



NewSpots!

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[Visit the Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado Website](#)

The Demise of AmazonSmile

Since 2013, more than 1 million charities received donations from AmazonSmile, which sent a small portion of a customer's purchase on Amazon to a nonprofit of their choice.

Amazon recently announced a surprise decision to shut down its [AmazonSmile](#) donation program in February 2023! This has left thousands of its nonprofit beneficiaries, including Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, disappointed and concerned about finding ways to replace the funding. The -commerce giant contributed 0.5% of every purchase made by participating customers to the charity of their choosing. As of 2022, the company said it donated \$449 million to various charities. Nonprofits all over the country say they feel let down.

Dal Rescue will be looking into ways to replace these critical dollars which have gone primarily to veterinary services for our medically challenged charges. We truly appreciate the support all of you have shown by participating in this easy-to-use program. Thank you . . . Thank you . . . THANK YOU! Fortunately, King Sooper's and City Markets are continuing their joint program using fuel points to calculate donations to area nonprofits. If you are in a King Soopers or City Markets service area, and you have not signed up, please go to the King Soopers website and sign up. Our spots thank you!

And now, the ANSWER

Thanks to donors like you, Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc., as a new participant with iGive.com, has already raised \$257.12 so far through this amazingly simple, no cost to you, donation platform, iGive.com! AMAZING!! We invite you to check it out and sign up, since Amazon has left us in the lurch!

You can utilize the iGive donation options when doing any online shopping, instead of AmazonSmile. Together, we can work to raise more money simply by shopping at iGive's partner sites and clicking the iGive button to confirm your donation to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc.. If you are anything like me... the simplicity of having all of my shopping delivered is a HUGE benefit, any time of year.

The iGive Button does it all for me! I have the iGive button on all of my browsers so I don't have to "think" about it... it just tells me if I am on a partner site and asks me to confirm that I want to give. If you don't already have the button (the little dandelion seed next to your browser), please consider downloading this option. It makes donating even easier so you never miss an opportunity. Get it here: <https://www.iGive.com/button/>

Another great way to give back: tell friends about iGive to help Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc., via Facebook or Twitter, or go "old school" and just send them an email. Go to iGive's tell-a-friend page to make it easy: <https://www.iGive.com/html/tellafriend.cfm>. Together we can raise money for Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc. without spending anything we wouldn't already be spending. And isn't that a gift in itself? It sure makes shopping more bearable to know that the store is giving part of my purchase back to help our cause.

> Learn more at: www.iGive.com/DalmatianRescueofColoradoInc

Thanks!

Jeannine H.

Treasurer, Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado

Dog Teeth Cleaning - A Guide

Maintaining good dental health is a very important part of your pet's overall health. Basic dog teeth cleaning practices can help prevent a variety of dental problems such as tooth decay, gum disease, and bad breath. These problems can lead to pain and discomfort for the dog, and in severe cases, can result in tooth loss or infections that can spread to other parts of the body. So, how can you support your dog's dental health?

Importance of good dental hygiene for dogs

Dog dental health is an important part of a dog's overall wellbeing. Poor dental hygiene can lead to a range of oral and systemic diseases, including gum disease, tooth decay, and even tooth loss. This can cause pain and discomfort for the dog, as well as make it difficult to eat and digest food. Additionally, bacteria from poor dental health can enter the bloodstream, leading to more serious conditions like heart disease or kidney failure.

It is important for pet owners to ensure that their dogs have good oral hygiene habits in order to prevent these health problems from developing. Avoiding regular dental care for dogs and cats can lead to many of the same oral health problems as humans experience, including:

- Broken teeth and roots
- Periodontal disease
- Abscesses or infected teeth
- Cysts or tumors in the mouth
- Malocclusion, or misalignment of the teeth and bite
- Broken or fractured jaw
- Palate defects such as cleft palate

What is periodontal disease?

[Periodontal disease](#), also known as gum disease, is a serious inflammatory condition in dogs that affects the gums, teeth, and other structures of the mouth. It is the most commonly diagnosed problem in small animal veterinary medicine, with most dogs having some form of the disease by the time they turn 3 years old.

Periodontal disease is caused by the buildup of plaque and tartar on the teeth. The bacteria in dental plaque irritate the gum tissue if plaque is allowed to accumulate, which often leads to infection in the bone surrounding the teeth. This can cause pain and discomfort for your pet, so it's important to be aware of its signs and symptoms so you can take action as soon as possible.

Periodontal disease doesn't just affect your pet's mouth. Unchecked periodontal disease has numerous dire consequences both locally and systemically. Bacteria surrounding the roots gain access to the bloodstream, leading to damage to a dog's heart, kidneys, and liver.

Signs of poor oral health in dogs

It is important to be able to identify the indicators that your pet is suffering from periodontal disease, which include:

- Bad breath
- Broken or loose teeth
- Teeth that are discolored or covered in tartar
- Abnormal chewing, drooling, or dropping food from their mouth
- Reduced appetite or refusal to eat
- Signs of blood in a pet's water bowl or on chew toys
- Pain in or around the mouth
- Swelling in the areas surrounding the mouth

Some pets become irritable when they have dental problems, and any changes in your pet's behavior should prompt a visit to your veterinarian. Always be careful when evaluating your pet's mouth, because an animal in pain may bite.

Possible causes of poor dental health in dogs

Poor dental health and periodontal disease can be caused by a lack of oral hygiene, genetics, age, breed, and diet. Additionally, certain medical conditions such as diabetes or autoimmune diseases can increase your dog's risk for dental issues.

How to keep your dog's teeth clean

Regularly brushing your dog's teeth is the single most effective thing you can do to keep their teeth healthy between dental cleanings, and may reduce the frequency or even eliminate the need for periodic dental cleaning by your veterinarian. Daily brushing is best, but brushing several times a week can also be effective.

Additionally, a healthy diet, annual cleanings and regular veterinarian check-ups, and dental chews and toys will help maintain the health of your dog's teeth. Some dog foods, often available with a prescription from your veterinarian, are specially formulated to support dental health. The act of chewing benefits your dog's oral health, as gnawing scrapes plaque off your dog's teeth. Treats and chews come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and flavors so you are sure to find something your dog loves. Talk with your veterinarian about any dental products, treats, or dental-specific diets you're considering for your pet, or ask your veterinarian for their recommendation.

How often should you brush your dog's teeth?

When it comes to our dogs' dental health, just like our own, consistency is key. Pet owners should brush their dog's teeth at least 2 to 3 times a week, although daily brushing is ideal. The better you are at keeping a regular routine, the easier it will be on your dog and the more likely they will be to respond positively to brushing.

How to brush a dog's teeth

With proper training and preparation, teeth brushing can be a quick and easy daily task for you and your dog to do at home. Here are some tips for how to brush a dog's teeth:

- Get comfortable: Pick a quiet area free of distractions and get in a position that is comfortable for both you and the dog. Depending on your individual dog, they may like being held in your lap or wrapped in a towel or blanket to keep them calm.
- Start slowly: Introduce your dog to the idea of having their teeth brushed by first letting them smell and lick the toothbrush and toothpaste. Start practicing the act of brushing by first using your finger, possibly wrapped in medical gauze for extra protection. Gradually switch to a toothbrush and slowly increase the amount of time you spend brushing their teeth each day.
- Pay attention to [body language](#): Closely monitor any changes in your dog's reactions or behavior when you're trying to prepare them for tooth brushing. If your dog suddenly feels uncomfortable with your fingers in their mouth and tenses up or
- shows other signs of stress, remove your hands and back away. Never shove your hands in a dog's mouth, especially if they appear stressed or fearful.
- Use a soft-bristled brush: You can use a toothbrush designed for dogs, kids, or a brush that fits on your fingertip. The brush should be small enough to fit into your dog's mouth and have soft bristles to avoid hurting their gums.
- Use dog-specific toothpaste: Do not use human toothpaste on dogs, as human toothpaste often contains xylitol, which is a toxic substance to dogs. Instead, use toothpaste that is specifically formulated for dogs. There are lots of options with dog-friendly flavors like peanut butter and chicken.
- Brush at an angle in circular motions: Hold the brush at a 45-degree angle to the gum line and brush in small circular motions, focusing on the outer surfaces of the teeth. Because the side of the tooth that touches the cheek contains the most tartar, concentrate there.
- Be gentle: Always be gentle when brushing your dog's teeth, and never force them to open their mouth if they're not comfortable with it.
- Create positive associations: Praise and reward your dog with treats or toys to help make the experience of teeth cleaning positive and even enjoyable. Using positive reinforcement will help your dog associate brushing with pleasant experiences.

You may consider asking your veterinarian to train you on how to brush your dog's teeth. It's also important to mention that it may take time for a dog to get used to having their teeth brushed, so patience and consistency are key.

Professional dog teeth cleaning

Just like we should visit the dentist regularly in addition to brushing our teeth at home, your dog should also have professional dental cleanings. Professional cleaning begins with blood work to determine if your dog is healthy enough to undergo anesthesia. If they are, your veterinarian will administer anesthesia and begin a comprehensive cleaning. This includes:

- A complete oral exam and x-rays to identify problems under the gum line
 - A full cleaning under the gum line to prevent periodontal disease
 - Professional scaling to remove plaque and tartar build-up on the crown
 - Polishing the teeth to prevent plaque and bacteria
-

Bottom line

Dental health is an essential component of your dog's overall health and wellbeing, as dental problems can cause, or be caused by, other health problems. To maintain good dental health, it's important to brush a dog's teeth regularly, feed them a healthy diet, provide them with dental chews and toys, and schedule regular check-ups with a veterinarian. Pet parents should make a routine of cleaning their dog's teeth and monitor for early signs of periodontal disease.

What You Need to Know About Your Dog's Oral Health

Plaque

The first buildup of material growing on the enamel of the tooth within hours of your dog eating. Plaque combines with dog saliva, builds up and hardens, resulting in damage-causing tartar.

Tartar

Comprised of various organic materials such as bacteria, serum, food particles and mineral salts. In the early stages, tartar begins as soft matter on the tooth enamel, but will build-up and harden as time passes.

Why Prevent Tartar Build-Up?

Tartar build-up can cause gum inflammation and disease, tooth decay, abscesses, and other oral infections impacting a dog's overall health.

Pay Attention to Your Dog's Breath

It's unreasonable to expect a dog's breath to be "minty fresh", but it should be at least neutral. Foul, acrid, and sour dog breath could be a sign that there is something occurring in the mouth and requires a visit to the veterinarian. However, do NOT rely solely on your dog's breath to keep tabs on dental hygiene and make sure to maintain a regular veterinary checkup schedule.

Dental Concerns Vary According to Breed

Smaller breed dogs may have an increased risk for tartar formation, gum recession, and eventual loss of teeth. Whereas large breed dogs in addition to dental tartar build-up, are also at a higher risk for tooth fracturing due to aggressive chewing. Such fractures can lead to decay, infection, tooth loss, and disease.

Your Vet Knows Best

Your veterinarian will perform an oral exam during most visits, but especially as part of a routine care visit. If there appears to be tartar build up a more intensive dental cleaning may be prescribed.

Pet Theft Awareness Day: A Police Officer's Tips To Protect Pooches

By Heather Marcoux From dogtime.com

February 14th isn't just Valentine's Day. It's also Pet Theft Awareness Day — a day to make sure dog parents know the dangers dognappers present to their pooches. In honor of this day, we're spreading the word to help dog lovers make good decisions and reduce the risk of pet theft.

When it happens, it makes headlines. Tales of stolen dogs reuniting with their rightful families go viral not just because they're heartwarming, but also because they are the exception to the rule. A study out of the United Kingdom found only one in five of the dogs stolen there each day is recovered.

Kevin McCormick, a former police officer and founder of pet recovery service Trackers Edge, says the numbers for North America probably mirror the British findings and suggests the best way to change them is to protect pets through prevention.

In honor of Pet Theft Awareness Day, here are a police officer's tips to prevent your pooch from being a target of dognappers.

Never Leave Your Dog Unsupervised Outdoors

"Treat them like a toddler," says McCormick, who recommends constant supervision for canine companions. "A dog is vulnerable when it's tied up to a bench, or when it's out in the backyard alone." Such was the case in the much publicized story of Princess, a service Chihuahua reported stolen in Toronto, Canada. Her human tied her outside of a McDonald's while she ran in to grab a coffee. When she came back, Princess was gone. Thieves unclipped the dog from her harness. Thankfully, Princess was reunited with her family just 20 hours after she was taken. However, most dogs in her circumstances stay gone for good.

According to McCormick, typical dog theft is similar to bike theft in that it's a crime of opportunity. On the other hand, it can also be a case of good intentions gone bad. "Sometimes dogs get stolen — they are technically stolen — but the people who've taken them think they are doing the right thing," explains McCormick, adding that would-be rescuers may assume a dog is being neglected or mistreated if they're left outdoors or just get away from their human. "A dog can look like a stray five minutes after it goes out the door if it has bad luck and gets into some mud," he says.

Microchips Are A Must

While any evil thief or misguided do-gooder can easily remove a collar tag, microchips are permanent and can be your pet's best bet at reunion after a theft. "Sometimes if people don't microchip their dog, they can have a really hard time proving ownership," says McCormick. "Microchipping is key — it's like having a serial number." On very rare occasions, microchips do fail, but pet parents can arm themselves with backup forms of forensic identification. McCormick once even recommended a dog parent use DNA testing to prove a dog was, indeed, their stolen pet. He says pet lovers should have some DNA on file, and also keep their dog's paw prints and nose print on record.

Don't Rely On Wearable Technology

High tech collars that track your dog's GPS coordinates are great for a lost dog in theory. But if a human has taken your pooch on purpose, a fancy tracking collar can be taken off just as quickly as a plain old set of metal tags. McCormick says he's found tracking collars discarded miles from an animal's true location, likely tossed by human hands. He also cautions against so-called "invisible fence" collars that will shock your dog but won't stop a thief from carrying them out of your yard.

"They don't care if the dog gets a jolt," he says.

Raise The Alarm

If you have reason to believe someone has stolen your dog, report the theft to police right away. Next, let your neighborhood know you're looking for your dog but not that you're looking for the thief. "Don't put 'stolen' on the poster; just put 'missing pet,'" says McCormick. He suggests victims steer clear of any language that would make either the thief or a third party afraid to turn the dog in. "Make it sound like whoever found it is a hero," he advises.

Even without using the word "stolen" in your flyers and social media, getting the word out basically turns your dog into what McCormick calls "hot property." No one will want to get caught with your pooch, and the thief or person in possession will be more likely to set the dog free or drop them at the shelter.

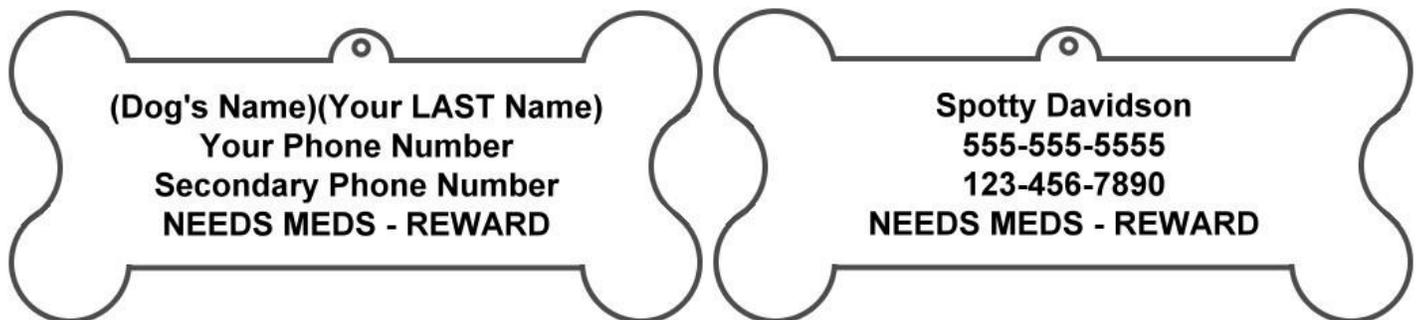
Stick With Your Dog

According to McCormick, armed robbery of a dog is extremely rare. Most cases of pet theft happen when a pet parent's back is turned in public. He says sticking with your best friend is the best way to stop dog theft. "If your dog's not unattended, you're pretty safe."

What other tips do you have for keeping your dog safe from thieves? Will you help spread the word on Pet Theft Awareness Day?

Dog ID Tags - A Reminder

Regardless of the suggestions above, it is always a good idea to make sure your dog's identification tags are up to date with the most recent phone numbers to contact you should your dog get lost or stolen and later abandoned. Below are examples of what we, the great folks at Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, recommend your dogs tags should look like... of course I am talking about the information on them - not the actual shape of the tag.



We recommend putting "**NEEDS MEDS**" - whether or not your dog actually needs medications - to appeal to people's basic sense of compassion. Also, most people would not want to keep a dog that is sick and might require expensive medication to keep them healthy. So they are more apt to return the dog to their rightful owner.

We also recommend "**REWARD**" to appeal to people's sense of greed. They will be more likely to return the dog if they think they might be handsomely rewarded for doing what's right. You don't have to set a monetary value of the reward - hence the genius of the plan. The reward doesn't have to be monetary!

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DALMATIAN



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Every abandoned dog deserves a second chance. At Dalmatian Coffee Co., we use the sale of our single origin and blended coffees to help them find new homes. Twenty percent of our profits benefit Dalmatian Rescue operations (including Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado), no-kill animal shelters, and dog foster care organizations.

You benefit from big, bold flavors — dogs benefit from your giant heart. We don't roast until you order, so your coffee arrives at the peak of freshness.

When you purchase our coffee, apparel, and other items, you'll be part of a small group of rescues listed on our home page that receives an even share of 20 percent of our profits, each quarter.

[Dalmatiancoffeecompany.com](https://dalmatiancoffeecompany.com)

Hi everyone,

Hope your New Year is off to a great start.

Just wanted to fill you in on a couple new things with us. I know a lot of you have seen and shared our Valentine's Day collection already, thank you for that! In case you want to check it out, here is a link:

<https://dalmatiancoffeecompany.com/collections/valentines-day>

Furthermore, we have a special blend of coffee that we just released. It's available for a limited time only, now through the end of February. It is Whiskey Barrel aged for a total of 30 days. Probably one of our most unique blends yet, it's delicious! We're running a promo for that now, I've attached a graphic below in case anyone wants to share.

<https://dalmatiancoffeecompany.com/products/whiskey-barrel-aged?variant=43621091737848>

We have a lot of new things planned for 2023. Hoping we continue to grow and our whole team here is looking forward to supporting you guys again this year.

Take care,

Oliver

Dalmatian Coffee Company

LIMITED TIME ONLY

Try Our Whiskey Barrel Aged Coffee

Single origin from Guatemala. Whiskey-barrel aged. Fresh roasted. Now thru February 28th.

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FEATURED COLLECTION

Valentine's Day Is Coming Soon!

Our Valentine's Day Collection is here... Show your love for your dog — or let your human know what to get you. Either way, 20% of the profits in every purchase go to the rescues listed on our home page.

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Recent Adoptees!



Allie
Saint Louis, MO



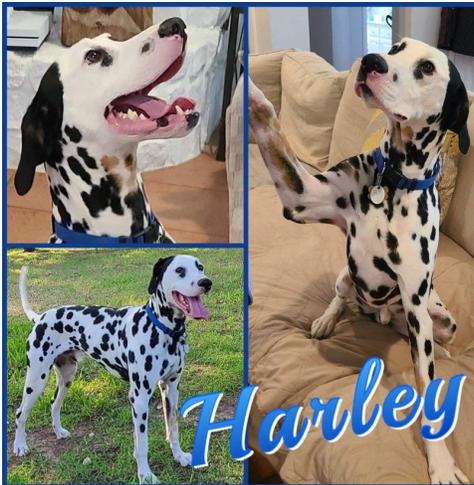
Drax
Livonia, MI



Harvey (aka Bandit)
Littleton, CO



Ronan
Commerce City, CO



Harley
Galveston, TX



Cowboy
Georgetown, TX

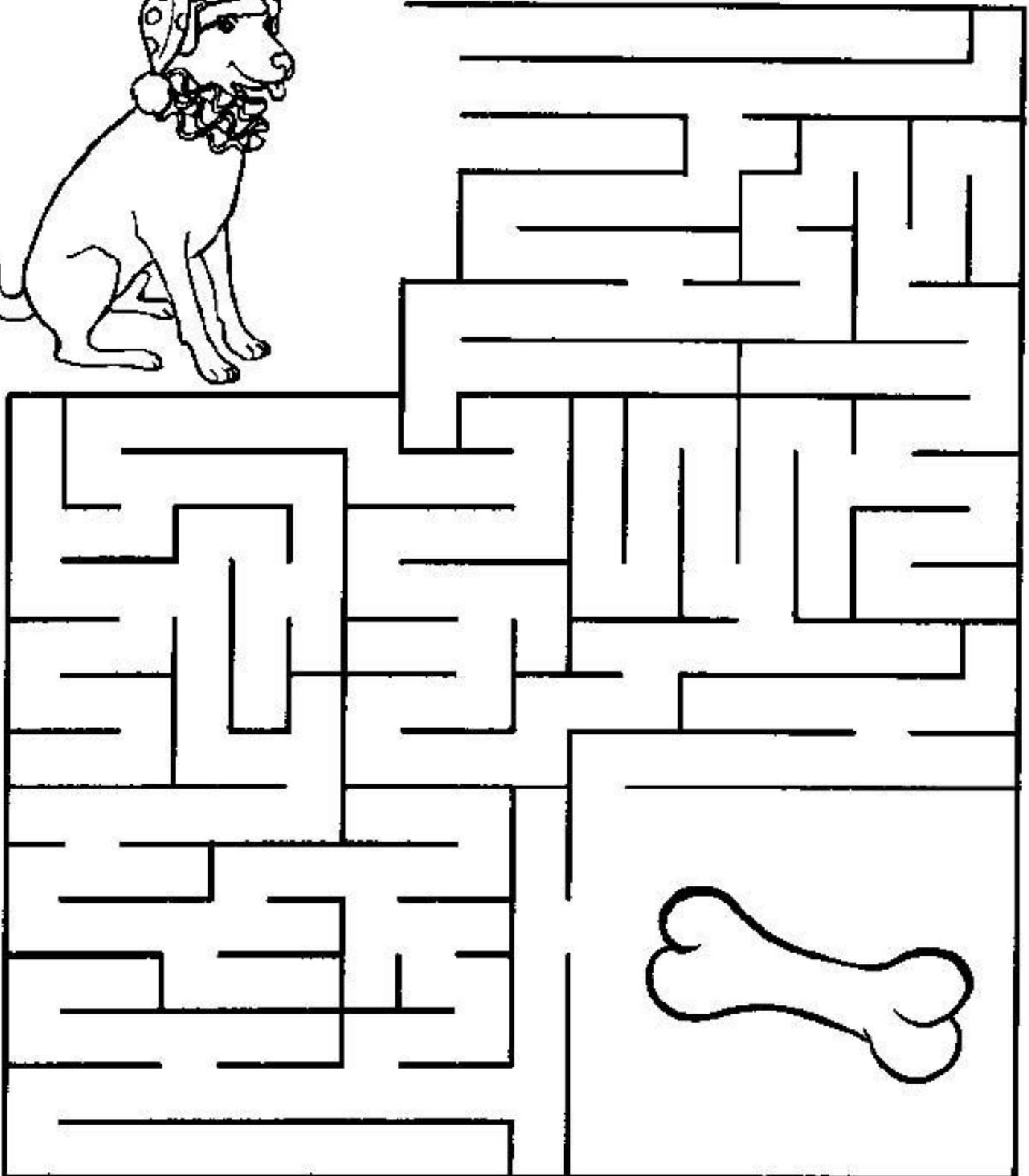
Attention Adopters!!!

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

Happiness starts with a wet nose and ends with a wagging tail!

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

Sparky can't find his bone. Will you show him the way?



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!



NATIONAL DOG BISCUIT DAY FEBRUARY 23rd

All dog owners, remember that February 23rd is National Dog Biscuit Day! This day is also observed around the world as International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day.

Dog biscuits come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and flavors. They serve to reward a man's best friend for good behavior

as part of their training. Dog owners may also give a biscuit to show their canine companions just how much they love them, too. Sometimes, dog biscuits serve to deliver vitamins and medicines we may have difficulty getting our pooches to take otherwise.

Specialty treats offer dogs and their owners so much to chews from! Even dogs on restricted diets won't have trouble finding a dog biscuit that's gentle on their tummy. Others help keep teeth healthy and fresh, too! What better reward could you ask for?

HOW TO OBSERVE #NationalDogBiscuitDay

- Get your canine companion a dog biscuit to celebrate.
- Go for a walk to burn off any extra calories or explore the varieties available. Maybe you'll find a new treat your furry friend loves.
- Share your favorite dog biscuit recipes.
- Use #NationalDogBiscuitDay to post on social media.

NATIONAL DOG BISCUIT DAY HISTORY

While National Day Calendar continues to search for the origins of this day, we're going to treat our furry friends to an extra dog biscuit to celebrate. We have no doubt a dog lover created this day, too.



Trainer Tips

“Touch Or Nose Target”

© 2004-2023 The Light of Dog



I like to teach cues that have a variety of uses. When we have versatile cues, we can get a lot more bang for our buck.

One example of a versatile cue is TOUCH.

For me, Touch is a nose target. I am teaching the dog to touch an object with his nose. In this case, the object is your hand. So, when I say Touch, I am asking the dog to move to you, touch his nose to the hand you have presented and then get a reward for it. Before we get into the details, what do we use Touch for? Why is it so versatile?

Glad you asked!

We can use Touch for:

- another form of recall/come – to touch your hand, they have to come to you
- a way to connect with you and get them tuned in
- a way to redirect them from other distractions you do NOT want them fixating on
- a way to move them away from something
- a way to engage and keep their focus on you
- a way to reduce jumping by having them touch down low before having the

chance to jump

- a way to help them learn to start engaging safely with other people (especially for dogs who struggle with stranger danger issues)
- a way to start the concept of using their nose to touch or push other objects
 - I taught Romeo to push a basketball across the floor to me with his nose – it was too big to pick up and bring to me, but he could still bring it to me without being able to put it in his mouth.
 - You could use this to teach a dog to turn off a light or push a drawer shut, for example.
- what other ideas can you think of?

First, you need to decide what your hand signal will look like. You must have a hand signal for this cue, since your hand is a part of the actual behavior your dog is being asked to perform.

You might use a flat hand, palm toward the dog. However, if you use a flat hand, palm toward the dog, for your Stay cue, then do NOT use it for your Touch cue! I use a fist. I hold out the curled up portion closest to my index finger and thumb toward the dog. Some people curl in all fingers except the index and middle fingers, and use the two fingers held out as their Touch cue. Some people will use a flat hand but with the back of their hand toward the dog. You can use whatever you want, as long as it is not so close to another hand signal you use that you will confuse your dog.

Touch means the dog's NOSE touches your hand. Not the dog's mouth. Not the paw. Just the nose. There is NO TREAT in your Touch hand. Let me repeat that. There is NO TREAT in your Touch hand. When you hold out your hand, within a few inches of your dog's nose to start, your dog will probably reach in to investigate. Does the human have a treat in that hand?! As soon as you feel the nose touch your hand, you mark (click your clicker or use your verbal marker) and reward from the other hand or from your bait bag or from the treats sitting somewhere nearby.

Repeat. And repeat.

You do not touch the dog's nose with your hand. The dog must reach to touch your hand. But they should not need to reach too far at first.

As they get the hang of it, you will move farther away. And change up the location of your hand, the distance, the height, etc.

If your dog does not reach to touch your hand within a few seconds, remove your hand. Then reset and hold it out again. If the dog does not reach for your hand pretty quickly, do not leave your hand sitting out there hanging. It's sort of like reaching out to shake someone's hand and they do not reciprocate. Don't leave yourself hanging out there!

Once your dog is getting the hang of it over a few sessions, you can add in your verbal Touch cue. Say it just before you hold out your hand or as you are holding out your hand but before they touch with their nose.

What other cues do you use that are as versatile as Touch?

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/>).

Dogs And Ice Melt



Baby, it's cold outside! And that likely means snow, ice, and slippery surfaces are coming your way. Ice melt makes it possible for you to deal with those surfaces and walk safely to your car. Unfortunately, that same ice melt may cause health problems for dogs—possibly even death if you're not careful. Learn how to choose a safer alternative.

What Is Ice Melt?

We all know that heat melts ice. But it's hard to apply heat to an entire driveway unless you added a hydronic or electric snow-melting system to the asphalt or concrete. That's where ice melt products come in. These chemical treatments lower the freezing temperature of water, which keeps surface water slushy instead of freezing into solid, slippery ice—according to Scientific American.

Why is Ice Melt Dangerous for Pets?

Ice melts can hurt your pet in two different ways.

1. Skin irritation usually shows up on your dog's paws because they have come into direct contact with the ice and therefore the ice melts. These products can also irritate your dog's mucous membranes in the eyes and nose.
2. Digestive problems happen when dogs or cats ingest ice melt products made with toxic chemicals. In extreme cases, a pet can require hospitalization or even die.

Which Chemicals Should I Watch Out For?

It's really important to know what's in the ice melt because "... there is no set agreed-upon standard for pet-safe ice melt," says Douglas Kratt, Chief Veterinary Officer for the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). So read the label or go to the company website and look for these ingredients as identified by poison.org.

Products with these chemicals should be avoided:

Sodium chloride is ordinary salt. Larger amounts can be lethal to dogs. Smaller amounts may lead to vomiting and diarrhea.

Calcium chloride is tough on paws and can cause vomiting and diarrhea if ingested.

Magnesium chloride causes gastrointestinal upset. It's especially dangerous for dogs suffering from kidney problems.

Potassium chloride can irritate your dog's gastrointestinal tract and cause hemorrhagic vomiting or diarrhea.

Ethylene glycol has the same active ingredient as antifreeze, which makes it extremely toxic to cats and dogs.

How Will I Know My Dog Has Been Harmed by Ice Melt?

Irritated, red, itchy skin is a good indicator that your pet may have encountered ice melt. If her paws are chafed, cracked, or bleeding, she may have stepped on some of the harsh substance without proper paw protection. Other external indicators may include paw-licking, reluctance to walk on surfaces covered with ice melt, and your pet appearing to be in pain in general when

walking.

Watch for these symptoms—provided by the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center—if your dog has ingested an excess amount of ice melt.

Drooling

Vomiting

Diarrhea

Loss of appetite

Vocalizing/crying

Excessive thirst

Depression

Low blood pressure

Disorientation

Decreased muscle function

Cardiac abnormalities, seizures, coma, and even death (in severe cases)

If you suspect that your pet has been poisoned, contact your veterinarian immediately or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 1-888-426-4435. Learn more about what to do if your dog or cat has been poisoned.

What Kind of Ice Melt Is Safe for Pets?

Because most ice-melting products use some kind of salt, no de-icer is completely safe for your pet. So select the ice melt product that is the least harmful. You may want to choose a urea-based ice melt product since urea—which is already produced by your dog's body—is less harmful than other options. Urea can be bad for your plants and lawns though, so try and limit its use around your home. In addition to urea-based ice melt products, those made from propylene glycol or calcium magnesium acetate (CMA) are relatively safe for dogs and are not as likely to cause skin irritation as other options.

Another option? "Skip the ice melts altogether, and use sand or kitty litter to make your walkways less treacherous," says Jerry Klein, DVM, President of the American Kennel Club (AKC).

Though no ice melt is 100 percent safe for all pets, if you must use it, look for these better-for-your-pet ice melts and make sure to always supervise your pet outdoors to make sure they don't get near or ingest anything dangerous.

How to Make Your Own Pet-Safe Ice Melt

Make homemade pet-safe ice melt out of simple household products that won't harm your dog or cat, according to TipHero. Here's how.

DIY Ice Melt

Ingredients:

1/2 gallon of warm water

6 drops of dish soap

2 oz. rubbing alcohol

Instructions:

1. Mix all three ingredients in a large container.
2. Pour the liquid ice melt onto your icy patches to melt the hazard away.

What Else Can You Do to Protect Your Pet From Ice Melt?

Keep his paws clean. Put a bucket of tepid or warm water by the entry door. After your walk, use the elbow of your dog's leg to guide his paw into the water, rinse it clean, and dry it off with a towel, says Klein.

Use less product. No matter which ice melt product you buy, limit the amount you use. Kratt recommends putting down just enough for safety's sake.

Shield that skin. Use a balm—such as [Musher's Secret](#)—to protect the pads on your dog's feet, Kratt says.

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!

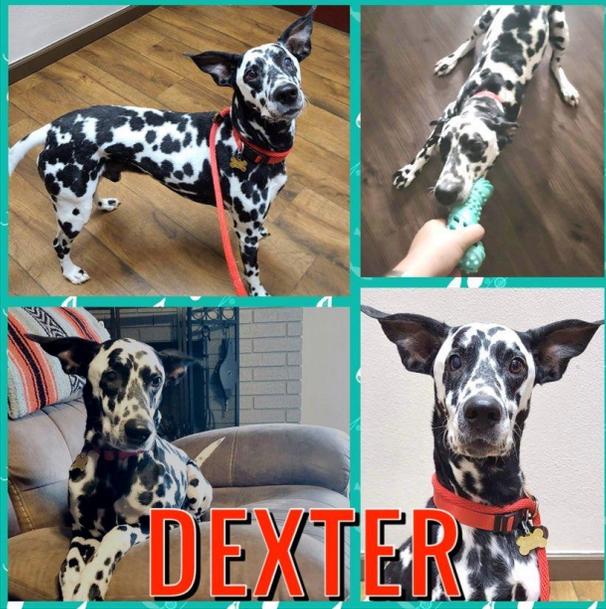
Reader Recommendations and Tips

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

Dexter



5 Year Old, Black, Neutered Male
Reason Available: Owner Surrender
Foster Home: Waco, TX

Meet Dexter, aka Batman! (Look at those ears!) This amazing boy is a petite 36 lb, 5-year-old Dalmatian. Dexter is blind in his right eye from an unknown, long-ago injury but that doesn't stop him from being a happy, playful boy. He's neutered and up-to-date on vaccinations. Dexter is heartworm-positive and undergoing slow-kill treatment. Meds and support are provided by DRC.

Dexter is housetrained and loves to go on car rides, play fetch, and tug of war. True to his Dalmatian spirit, he LOVES to cuddle. Dexter has never met a stranger and loves kids and adults alike! Everyone who meets him has fallen in love.

Dexter gets along with other dogs but has shown some minor resource guarding. His foster has been working with him on this and he's shown great improvement. We would recommend an experienced owner if there are other dogs in the home. No cats.

Dexter is ready to find his forever home! He's got a few edges to polish, but it's the challenges you tackle together that build the strongest bonds and this boy has so much love packed inside his 36 lbs that we know he's worth it.

For more info, contact Tena at tjp@mygrande.net. FENCED-IN YARD IS REQUIRED. Dexter is located in Waco, TX. Adoption \$400. Applications may be submitted at www.dalmatianrescueco.org

Ginger

3 Year Old, Liver Spayed Female
Reason Available: Stray
Foster Home: Colorado Springs, CO

Sweet, sweet Ginger is a beautiful liver female, 3 years old. When she arrived in Colorado, she was labeled fear aggressive, terrified and very intolerant towards men. Since being in a quiet, loving foster/trainer home, Ginger allows attention from men and women and is getting along well with her foster brothers and sisters (the four-legged kind). Since being in in-home based training, Ginger has settled and become outgoing with the dogs and the people around her. She walks nicely on a leash and is acquiring some other dog manners. She is incredibly loving! Ginger recently tested heartworm negative. Woohoo! Cats and kids are unknown. For more information, contact Jeannine at jeannine@dalmatianrescueco.org. Adoption donation \$350. Ginger is located in Colorado Springs.



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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