

Need A Little Help From Our Friends

By Jeannine Holt, Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado

April showers bring May flowers! But this April, it's raining spots from the sky, and we don't know what to do with them. So many people are calling for help with their dogs – many owner surrenders, many dogs in the Shelter, and, sadly, many dogs being found along the road or out in the fields and forests. Quite a few are sick, lots are injured, and some are just so abused and neglected that they have lost their will to live and their loving personalities.

We want to take them all . . . but, of course, we can't. We've lost a lot of foster homes in the last year and we've not found enough replacements to keep up with the need. If we don't have a "spot" for each dog to land, we can't take him/her in for care, no matter how dire the situation. Will you open your home to a foster dog?

And each dog receives medical care, even if it's only a healthy dog exam. Many need to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, or more advanced medical care, depending on what the problem is. And sometimes we don't know what the problem is until we've taken them to a vet – and then it's too late. We can't just throw them back out the door!



Morgan was dumped at a shelter right before an ice storm shut down the roads. DRC pulled her four days later, but not before the shelter broke with cases of canine influenza and distemper. We got her out just in time, before the shelter closed its door to quarantine. Morgan contracted a UTI, and we had grave concerns of distemper. Thankfully, she was negative! In the next six weeks, while with a loving foster family, Morgan gained weight and became healthy. We had her spayed, and she worked her way into her foster family's heart. They adopted her! Total spent on just one dog: \$1143.91.

Dalmatian Rescue spends approximately 70 - 80% of every dollar donated on medical care - spays, neuters, vaccinations, surgeries, parasites, serious illnesses to name only a few. A spay can run over \$300; x-rays for injuries can easily cost \$750 - 800; just last week, a dog with an abdominal blockage cost the Rescue more than \$4400.

As you can see, it's not easy supporting these dogs until they are adopted. You can help us with a donation of any size, at any time, but now is a critical time! You might want to consider a monthly donation. A donation of just \$50 a month results in \$600 annually - enough to spay at least two girl dogs or neuter three boy dogs! The easiest way to donate is by going to the website (dalmatianrescueco.org) and finding the "donate" button at the bottom of the page. We also accept checks, if you prefer.

We appreciate you more than you can possibly know, and our precious spots are the true recipients of your generosity. Thank you for your help!

April Is Active Dog Month

What does active dog month mean for dogs?

Active dog month is not only a time to celebrate dogs but a time to re-examine your commitment to healthy dog ownership. Do you really love and treat your dog as much as you think you do?

It's hard to find people who don't love dogs. According to the American Pet Products Association, roughly 53% of American households own at least one dog. The majority of those owners (91%) consider their dogs to be family members.

What Is Active Dog Month?

April is observed as Active Dog Month / Canine Fitness Month, and it is the perfect time to get your dog moving. This awareness month is all about encouraging and motivating people to get their dogs active. Here at Actijoy, we're all about active dogs and think that it is not only April we should focus on fulfilling our dogs' exercise needs. That we can all continue our efforts even past April and help our dogs stay healthy and happy.

Why You Should Celebrate Active Dog Month

We love our dogs, but we don't always treat them like the athletes they are. In fact, most of us don't treat them like athletes at all. The last thing you want for your dog is to be out of shape and unable to keep up with you when you're out hiking, jogging, or playing fetch. Dog obesity is still on the rise, and many veterinarians claim that the number of overweight pets has even increased over the pandemic. So take some time to think about your doggy's exercise needs. We all have hectic lives.

Best Time to Get Your Dog Into Shape

If you've been looking for an excuse to get your dog into shape, then Active Dog Month is the perfect time to jump into it. It's never too late to start an exercise routine, and just like with humans, regular exercise can improve your dog's overall health, fitness, and quality of life. And it's not only good for you and your dog, but it's also a great way to bond and build a healthy relationship. You can even get into shape together by following a few simple tips on how to [Create a Workout Plan for You and Your Dog](#). Dogs make great sporting partners.

3 Ways to Celebrate Active Dog Month

There are many benefits to being active, and dogs are no exception. Active dogs are more likely to live longer, healthier lives. For dogs who are overweight, exercise can help them lose weight and keep it off.

- Get a dog tracker
- Set the goal
- Fulfill your dog's exercise goals every day

Help Your Dog Live A Longer, Happier Life

A study published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association found that dogs who were walked regularly (at least 30 minutes a day) lived an average of 1.8 years longer than dogs who were walked less.

There are so many benefits to exercising with your dog, like improved bonding, better health, and longer life. So put on your sneakers and get out 'dogether'!

Pet Microchips 101

By Karen Vitale <https://www.24petwatch.com/blog/>



According to a 2009 study of over 7,000 strays in 53 animal shelters, microchipped dogs were over twice as likely, and microchipped cats over 20 times more likely to be reunited with their families, compared with reunion rates for unchipped animals.

While there's no arguing with these statistics, 'no-brainer' is a bit of a misnomer when it comes to pet microchipping. There's actually plenty to know about these tiny radio transmitters. And it's easy to understand why some pet parents may feel overwhelmed by the thought of entrusting their pet's safe return to a tiny, almost invisible piece of tech...one they may never even see.

Everything you need to know: Microchipping 101

But microchips are hardly the mystery some pet parents believe them to be. Armed with the facts and some expert insight, it's clear to see that a pet's microchip could one day mean the difference between a lost pet staying lost or being found, scanned, and quickly returned home.

So here's everything pet parents need to know about getting, registering, and properly maintaining a pet's microchip, but may be afraid to ask...including a deeper dive into potential microchip mistakes that could put pets at risk.

What is a pet microchip?

Beyond the oft-repeated fact that microchips are "no bigger than a grain of rice," what else should pet parents know about this super-small, super-important link between pets and their parents?

First off, let's talk tech. Microchips rely on radio frequency identification (RFID) technology, capable of transmitting information -- in this case, the unique microchip number that connects you to your pet -- over radio waves.

That information is stored on a silicon microchip linked to a coiled copper wire antenna, all contained within a tiny glass capsule about the size of...you guessed it, a grain of rice. Think of this small but mighty microchip as a pet's perfectly secure personal ID number. It's self-contained, can never be lost, never expires, and lasts the lifespan of the pet.



How do pets get microchipped?

If you adopted your pet from a shelter or rescue organization, it's likely that your pet is already chipped. Most shelters require pets to be chipped prior to adoption. And many partner with lost pet recovery experts like 24Petwatch -- which supplies microchips and scanners to over 4000 shelters, rescue and clinics in the US and Canada -- to ensure pets arrive in their new home with a microchip already in place. But it always pays to double-check and confirm whether your adopted pet is chipped.

If that's not the case, a trained veterinarian or veterinary technician can implant the microchip, using a sterilized hypodermic slightly larger than a standard vaccine to implant the microchip in the loose skin just between your pet's shoulder blades.

How exactly do microchips work?

Here's the interesting thing about microchips: Because they have no battery or energy source, they spend most of their time doing...nothing. Not transmitting, definitely not tracking. Simply waiting patiently until called upon to reveal information about a pet when it's needed most.

That can only happen when the chip is activated by an electromagnetic scanner, such as the ones used by veterinarians, shelters and animal control offices. The current from the scanner "wakes up" the chip, which then sends its info through the antenna and back to the scanner via radio waves, where it can be read and interpreted as a number.

Here's the most important thing to know about microchips: On its own, that number is useless. It won't help any lost pet get back home unless a pet parent links their name and current contact info to the number in a microchip registry database.

There are a variety of registries to choose from. Many pet parents choose to register on multiple registries, but that can become a hassle when it comes to updating your contact information. All it takes is one outdated phone number or email address and that crucial link between you and your lost pet is broken.

At 24Petwatch, registering your pet's microchip number is free. You can do it yourself on our Customer Portal or by calling 1-866-597-2424 to work directly with a Pet Registry Specialist. Best of all, if your pet ever goes missing, you can take immediate action by filing a missing pet report, which searches for your pet's microchip ID in their nationwide database of found pets.

Will it hurt my pet?

Every animal is different, of course. But most veterinary experts agree that the microchipping procedure is quick, simple and relatively painless.

"Most animals react just like they would react to a vaccine, with minimal discomfort, especially if they're distracted with a treat," said Cathy Barnette, DVM. "The needle that we use to administer a microchip is similar to the needles that we use to administer vaccines, just larger. We often recommend microchipping pets while they're anesthetized for their spay or neuter surgery, to minimize the risk of causing any discomfort. But even wide-awake pets tolerate microchipping remarkably well."

If you know your pet has a lower threshold for pain or discomfort, Barnette recommends talking with your veterinarian ahead of time about pain medication options.

Are microchips safe?

Any time a foreign object is implanted in the body, there's always the chance of rejection or medical complications. But according to a report released by the British Small Animal Veterinary Association's Microchip Advisory Group (MAG), such complications are very rare.

Of the roughly 4 million microchips MAG tracked since 1996, only .009% were associated with any adverse reactions.

"Although no medical intervention is entirely risk-free, the health risks associated with microchips appear to be extremely low," says Barnette. "A number of veterinary associations, including the World Small Animal Veterinary Association, have conducted investigations and found no evidence to suggest that microchips pose a significant health risk."

These very rare complications include migration, inflammation, infection, abscess formation and tumor formation. Yet the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) asserts that "... the risk that your animal will develop cancer due to its microchip is very, very low and is far outweighed by the improved likelihood that you will get your animal back if it becomes lost."

Microchip mistakes & misconceptions

Despite all the benefits that come with microchips, a surprising percentage of chipped pets remain unregistered. One study of 53 animal shelters showed that of all the animals with microchips, only 58% were properly registered. The remaining 42% showed no contact information associated with their microchips, making it impossible to reunite them with their families.

So what's behind the registration resistance?

Some pet parents mistake microchips for GPS trackers, believing the chips transmit location instead of information that needs to be linked to a registration. According to Barnette, some people also find all the options around microchip registries confusing.

"I wish people realized how simple and straightforward microchipping is," says Barnette. "I think some people get hung up on the annual memberships offered by microchip providers and are worried about that cost."

While annual memberships are an appealing option for some pet owners, they are not a requirement, so don't let that stand in the way of keeping your pet safe. First, register your microchip for free, then take your time and decide if you want to invest in additional protection services like those offered by 24Petwatch.

Why should I get my pet microchipped?

Every year, millions of pets go missing, leaving families distraught and pets potentially at risk. A properly implanted, registered and maintained microchip boosts your chances of recovering your pet immeasurably -- whether they wander down the street, or end up in a shelter the next state over.

"I have been involved in several cases in which pets were reunited with their owners due to a microchip," says Barnette. "In many of these cases, someone found a dog running loose in their neighborhood and brought it into the clinic specifically to have the dog scanned for a microchip. In one case, we found the microchip while performing a new pet exam on a dog that someone had recently found as a stray...Fortunately, the client gave me permission to reach out to the original owner and we were able to reunite the dog with its family."

Every month, our Lifetime Protection Membership reunites 3,000 lost pets with their owners. You can count on us and our personalized pet protection services to help care for pets and reunite you if your pet is lost. Remember you can easily register your pet's microchip on our Customer Portal. For added care and support for the life of your pet, including 24/7 access to a Vet Helpline, discount on dog walking and pet sitting services, and Lost Pet Recovery Specialists who are available 24/7/365, purchase a Lifetime Protection Membership today.

Make sure to check your pet's microchip every time you see a vet... so hopefully at least once a year during your pet's annual wellness exam!

Training Tips for When You Adopt a Rescue Pet

Contributed by Irith Bloom, faculty at Victoria Stilwell Academy and certified animal trainer with multiple certifications, including CPDT-KSA, CDBC, VSPDT, KPA CTP, and CBATI. <https://be.chewy.com/>



If you are looking to adopt a rescue pet, keep in mind that it can be challenging. I have fond memories of the day I got Franklin from the pet rescue. He was disoriented and clearly uncomfortable about everything that was happening, but he was oh-so-sweet. He lay with his head in my lap as my husband drove us home, and then timidly explored our apartment after we arrived. We were off to a great start—but that didn't mean it was smooth sailing ahead.

We quickly learned that although Franklin was housetrained (definitely a blessing!) he was otherwise completely untrained. He didn't know how to sit on cue, and walking him on leash was a good way to get a shoulder injury. He also showed signs of severe stress whenever we left him alone. Our first few months together were a learning experience, to say the least. But we got through it, thanks to a thoughtful plan of management and training.

Practice Empathy

When you first adopt a rescue dog or cat (or rabbit or other pet) from the animal shelter or a pet rescue, it's important to remember that the animal's entire life has just been turned upside down. Even though a pet rescue or shelter is sometimes a less-than-ideal environment, that is the environment the animal knows, and change is hard. Many rescue dogs and other pets seem to be more or less in shock at first. It takes them a while to start to relax into their new, permanent home.

Something I often see, especially when you adopt a rescue dog, is that the new pet behaves very well for a month or two, and then things start to change. It's almost as if the pet has figured out, "Well, they brought me home from the pet rescue, and they haven't taken me back, so I can start to express my feelings a little more." This is actually great for the pet—imagine going through life afraid to say or do the wrong thing at all times! But it's not always so great for the household, depending on what the pet starts to do.

What does this mean for you? First of all, it's important to remember that when you adopt a rescue pet, they may be going through a tough transition. A little empathy can go a long way! There are also things you can do to make the transition easier.

Facilitate the Transition for Your New Pet

Positive Reinforcement Training

After giving your new pet a day or two to settle just a little, start doing some positive reinforcement training. You could clicker-train your dog using treats after the click. You could also use treats to lure your dog into a sit, and then teach a word for that behavior. And don't stop at "Sit." Use treats to teach your dog to walk politely with you on leash. Or train your cat to lie in a particular spot while you are typing, rather than walking on the keyboard. The sky's the limit! Positive reinforcement training helps you build a stronger bond with your pet, while teaching them the kind of behavior you'd like to see more.

Implement Behavior Management Methods

It's also helpful to treat your rescue pet like a baby at first—even if they're an adult. If you adopt a rescue dog, assume they are not housetrained and will chew anything they can get their teeth on. Put up dog gates or confine them in an exercise pen whenever you are too busy to supervise them. You might also want to put your new rescue dog in a crate or pen the first few nights, so they can't roam around and chew or do other destructive things while you are asleep. This is a form of management, which refers to changing your pet's environment to help prevent the animal from successfully "practicing" the problem behavior.

If you set up the environment so that your new pet can't make a lot of mistakes, you'll have a lot less trouble in the long run. It is all about setting them up for success. As your pet proves that they know where to potty and understand to use the scratching post rather than your couch, you can give them greater freedom. It's best to start out with more restrictive boundaries, and gradually allow your pet more and more access, instead of the other way around.

Make Mealtimes a Challenge

Another great thing to do with a new pet is to make mealtimes a bit of a challenge. The time and energy your pet spends working at getting food is time and energy they won't spend getting into trouble. For dogs, you can use a toy such as the [Busy Buddy Tug-A-Jug Dog Toy](#) or the [KONG Wobbler Dog Toy](#). (There are also food toys for cats, such as [Trixie Activity Strategy Game Tunnel Feeder](#), but not all cats engage with food toys as readily as dogs.)

Above all, remember that it's a process for a rescue dog or other pet to adjust to a new home. The first few months may be a bit challenging at times, as your pet finds her feet, but she'll figure out the routine in time. Soon enough, you won't know how you ever lived without her.

Recent Adoptees!



Georgia
Crestwood, MO



Izzy
Universal City, TX



Pesto
Colorado Springs, CO

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



*Don't forget, April is Active Dog Month!
So, get out there with your pupper and...*

BE ACTIVE!!!!





DALMATIAN



20% OF PROFITS BENEFIT
DALMATIAN RESCUE OF CO.
AND OTHER GREAT RESCUES.

dalmatiancoffeecompany.com

Drink Coffee. Save Dalmatians.

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

We have a Mother's Day Basket with fun stuff in it for Dog Moms and their dogs.

For each basket we sell, we're donating \$10 to rescue.

Shoppers can choose to support Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado as they purchase their basket.

We've been more active with projects like this, because we have heard from many of our rescue friends that the disappearance of the Amazon Smile program has hurt their fundraising efforts. So here's an equally passive way to raise funds — and at a higher rate of \$10 per sale. We hope this can benefit you.

We figure everyone will be buying Mother's Day gifts anyways — so it seemed like a great opportunity to create one that will also benefit rescue! Here's the direct link to the basket: <https://dalmatiancoffeecompany.com/collections/gift-baskets/products/mommy-me-mothers-day-gift-basket?variant=43755523735800>

We're offering **FREE shipping** on the basket, too. And it ships May 2, in plenty of time for Mother's Day. (So this is like a "Presale" almost).

We've made it as easy as possible for you. \$10 for every basket sold when you select Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado will be sent directly to us in May.

Sincerely,
Oliver Carson
Founder
Dalmatian Coffee Company

See the poster on the next page for a photo and content list of what is included in the basket!

Send this "Mommy & Me" basket to the dog mom in your life.

Select us, and we'll receive a donation of \$10



This fun basket for dog moms ships FREE, May 2:

- 12-oz, House Coffee, Ground
- 13-oz, Ceramic Campfire Mug
- Silver Stir Spoon with Engraved Dog on Top
- 8-oz, Peanut Butter Hearts & Two Giant 8" Bones
- "Designer" Coffee Cup Dog Toy
- Heart-Shaped Base

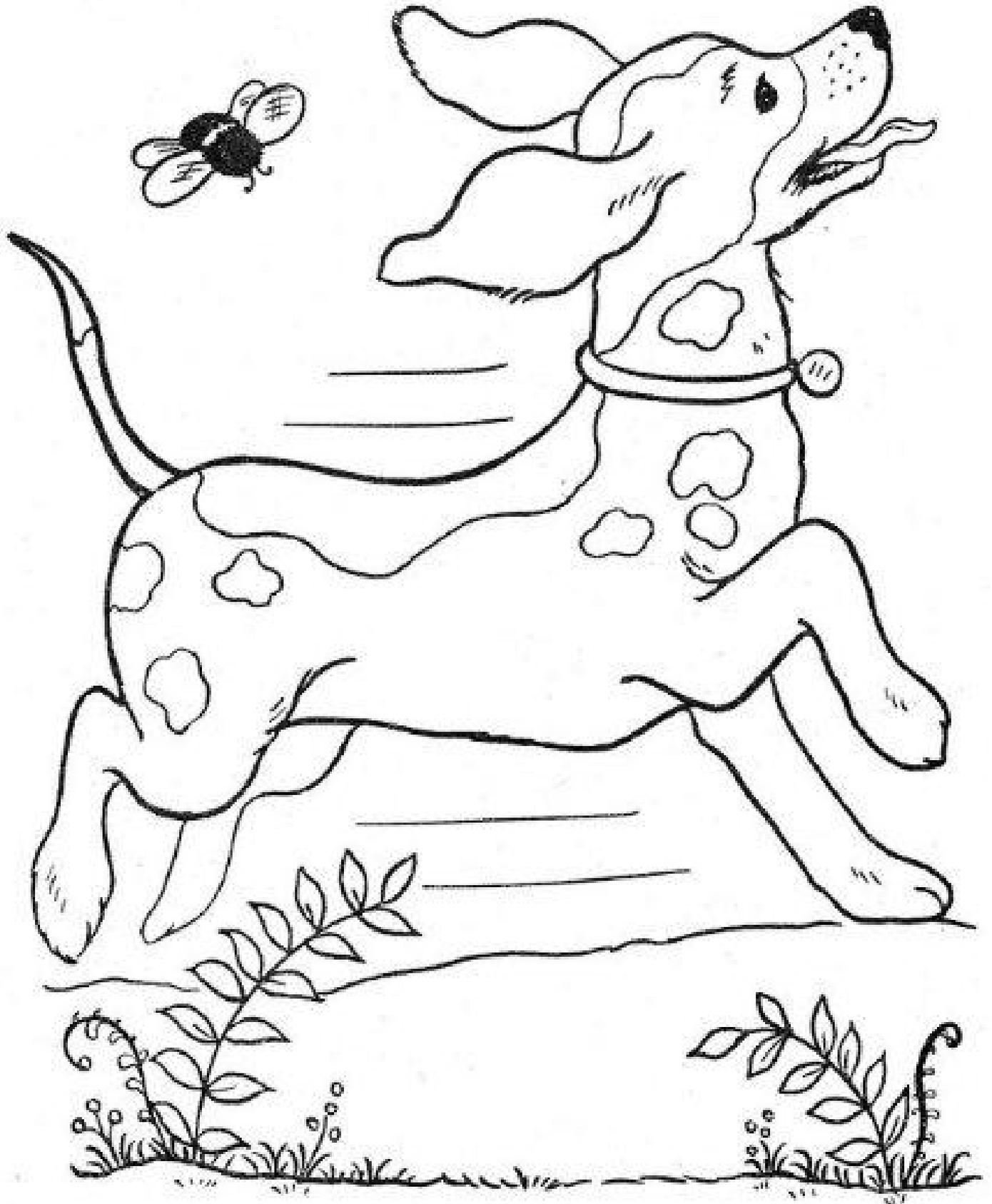
dalmatiancoffeecompany.com > gift baskets

DALMATIAN



COFFEE CO.

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



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 PET DAY - APRIL 11th



National Pet Day on April 11th dedicates the day to those pets who may not always get the companionship and attention pets deserve. While loving our pets is something we do every day, the observance encourages helping out orphaned pet companions. It will improve their health and enhance their opportunities for adoption.

Sometimes their human companions aren't well. Making sure their forever furry friends are receiving the best of care will help relieve stress and worry.

National Pet Day is an excellent time to do a few checks for your pets.

- Go through your forever family member's toys. Throw away any items that are no longer safe.

- Maintain your pet-friendly home. Keep cords and toxins secure from your four-legged friends. This includes phone chargers.
- Verify when vaccinations are due and schedule an appointment to update if they are due.
- Check collars to ensure tags are secure and numbers are current. We sometimes forget to update this information when we move or change numbers.

HOW TO OBSERVE #NationalPetDay

- Take supplies to those pets in shelters.
- Help a friend with pets who is recovering from an illness.
- Adopt a pet.
- Give your pets extra love with a [bath and rub down](#).
- Use #NationalPetDay on social media.

NATIONAL PET DAY HISTORY

Celebrity Pet Lifestyle Expert & Animal Welfare Advocate Colleen Paige founded the day in 2005.

NATIONAL LOST DOG AWARENESS DAY – April 23



Each year on April 23rd, National Lost Dog Awareness Day increases awareness concerning missing dogs and celebrates reunions.

Through networks of shelters, veterinarians, social media, and other media sources, many lost canines and families reunite. The day is an opportunity to learn more about prevention and networking. There are also steps to take to prevent your family pet from going missing. Some of these preventative steps also help return Fido to you if he does go missing.

Preventative steps to take:

- Keep your dog secure. Whether on a leash or in a fenced yard, your dog is less likely to wander if it is secured.

- Training is valuable. Dogs who have been trained by a professional are less likely to go missing. Most importantly, they learn recall commands. Formal obedience training also offers owners valuable information that can lead to a better relationship between pet and owner.
- Always supervise your animal. Dogs, especially expensive purebreds, can be stolen even from a fenced yard.
- Tags and microchipping help with the recovery of a missing animal. These steps must be completed when you first receive your new family member. While tags are inexpensive to protect your pet, dogs can slip a collar. Many pet adoption sites will hold microchipping events for a fraction of the cost. The price is coming down all the time too. It is essential to keep the information on the microchip or tag up to date also. It is only as useful as the information listed on the chip in helping recover your pet.
- Spaying and neutering reduce your pet's likelihood of wandering off in search of a mate. Additionally, it eliminates the chances of unwanted offspring should your dog wander off unexpectedly.
- Keep records up to date on your animals. That includes photos, vaccinations, and those valuable tags and microchips, too.

Taking action if your pet goes missing:

- Contact your local shelters and vets. Please provide them with current information regarding your dog, including a color photograph.
- Walk your neighborhood. Let your neighbors know as you search. Enlist their help, too.
- Post notices in neighborhood grocery stores, gas stations, and coffee shops. Go to social media and post your pet's info in local community forums.
- Check advertising websites. If your dog was stolen, you might recognize the description from the ad. Contact the police if you think your dog was stolen.

HOW TO OBSERVE #LostDogAwarenessDay

- Take steps to protect your pet.
- Develop a plan.
- Keep tags current.
- Consider microchipping your dog.
- Obtain a GPS collar.
- If you're a dog owner, share your experiences using #LostDogAwarenessDay.

NATIONAL LOST DOG AWARENESS DAY HISTORY

[Lost Dogs Illinois](#) and [Lost Dogs Wisconsin](#) directors Susan Taney and Kathy Pobloskie created National Lost Dog Awareness Day in 2014 to increase awareness and help prevent animals from going missing. They also promote celebrating reunions.



Trainer Tips “Boredom”

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Question:

If we leave our dog alone for more than a few hours, he becomes destructive. What can we do?

The Trainer Answers:

First, let's try to understand WHY your dog is being destructive. If your dog is anxious about you leaving, the destruction is around windows and doors, and it happens every time you leave, then we need to consider separation anxiety.

In most cases, however, the destruction is due to something else. How often does the destruction occur? It sounds as if your dog is OK for shorter periods of time, but not for anything more than a few hours. In most cases, this is a result of boredom. The dog becomes bored after a certain period of time or at certain times of the day and is looking for something to do.

Take down some notes about all of your recent departures. How long is the dog left alone? At what times of the day? When has he been destructive? See

if you can determine any patterns – periods of time, times of the day, etc. that will help you narrow down WHEN the destructiveness occurs.

Next, note what was destroyed. Does he target particular items or areas of the house? Do they have a certain texture, smell or other similarity? Some dogs prefer wood or paper products. Some prefer soft items, such as pillows or couch cushions. Some prefer items that smell like a certain person – shoes, socks, etc. Some dogs choose to empty the trash or clear off the counter or table tops. Is there a pattern? What does your dog do with these items? Move them? Shred them? Chew on them? Consume them?

If your dog is bored and looking for fun things to do, we need to make some changes to prevent the destruction of inappropriate items. First, you need to ensure the dog does not have access to the entire house so you can manage what he can and cannot access. This might mean crating your dog or confining him to one room of the house until the situation is better under control.

Next, find ways to burn off your dog's energy in more constructive ways. Find ways to help your dog burn off energy BEFORE you leave. Take him for a walk. Play with him in the backyard. Do some training. Have him work for his breakfast. Mental and physical exercise will both burn off energy so he will be calmer when you are gone.

When he is left alone, provide him with appropriate activities that he will enjoy. If he tends to chew up items, you should find appropriate but safe chew items to leave with him. However, simply leaving a bone or toy for him might not be enough. You need to find ways to ensure he does not have opportunities to chew inappropriate items and also find ways to make appropriate items more enticing to him. Simply leaving out bones or toys will not ensure that he will use those rather than chew on inappropriate items.

Give your dog some activities he can do on his own while you are gone. Some dogs love playing with toys if there is someone to throw the toy for them, but do not know how to play with a toy by themselves. Try some interactive toys in which you can place food or other toys so your dog must work to access food, treats, or other toys. Hide food or toys so that your dog must find them. If you can find ways to make appropriate items more interesting, your dog will begin to ignore the other items. You might need to teach your dog how to use interactive toys. Don't assume he will simply know how to use them on his own.

With some advance planning, management and appropriate exercise, your dog should learn how to handle being alone without destroying your house or personal belongings.

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 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

Mandy



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

MANDY HAS BEEN IN FOSTER FOR NEARLY 3 YEARS! THAT'S WAY TOO LONG AND SHE WOULD REALLY LIKE TO FIND HER FUREVER HOME!!!!

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 \$250

Matilda

3 Year Old, Black, Spayed Female
Reason Available: Stray
Foster Home: Justin, TX

MATILDA HAS BEEN IN FOSTER NEARLY TWO YEARS! SHE IS READY FOR HER FUREVER HOME, TOO!!!!

Meet Matilda! She is an amazingly beautiful female who is around 3 years old. Matilda is a little shy at first but once she comes around she is a happy-go-lucky girl. A perfect home will be one with an active family who will take her places. She doesn't mind being in the car and walks on a leash, but could still use some guidance with that. She would thrive in a home with other dogs, (slow introductions for this girl) she is also cat friendly and would love to have a teenager to call her own. Matilda is crate trained, jumps right in when told, and sleeps all night in her crate. She is spayed, current on vaccinations, and HW negative! For more info, contact Lisa at lisam.wilson@outlook.com. Matilda is located in Justin, Texas. Adoption fee \$350. Applications may be submitted to www.dalmatianrescueco.org.



Happy Beginnings Stories

Cocoa

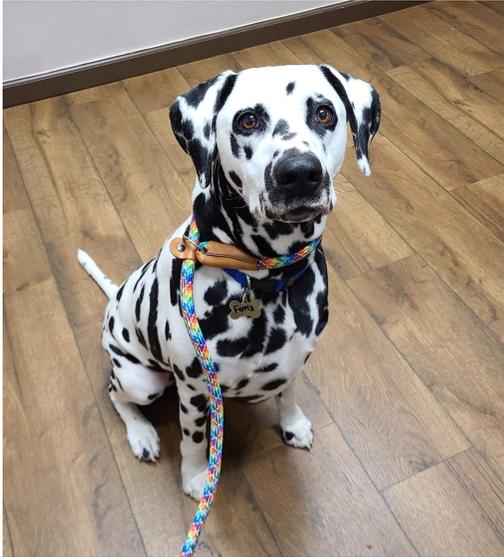


We adopted Buddy who is now cocoa. He is so happy and a complete lap dog! He goes to the dog park and hikes every day with a spot on our bed to hang out when he gets home! Cocoa is a good ball who loves big sticks, water bottles, stuffed animals, any toys really, kids and most all food.

Sincerely,
Keely and Luke K.
Manitou Springs,
CO



Murphy



My husband and I did not think we were ready to adopt another dog. In March of 2022, we had to make the difficult decision to help our two 16-year-old brother & sister cockapoos cross the rainbow bridge together. After having them for so long, we didn't think we were ready to find our next furry kid. We knew, though, that we would eventually need to get our then 4-year-old female Dalmatian, Ellie, a new sibling. I went ahead and sent in our application to Tena, thinking the process would take a while and it would be a minute before we found our match. I still remember the text I received from Tena a few weeks later with Murphy's picture, where she told me if she could adopt another Dalmatian this would be the one (luckily for us her husband wouldn't allow it!! 😊) I knew when I saw his picture (included below) that this was our dog. We were not afraid of his positive heartworm test, and he and Ellie hit it off immediately. The rest, as they say, is history. Adopting Murphy has been one of the best decisions we have ever made - both for him and for us! Ellie is THRILLED to have a Dalmatian brother to play and snuggle with. He loves snacks, he is a couch potato, and has a favorite toy. In October he was cleared of heartworms, and we threw a "no more heartworms" party, cake and all. I am so thankful for Dalmatian Rescue of CO and for Tena, who sent us Murphy's picture. He's the goodest boy and the perfect match for our family!

Sarah & Preston C.
Waco, TX



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

We got three Happy Beginnings Stories submitted last month!! Lily's story will be in the next issue! 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!

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