



7 Simple Safety Tips Before You Buy Your Next New Dog Toy

By Jeff Werber, DVM

How often do we think that it's "so cute" when our dogs, especially puppies, play with or chew on certain "harmless" objects around the house? Sometimes, we even inadvertently encourage the behavior by making some of these objects into play toys, or, worse yet, giving dogs "toys" that closely resemble household items.

Over the years, I've seen many toys that I would not encourage, including:

- Stuffed toys that look just like kid's stuffed dolls and toys
- Rawhide chews shaped like shoes
- Dental chews shaped like their own, or our own, toothbrushes

There's no doubt it's adorable to watch dogs chew, or as one my dogs loves to do, suck on these toys or dolls, but we have to understand that differentiating these items from other items around our homes that show a close resemblance is not easy for many of our dogs. Additionally, some of these "toys" may not be as safe for our pets as we would like to think.

Safe toy tips for dogs

Much has been written here at Pet Health Network about dangerous pet toys, and now I want to provide some of my own guidelines

about how to choose SAFE toys and chews for your dogs to play with:

1. Look for toys that are fairly indestructible

Even for that Pitbull, Mastiff or Rottweiler! Hard nylon toys or hard rubber toys may be the answer. But even with these, watch the edges as they can become fairly sharp. Make sure no large chunks have been broken off, and if so, discard them. Avoid the soft rubber toys.

2. Keep an eye on rope toys

Toys with hard nylon or rubber that are connected together by a thick rope may be ok for a while, but again, keep your eyes on that rope to make sure it remains intact.

3. Beware toys with bells

Toys with bells, or squeakers on the inside are not a great idea because they are often the first things your dog will remove, and possibly swallow.

4. Watch for rips and tears

Well constructed plush or thick fabric toys can also be very safe, but if they should break or tear at a seam, it might be time to say "goodbye," and buy another one. The stuffing can end up all over your home, or worse yet, in your dog's stomach.

5. Rawhide chews have their pros and cons!

Let's face it—dogs do love them, and rawhide can keep them occupied for a while. With these, I have a few suggestions, however. If you are going to buy the large ones, made of single sheets of rawhide that are rolled and knotted on each end, keep an eye on them. If, or better yet when, they become too soft and begin to unravel or break apart, toss them and give your dog a new one (fortunately these aren't very expensive). What I like more are the pressed rawhide chews that, when chewed and softened, just break up into very small, easy and safe to swallow pieces. My caution is that with ANY rawhide chew product, make sure to stay away from those made in China until we learn more about the causes of the illnesses we've heard about. To be really safe, stick to those made in the U.S. or those distributed and endorsed by reputable U.S. companies.

6. Dental chews have improved

The dental chews that are very popular are fairly safe now that the manufacturing process has changed to allow them to dissolve and soften once in contact with saliva. Again, stick with the name brands!

7. Find the right size toy

A general caution with any toy and chew is that you purchase the appropriate size for your pet's mouth. Something too small can definitely be swallowed whole and can lodge somewhere in the intestinal tract. If too large, it will probably defeat its purpose, or, if your intent is to break it up into smaller pieces — to get more for your money — you might inadvertently break a piece too small, which could be dangerous.

As always, check with your veterinarian if you have any questions about the efficacy and safety of anything you're planning on purchasing for your dog.

4 Reasons To Test Your Dog For Diabetes

By Justine A. Lee, DVM, DACVECC

Did you know that some authorities feel that 1 out of every 100 dogs that reach 12 years of age develops diabetes mellitus?

Diabetes mellitus (DM) is a hormonal problem where the pancreas fails to produce enough insulin, the hormone that helps push sugar ("glucose") into the body's cells. Without the insulin, the body's cells are starving for sugar; unfortunately, this then stimulates the body to produce more and more sugar (in an attempt to feed the cells). That's why your dog's blood sugar is so high (what we call a "hyperglycemia") with diabetes mellitus.

Without insulin, the sugar can't get into the cells; hence, why you need to give insulin to your dog with a tiny syringe twice a day. In dogs, this is a disease that can be costly to treat and requires twice-a-day insulin along with frequent veterinary visits for the rest of your dog's life.

So how do you know if your dog has diabetes? Clinical signs of diabetes mellitus in dogs include:

- Excessive drinking
 - Excessive urination
 - Urinary accidents in the house
 - Dilute urine
 - Overweight or obese
 - Muscle wasting
 - Ravenous appetite
 - Frequent urinary tract infections
 - Weakness
 - Unkempt or poor hair coat
 - Blindness secondary to cataracts
 - Neuropathies (nerve problems)
-

As your dog gets older, it's worth talking to your veterinarian about doing routine blood work to make sure your dog is healthy. This blood work will help rule out kidney and liver problems, anemia, infections, electrolyte problems and diabetes mellitus. The sooner you recognize the clinical signs, the sooner your dog can be treated with insulin and the less complications we see as a result.

So, if you notice any of the signs above, get to a veterinarian right away. Now, continue on for 5 important reasons to test your dog for diabetes:

1. Your dog will live longer

Diabetes mellitus can shorten the lifespan of your dog, as secondary complications and infections can occur. With diabetes, the body is immunosuppressed and more likely to develop diabetic complications which cause long term harm to your dog.

2. Your dog will be able to see

Did you know that the majority of dogs with diabetes eventually go blind from cataracts? Even in well-controlled diabetic dogs, the excess sugar in the body can have secondary effects on the lens of the eye; it causes more water to influx into the lens, which disrupts the clearness of the lens. As a result, cataract formation occurs, resulting in eventual blindness and secondary inflammation in both eyes. While cataract surgery can (and ideally, should) be performed, it can be costly.

3. You'll have less urinary accidents in the house

One of the biggest signs of uncontrolled diabetes mellitus is excessive drinking, urination and having urinary accidents in the house. Because of the hyperglycemia, dogs are also at increased risk for urinary tract infections, wreaking havoc on your carpet. The sooner you can treat your dog with insulin and get the diabetes controlled or regulated, the less your dog will drink and urinate, making your dog more comfortable too!

4. You'll have more peace knowing that your dog is healthy

As a veterinarian and dog owner, I want to make sure my dog is as healthy as possible. You might already be talking with your veterinarian about vaccines each year in a dog that is older than 7 years of age; next, talk to your veterinarian about doing an annual exam and routine blood work too. It'll pick up on medical problems sooner, so you can rest assured that your dog is going to live a longer, happier, healthier life!

Having a diabetic pet is also a big commitment, as it requires dedicated pet parents who can give twice-a-day injections of insulin. Caring for a diabetic dog does require frequent trips to the veterinarian to regulate the blood sugar. That said, dogs can live with diabetes for years with appropriate care and treatment. When in doubt, make sure to monitor your dog carefully for the signs of diabetes, and seek veterinary attention sooner rather than later to help test for this ever-growing problem!



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Recent Adoptees!



Cocoa (aka Buddy10 or Bullet)
Manitou Springs, CO



Kaia
Seminole, FL



Duke
Shippensburg, PA



Archie (aka Colton)
Houston, TX

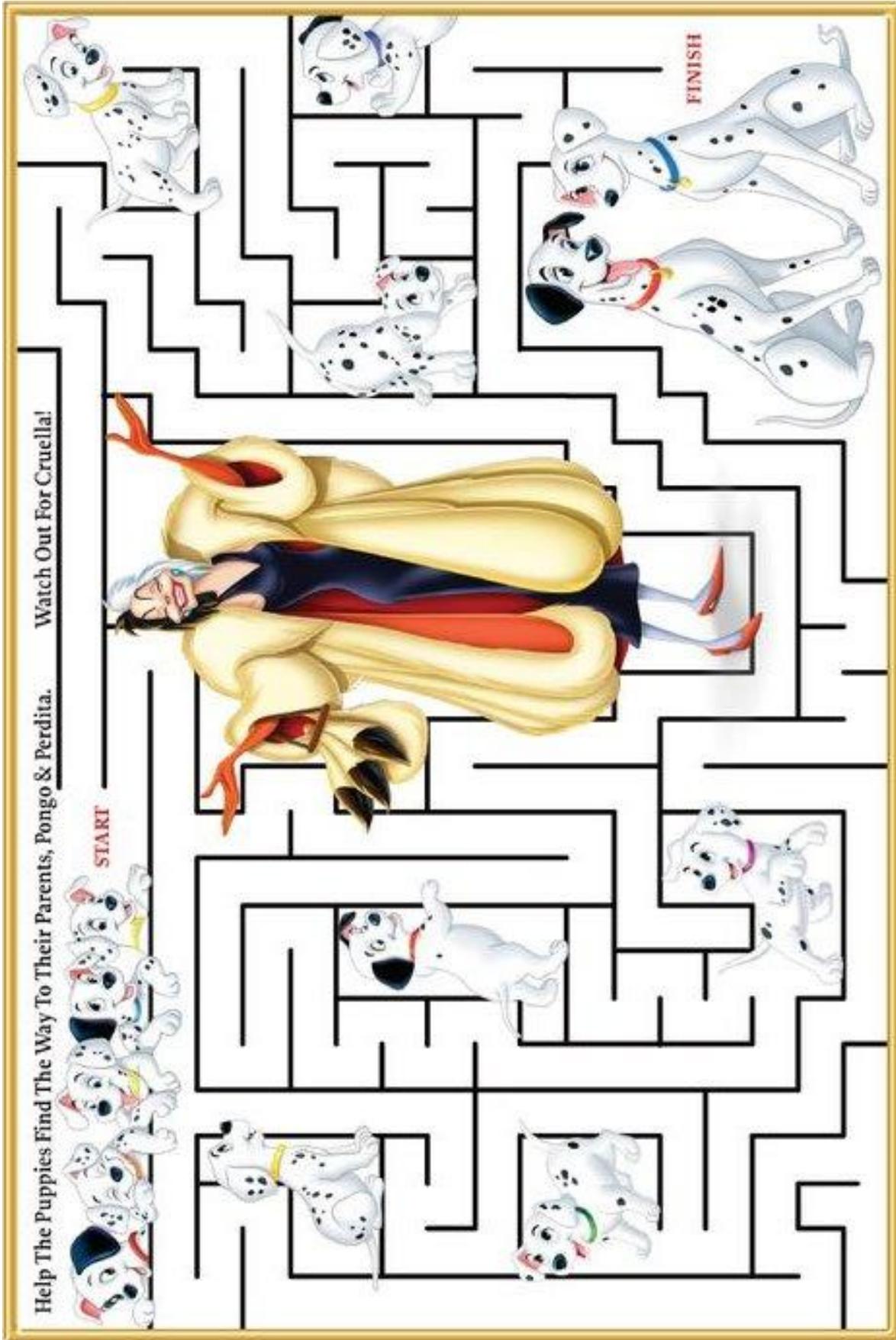
Attention Adopters!!!

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!
Karl@dalmatianrescueco.org

I believe that my endless stamina derives from these magical energy spots!

~ Said every Dalmatian ever

For The Kids *(or adults who are kids at heart)*





NATIONAL DRESS UP YOUR PET DAY | January 14, 2023

National Dress Up Your Pet Day on January 14th provides a special day to celebrate with your pet and show off their fashion style. Pets do become part of one's family. Whether you take a visit to the groomer or take it a step further and dress up in matching outfits, be sure your pet companion is safe and comfortable.

Please remember to keep your pets safe and comfortable in the pet clothing and costumes that you choose. Tips for dressing up your pet:

- **If your pet just doesn't like dressing up, let them sit this holiday out.**
- Be sure it fits. Restricting movement or ability to breathe can cause injury or illness.
- Many pets like to chew. Avoid loose or dangling pieces which can cause choking hazards.

HOW TO OBSERVE #NationalDressUpYourPetDay

The name of the day tells you how to celebrate it; dress your pets up! Keep your pet's comfort first and foremost. A visit to the groomer for a bit of polish and trim always improves our pet companion's appearance. Get a snazzy bandana, bow, or collar to show off the fresh do. How about a sweater for chilly, long walks? If the tutu is too, too much, your pooch will let you know. Be sure to share your favorite pet poses with us. We love to see how you #CelebrateEveryDay. Use #DressUpYourPetDay to post on social media.

NATIONAL DRESS UP YOUR PET DAY HISTORY

National Dress Up Your Pet Day was founded in 2009 by Celebrity Pet Lifestyle Expert and Animal Behaviorist, Colleen Paige.

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

“Wait And Release At The Gate. One Dog At A Time”

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Releasing dogs from a Wait one at a time by name is a pretty advanced Wait. We'll show you a group of five dogs who can do it. Wait is a cue that I use a lot with my own dogs. When we have visiting dogs boarding with us, which is most of the time, it's even more important.

We use Wait at meal times, going out doors, passing through gates, sometimes on the stairs, or anyplace or anytime that we need our dogs to pause for a bit until we are ready for them to proceed.

Our walks on our property are normally off leash with our dogs. We have trails on our 13.5 acres that we walk twice a day. Zooka and Blitzen wait when we head out the door on our walk and also when we go through the gates on our property. They are

so used to doing it, that I often don't even say Wait. They just do it.

When we have visiting dogs, most of the dogs do not join us on our walks. However, we have some “regulars” who are very good off leash as well and sometimes they get to join us on our walks.

[This video](#) is from a day in October of 2022 when we had Fraser (an Aussie), Winnie (a Border Collie/Aussie) and Saxon (a mixed breed) all staying with us. I took them along on one of our daily walks. With five dogs, we really need to WAIT at the gate so everyone does not rush through and shove someone out of the way. Because that would just be downright rude!

The first walk with this crew was a little rough while everyone was getting into our routine. Wait at the door took a bit of practice because some of the kiddos (we won't name any names but it was all of the non-Vizslas) struggled with waiting to be released. Same thing the first time or two we went through the gates.

In the case of five dogs, I do NOT release them all at the same time. So everyone has to wait to be released BY NAME.

It was easiest, I found, to release in the same order every time. When I tried to mix up the order, they seemed to get a bit confused, and the one who normally went later would not release himself until I released all the others. But routine is good, so it worked really well for us to keep the order the same every time.

In the video, you see two different Waits. Both are going through the gate that goes up/down our hill.

First to be released is our Vizsla, Blitzen. He gets very worried about others brushing past or running into him (especially after someone – who always goes last now) barreled right into him on one of the earlier instances of going through the gate. So I release him first because it's safer and less stressful for him.

Second to go is our other Vizsla, Zooka. You will notice in the video that he actually is always standing at the back before he gets released. He is not pushy since he knows the rules and never tries to push his way through. But everyone lets him pass by them because he has been released and they have not.

Fraser and Saxon are the pushiest, so they go last. You will notice in the first Wait, Fraser does try to go when it's NOT his turn. You can't see me (because I am holding the camera), but I block him with my body so he cannot go through the gate. I did not tell him to Sit again, but as soon as I blocked him, he sat down again and waited.

Winnie was the third to be released. Then Fraser. Then Saxon. After Fraser broke his wait and tried to go through, I could have released him last. However, since Saxon is normally the pushiest of the crew, he always goes last. The one time I did try to release

him before Fraser, he refused to go until Fraser did. He learned his lesson and waits to go last each time.

Once we got a rhythm down, everyone did great and I did not have to block anyone after that time with Fraser. Once they knew the rules, they followed them with very little effort on my part.

Nice job pups!

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/>).

What to Expect During Your Pet's Annual Exam

Routine wellness visits are a great way to help your pet live a healthy life for as long as possible. These visits can also help to catch potential health issues earlier and may help you avoid additional costs associated with treatments if disease goes undetected.

A typical wellness visit might include:

A physical exam - Veterinarians look for changes in your pet's teeth, weight, joints, skin, and ears. These changes may be signs of illness.

Diagnostic screening tests - Veterinarians check your pet's internal health. These results help to manage and track your pet's overall health.

A review of results - Veterinarians look for changes in results from year-to-year. Changes can act as early warning signs of health problems.

WHAT WE LOOK AT DURING A VISIT AND WHY

HEART AND LUNGS

Infection or disease can make it difficult for your pet's heart and lungs to deliver enough oxygen-rich blood to the body.

LIVER

Your pet's liver may have trouble managing proteins, fat, digestion, and waste. These problems could be caused by disease, a blockage or even medication.

PANCREAS AND INTESTINE

Problems with these digestive organs may be due to an inflamed pancreas, diabetes, or some types of cancers.

KIDNEYS

SDMA (Symmetric dimethylarginine) testing detects kidney disease earlier than other types of kidney tests.^{1,2} Results also reflect other diseases your pet may have that affect the kidneys.³

THYROID

If the thyroid glands aren't releasing the right amount of hormones, your pet's metabolism could be affected.

BLOOD

A complete blood count (CBC) tells us if your pet is fighting an infection or has some bleeding problems. A blood test can also find diseases spread by ticks and mosquitoes.

URINE

Urine tests tell us if your pet has problems like infection or stones in the kidneys or bladder. They can also tell us about some cancers.

FECES

Fecal antigen testing tells us if your pet has parasites, such as worms. Other types of fecal tests may miss these common causes of intestinal infections, which can cause problems in people, too.

Schedule your pet's next wellness visit today!

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 1200 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 karl@dalmatianrescueco.org and he will work with you to provide your ad and place it prominently within the newsletter.

Foster Homes Needed!!

****** 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.

We NEED your participation to make the Reader Recommendations and Tips segment a successful segment. It is nice to be able to pass along information, tips and suggestions that you have found useful or helpful so that others can benefit as well, but without your participation it doesn't work! So please submit your ideas!!

In The "Spot" Light... Our Featured Dalmatians

Georgie (aka Georgia)



9 Year Old, Black, Spayed Female
Reason Available: Owner Surrender
Foster Home: Spring Branch, TX

Georgia, or Georgie as she is now known, is an older (we think 9-10) black & white gal. She has a very sweet and loving personality toward her human family. She gets along great with men, women, teens, and kids. She is great with other dogs (male/female) as well as smaller dogs. She is not fond of puppies and will remove herself from any stressful or unwanted situation. She loves her crate and will take all toys, bones, and blankets to "her room" with her.

Georgie is a bit on the heavy side and has been on a diet since entering rescue. She is current on her vaccinations & de-worming schedule. She has already been spayed and is heartworm negative. She is housebroken, crate-trained, and knows her commands.

All rescues come with faults, which is why they end up in rescue. No one gets rid of a perfect dog. Georgia's fault is that she tends to bark and growl when other dogs are around her crate. She is learning to self-control in these types of situations, but it's only been a short amount of time to retrain a learned behavior that has been years in the making.

Georgie will be the perfect dog for someone who is looking for a buddy or family companion. She loves to go for walks, and car rides, and to get out and about, yet still have the weekend nights to watch late-night movies and share your popcorn.

Please consider giving Georgie her new forever home. Don't overlook her because of her age. She is a dog worth having in your family.

Georgie is located in Spring Branch, TX. For more info, please contact Jessica at jessica_logan@msn.com or Tena at tjp@mygrande.net. Applications may be submitted at www.dalmatianrescueco.org. Adoption fee \$300.

Mandy

3 Year Old, Black Spayed Female
Reason Available: Stray
Foster Home: Laramie, WY

I'm Mandy! Nobody thinks I'm pretty or cute! And I'm not a puppy anymore. But I am one of the sweetest dogs you will ever meet! All I want is a furever home, and I keep getting overlooked. I promise I will be your best walking companion, I play gently with other dogs, and I love children. I am heartworm free and current on all my vaccinations. Sweet Mandy is a lovely little Dalmatian Wannabe who entered a shelter in Texas as a stray and was terrified by the noise and barking in the shelter. Since coming to Colorado, Mandy has become a sweet, loving companion, once she has found out that everyone is not bad. She gets along great with the resident dogs at her foster home and enjoys kids. Mandy loves to play and chase the other dogs in the backyard and respects their boundaries. She is a very loving dog who loves to sit in your lap. Mandy is very quiet unless she is distracted by the squirrels in the backyard running along the fence - then she yells at them to go away. She loves being the center of attention. Mandy is mostly white with nice spots on her ears and lots of freckles under her white fur. She is still a little skittish about loud noises and yelling but is a lot better than when she first arrived. A quiet home with all adults or teens and a doggy friend would probably suit her best. For more information, contact Jeannine at jeannine@dalmatianrescueco.org. Mandy is located in Laramie, WY. Adoption fee \$250.



Happy Beginnings Stories

Sadly, we have no Happy Beginnings Stories to share with you this month.

If you have adopted a dog from Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado (at any time) and have not submitted their story, please take some time (and photos) and submit it today!

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 karl@dalmatianrescueco.org.

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

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