Facebook reminded me that today is Freckles' Gotcha Day. One year ago today he caught a ride from Texas to Colorado Springs. I drove down to meet the transport and bring Freckles back to Boulder and his forever home.

Freckles was just under a year old when he joined our pack. There was Lady, who came from Texas via DRC as Maria about 10 years before. And two cats, Jerry and Sparky who were rescued as bonded brothers at 10 years old. Freckles was a little curious about everyone but never caused problems with the cats or with Lady.

We spent a lot of time the first year with training and setting boundaries with Freckles. He and Lady both went through six week classes for Basic Obedience. Freckles also got to join into several play dates organized by the trainers where he got to romp for an hour at a time with 30 or more other dogs. The play dates helped socialize Freckles and burn some of his teenager energy.

These days with the covid social distancing rules, we're still getting out and walking 2 to 5 miles a day. The only issue we're still working on is Freckles' desire to eat every goose he sees or hears. If he hears a honk from 3 ponds away, he wants to run and swim by the shortest path to get to them. On our walks around the neighborhood we frequently have someone ask if Freckles and Lady are siblings. They both have faint spots and large black patches on the base of their tails and their butts. At a glance they do look like they should be related but Freckles is almost 20 pounds heavier and bigger boned than Lady.

I am so grateful to Dalmatian Rescue for helping me and Freckles find each other. He is my constant companion and has to be in the middle of everything I do. Loneliness is not an option when he's around and he finds a way to make me laugh every day.

Rick C.

# Jewels



This is my 3 year old girl Jewels in the lap of DRC coordinator Tena in Waco, Tx. After owning 3 Dalmatians (not all at once) sadly they live a good life then leave me when their age catches up with them and I have to say good bye. After loosing my last Dal Sparky age 13 and also loosing my wife of 37 years to cancer I was very much alone. I have known Tena for quite a few years I told her I would like to consider adoption of another Dalmatian to give it a forever home. Tena showed me several dogs available for adoption and I chose this young girl she had pulled from a south Texas shelter and was living with foster mom Lynn about 80 miles from my home. I could tell she was a mix but with a lot of Dalmatian markings, body shape and behavior I decided to choose her. I have had her 2 years now and she has become the smartest, must loving dog I ever owned. I am pleased to give her a forever home.

- Jim M., Waco, TX

### **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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