

# Dalmatian Rescue *of Colorado*

## NewSpots!

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Available online at

[https://dalmatianrescueco.org/dr\\_newsletter.shtml](https://dalmatianrescueco.org/dr_newsletter.shtml)

**ADVOCATE - PARTICIPATE - DONATE**

Volume 18, Edition 1

Loveland, CO

Feb 1, 2024

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

## HAPPY NEW YEAR AND THANK YOU!

The volunteers of Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado are humbly and profoundly grateful to the many donors who stepped up in December to provide medical support for sweet Harvey. We are overwhelmed by your love and generosity and trust. Those of you who follow Harvey's story on Facebook know that he came to DRC in December in horrible condition - starving, anemic, sores all over his body, weighing just 25 pounds. He is now making progress, thanks to all of you. Harvey is under long-term medical care as he fights for his body to heal. He started out with eight small meals each day as his gastrointestinal system relearned what it was like to have food. He is now down to 6 meals a day, eating 2 whole cans of dog food, supplemented by 1.5 cups of kibble. The re-feeding process is slow but working. Harvey has a long way to go, but his face is filling out and he doesn't look quite so gaunt. This cold weather we have had over the last week or so has been a challenge for Harvey as he has no fat on his body, but many of you have provided pajamas and sweats to keep him warm. Pretty cute!

Harvey was followed into DRC by Faron just 27 days later. Faron's condition was not unlike Harvey's. He, too, is relearning to eat again and to play outside a little, in spite of the weather.

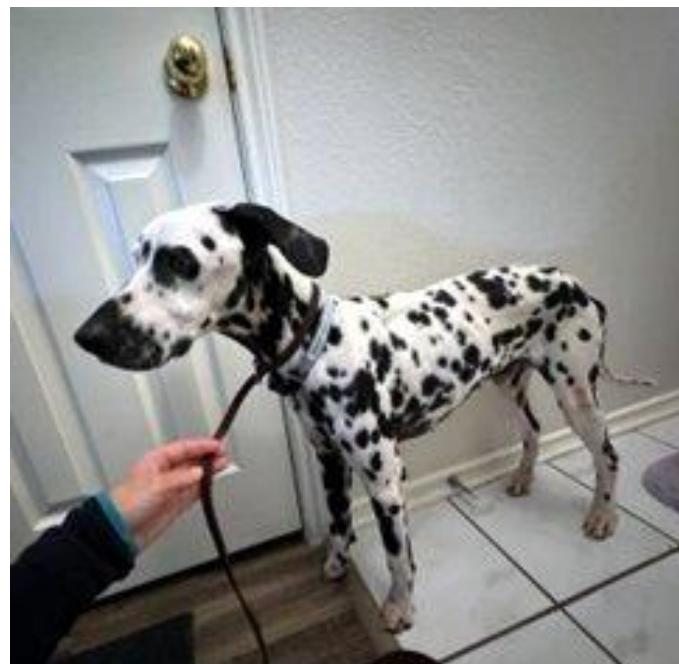
Both Harvey and Faron are in long-term medical foster care. No deadlines are on the horizon. Your generosity is making it possible for these two boys to eventually make it to loving and permanent homes.

Again, we are so grateful for the support we have received for Harvey. We respectfully ask your permission to use any excess funds donated for Harvey for Faron or any other dog that comes into DRC needing essential medical care in order to become healthy enough to be placed in "furever" homes. You are saving lives! Thank you!

Beth White  
President of the Board

Jeannine Holt  
Executive Director

Tena Price  
Vice President, Texas



HARVEY

FARON

# 9 Ways To Help You Bond With Your Dog

By Dr.Amanda Takiguchi

Dogs are often lovingly referred to as man's best friend. A relationship between a human and a dog can greatly add to both parties' lives. But how does this special human-animal bond develop? Whether you are trying to bond with a new dog you have just adopted or want to strengthen the bond with your existing canine companion, there are several strategies you should learn about. In this article, we will cover 9 effective ways to bond with your dog.

## 1. Training and Positive Reinforcement

Like humans, dogs should be considered lifelong learners. This means that regardless of your dog's age and training level, all dogs can benefit from training. Training can also help strengthen your bond with your four-legged friend. The inherent need for effective communication during training fosters obedience but perhaps more importantly, trust between you and your dog. This largely occurs through the positive reinforcement that comes with appropriate training. It should be stressed that training methods like punishment and negative reinforcement are unacceptable and detrimental to the human-animal bond.

## 2. Rewards and Praise That Fit Your Dog's Preferences

Many people commonly think of treats or vocal praise as a common means of rewarding good behavior in their dog. And while treats may be a useful training tool in food-motivated dogs, this is not the only way to encourage good behavior. For example, for dogs who love toys, offering your dog's favorite toy to him after he has correctly obeyed a command can be an effective and fun way to teach a new trick. As dog owners, we should also be aware that not every dog enjoys the same activities. There is a stereotype that all dogs love long walks or fetching a ball but that's just not true. Just like people with different love languages give and receive love in different ways, dogs have unique interests. Make the effort to observe what your dog enjoys doing the most and then spend intentional and quality time engaging in those activities with them.

## 3. Exercise With Your Dog

Physical exercise is an important basic need for both dogs and humans alike. Exercising together is a great way to keep both you and your furry friend fit and healthy while building a stronger bond with your dog. Before you rush to go run with your dog, remember that different dogs require and tolerate varying levels and intensities of physical activity. For example, a dog with orthopedic issues like arthritis may need lower-impact activities like short walks whereas a young sporting or agility dog may require something more strenuous like a hike.

## 4. Regular Playtime With Your Pup

Playtime is a fun and exciting way to engage with your dog. The key is to incorporate playtime regularly into your schedule. Ideally, you should play with your dog daily, even if it's only for 10 to 15 minutes. During this time, give your full attention and focus to your canine companion; yes, this means putting your phone away. While playing fetch is fun, you can also use puzzle toys, play hide and seek, or even run through the sprinklers. Play sessions are a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to get creative and build a stronger bond with your pet.

## 5. Routine and Consistent Communication

Dogs are creatures of habit and thus, thrive on having a consistent routine. This means following a schedule when it comes to feeding times, walking, bathroom breaks, playtime, and bedtime. Having a routine is associated with a lower likelihood of behavioral problems in dogs as well as increased owner satisfaction. By implementing a predictable routine, you provide reliability and help build trust with your dog. Additionally, dogs benefit from consistent rules and communication. Dogs want to please their owners but to do this, they need to know what you expect from them. You can communicate more clearly with your dog by using specific verbal cues. Remember, non-verbal communication is important too; dogs pick up on your energy, emotions, and body language so try to stay calm and positive.

## 6. Physical Affection

Physical contact in the form of petting or cuddle time is a quintessential part of forming a strong bond with your dog. Whether you have a lap dog who loves to snuggle or a more independent pooch, taking time to physically connect through touch is crucial in establishing and maintaining a close bond. Take note of where your dog likes to be pet; some dogs crave belly rubs while other dogs are more comfortable with a simple scratch behind the ears. In addition to snuggling, you can also provide physical affection by giving your dog a gentle massage or brushing her if she enjoys being groomed.

## 7. Familiarize Yourself With Canine Body Language

Even though dogs can't communicate with us through words, they tell us a lot through their body language; we just have to pay attention. By learning about dogs' body language, we can better understand our dog's thoughts and feelings. Getting acquainted with canine body language helps break down the language barrier and makes it easier for you to strengthen your relationship with your dog.

## 8. Give Treats But Maintain a Balanced Nutritional Diet

Many pet parents equate food with love. But we have to be careful when it comes to using food or treats as a means of showing affection to our dog. Occasional treats are okay but they need to be factored into your dog's recommended daily caloric intake.

Monitoring how much your dog eats is essential because over 50% of dogs are overweight or obese., which can lead to or exacerbate other health conditions. In addition to managing the amount of food and treats your dog eats, it is also important to pay attention to the quality of food and treats you're choosing. Consult your veterinarian for more guidance about weight management and how to provide balanced nutrition for your dog.

## 9. Give Your Dog Space

Finally, allow your dog space. This may seem counterintuitive when it comes to bonding with your dog but it's actually an important way to build trust. Giving your dog space will also help him become more confident. Dogs are den animals and thus, should have their own safe space such as a crate or a dog bed in a quiet area. Having an easily accessible place to rest and relax on their own gives dogs a sense of safety when they need a break.

## How Long Does It Take To Form a Bond With Your Dog?

Dogs can start to become comfortable with their owner in a few days but it takes much longer to form a true bond. Every dog is different but it can take anywhere between several weeks to several months to build a strong bond with your dog. This variability is largely dependent on your dog's history. For example, a dog who has suffered previous trauma or abuse may take longer to trust you.

## How Do Dogs Choose Who They Bond With?

In general, dogs bond most closely with whoever gives them the most positive attention. This includes walking, feeding, training, cuddling, and more. Ultimately, dogs bond with whoever is in charge of meeting their basic needs and the person who spends the most quality time with them.

## How Do You Tell if Your Dog Is Happy Living With You?

Happiness in dogs can manifest in a variety of ways. One of these is body language, which can include tail wagging, soft eyes, relaxed body posture, and neutral ear position. A happy dog should also have a good appetite and should not be exhibiting destructive behavior (e.g. chewing on things he shouldn't). Overall, a dog who is happy living with you should be comfortable and relaxed but still playful at times.

# 10 Ways to Show Your Dog You Love Them That They Understand

By Mohsin Iqbal, DVM

Ever wondered if your furry companion truly understands when you show love? It's a question that puzzles many pet parents. Understanding the language of love when it comes to our furry friends is more than just a tail-wagging experience. It's about connecting with them in ways they grasp and appreciate. But, how do you convey affection in a language your dog comprehends? To bridge this communication gap, focus on actions like quality time, physical affection, verbal praise, eye contact, play and exercise, training sessions, respecting boundaries, maintaining a consistent routine, offering special treats, and creating a comfortable environment. These methods resonate deeply with dogs, fostering a strong, loving bond.

## 1. Quality Time Together

Spending time with your dog is like opening a book full of joy and friendship. It's more than just being in the same space. It's about truly being there, without any distractions, and fully focused on the moment. Whether you're taking a slow walk in the park, playing with their favorite toy, or just sitting quietly together, these moments create a strong connection between you and your dog.

## 2. Physical Affection

Physical affection like hugs and pats is basically how we say "I love you" without using words, and guess what? Dogs totally get it! A nice stroke, a cozy hug, or just petting them gently can show you love them back. It's like whispering, "I'm here for you," but without actually saying anything. But, remember this: each canine is different. While one dog loves all about endless belly rubs, another one might just want a quick pat on the head. Finding out how your dog likes to be petted is kind of like a fun mystery. Most dogs have their special spots where they love being petted — like behind their ears, under their chin, or maybe along their back. It's like playing detective when you pet them in different places and watch how they react. If your dog gets all relaxed, lets out a happy sigh, or snuggles up to your hand, bingo! You've found their favorite spot. It's all about respecting their space and figuring out what makes them feel comfy. That way, every time you touch them, it makes your bond stronger, and they don't feel all crowded or stressed.

## 3. Verbal Praise and Communication

Words, those little sounds we make, are super powerful, especially when talking to our furry buddies. Dogs might not get every single word we say, but, do they understand our feelings and the way we say things? Average dogs can pick up around 165 words, mostly things they hear every day like "dinner" or "walk." When you keep saying things like "I love you," they start to get what it means. When you tell your dog they're a "Good boy!" or a "Good girl!" with unconditional love and excitement in your voice, it means more to them than a bunch of fancy words. These simple, sweet words, said in a happy voice, can really make your dog's tail go crazy with joy. It's not just what you say, it's all about positive reinforcement and how much love and good vibes you pack into your words.

## 4. Eye Contact

Making eye contact with your dog is pretty special. It's like looking into a window that's full of trust, love, and a deep connection. This

kind of contact actually releases oxytocin — that's the 'love hormone' — in both you and your dog, making your emotional bond even stronger. Long, loving looks that last more than a minute are really good at boosting this hormone, way more than just quick peeks. Keeping gentle eye contact with your dog helps strengthen your bond, making them feel super loved and safe. It's like having a silent chat, a moment you share that says a whole lot. However, you've got to be careful with this. Intense staring can freak dogs out, making them think you're challenging or threatening them. It's all about hitting that perfect balance — a soft gaze that shouts love and trust, not trying to be the boss or scary.

## 5. Play and Exercise

Playing with your dog is super fun and it's a really important way to show them you love them and to make your bond even stronger. Different dog breeds like different kinds of play, so you've got to figure out what your dog loves the most. For example, a Border Collie might go crazy for a game of frisbee, but a Bulldog? They might be more into a chill game of tug-of-war. The main thing is to find activities that you both enjoy, making playtime a special thing you do together. Regular exercise isn't just about staying fit, it's a perfect chance to make your relationship with your dog even better. Things like walks, hikes, or even swimming are not just workouts; they're times when your dog syncs up with what you're doing. Like, if you start moving, they move, or if you stop, they stop too.

## 6. Training and Learning Together

Training time with your pup is super cool for showing them love and care. When you train together, you're not just teaching them new tricks. You're also spending some really great time with them. Using positive acts — like treats and praise — makes learning fun and something your dog loves. This way, you're not only making them smarter but also building up a lot of trust and love between you two. Being patient and steady is really, really important in dog training. Every dog learns at their own speed. And that's totally okay. By being patient, you're telling your dog, "Hey, I'm here for you, and I've got your back," that is really a great way to bond with your dog even stronger.

## 7. Respect and Understanding

Showing respect for your dog's personal space and boundaries is a huge way to say "I love you" in dog language. Every dog is different — they have things they like and things they don't. Figuring out these likes and dislikes is super important for getting along well. For example, some dogs might totally love getting belly rubs, but others might not want to be touched in certain spots. Being in tune with your dog's feelings, especially when they're uncomfortable or stressed, is really important. This can show up in their body language — like if they stop making eye contact or tuck their tail. Noticing these little changes and reacting to them lets your dog know that you totally understand them and care about how they feel.

## 8. Consistency and Routine

Dogs really love having a regular schedule. They enjoy knowing when it's time for meals, walks, and play. This routine gives them a sense of safety and shows them they're cared for. Knowing what's coming up in their day makes them feel loved and secure. Because they understand their needs will be met without any guesswork.

## 9. Special Treats and Surprises

Occasionally giving your dog treats or toys is a super fun way to show you care. But, it's important to keep these treats balanced with their normal meals so they don't end up eating too much. Healthy snack options like carrots, apples, or lean meats — all are good for them and dogs usually love them. These choices are good for them and they're also tasty, making treat time something they'll look forward to.

## 10. Creating a Safe and Comfortable Environment

Making sure your dog has a safe and cozy space is super important for showing them love. This means they need a comfy spot to sleep, always have clean water to drink, and a quiet place where they can be alone if they want to. Making your home a place where your dog feels totally safe and loved is one of the best ways to show them you care.

## Does Your Dog Know You Love Them?

It's all about understanding and taking care of what your dog needs — both emotional and physical. This is how you show them love in a way they get it. When a new dog comes into your life, they might need a bit of time to really get how much you love them.

A dog might take three days to start feeling safe in a new place and about three weeks to begin trusting and liking you.

You can tell if your dog is feeling your love by watching what they do. If your dog looks at you a lot, snuggles or leans on you, shares their toys, asks you to play, shows they're relaxed or gets super excited when they see you — those are signs they love you back. It usually takes around three months for a dog to totally understand that their human is like a parent to them, which means even more love and bonding.

## Final Thoughts on Ways to Show your Dog You Love them

In wrapping things up, let's remember that showing love to your dog means you really getting them, respecting them, and always caring for them. It's all about mixing things up, from playing and exercising to training them and making sure they have a cozy place to chill. Each part is super important for making your bond with your dog stronger. And remember every dog is different, right? So, the best way to show dogs how much you love them totally depends on what makes your dog unique —their own personality and what they need.

# Recent Adoptees!



Tinsley  
Colorado Springs, CO

Photo  
Not  
Available

Sadie  
Prescott, AZ

## Attention Adopters!!!

If you haven't already submitted your Happy Beginnings story, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE take some time to do it now!

Yes, I am begging. We really would like to have your stories on the website and make you a star here in the NewSpots!! What are you waiting for? Submit your stories and a new photograph of your fur kid(s), and yourself if you want, to me today!

[Karl@dalmatianrescueco.org](mailto:Karl@dalmatianrescueco.org)



JETSON was adopted over Christmas by a family in Bozeman, Montana. This Texas boy is getting ready for the coldest winter of his life! Great outfit!

# Valentine's Baskets

**PRE-ORDER now and choose a rescue  
to receive \$10 from your purchase.**



## A Basket for Him & His Dog...

1. 12-oz bag of ground House Blend
2. 8-oz bag of heart-shaped, roasted duck dog treats
3. Leather, bone-shaped dog toy
4. Three of our own, delicious dog rescue hot sauces
5. ...an extra water bowl for outdoors

## A Basket for Her & Her Dog...

1. 12-oz bag of ground House Blend
2. 8-oz bag of heart-shaped, peanut butter & quinoa dog treats
3. Heart-shaped dog toy
4. Two cannisters of our delicious teas
5. "LOVE" mug with paw print
6. ...an extra water bowl for outdoors

**Pro Tip:** The basket won't say "him" or "her" on it, so if your Valentine is a dog mom who loves hot sauce or a dog dad who loves coffee and tea, hey... go for it. Quantities are limited. Pre-order by February 5! These baskets ship February 6. Shipping is FREE in the U.S.A.

**DALMATIAN**  
  
COFFEE CO.

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

# 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](http://www.dalmatianrescueco.org) to see the Foster Application which can be completed and submitted online.



## NATIONAL LOVE YOUR PET DAY February 20, 2024

On February 20th, pet lovers everywhere observe National Love Your Pet Day. This holiday focuses on giving extra attention to our pets. The day encourages pampering our pets and focusing on the special relationship pets hold in our lives.

### #NationalLoveYourPetDay

Did you know that most households in the United States have at least one pet? While there are more cats than dogs in the United States, more households have dogs than cats, but not by much. Pets are not limited to the canine and feline categories. There are quite a few who prefer the companionship of birds, reptiles, fish, or rats.

Whoever your pet companion is, we are sure you will enjoy spending a little extra time with them on National Love Your Pet Day and reap the benefits, as well such as stress relief and lower blood pressure. So on February 20th (and every day) show your appreciation to your pets!

### HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL LOVE YOUR PET DAY

- Bring your pet a special treat.
- Take your pet for an extra-long walk.
- Give them your undivided attention.
- Check that their vaccines are up to date.
- Watch a pet video with them full of cats, dogs, and other critters.
- Give them a few extra strokes with the brush while grooming.
- Practice their favorite commands - sit, shake, rollover.
- Play their favorite game or bring out their best toy.
- Inspect their toys to make sure they're in good shape. Throw out any broken toys.
- Wash their bedding, even if it's not their laundry day. Let them fluff it up just the way they like it.
- Whatever you decide to do, spoil and appreciate your pets! Use #NationalLoveYourPetDay to post on social media.

### NATIONAL LOVE YOUR PET DAY HISTORY

National Day Calendar continues researching the origins of this pet-friendly day. While we do, we don't mind if we snuggle an extra minute with our furry friends, too!

### Love Your Pets FAQ

Q. I don't have a pet. Can I celebrate the day?

A. Yes. You might not have pets, but you might be a pet lover. Visit a shelter or ask a friend if you can spend time with their pets.

Q. My pets are stuffed animals like Teddy bears and dolphins. Is it ok if I love those pets today?

A. Yes. Show them some love. Re-organize them. Get them a new wardrobe. Have a tea party.

Q. Do all pets like to snuggle?

A. It depends on the pet. Even as snuggly as a cat may seem, many of them do not like to snuggle. And while that boa constrictor seems awfully friendly, we wouldn't mistake his attitude as snuggle-friendly.



## Dog Biscuit Day | February 23

#CelebrateEveryDay

## NATIONAL DOG BISCUIT DAY - February 23

National Day Calendar •

## NATIONAL DOG BISCUIT DAY - February 23, 2024

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.

### #NationalDogBiscuitDay

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 NATIONAL DOG BISCUIT DAY

- 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.

### Dog Biscuit FAQ

Q. Can my dog have too many dog biscuits?

A. Like humans, our furry friends can overeat, too. Speak with your veterinarian to determine the frequency of treats for your four-legged pal.

Q. Are all dog biscuits the same?

A. No. Dog biscuits come with a variety of ingredients, flavors, sizes, and textures.

Q. My dog has allergies. What are some dog biscuits I can give him?

A. If you know what he's allergic to, you can make homemade dog biscuits using ingredients he can have. Talk with your veterinarian for specific ways to treat your canine pal.

# Speaking of Dog Biscuits... try this yummy recipe!



Whether or not you have a vegetarian dog, these non-meat biscuits will be snapped up — literally! The recipe comes courtesy of King Arthur friend Elaine Aukstikalnis, who works in a veterinary office; Elaine regularly bakes these biscuits (which have been "vetted by the vet") to bring to work for "the patients."

**PREP:** 15 mins   **BAKE:** 45 mins to 1 hr   **TOTAL:** 1 hr  
**YIELD:** about 42 larger (about 3 1/2") biscuits, 60 smaller (round) biscuits

## Ingredients:

- 2 cups (227g) King Arthur White Whole Wheat Flour
- 1 cup (89g) rolled oats, old-fashioned or quick-cooking
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley or 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
- 1/2 cup (56g) King Arthur Baker's Special Dry Milk or nonfat dry milk

- 1/2 teaspoon table salt
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup (270g) peanut butter, crunchy or plain
- 1/2 cup + 1 tablespoon (128g) cold water, enough to make a cohesive dough

## Instructions: Bake Mode

Preheat the oven to 300°F. Lightly grease a couple of baking sheets, or line them with parchment.

Mix together the flour, oats, parsley, dried milk, and salt.

Add the eggs and peanut butter, stirring to combine; the mixture will be crumbly.

Add enough water to bring the dough together; depending on the season, you may need to add a bit more (winter), or a bit less (summer).

To make biscuits using a dog-bone cutter, roll the dough about 1/4" thick, and cut with a 3 1/2" cutter (or the size of your choice). Gather and re-roll the scraps, and continue to cut biscuits until you've used all the dough.

To make dog "cookies," drop the dough in walnut-sized balls onto the prepared baking sheets. Flatten them to about 1/4".

Bake the biscuits for about 40 to 60 minutes, baking the smaller cookies for a shorter amount of time. When finished, the biscuits will be dark golden brown, and will be dry and crisp all the way through.

Remove the biscuits from the oven, and cool right on the pans.

A tip from our Bakers: Remember, these are a treat for your dog, not part of the daily diet. One biscuit is plenty!

**NOTE: This recipe calls for peanut butter. Before adding the peanut butter, make sure that it does not contain Xylitol!**



## HAVE A HEART FOR CHAINED DOGS WEEK - February 7 - 14, 2024

From February 7-14, Have a Heart for Chained Dogs Week Ending brings awareness to the overuse of chains on dogs. The goal is to stop the constant chaining of dogs. While they work towards this end all year long, the week around Valentine's Day is one of their most prominent periods of activity. It calls attention to dogs who are not treated as family pets but like trapped prisoners of war. Dogs who are perpetually chained outdoors or left in outdoor pens suffer both physically and mentally.

Dog-ownership is a big commitment. Space, time, and financial resources should be considered before taking on the rewarding role of a dog owner. While many

dogs enjoy being outdoors, restricting them to the length of a chain for long periods of time is inhumane. Other options for dogs who prefer the outdoors include: fenced yards, invisible fence, doggie doors, regular walking schedule, or dog parks. Our canine friends require attention and training to be the best companion possible. Providing them the care they need includes limiting their chain time and allowing them to be a dog that sniffs, explores, runs, and enjoys the world around them.

## HOW TO OBSERVE #HAHFCDW

The observance encourages action and support for local shelters. Ideas can include: bringing your dog inside, take your dog for walks, volunteer to take a chained dog for a walk, and visit, join, donate, or buy a calendar from the group Dogs Deserve Better at [DogsDeserveBetter.org](http://DogsDeserveBetter.org)

# 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](http://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](http://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!

### 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](http://Dalmatiancoffeecompany.com)



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

[dalmatiancoffeecompany.com](http://dalmatiancoffeecompany.com)



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

**Be My Valentine!**





## Trainer Tips

# "Trouble getting a harness on your dog? Try a Harnessing Station"

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Some dogs can get their collars or harnesses or other equipment on with no issues. However, there are many dogs who struggle with getting equipment on, especially harnesses that go over their heads. A Harnessing Station might be just what you need if your dog is one of those dogs who struggles. This is for the dogs who struggle with the process of getting the harness PUT ON. Once it's on, the dogs are completely fine with the harness. They can walk, run, and act normally. It's just getting it put on that is stressful for them. Sometimes we mistake this behavior for wanting to play. They run away when the harness comes out. They race around and avoid you. They might even do what looks like a play bow. They might be bouncy. It might look like play, but it usually is NOT play behavior. It is anxiety. A Harnessing Station can help reduce that anxiety.

Some of you have read about Blitzen in our Blitzen Bulletin updates. Our [Bulletin for October November](#)

[December 2022](#) included details about our Harnessing Station for him. Here is an excerpt from that Bulletin. Blitzen is very sensitive about handling issues, including getting his harness on. We cannot simply just slip the harness over his head and put it on. I have a very carefully set up process that I use. So far, it's working well. But we are heavily structured with this process.

What does that look like?

We have a Harnessing Station. We put the harness on in the exact same location EVERY SINGLE TIME. I am the one who puts the harness on. NO ONE else can put his harness on. Ed cannot put his harness on. Ed cannot be anywhere near his Station when getting the harness on. No one but me can be near the Harnessing Station when it's time to put the harness on. Except for Zooka, as long as he's in his spot. But no other people can be in the area. Anyone else in the area makes Blitzen nervous. His Harnessing Station is in the corner of the dog kitchen. (Yes, we have a dog kitchen separate from our own kitchen, where we prepare dog food, make our Peak Power Dog Treats, and store and handle food for boarding dogs.) In the corner, I set up a stool. Once the stool is set up, I hold out his harness just in front of the stool. Blitzen sticks his head through the harness. After he places his head through the harness, he gets a couple of treats. **Let me repeat that so you didn't miss it. I do NOT put the harness over his head. HE puts his own head through the harness. I do not place it over his head.** It's his choice to begin the process. I do not force it. If he does not place his head in the harness on his own, the harness does not get put on him. Next, I break up a bunch of tiny little treats. We use our Peak Power Dog Treats for this. I break up probably 20 of them. Tiny pieces. I tell Blitzen to WAIT while I line up about 20 tiny treats on the stool. He waits while I place them all over the top of the stool. His face is literally a few inches from the treats. He waits patiently and does not try to take treats before I release him. Then I say . . . Ready. . . GO! When I say Go, he starts scarfing down the treats. As he eats the treats, I carefully reach for one side of the harness underneath him and clip it in. Then I carefully reach under on the other side and clip that side too. I make sure that he has enough treats to keep him occupied while I hook both sides of the harness. If he gets through the treats too fast, then I have to place more out before I finish hooking up the harness. Once it's hooked up, he's happy and ready to go for his walk.

Many dogs struggle with getting harnesses on. In most cases, the problem is not WEARING the harness. The problem is the process of getting it PUT ON. Using a Harnessing Station as I have described – or some variation of it – might be just what your dog needs to get harnessed up easily safely and stress free.

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For additional training tips and information, you can read our blog at <https://thelightofdog.com/read/> or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

<https://thelightofdog.com/>

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(This "Ask The Trainer" article is reprinted with permission of Sue Brown, co-owner of The Light Of Dog, a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant. The Light of Dog Training is located in Sedalia, CO and services the Denver Metro Area. <https://thelightofdog.com>).

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:karl@dalmatianrescueco.org) for inclusion in the next issue.

**We have no reader recommendations or tips to share this month.**

If you have a recommendation or tip to share with our readers, please send it to me at [karl@dalmatianrescueco.org](mailto:karl@dalmatianrescueco.org) today!

This section of the newsletter depends on you, the wonderful readers. Without your contributions, this section of the newsletter will fail. We don't want that, because it can be a very valuable asset for all of the readers. So please support the Reader Recommendations and Tips section today.

# In The “Spot”Light... Our Featured Dalmatians

## Journey



**3 Year Old, Black, Spayed Female**

**Reason Available: Stray**

**Foster Home: Temporary Foster Home in Waco, TX**

Hi! My name is Journey and I am a three-year-old Dalmatian looking for my person! I love to play and would enjoy hiking. Did I mention I have a near-perfect recall? That alone makes me a great addition to a family. I can get very excited and jump on people I love, but I have also somehow learned to be super gentle with little humans. I love to play fetch with them. I do like dog playmates but I like to meet them first, to see if they like me. One other dog as a playmate would suit me. I love to play, but I also get overwhelmed by too many dogs. I currently live with two cats & we get along great as long as the cats stick up for themselves, however, I still help myself to litter box treats if given the chance. I am an opportunistic thief, but I am learning to leave things alone that aren't mine. My foster mom still has to keep her iced coffee out of my reach.

My spots are perfect and make Cruella sob with jealousy. With all these attributes there's no reason to look at 100 Dals because I am the one!!! If you would like to find out more about me please contact Tena at [tjp@mygrande.net](mailto:tjp@mygrande.net) or Victoria at [victoria.nations@yahoo.com](mailto:victoria.nations@yahoo.com). LOCATED IN WACO, TX. Applications may be submitted to [www.dalmatianrescueco.org](http://www.dalmatianrescueco.org).

Adoption fee \$400

## Chance 3

**3 Year Old, Other Color, Neutered Male**

**Reason Available: Stray**

**Foster Home: Greeley, CO**

Chance is the happiest dog. He is a real lover but has problems holding his licker. LOL He is high energy and loves to run, play fetch, play with most other dogs, and catch treats in the air. Chance is house trained, crate trained, contained by a 4' fence, and is very smart. He's met cats but is too rambunctious for them. He loves to cuddle with his people and veg. Chance came to Colorado from Louisiana where his allergies were severe and caused him to often scratch himself raw and be VERY uncomfortable. Currently, his worst allergic reaction seems to be getting a pink hue to certain areas of his skin and sometimes licking. New adopters need to be aware that Chance is on weekly desensitization shots for his allergies and twice weekly ear meds. These medications will need to be continued for the time being and possibly for the rest of his life. He is under the care of a dermatologist from CSU but could probably be transferred to a dermatologist elsewhere if CSU is too far to travel. He has no food allergies, according to his dermatologist, but is allergic to numerous environmental elements. He was originally on Apoquel but that has been discontinued due to a huge reduction in the symptoms of his allergic reaction. If you are looking for an active and fun dog, consider Chance and come meet him. If you would like more information regarding Chance, please contact [jeannine@dalmatianrescueco.org](mailto:jeannine@dalmatianrescueco.org). Suggested adoption donation is \$350. Complete an adoption application at the website: [www.dalmatianrescueco.org](http://www.dalmatianrescueco.org).



# Happy Beginnings Stories

***Sadly, we do not have any Happy Beginnings Stories to share with you this month.***

If you haven't already sent in your dog's Happy Beginnings Story, this is the perfect time to do it!

Start the year off right, by sending your dog's story to me at:

**[karl@dalmatianrescueco.org](mailto:karl@dalmatianrescueco.org)**

Wouldn't it be great to see your story in the newsletter and on our website?

The only way to do that is to submit it today!!

**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 25<sup>th</sup> of the previous month. Submissions received after the deadline may be delayed in publication until the following month, subject to the Editor's discretion.

Send submissions to the Editor at [karl@dalmatianrescueco.org](mailto:karl@dalmatianrescueco.org).

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

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