



How To Have A Pet Safe Thanksgiving

This November we take time to give thanks for the many blessings and great things in our lives, including our spotted family members! But there are a few things you need to know to help the celebrations remain happy and safe for your furry family. The most prominent feature of most household's thanksgiving is a big food spread on the table... and this brings us to the first things to keep in mind.

1. Keep The Feast On The Table, Where It Belongs

- Keep An Eye On The Bird.** Eating turkey or turkey skin, even in very small amounts can be dangerous or even deadly. Fatty foods are not easily digested by dogs and can lead to a condition called pancreatitis, which can be life threatening. Many foods that are healthy for people can be toxic to pets, including (but most definitely not limited to) onions, raisins and grapes - commonly found in Thanksgiving dishes. If you want to share a treat with your dog, make or buy treats made specifically for him or her.
- No Pie Or Other Desserts.** Chocolate can be harmful to your dog. Highly sweet desserts can also be bad for them. Things made with artificial sweeteners (Xylitol) can be DEADLY to your dogs.
- Roll, Roll, Roll Your Dough...** but seriously. Keep dough away from your dogs. Especially yeast dough. Dogs consuming yeast dough can suffer from painful gas, or potentially dangerous bloating.
- Secure Your Trash.** Including turkey bones and the carcass. Don't leave them out on the table where they become an overwhelming temptation for your dog. Anything used with the turkey in packaging or cooking should also be securely disposed of. Things like strings, bags, foil should all be placed in a secure trash container where your dog can't get to them.

- E. **Be Careful With Decorative Plants.** Some flowers and festive plants can be toxic to your dogs. These include amaryllis, Baby's Breath, Sweet William, some ferns, hydrangeas and others. The ASPCA has a list of plants that are toxic to [dogs](#) and [cats](#). But the safest route is simply to keep your pets away from all plants and table decorations.
- F. **Acting Quickly Can Save Lives.** If you think your pet has eaten something it shouldn't have or has been poisoned, call your veterinarian or local emergency veterinary clinic immediately. You may also want to call the ASPCA Poison Control Hotline (888-764-7661) or the Pet Poison Helpline (855-764-7661). Signs of distress can include, but are not limited to, sudden changes in behavior, depression, pain, vomiting, or diarrhea. Contact your veterinarian or emergency veterinary clinic immediately if your pet shows any of these signs.

2. Precautions For Parties.

If you are hosting parties or overnight guests, plan ahead to keep your pets safe and make the experience less stressful for everyone involved.

- A. **Visitors Can Upset Your Pets.** Some pets are shy or easily excitable around new people, people they don't often see, or in crowds. Thanksgiving can mean lots of visitors at once and higher than normal noise and activity levels. If you know your dog might be nervous because of all the activities and noise, put him or her in another room with a favorite toy, some water and play the television or radio to help distract from the goings on outside the room. This will reduce the emotional stress on your pet and protect guests from possible injury.
- B. **If Guests Have Compromised Immune Systems Or Pet Allergies Make Sure They Know About Your Pets.** People with allergies or compromised immune systems should be made aware of your pets presence inside the house so they can take any necessary precautions to protect themselves as needed.
- C. **Watch The Exits.** Even if your pets are comfortable around guests, make sure you watch them closely, especially when people are coming in or leaving your house. While you're welcoming those hungry people and collecting coats, your pet may make a break for it and become lost outside.
- D. **Keep An Eye On Pets And Decorations.** Not only should you be careful with plants, as discussed above, you should be careful with any special holiday decorations or candles. These are attractive to people and pets. A curious dog can get into trouble with them if not monitored. Never leave a pet alone in an area with a lit candle! The resulting fire will certainly put a damper on your festivities. Other decorations like ornamental corn cobs and plastic or fabric leaves can cause intestinal blockages or even perforate your pets intestine if ingested.
- E. **Identification Tags And Microchips Reunite Pets And Families.** We talk about this often... especially around holidays. Make sure your pet's identification tags have up-to-date contact information that way if they should make a break for it and you can't catch them right away they are more likely to be returned to you. If your pet has a microchip, make sure that your contact information is current with the registry for their microchip. If your pet isn't microchipped yet, talk to your veterinarian or talk to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado about getting them microchipped before the holiday. Every dog adopted through Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado IS microchipped. Perhaps stop by your veterinarian's office to make sure the microchip is still readable. As for identification tags, we recommend the following information on them: your pet's name and your last name, TWO phone numbers that will be answered if someone should call to return your pet, and the words "Reward" and "Needs Medicine" or "Needs Meds". These last two will help to ensure your pet is returned. They appeal to people's sense of compassion and greed. Who wants to keep a pet that might die without potentially costly medication? And who wouldn't jump at the idea of a potential reward? The reward doesn't necessarily mean cash... it can be anything.

3. Are You Going To Be Traveling (With Or Without) Your Pet? When traveling for Thanksgiving or any other time take steps to safeguard your pets whether they come with you or stay behind.

- A. **If traveling across state lines or international borders you need to have a health certificate issued by your veterinarian.** Learn the requirements for any state or country that you will be traveling to or through. Schedule an appointment with your veterinarian to make sure their vaccinations are up-to-date and get the necessary certificate within the timeframe required by those jurisdictions.
- B. **NEVER Leave Pets Unattended In Vehicles. Not even for a short time, regardless of the weather.**
- C. **Pets Should Always Be Safely And Properly Restrained In Vehicles.** This means you should use a carrier, crate or secure harness located clear of any airbags. This helps protect your pet if you need to brake suddenly, swerve or get into an accident. In rescue work, we see all too often the horror stories of pets getting ejected from vehicles or jumping out after an accident and either being struck by a passing vehicle or getting lost in unfamiliar surroundings. NEVER transport your dog in the open bed of a pickup truck. Remember the contract you signed when adopting your dog from Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado? It specifically prohibits allowing your dog to ride in the bed of a pickup truck.
- D. **Traveling By Air?** Talk to your veterinarian first. Air travel can put pets at risk, especially short-nosed dogs. Your vet is the person best situated to advise you regarding your pet's ability to travel by air.
- E. **Pack For Your Pet As Well As Yourself.** In addition to your pet's food, water and treats, pack any needed medications, information to identify your dog - including a recent photo. Also pack first aid supplies and any other items that might make the trip more enjoyable for your pet.
- F. **Considering Boarding Your Dog While You Travel?** Well before you leave, research boarding facilities first. Check with friends and family or your veterinarian about kennels they might recommend. Also make sure your dog is protected from kennel cough and other potential diseases by updating their vaccinations.

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado's Highly Anticipated Holiday Auction Is Almost Here!

Our annual Holiday Auction will run from November 18-26, 2023. Check out the great items available to bid on! www.32auctions.com/DRC2023



It is officially autumn, and as the days get shorter you will find yourself heading out to walk your dog in the dark.

Be sure to wear bright and reflective clothing! Always carry and USE a flashlight, and your mobile phone in case of emergency.

Walk a familiar route to you and your dog, and stick to known paths and quiet streets.

If you live in a more suburban or rural area, be aware of local wildlife and take appropriate safety measures, as dusk is often the time local wildlife emerge to look for food and water.

Remember your training techniques, and apply them while you walk! You can tire out your dog by providing them with mental stimulation, as well as physical exercise.

Be safe and aware, and enjoy your evening strolls!

Recent Adoptees!



Blake
Bixby, OK



Bruce
Albuquerque, NM



Jet
Palestine, 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

It's Candy Buying Time!

See's CANDIES®

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado Storefront

Help Us
Reach Our Goal!



It's See's Candy Fundraising Time!

Help Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado raise money to help Dalmatians in need!

Profits are used for Vet Bills, Feeding, Transport, and any needs the dogs have while in Foster Care!

Dates for this fundraiser are October 4 - December 1, 2023. Candy can start shipping November 10, 2023. Visit the link below to start shopping.

https://www.yumraising.com/secure/dalmatianroc_drc_44/JamBoe2529/

Thank you for supporting the DRC 2023! We'll receive all profits from any items you purchase.

Order more to help us reach our fundraising goal!



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WREATHS
Gives 15%



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Announcing Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado's Lynch Creek Farm Wreath (and other great stuff) Fundraiser

Great news! We have started an online fundraising campaign for Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado 2023 at Lynch Creek Farm. Every time you shop online through our group's fundraising page we receive 15% back from your qualifying purchase. It really is that easy! You can support our efforts via our online storefront at: www.lynchcreekfundraising.com/c/300736 OR by heading directly to www.lynchcreekwreaths.com and entering our Campaign ID #300736 during checkout. I know that with your support we will meet our goal in no time! Thank you for your support!

8 Dog training commands every dog should know

By Kristia Goodnight at 24petwatch.com

An important part of dog ownership is investing time to teach your dog certain actions, known as cues or commands. There are several basic dog training cues that every dog should know. These cues can help you keep your dog safe. Whether you are a new pet owner or looking to teach your old dog some new tricks, training your dog basic cues like their name, down, stay, walk, leave it, drop it, no, and recall will enrich both of your lives.

How to train a dog

Positive reinforcement training is widely considered the most effective dog training method. It's also an easy training method, by rewarding only the behaviors you want to encourage and ignoring those you want to limit your dog will catch on quickly. Rewards can include food, treats, games, or praise.

Dogs are individuals and some will be much more motivated by a toss of a ball than a crunchy treat. Work with your dog to find the rewards that they are most motivated by – and be wary of accidentally rewarding unwanted behaviors. If you are training your dog to not jump up on visitors, but people often reach down to pet them as they jump up, thinking the behavior is cute. This encourages the dog to jump up as they receive positive attention for the action. Instead, ignoring the dog until it is calm or sitting will encourage the desired behavior.

When training a dog, avoid punishment and force. Not only is punishment less effective, but it also damages the relationship with your dog as they associate fear and discomfort with their owner. They will become fearful and less responsive to training attempts. Keep training sessions brief, consistent, and always end on a positive note. If your dog is struggling with a new cue, go back to one they excel at and end the training session with success. Be patient as your dog learns what you're asking of them and work within your dog's limitations. Puppies especially are still developing and need age-appropriate cues.

The most important thing to train your dog

Safety cues are the most important thing you can teach your dog. Safety cues range from easier lessons like your dog learning their name to more difficult tasks like a solid recall.

Training your dog to know their name

A puppy will learn their name quickly, most in one to three days with adequate practice. To teach your dog its name, say the name, and as soon as the dog looks at you mark the behavior with an enthusiastic yes! Or with a clicker (if you use one) and give a reward. An older dog who is learning a new name will likely need a little more time, up to a few weeks to understand their new name. Be patient and keep the interactions positive.

Train your dog the down cue

The down cue is a solid foundation of the stay cue, and it's much easier to learn. If your dog knows the sit command, start there. If not, start with them in a standing position. Bring a high-value treat from your dog's nose to the ground in between their front paws. They will lower their head, following the treat. Continue moving the treat along the ground out from their paws to bring the dog's body down. As soon as your dog is in position mark it with a bright "yes!" or a click of the clicker and give the treat. After a few successful rounds, offer a treat from your other hand so the lure isn't eaten. After your dog is consistently successful at this level, lure them with an empty hand and reward them with the opposite hand. This turns a lure into a hand signal - teaching your dog that when you make the hand signal you'd like them to lie down. Next, add a verbal cue by saying "Down" as you give the hand signal. With practice, your dog will understand and respond to the verbal cue alone.

Train your dog to stay

The Stay command is useful for your dog's safety, from stopping them from running into a busy street to waiting patiently while the front door is open. "Stay" can keep your dog safe, but it is challenging for dogs to learn. "Stay" is a two-part command with a start and an end. With a stay word (stay) and a release word (free, release, done) to signal that your dog is free. Choose one word and stick with it. Consistency is everything in training. To teach stay, ask your dog to sit or down. Then say "stay" followed quickly with your release word and a reward. You can encourage your dog to release by stepping back or doing a little jump to trigger them to move. Repeat the process slightly extending the stay time progressively.

Train your dog to how to walk on a leash

Walking calmly on a leash gives your dog the freedom to come along on family outings more often, enriching their life and yours. To teach your dog to walk calmly on a leash, first decide how much leash line you would like to give your dog and keep it consistent. Begin walking with your dog in a familiar area with as few distractions as possible. Allow your dog to sniff, look around, and even lie down – anything but pulling. If your dog pulls at their leash, stop moving immediately and call them back to you. When your dog comes back and is no longer pulling, resume walking. Repeat this process every time your dog pulls, taking care not to jerk their leash. They will learn that pulling equals stopping - which is the last thing they want to do. If your dog is food motivated, carrying a pocket full of treats, and rewarding ideal walking is also very effective.

Train your dog the leave it cue

The leave it cue is a way to protect your dog from picking something poisonous or otherwise dangerous that they may find interesting or even delicious. To teach leave it, start with a lower value treat. Show your dog the lure treat and place it on the floor, covering it with your hand. Your dog will try to get to the treat, as soon as they stop trying, mark and reward. However, never reward with the lure treat as you want to teach your dog that the item is off-limits totally. Offer a higher value treat from your other hand.

When your dog is successful at consistently controlling their urge to go for the lure treat, upgrade to removing your hand – but be ready to cover again quickly if needed. Do not allow your dog to get the lure treat. When your dog shows disinterest or restraint in not going for the lure treat, mark, and reward.

When you're successful at this level, upgrade to the same exercise but with you standing. Put your dog on a leash so you can stop your dog from getting to the lure treat. Once your dog can consistently refrain from going for the dropped lure treat, you're ready to add the verbal cue of saying 'leave it'. Your dog should have a solid understanding at this point but keep them on the leash for training sessions. Say 'leave it' and drop the treat, mark, and reward.

Train your dog the drop it cue

If your dog hasn't yet mastered 'leave it, using the drop it cue can get your dog to drop whatever they have in their mouth. To teach drop it, start with a fun game of tug-of-war. After a few moments, let go of the toy and remain unengaged. Your dog will quickly become bored and will drop the toy. Mark the behavior with a happy "yes!" or with a clicker and immediately offer them a treat. Start up another game of tug. Once your pup is consistently dropping the toy when you let go, add a verbal cue by saying 'drop it' as they drop the toy, marking and rewarding the behavior. With enough practice, your dog will happily trade something unsavory they picked up on your walk for a known high-value treat and praise from their favorite person.

Train your dog no

No is a common human response to unwanted behaviors, and you can teach it to your dog. With plenty of high-value treats, consistency, and patience, teaching your dog 'no' is a simple task. When your dog does something you'd rather they didn't (say digging in your pile of fresh towels you're folding) say a firm, but not loud 'no'. Immediately mark and reward as soon as they stop the behavior. Keep treats on you so that when opportunities arise to practice 'no' you are prepared to mark and reward your dog when they understand the cue.

Learning not to do something is more challenging for dogs than learning to do something (like sit). Take care not to yell or become angry when teaching the no command. Dogs cannot learn when they are afraid, and it will only set back your training. Have patience and stay consistent.

Train your dog the recall cue

Teaching and maintaining a strong recall can prevent accidents and even runaway dogs. To teach recall, you'll need a reward that your dog finds irresistible (think chicken or cheese) and a low-distraction environment. First, show your dog a treat or toy (whichever they're more motivated by), and as soon as they begin coming to you, mark and reward them. After a few rounds, upgrade to adding a verbal cue (come, home, etc) only when your dog is moving towards you. Slowly increase the difficulty by asking your dog to come before offering the treat or toy. Always mark and reward with a high-value treat. Using special treats for this cue only will help motivate your dog to always choose to come to you.

Once you've mastered this level, begin adding distance and then distractions. Move from your home to your yard, and then out in public. Slowly work up in difficulty so your dog is set up for success.

Even if your dog has a perfect record with their recall, an up-to-date ID tag and microchip are always recommended. If your dog ever becomes lost, [the Lifetime Protection Membership Plan](#) gives you the tools you need to find your dog.

The benefits of a trained dog

The benefits of a well-trained dog are limitless. Training your dog is a way to communicate in ways your dog can understand, creates a stronger connection with your dog, and provides mental stimulation (leading to less destructive behaviors).

Whether you choose to do DIY training, join an in-person training class, or opt into online training classes like [Petcademy](#) - included in the [Lifetime Protection Membership Plus](#). Training your dog is one of the best things you can do for them, teaching them the skills to live their best life.

FOSTERS SAVE LIVES!

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado desperately needs foster homes. We have four dogs currently needing foster care and two or three more waiting to come in. We can't help these needy Dalmatians without assistance from our community. We are looking for active, out-doorsy people who have secure fences and no cats and who are willing to give these beautiful dogs some time and attention. Visit www.dalmatianrescueco.org to see the Foster Application which can be completed and submitted online.



NATIONAL COOK FOR YOUR PETS DAY - November 1

National Day Calendar • Jun 5, 2014

NATIONAL COOK FOR YOUR PETS DAY - NOVEMBER 1, 2023

November 1st celebrates National Cook For Your Pets Day. This national holiday encourages cooking something for the pet companion in your life.

You love your pet. And you want to provide what is best for them. So why not try to make them healthy, home-cooked food? No matter what kind of pet you have - dog, cat, lizard, mouse, get cooking!

A lot of people these days are concerned about the food they eat and where that food, or the ingredients, come from. Most of our food supply today is processed and loaded with fillers. The same applies to our pet food. Animals need to eat a natural diet to be at optimal health, and most of the pet food you buy has a lot of unnatural things in it. If you cook or make your own pet

food at home, you are in control.

It's best to start by consulting with your vet. Veterinarians will know just what your pet's nutrition needs are. Additionally, they will have ample advice that can be tailored for you and your furry loved one. Next, do some research. Some foods should be avoided since they could be detrimental to your pet's health. A couple of things to avoid are chocolate, onions, avocados, garlic, salt, yeast dough, tomato leaves and stems, and milk-based foods.

Your next step in this adventure would be to decide what will be on your pet's menu. The internet can be your friend with this, by helping you to find recipes and different ideas.

And last, but not least, enjoy yourself in this culinary adventure. Our pets do a lot for us. They give us unconditional love, so celebrate National Cook For Your Pets Day by giving them that kind of love back in a delicious, nutritious home-cooked meal!

HOW TO OBSERVE COOK FOR YOUR PETS DAY

Make a meal for your pet. (Make sure to check with your vet about foods to avoid.) Use #CookForYourPetsDay to post on social media.



ADOPT A SENIOR PET MONTH | November

#CelebrateEveryDay

ADOPT A SENIOR PET MONTH | November

National Day Calendar • Sep 23, 2015

NATIONAL ADOPT A SENIOR PET MONTH - NOVEMBER, 2023

When the weather turns chilly, Adopt a Senior Pet Month reminds us some four-legged friends need a family, too. In November, consider making a home for an older furry pet during Adopt a Senior Pet Month.

While the wriggly puppies and kittens make us smile with delight, you'd be surprised how well an older animal might fit into your lifestyle. Often, they have mellowed and lost some of their toddler energy. They don't need the extra attention a puppy or kitten would require. If they need training, it is only specific to your home and routine.

There may be some adjustment with an older animal. Like humans, they may be set in their ways. But, in most cases, their history is known, and they can be easily matched with the right family or individual. So, if you are looking for a new companion, don't overlook an older animal. You may be ignoring a loyal pet with a lot of life left in her.

Things to consider might be whether the fur baby has medical needs or requires a lot of space. Did he or she come from a home with children or other pets? If any of this information affects your adoption, you will need to reconsider.

Keep in mind the lifespan of many healthy dogs extends into their upper teens depending on their breed. When it comes to cats, it can be a little harder to predict. Since their lifespan ranges 10-15 years, those nine lives may not last as long as we thought. Even so, with good veterinarian care, you and your senior cat can enjoy many happy years together.

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL ADOPT A SENIOR PET MONTH

If you are looking for a new pet, adopt an older one. Use #AdoptASeniorPetMonth to post on social media.



NATIONAL PET CANCER AWARENESS MONTH - NOVEMBER, 2023

National Pet Cancer Awareness Month is an annual designation observed in November. Cancer is the leading disease-related cause of death for domestic dogs and cats in the U.S., so this month, spread the word to help educate pet owners about how best to protect their furry family members.

We love our pets just like we love our family, so let's do our best to keep them healthy. However, cancer in animals continues to increase over the years, but the good news is there are advances being made in healthcare when it comes to early detection and treatment.

9 Common Types of Pet Cancer

1. Lymphoma
2. Splenic (spleen) cancer
3. Bone or joint cancer
4. Hepatic (liver) cancer
5. Thoracic (chest) cancer
6. Bladder cancer
7. Anal sac cancer
8. Oral cancer
9. Brain or spinal cord cancer.

13 Warning Signs of Pet Cancer

1. Loss of appetite or difficulty eating.
2. Rapid weight loss.
3. Diarrhea and/or vomiting.
4. Loss of interest in playing or exercising.
5. Difficulty with stool or urination, or changes in stool frequency.
6. Abnormal stiffness.
7. Severe lethargy.
8. Unusually strong/foul odors.
9. Blood coming from mouth or rectum.
10. Increased thirst and urination.
11. Respiratory changes.
12. Abnormally firm swelling.
13. Masses along the jaw or tooth line.

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL PET CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Use #PetCancerAwarenessMonth, or #PetCancerAwareness to post on social media. If you have a cat or dog at home, consider scheduling them a medical appointment for a checkup, and keep your eyes open for some warning signs that your pet could have cancer.

This month, and in the months to follow, keep your eyes open for any of these signs. If you can catch cancer in your dog or cat early enough, you just might be able to save them.

HISTORY OF NATIONAL PET CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

National Pet Cancer Awareness Month started in 2005 and was created by Nationwide and the Animal Cancer Foundation with a goal in mind to raise money and increase awareness to fight the leading killer of pets.

Do You Shop Online?

We Have A Way For You To Help Us When You Do!

It's called iGive! They have over 1900 stores participating in their donation program! You're sure to find stores that you already shop at... walmart.com for example. It's really pretty simple. You sign up for free, then shop your favorite store from their link, complete and pay for your order. iGive then completes the donation process behind the scenes and each month they send a check to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado. Sounds pretty good, right? You shop as you normally would and Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado gets much needed donations without costing you anything! That's what I call a win-win.

Check out iGive at How iGive Works - iGive.com

We hope you'll sign up and support Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado every time you shop online!

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

November 11th is Veteran's Day. To Thank Our Veterans you can color this and then give it to a Veteran that you know!

**THANK
★ YOU ★
FOR YOUR
SERVICE**



Happy Veterans Day



Trainer Tips

“Consequences For Off Leash Reliability Failures - A Romeo Story”

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Anyone who knows me, knows that one of my major goals with all of my dogs is off leash reliability. They must earn it by demonstrating the skills I require to have the privilege of being off leash.

Yes, it is a privilege not a right. It must be earned. And that privilege can be lost if you're not meeting my expectations. There are consequences to your actions.

We generally walk twice a day and love to go hiking whenever we can. Which is never as often as we'd like, of course. We prefer, when our dogs are ready, to walk off leash. Our dogs get much better exercise this way. But it needs to be done safely.

This is a story about Romeo. We lost him in 2018, but I have a million stories about him that I still share often.

Anyone who met Romeo early in his life knows that he was a handful! Smart. High energy. Intense. A handful, to be sure. We worked very very hard on building the right skills for off leash reliability. We had to work very hard for the first two years of his life.

But he did well and we gradually worked up to the off leash reliability I wanted and needed for him to be able to walk off leash on our walks and hikes. He had earned his off leash privileges and we were both enjoying our walks and hikes.

One day we were on one of our usual walks on the trails on our property. We came up over a small ridge, and Romeo spotted the deer before I did. There were about a half dozen of them in our field. They took off. Romeo took off after them. I called him, and he did NOT come back. He kept pursuing. The deer headed straight for the busy road we live on. At this point in time, we did NOT have gates/fencing on your property to prevent dogs from getting into the road. The deer disappeared over the ridge and behind the scrub oak heading to the road, and Romeo was in pursuit.

I ran too, but clearly I am no match for deer or a Vizsla in his prime. I thought for sure at least one of them was going to be hit by a car. We were just very lucky that no cars happened to be driving by at that moment. Romeo actually came running back to me. He had NOT gone into the road and pursued the deer beyond our property.

While he did NOT come when he was called, he in fact DID respect our boundary training we had worked hard on. He knew where he was allowed to go and not. And despite the fun of chasing deer, he did stop and come back once they crossed our property line. So, what did I do when he returned? Did I punish or scold him for not coming? No. Did I rejoice that he respected our boundary training and chose to come back to me once the deer left our property? You bet!

It was much too late at that point to scold him for not coming when called – too much had happened since that recall. He did make one bad choice, but followed it up with one very good choice.

What was the consequence though? Because he did NOT meet all of my expectations for off leash privileges, he did lose those privileges.

For the next TWO MONTHS, he was back on the long line for walks. We worked very hard for those two months to reiterate all the skills he did have but forgot on that one day. We worked hard on our recalls and all the other skills required to earn that off leash privilege back. And after two months, he did get that privilege back.

And for the rest of his life, he never lost that privilege again. For the remainder of his life, he was nearly perfect on walks. I almost never had to call him to COME for the rest of his life on walks. He checked in with me. He kept track of me. I rarely had to call because he was so tuned in, I rarely ever needed it. Those first two to three years were a lot of work. But those remaining years were the BEST. I could not have asked for a more perfect dog on walks and hikes after that. He was amazing. But we worked hard

to get there. And he learned that there were consequences to NOT making good choices when you are given a lot of freedom.

He was the best dog ever.

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/>).

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 1800 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!

"A Dalmatian doesn't walk into a room, it bounces!"



Reminder: Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday!

Don't forget to set your clocks back on Sunday, November 5th, at 2:00 a.m.

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.



I wanted to share a great gift idea from Dalmatian coffee company. I've ordered the custom dog treats for several dog friends and they are a huge hit. A photo of the dog and personalized name for the treats makes it a very special gift. Best part is that DRC benefits from our support. Rocky and Tilly are DRC Class of 2017.

I don't work for Dalmatian Coffee Company. I love their coffee and they offer natural ingredient treats. It's a wonderful way to say Merry Christmas or just send a surprise gift to your friends and family.

JoAnne F.

"The spots on a Dalmatian are the physical representation of their boundless energy."

- Jane Smith

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

Jetson (aka Snoopy)



3 Year Old, Black, Neutered Male

Reason Available: Seized by law enforcement due to abuse

Foster Home: Littleton, CO

Jetson (aka Snoopy) (and his cohort, Spike) were confiscated for neglect early in December by the sheriff in a small town in Central Texas. Having no place to put them, the sheriff contacted Dal Rescue to ask us to take them in, which, of course, we did. Jetson was filthy and covered with fleas, having been living in a 4'X6' kennel for who knows how long! Jetson and Spike are friends but apparently not bonded, so will be adopted separately. Over time, the two boys cleaned up well, but our fosters in Texas are full and summer was coming. He came to Colorado in late June and is in foster care in Littleton, CO. He is a happy, contented boy who would benefit greatly from some obedience classes. Gets along well with other dogs - not tested with kids or cats. Jetson's suggested adoption donation is \$400. Please contact jeannine@dalmatianrescueco.org.

Spike2

6 Year Old, Multi-color, Neutered Male

Reason Available: Seized by law enforcement due to abuse

Foster Home: Littleton, CO

WHOA! Spike is not a "spot"! However, he is friendly, gets along with everyone, and even has some manners! He loves to be petted and will wriggle his whole body when someone strokes him. He's a medium-sized boy who would make a good family dog. Can be a little bossy around other dogs, but corrects easily and moves on. Spike was a part of a twosome (his cohort was a Dalmatian, Jetson - aka Snoopy) that was confiscated for neglect by the Sheriff in a small town in Central Texas. Having no place to hold these dogs, the Sheriff contacted Dal Rescue to see if we would help them out, and, of course, we did! Spike was filthy and flea-covered, having lived in a small 4 X 6 kennel for who knows how long. Dal Rescue has a rule that we don't leave any dog behind. Because the other half of this duo was a Dal, we couldn't leave Spike behind to fend for himself. So, we have this lovely mixed breed doggo who is the nicest dog! Spike's ideal home would be with a playful female and a family who would take him to obedience classes to make him the best dog ever. Spike is located in the Denver area, and his suggested adoption donation is \$350. Contact jeannine@dalmatianrescueco.org.



Happy Beginnings Stories

Sadly, we don't have any Happy Beginnings to share this month. So, please, if you have a story to share send it to me and see it in print next month right here!

Send your stories and pictures to:
karl@dalmatianrescueco.org

It's never too late to see your story in print!

We got three Happy Beginnings Stories submitted last month!!

Let's keep them coming! 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!

3428 CR 27, Loveland, CO 80538

Rescue Hotline: 303-281-8963

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