

# Help Your Anxious Dog Like Car Rides

The weather will be getting better soon, and you'll likely be heading out more often. And you might want to bring your dog with you. But what to do if your dog doesn't really like riding in the car? Here are some tips to help make a car ride more enjoyable for your dog. If your dog is anxious about riding in the car, though, a simple errand can turn into a stressful experience for you and your pup.

According to experts, there are a number of things that you can do to help make the car experience much less scary for your dog. "Dogs that have had a bad experience while in a car are more likely to become anxious about travel in the future," Dr. Jennifer Coates, DVM, a veterinarian and vet expert for Chewy, tells Bustle. "There are also two periods of extreme sensitivity to fear in puppies that typically occur around eight to 10 weeks of age and then again for a couple of weeks between six and 14 months of age," she says. "Bad experiences during these sensitive periods can have a lasting, negative impact."

Also, each dog has their own unique personality, just like people do, and some pups might just naturally be more worried about new experiences than others are. "The good news is that with time and appropriate desensitization and counter-conditioning, most dogs can be taught to ride in a car without fear," Coates says.

Here are some tips for helping your dog if they're anxious about the car, according to experts.

## Start Slowly

If your pup is anxious about riding in the car, they would probably be even more uncomfortable if you cruised around for hours to try to get them to relax. Instead of increasing the amount of time that you keep your dog riding in the car, take them on frequent, shorter car trips. "Start with very short trips even just around the block and slowly work up to long trips," Dr. Sara Ochoa, DVM, a small animal and exotic veterinarian and consultant for DogLab, tells Bustle. "Any time you are going somewhere that you can take your dog, take them with you and eventually they will learn that car rides are not bad," she says.

## Bring Along Some Comfort

Does your dog have a fluffy stuffed animal that they insist on carrying around the house? Do they always want to curl up for an afternoon nap on a favorite soft blanket? These small comforts aren't just good for keeping them happy at home or helping them feel cozy at bedtime. If your dog is feeling anxious about a car ride, bring along their favorite items and place them on the car seat to help them relax a bit. "Just like with children, sometimes that favorite blanket or toy is what is needed to help keep them calm," Ochoa says.

## Play Calm Music

If you're someone who listens to chill music to help you relax after a long day, you might assume that the gentle sounds have little to no effect on your fur baby, but that really isn't the case. When you're gearing up for a long ride in the car with your dog, tune into a calming classical or soft indie playlist to help relax them a bit as you drive. "Soft-sounding music seems to help dogs stay calm," Ochoa says. While you play the songs, it might even help out if you sing along a bit so that your dog can hear your voice and feel even more comforted.

## Take Them To Fun Places

It could be the case that your dog just doesn't like the car for whatever reason, but it's also likely that they associate it with activities that they don't really love. "If the only time they go in the car is to go to the vet, they may become anxious about car rides (assuming they find the vet a bit unpleasant)," Lori Nanan, CTC, CPDT-KA, a certified dog trainer, tells Bustle. Break this association by making an effort to take your pup on a ride to fun things too. "Car rides that result in pleasant outcomes — trips to the park for a walk, to the dog park to play with friends, etc., can help reduce the likelihood of that negative association," she says.

## Talk To Your Vet

While there could be a mental component to your dog's fear of riding in the car, it's also possible that they are in some physical discomfort. If you realize that your pup is still having trouble staying relaxed during car rides, it's worth checking in with your vet to make sure that they aren't suffering from motion sickness. "There are some medications that can help your dog with motion

sickness, which can then ease anxiety," Nanan says. "Motion sickness and car anxiety often go hand-in-hand." Something as simple as a motion sickness medication could be just the thing you need to make a car ride with your dog much less stressful.

### Consider Calming Supplements

Calming supplements or products could go a long way in helping your pup feel more relaxed when they need to go for a ride in the car. "The scent of lavender for dogs can be very calming," Dr. Jess Trimble, chief veterinary officer at Fuzzy Pet Health, tells Bustle. "Products like Adaptil come in sprays and collars for 'happy pheromones,'" she says. Of course, it's always important to ask your dog's vet before introducing a supplement into their diet. It's also worth noting that natural supplements aren't enough to address some dogs' anxiety, so if you notice that they don't help, be open to talking to your vet about more effective prescription products.

### Make Sure They Feel Secure

"Products and equipment that can make your pup feel more safe are going to really depend on each dog's needs," Trimble says. "Some dogs love their crates, and travel well in crates but not loose in vehicles." Others prefer products like the Thundershirt, which is a shirt that fits tightly to your dog's body and can make them feel more calm. And always be sure to follow your vet's recommendation for keeping your dog safe in the car, like dog-appropriate seatbelts or harnesses. If your fur baby feels secure in the car, they're more likely to feel calm rather than stressed.

If your dog feels scared or anxious about taking a ride in the car, make sure to be patient with them. As you expose them to this mode of transportation more and more, they'll probably begin to relax a bit.

**A final reminder:** you should never allow your dog to stick his head out the window! They love the feeling of the air rushing through their fur and flapping their ears in the breeze... but there are dangers to allowing this. He could get a bug or other object embedded in his eye. Even the smallest particle becomes a projectile in a moving car and could cause him to lose his eye. He could also fall or jump out... even possibly while you're moving. If you get involved in an accident, he could be thrown from the car. So, please, let them enjoy the ride... safely!

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## *March Is National Pet Poison Prevention Month*

You call your pets your "fur babies," but do you know about the everyday products that can hurt and even kill them? If you don't, your pet might be at risk. National Poison Prevention Week, which President Kennedy launched in 1961, was originally meant to protect children from accidental poisonings.<sup>1</sup> The effort has since grown to include pets. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) and the Pet Poison Helpline promote awareness and provide information to pet owners during the third full week in March. Other groups, such as the American Animal Hospital Association (AAHA), work to raise awareness all month long.

### What Are the Top Animal Toxins?

According to the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center (APCC), these are the toxins most responsible for poisoning pets.

- **Over-the-counter medication:** OTC medication is the most common cause of pet poisoning, triggering nearly one in five calls to the APCC. Pets ingest everything from vitamins and common pain pills to herbal supplements and cold and flu medications.
  - **Human prescriptions:** Includes everything from children's ADHD prescriptions to antidepressants and heart medications. These daily pills are usually left out for easy human access, but that means easy pet access, too.
  - **Human food:** This category includes common foods that animals should never eat; Xylitol (commonly found in sugar-free gum, candy and increasingly in peanut butter), grapes, raisins, onions, garlic protein bars and powders. They account for over 12% of APCC's calls.
  - **Chocolate:** Ingesting chocolate leads to over 60 calls a day to the APCC. Be especially careful around common holidays where chocolate is readily available like Valentine's Day, Easter, Halloween and Christmas.
  - **Veterinary products:** Some pet medications are flavored with beef, lamb or tuna so animals will take them. But that can make the medications too tempting to pets, and a child-proof lid won't keep a dog from chewing into a container. Plus, pet owners sometimes misread the labels and give the wrong dose. Poisonings from these products make up one-tenth of a year's call volume to APCC.
  - **Household items:** Pets can easily get into household items like paint, glue and cleaning products, some of which are poisonous. APCC receives calls about cleaning-product poisoning including bleach, alcohol and other products intended to kill viruses.
  - **Rodenticides and insecticides:** Rodenticides are made to make them tasty to rodents. But pets also find them tasty. Between rodenticides and insecticides, APCC handles over 20,000 calls a year.
  - **Plants:** Many indoor and outdoor plants are dangerous or even toxic to your pets. You may think of aloe as a healing plant, but it's toxic to dogs and cats. And the lilies in your Easter bouquet can cause kidney failure in cats.
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## My Pet is Poisoned. What Do I Do?

The faster you react, the better the outcome. Signs of poisoning can vary depending on the poison and type of animal, so don't wait if you think something is wrong.

### First steps

If you suspect that your pet has been exposed to a poison:

- Remove your pet from the area so the poison is out of reach.
- Check how your pet is breathing and acting. Even if it seems normal, it still might have been exposed.
- Avoid giving your pet any home remedies, and don't induce vomiting.
- Call your vet or a 24/7 pet poison helpline for instructions.

### Calling your vet

The sooner you get professional help, the easier, cheaper and safer it will be to treat the poisoning.

If you can't reach your vet or don't have one, use the [VetLocator](#) tool to find one.

If you're told to take your pet to an animal hospital, you can find a good-quality option with the [AAHA-Accredited Hospital Locator](#).

### Calling for 24/7 help

If you can't talk to a veterinarian right away, call the ASPCA's [Animal Poison Control Center](#) at (888) 426-4435 or Safety Call International's [Pet Poison Helpline](#) at (855) 764-7661. A credentialed veterinary professional will guide you.

Based on the information you provide, they'll determine if your pet can be treated and monitored at home or if you need to get to a veterinarian. You may be charged a consultation fee for calling either helpline.

## What Are Some Tips to Poison-Proof My Home?

Pets are curious — smelling, tasting and eating whatever interests them. The Pet Poison Helpline offers ways to poison-proof your home. Let's look room-by-room:

- **Living room:** Make sure your plants are pet-friendly. Check fragrance sources: potpourri can cause chemical burns, and aerosols can harm caged birds. Nicotine — in cigarettes, chewing gum or patches — is poisonous. Batteries, whether loose or in a remote, can burn if chewed. And your purse or backpack can be a treasure trove of medications, cigarettes or deadly sugarless gum.
- **Kitchen:** Many foods meant for humans should be kept securely away from pets, as detailed on the ASPCA website. Garbage cans containing discarded poisons are also a hazard. And alcoholic beverages can be fatal.
- **Bathroom:** Here's where you'll find most of your OTC and prescription medications, often in easy reach on countertops. Never give human medications to animals. Tylenol and Advil, for example, are highly poisonous to pets. Close the bathroom door when using harsh chemicals to clean. And keep the toilet lid closed to stop Fido from drinking chemicals.
- **Storage:** Lock away products stored in utility rooms, like rat poisons and insecticides. Rats can shift the products around, possibly into your pet's reach. Flea and tick products for dogs are harmful to cats. And some glues can expand in the belly, requiring surgical removal.
- **Garage:** Antifreeze tastes sweet to pets and can be extremely toxic. Other automotive products, like brake fluid and windshield cleaner, contain similarly toxic ingredients. Wipe up any spills immediately. Better yet, choose safer products.
- **Yard and Garden:** Pets are attracted to everything from fertilizers (such as bone or blood meal) to snail killers and yard insecticides. Avoid their use entirely or find the safest versions. And let commercially sprayed herbicides dry completely on your lawn before you allow your pet to run on it.

### Next Steps

Awareness and education are your most powerful tools to keep your pet safe.

Make sure your home is poison-free. And add the emergency phone numbers for your veterinarian, animal hospital, and a 24/7 pet poison helpline to your contacts list, just in case.



Now is the time to check  
your home and yard for  
potential poisons



# *A Guide To A Successful Walk With Your Dog*

Walking our dogs is a great source of exercise for both pets and pet parents. It not only helps keep our canine companions healthy and physically and mentally stimulated, but also strengthens the bond between us. There are several factors for pet parents to consider, however, to keep walks fun and safe for all.

## **The Basics**

Most dogs benefit from between 30 minutes and two hours of physical activity per day, but it is important to monitor them for signs of fatigue or injury. If your dog is panting, slowing down, wants to stop frequently, lies down on the walk, or is reluctant to go in the first place, this may be a sign of an underlying physical issue. Always consult your veterinarian if you are concerned.

You can help gauge your dog's capacity for exercise by observing their behavior during and after a walk. Your dog likely needs longer walks if they are pulling on the leash, displaying behavioral problems, or are over excited at the end of their walks. If your dog strolls beside you and takes a nap afterwards, it is more likely that their needs are being met.

## **Other Factors to Consider**

Age, breed, and size are all considerations for how far and frequently to walk your dog. Not every dog needs or can tolerate the same amount of physical activity.

### **Age**

Older dogs and puppies both benefit from shorter and more frequent walks that don't stress their joints and bones. Short walks a few times a day will help senior dogs get up and get moving, while puppies benefit from short walks a few times a day to help with toilet training, leash manners, and energy management.

### **Breed**

Highly energetic breeds, like Jack Russell Terriers, may require more exercise daily. Brachycephalic (short-nosed) breeds, including [Bulldogs](#) and [Pugs](#), may experience breathing difficulty on longer or quicker paced walks. Herding breeds, like [Border Collies](#), may require several walks per day so they don't go stir-crazy.

### **Size and Weight**

A one-mile walk is far less strenuous for larger breeds, like [Labrador Retrievers](#), than it is for smaller dogs, like [Chihuahuas](#). If your dog is considered overweight, start with shorter walks and gradually increase your distance daily.

## **Do's and Don'ts**

- DO call your dog to you when it's time to leave for a walk and have them sit quietly before putting on their leash and/or collar. Ensure puppies are familiar with the leash before you start using it for walks.
- DO have your dog focus on you before you leave. Hold the leash by the handle – there should be six feet of loose leash between you and your dog.
- DO guide your dog to heel throughout the walk – your dog should walk alongside or behind you. If they are in front of you, it gives them the impression they are leading you.
- DON'T let your dog mark for marking's sake. Cue them to whether they need to relieve themselves.
- DO walk your dog or ensure they get some exercise daily. An unexercised dog can become hyper and destructive.
- DON'T let your dog off their leash unless you're in an off-leash dog area. Even then, do be careful – other dogs can be unpredictable.
- DO walk in different locations. Your dog will like the variety.
- DON'T forget about mental exercise, which can be more tiring for your dog than long walks. Engage your dog in a few simple training exercises, like focusing on you with a basic command or after an unanticipated directional change.

## **General Tips**

- Make sure your dog is wearing proper identification in case of emergency or escape.
  - Walking with friends and their dogs can be safer and more fun for both you and your pet.
  - Don't stop if you encounter an unsupervised dog – you might be crossing through their territory.
  - Always wear comfortable, safe shoes to walk your dog.
  - Aim for quality of walk over quantity. Short walks in safe environments provide opportunities to educate your dog about appropriate behavior.
  - Always carry bags to pick up after your dog. Bring fresh water to keep your dog hydrated.
  - Never jump in if your dog gets into a fight. Stay at the end of the leash and use it to pull your dog away. Spraying water can also be effective.
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- Not all dogs are friendly – even a wagging tail can be misleading. Be respectful and always check with the owners before allowing your dog to approach.
- Hot pavement can be painful to your dog’s sensitive foot pads. If the ground feels hot to your hand, it will hurt your dog.
- Wipe down your dog’s paw pads and between their toes after winter walks to remove ice, snow, or road salts.
- If your dog is unfriendly around people or other dogs, keep a safe distance from others and seek assistance from a trainer.

**Is Leash-Pulling Normal?**

Pulling is in a dog’s DNA – in the wild, a trapped or restrained animal naturally tries to get away. Although canines have been domesticated for thousands of years, dogs still have natural instincts. To stop them from pulling, we must alter their perception by teaching them to walk on a loose leash, allowing them to relax their impulse to pull when they feel no restraint.

**Avoid Retractable Leashes**

We recommend a 6-foot leash – **never retractable leashes**, which can encourage pulling, make it easier for dogs to escape and run away, and make it more difficult for dog walkers to gain control in situations with aggressive dogs. They can also cause serious injury to both pets and humans.

Walking your dog is a great way to bond for humans and canines alike.

# Recent Adoptees!



**Emma (aka Emily)**  
Washington, LA

## 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)



**Don’t Forget To Spring Forward One Hour!!!!**

**Daylight Saving Time Starts March 10th at 2 a.m.**

# 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 PUPPY DAY - March 23, 2024

Observed each year on March 23rd, National Puppy Day celebrates the unconditional love and affection puppies bring to our lives. Their cuddles and wiggles make us smile and without a doubt, there are squeals of delight when there are puppies around!

### #NationalPuppyDay

The day also brings awareness to the need for care of and homes for orphaned pups as well as to educate people about the horrors of puppy mills across the country. Puppies are a big responsibility. Be sure to consider everything involved and adopt from a shelter. The puppies there need love and a home just as much as any other and they grow into loyal pets, too!

According to the ASPCA, approximately 3.3 million dogs enter shelters every year. Some of these dogs come with litters of puppies. If you're seeking a puppy to start your furry family, check the shelters first. When these abandoned and abused animals find their way to a shelter, each one needs a forever home and their potential is limitless.

### HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL PUPPY DAY

- Use #NationalPuppyDay and post photos of your puppy on social media.
- Go to the dog park and let your puppy play.
- Pick up a special treat for your puppy.
- Go for a walk with your young friend.

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**“Watching a Dalmatian at play is like watching fireworks, full of spark and surprise.”**



## NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY - March 13, 2024

March 13th recognizes National K9 Veterans Day and the dedicated K9 units who've served since World War II.

### #NationalK9VeteransDay

A lot of things changed after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. We rationed oil, leather, and rubber. The military drafted men into service. Women rolled up their sleeves and built war supplies. And dogs were called to duty. During the first world war, the United States took notice of the European use of canines as sentries, message carriers, and several other functions.

A private citizen, Mrs. Alene Erlanger initiated a program called Dogs for Defense. Along with the American Kennel Club and a handful of breeders, the group aimed to train the dogs for military use.

By November of 1942, the military prepared the first Dogs for Defense for duty in North Africa. While they were gun shy at first, they proved to be well trained.

As the war progressed, Dogs for Defense was unable to keep up with the demand, and the Remount Branch, Service Installations Divisions took over the training of the dogs.

Over the years, the military, police, and rescue have developed a variety of training methods for K9 units. Their training is tailored to meet the demands of the job, and each animal and handler carries out his or her duties to the fullest.

### HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY

- Recognize a K9 veteran.
- Learn more about their service, history, and training.
- Attend a ceremony honoring the working dogs in military units and working dogs across the country.
- Use #NationalK9VeteransDay to post on social media.

### NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY HISTORY

National K9 Veterans Day is celebrated on March 13th on the official birthday of the [US Army K9 Corps](#), which was formed in 1942. Joseph White, a retired military working dog trainer, originated the idea for the day.

### K9 FAQ

Q. Does a K9 live with its human partner?

A. Yes. In most cases, the K9 officer is responsible for the dog they are assigned to.

Q. Do K9 officers receive special training?

A. Yes, K9 officers receive specialized training for this unique unit of a police department.

# Celebrate The Special Moments And Events In Your Dog's Life With... CAKE!

Over the next nine months I will be sharing nine veterinarian approved cake recipes with you. So there's no excuse that you can't celebrate your dog's birthday, adoption day or any other special occasion. So get ready to bake...

These recipes all use dog-friendly ingredients, but keep in mind that your dog could have food sensitivities or different dietary needs. Talk to your veterinarian if you're not sure which recipe will work best for you and your dog!

It is important to know that these cakes are only for special occasions and should be served to your dog in small amounts, as a very special treat. Your dog's main diet should be based on animal-derived proteins, healthy fats, and a low amount of healthy carbohydrates. But yes, also, your doggy deserves to celebrate and have a treat!

We start our list with a great recipe. It comes together by combining simple dog-and-human-friendly ingredients like pumpkin, oats, baking soda, eggs, peanut butter, and yogurt. The best part is that not only your dog will love this special treat, but he can also share it with you! **Please when choosing the ingredients, make sure you choose them without artificial sweeteners, such as Xylitol as they can be very toxic for dogs.** Now... Let's Bake!

## PUMPKIN BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR DOGS AND HUMANS

This pumpkin dog birthday cake for dogs and humans is perfect to make for you and your pooch. It's made with dog and human-safe ingredients, not overly complicated to make, and easy to decorate with dog treats or peanut butter yogurt frosting. This cake is flavored with pumpkin puree which is good for us and good for dogs. It gets its subtle sweetness from the unsweetened applesauce. This is a healthier way to add sweetness and moisture to baked goods for dogs and humans. **Make sure the peanut butter used is free of Xylitol!** It tastes like a fall spiced cake that you and your dog can enjoy anytime of the year! As with any treat... a little is a lot!

### EQUIPMENT

- 2 mixing bowls
- 1 Whisk
- 2 6-in cake pans
- 1 knife or cake leveler

### Peanut Butter Yogurt Frosting

- 1 cup plain yogurt low sugar yogurt - without artificial sweeteners
- 1/2 cup unsweetened creamy peanut butter
- dog treats for garnishing

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 1/2 cups oat flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp cinnamon
- 3/4 cup pumpkin puree
- 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup creamy unsweetened peanut butter

### INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 350° F. Grease and flour two 6-inch round cake pans. Set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together oat flour, baking soda, baking powder, and cinnamon. Set a side.
3. Gently whisk together the pumpkin, applesauce, eggs and peanut butter until well combined. Add in the flour ingredients and mix with a wooden spoon to combine.
4. Divide batter evenly between the two prepared pans and bake for 30-35 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 minutes then invert cakes onto a wire rack to cool completely.
5. Use a cake leveler or knife to cut the top off of one of the cakes. Spread a thin layer of yogurt on top of that layer and place the other layer on top.
6. In a small bowl with a spoon mix the rest of the yogurt and the peanut butter.
7. Use a small spatula to frost a thin layer of it around the entire cake. Garnish with extra peanut butter or dog treats. Enjoy!





# Do You Shop Online?

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

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

### Check out iGive at [How iGive Works - iGive.com](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!



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## 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)

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





## Trainer Tips

# “Teaching A Go To Mat/Place Cue - Sending Your Dog To A Specific Location”

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Can you send your dog to a specific location? A kennel, a dog bed, or some other location? What cue do you use to send them to the specific location? What is your expectation when you say that cue?

When I first bring a new dog home, whether it is a puppy, an adolescent dog or an adult dog, one of the first things I teach them is Kennel Up. That's my cue to go to their crate or kennel. My expectation for Kennel Up is to go into their kennel, sit or lie down and remain there until I either release them or I close the door.

Once my dogs are settled in and able to be left out of their crates when left alone, then I use that cue a lot less. But I still want to be able to send them somewhere to settle down. So I teach my dogs different locations. One of those is their Mat. My cue is On Your Mat, and it's a mat that is easy to transport when traveling or move around the house so I can change its location as needed. I can also send them to their dog beds, but those are not as easy to move around.



On Your Mat means go to your mat, sit or lie down, and remain there until I release you. So in some sense, On Your Mat is a Stay but in a specific location. Go to that location first and then hold a Stay.

Since I am expecting more than just going to the location, this is a complex behavior or a behavior chain. There is more than one piece to it. So I break it into its parts and teach it in stages.

First, my dogs should go to the mat.

Second, my dogs should Sit or Down on the mat.

Third, my dogs should hold a Stay on the mat, but without me saying Stay. Since my On Your Mat cue implies a stay once they settle on the mat, I do not say Stay. If I did, then I would be moving on to the next cue and they would no longer be doing the On Your Mat.

Finally, I release them. My release word is Go.

So there are really four parts to this cue. I break it into steps so that they can be successful.

Since my dogs already know Kennel Up, they really already understand the concept. We are just transferring something they already know but to a new location with a new cue.

In these [videos](#), I demonstrate how I go about teaching On Your Mat.

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.

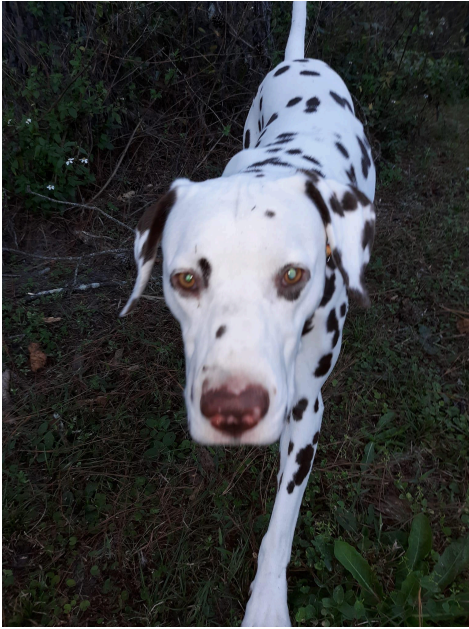
**We have no reader recommendations or tips to share this month.**

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

## MurphyA



**4 Year Old, Liver, Neutered Male**  
**Reason Available: Owner Surrender**  
**Foster Home: Archer, FL**

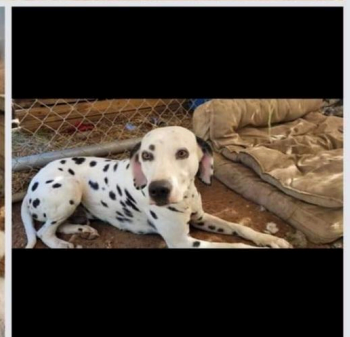
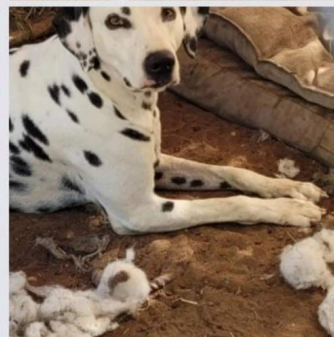
AN ATHLETE'S ATHLETE! Murphy is a gorgeous, green-eyed liver boy who loves an extreme lifestyle. He loves to run; he's begun to learn agility; and he would excel in all kinds of canine sports! Murphy had a horrible early start in life with a very abusive family who were observed hitting him often. He lived with 2-3 small kids, 2 small dogs (he has also lived with a female rottie) and his "parents" in a rented farmhouse in Illinois. One day, the family drove away and abandoned him in the house with no food or water. Two days later, the homeowner heard him howling for help. Poor Murphy was so afraid that he constantly shook and trembled and was terrified to be touched. Since then, Murphy has been with an extraordinary behaviorist and trainer near Orlando. He's gained enormous confidence and learned to love and trust. He is protective of his person while allowing them space, which he also wants. Like all dogs, he needs a job. Murphy is very focused on his handler and has tremendous drive and work ethic. He will need a special adopter who is willing to take the time to provide exercise, companionship, and learning to help him excel. Murphy has started obedience and agility training. Could you be the right person for this special boy? Please contact [sandy@dalmatianrescueco.org](mailto:sandy@dalmatianrescueco.org).

## Lance

**5 Year Old, Black, Neutered Male**  
**Reason Available: Stray**  
**Foster Home: Colorado Springs, CO**

Lance is a beautiful male Dalmatian who has been somewhat overlooked in the last couple of years. Dumped near Dallas, TX, he was un-mannered and very strong. As with most strays, he was nervous and a little difficult to manage when first meeting new dogs. Since he was neutered and moved into a loving foster home, Lance has learned to get along with lots of other dogs. His foster/trainer has worked very hard to teach Lance some manners and will be available to work with Lance's new family to ensure an easy transition. Cats are unknown. Older children are recommended because of Lance's size and strength. He would be a great running companion. Lance is located in Colorado Springs, and his recommended adoption donation is \$350. For more information, please contact:

[jeannine@dalmatianrescueco.org](mailto:jeannine@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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