



NewSpots!

©2024 Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado
Available online at

https://dalmatianrescueco.org/dr_newsletter.shtml

ADVOCATE - PARTICIPATE - DONATE

Volume 18, Edition 4

Loveland, CO

Apr 3, 2024

[Visit the Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado Website](https://dalmatianrescueco.org)

Springtime Pet Safety Tips

By 24petwatch.com

As spring nears, many of us are ready for spring cleaning, getting more active outdoors, and planting new blooms in our yards. With all the sunny days come many dangers for cats and dogs including surprising toxins, hazardous plants, common allergies, parasites, and more. You can protect your pets with these safety tips for springtime.

Springtime allergies

The beautiful budding trees, green grasses, and colorful flowers of springtime are welcome changes for many. But just like humans, cats and dogs can suffer from seasonal allergies. Even the dust of spring cleaning can cause an allergy flare-up in your pets.

The most common signs of allergies in dogs and cats include itchy paws, red skin or rashes, and ear infections. If you find that your pet develops any of these signs routinely in the spring, they may have allergies to things like pollen, grass, or dust. Pet allergies should be taken seriously, as they can progress to infections that require veterinary attention. Avoid home remedies found online as some can cause more harm than good. Your pet's veterinarian is the best source for treating and identifying your pet's allergies.

Parasites

Fleas, ticks, heartworms, and other parasites are a risk year-round but the odds of one of these parasites finding your pets skyrocket in the spring weather. So much so, spring is known as "flea and tick season" in the pet health care world because this is the best time to visit your veterinarian and make your parasite prevention plan for the rest of the year. It's also the best time to test for any illnesses your pet may have contracted from fleas, ticks, and mosquitos in the previous season. Talk with your veterinarian about preventative medications for the parasites active in your area and put a reminder on your calendar to keep your pets up to date. Take extra precautions to protect your pets from fleas, ticks, and other parasites during spring, summer, and fall. If you live in a warmer climate, or travel with your pet, you may require protection year-round.

Increased opportunities to become lost

Warmer weather means more chances for your dog to become lost while on a springtime walk or on a ride to the park. While opening windows to allow a warm spring breeze through the house can be an opportunity for a cat to escape.

A lost pet is most pet owners' worst nightmare. Having up to date pet ID tags and microchipping is the most effective way to protect your cat and dog from the dangers of becoming lost. Spring is a great time to check your pet's microchip registration info or protect new pets with a microchip.

Dog safety in the car

Whether you're taking a quick trip to the vet or planning a road trip with your pet, riding loose in the car is never a good idea. Riding loose in the back of a pickup truck is the most dangerous place for your dog. Pets riding in cars should always wear a seatbelt harness or be secured in a crate or carrier to keep them safe in an accident.

Ease into activities

Your dog probably wasn't going to the gym during the cold winter months. Avoid 'too much too soon' injuries like sprains and over-exertion by gently easing into an exercise plan for you and your dog gradually. This includes games like fetch that can quickly become too much for a sedentary dog.

Hot weather safety tips for pets

As spring weather welcomes warmer temperatures, our pets can struggle to adjust. Their size, shape, and hair coat can cause them to become too hot too quickly. Animals and heat, especially for older, overweight, or flat-faced pets, do not mix well.

Familiarize yourselves with the signs that your cat or dog is becoming too hot, and follow pet best practices for hot weather like walking your dog in the mornings when it's cooler, **never** leaving your pet alone in a vehicle, and giving your pet access to water at all times.

Springtime toxins for pets

If you think that your pet may have consumed a toxin, contact a veterinarian immediately. Quick action can literally save your pet's life. If your primary care veterinarian is unavailable, contact your local veterinary emergency clinic.

You can contact ASPCA Poison Control (888-426-4435) 24/7 any day of the year. Or the Pet Poison Helpline (855-764-7661), available 24/7/365 if you suspect your pet has gotten into a toxin.

Spring cleaning supplies

All cleaning products, even all-natural alternatives, can contain harmful chemicals. When spring cleaning, keep your cats and dogs away from the area until the space is totally dry. Store all cleaning supplies out of reach of pets, as some may smell and taste tempting but contain potent toxins.

Home improvement projects

Many ambitious homeowners feel the spring fever call to launch some home improvement projects at the first sights of spring. Common home improvement products are often highly toxic, like paints and stains. Your pet can easily get wet paint on their paws or fur and then ingest it while cleaning themselves. Other projects call for a paint stripper or other chemical solutions that cause severe irritation or chemical burns. Aside from the toxic aspects, home improvement projects also come with many physical hazards like a stray nail or screw that can be stepped on or swallowed, loose insulation that can be inhaled or ingested, and the dangers of plugged-in tools, to name a few. While we applaud your ambition, keep helpful dogs and curious cats out of any remodeling, demo, or other project spaces.

Chocolate and other holiday temptations

Springtime comes with an abundance of celebrations and holiday activities: Easter, graduation parties, Mother's Day, and more. These events host many opportunities for your pets to get themselves in danger. Chocolate ranks as the leading pet toxin. It's extremely dangerous for dogs and cats - with dark chocolate being the most toxic. Even if you keep the chocolates out of reach, many candies (particularly those labeled sugar-free) are made with xylitol, which is an artificial sweetener that's **highly toxic** to dogs. Other springtime favorites include fake grass (cats love to play with and eat shiny plastic grass), plastic eggs, candy wrappers, and small toys. Even dyed hard-boiled eggs can be appealing to dogs. Be sure to put them away so that ingestion doesn't result in GI complications or choking. Keep an extra close watch on your pets during spring events and keep tempting Easter baskets out of reach of even the most curious pets.

Lawn and garden

Springtime is the time of budding plants, blooming flowers, and [lawn and garden care](#). All of which can be a danger to your pets. Many popular plants used in landscaping, fresh-cut flowers, and gardens are highly toxic and even lethal to pets.

The [top poisonous plants for cats](#) are:

- Spring and Autumn Crocus
- Oleander
- Azalea
- Cyclamen
- Sago Palm
- Daffodils
- Lilies
- Dieffenbachia
- Lily of the Valley
- Tulips and Hyacinths
- Kalanchoe

The top [poisonous plants for dogs](#) are:

- Sago Palm
- Milkweed
- Gladiola
- Aloe Vera
- Ivy
- Amaryllis
- American Holly
- Daffodil
- Tulips
- Azalea/Rhododendron
- Tomato Plants

Another lawn and garden danger are the fertilizers and pesticides that keep your plants healthy but can make your pets very sick. If you fertilize your lawn or spray for weeds or pests, look for pet-safe options and keep your pets out of treated areas. When playing with your pets in your yard, on walks in your neighborhood, and even in parks, keep them out of lawns unless you know for certain that it hasn't been recently treated with a toxic fertilizer or pest/weed control.

Standing water

If you live in an area that receives ice and snow in the winter, your roads are likely treated with snow-melt chemicals or industrial salt. As water runs off from melting snow in the spring, chemicals can accumulate in puddles, shallow streams, and waterways. Furthermore, infectious pathogens like giardia, leptospirosis, and cryptosporidium can be contracted through contact with standing water. Prevent thirsty pets from drinking from all standing water and avoid all unknown water sources for the best safety. Also, rinse off paws after walks to remove any chemicals, pathogens, or salt that may have been picked up along the way.

How To Stop A Dog From Nipping

By Tonya Wilhelm

Whether it's mouthing, play-biting, or nipping, if your dog is demonstrating unwelcome biting behaviors, that's one problem pet parents need to nip (pun intended) in the bud. While mouthing and chewing are common in puppies, that doesn't mean you should allow activity that's too rough to go unchecked. Dogs who aren't given proper direction and outlets for chewing as puppies may develop unwanted biting and nipping problems as they grow. Over 3 million dogs enter the shelter system each year, with behavioral issues like biting and nipping listed as the most common reason for surrender.

Taking a proactive approach during the first two years of a dog's life can help you prevent such problems. To guide you through this challenging process, follow our steps to minimize biting and nipping, teach a dog to be gentle, and find professional support online and in person.

Why do dogs nip?

Puppy nipping is typically non-aggressive. It's simply the way most puppies explore and learn about their environment. However, pay close attention to changes in this behavior, including an increase in frequency or intensity. Sometimes this indicates your puppy's innocent nipping is evolving into inappropriate biting. Not only are puppies learning about their world through nipping and chewing, but the activity can also teach them crucial lessons about interacting with others.

For example, puppy play often involves a lot of wrestling, nipping, and even biting. Typically, when one puppy bites another too hard, the other pup will yelp and stop playing. Over time, that negative consequence teaches the biter how hard or soft to bite down and what's not acceptable. This is called bite inhibition, and it's a critical milestone in teaching dogs how to behave.

When is nipping a problem?

To teach your puppy what's appropriate, it's essential to recognize the difference between normal puppy mouthing or nipping and a more serious behavioral concern. Regular puppy activity consists of mouthing, biting, and nipping during periods of play and overexcitement. However, if you find that your puppy nips at you at other times, such as when you reach for their food bowl or try to pet them when they're resting, that's not an appropriate response.

Your pet's mood when nipping is another warning sign to recognize. Is your puppy acting silly and goofy, or do they seem angry and frustrated? Admittedly, puppies can sometimes be hard to read. Consult a dog trainer if you're concerned about your puppy's conduct. They may ask you to shoot a short video to understand your pet and potential needs better. It's always easier to correct these behaviors when you notice them early rather than fix them later.

Is puppy play-biting OK?

The short answer is yes and no. Your puppy should learn bite inhibition through interacting with other dogs and puppies. It helps them to learn bite intensity without you sacrificing your fingers for the lesson. Attending a puppy class is a great way to encourage healthy, safe, age-appropriate play habits. Plus, your puppy gets to socialize with other puppies, and you get help and advice from a good dog trainer.

In cases where attending puppy classes or setting puppy play dates isn't possible, consider teaching your puppy about bite inhibition yourself. Here's how: Whenever you're playing with your puppy, if they start to chew on you, continue the play as long as your puppy's nips remain gentle. However, when the biting becomes aggressive, give a sharp yelp, remove your hand, and stop playing. Take a moment or two for your puppy to settle down. You can resume playing once they are calm. But be sure to halt any time the play or biting gets too rough.

For puppies who aren't receiving the message, redirect them to a more appropriate chewing outlet. These should always be designated chew toys, not household objects like old shoes or blankets. These can confuse puppies because they blur the lines between what's acceptable and what's not.

Tips on how to stop a dog from nipping with behavior modification

The first step in teaching your puppy not to nip is to adjust your expectations. Puppies will nip; it's what they are born to do. Your goal isn't to teach your puppy not to nip, but to teach them when it's appropriate.

Here are some tried-and-true techniques that can help those lessons stick!

Engage your dog

You've probably heard the phrase, "A tired dog is a good dog." That's especially true for curious and energetic puppies. The more you distract your puppy with mental and physical stimulation, the less time they have to engage in unwelcome nipping or biting.

If you notice your dog getting increasingly mouthier, take that as a sign it's time for a change of pace or scenery — anything to keep your puppy's mind off chewing.

Consider a trip to the park, going to the pet store, an impromptu puppy play date, a game of fetch, sniffy walks, or training exercises. The list is endless. Not only does this one-on-one time give you and your pup a chance to bond, but it can also tucker them out, so they're not chewing or mouthing out of boredom.

Redirect your dog

The best way to help your puppy productively exercise their natural chewing instincts is to provide plenty of approved chewing alternatives. Stock up on an array of engaging puppy toys and chews and keep them close at hand — in every room, your pocket, the car, your bag — so you can instantly redirect your dog as needed.

The easier it is for you or your dog to grab a toy when the urge to nip, bite, or chew strikes, the faster they will learn what's OK to chew and what's not. Helping your dog make the right choice is always better than correcting them after they've made the wrong choice.

When you give your puppy the chew toy, try to remain as calm as possible, so they don't get overexcited. Of course, you want them to have fun, but overstimulation can weaken your dog's self-control.

Ensure that the toys you supply are big enough, so there's no risk of your puppy nipping you while you're playing with the toy together. There should be plenty of room for you to hold one end while your dog mouths the other.

As always, if the play is going well, praise your dog in a calm, happy voice. If your dog's mouth moves up the toy or hits your hand, yelp and drop the toy. Ignore them for a moment or two, then resume playing when they're settled. You are teaching them that play happens when they keep their mouth on the toy but stop once they put their mouth on you.

Reinforce independent play

Most puppies would rather play with you than a toy. So, you may need to reinforce the appeal of chew toys by rewarding your dog for independent play.

When you are all done playing, tell your puppy, "All done!" Then encourage your dog to settle down in a safe space like their crate with an approved chew toy or puzzle toy that's filled with tasty treats. This helps signal that playtime with you has ended and that it's fun and rewarding to play on their own, too.

Dog nipping warning signs

Nipping in adult dogs is a much harder habit to break, which is why it's essential to start discouraging this activity when they're young. Adult dogs that begin to bite or snap at others suddenly could also be reacting to pain or other health issues, so a visit to the veterinarian may be in order.

For both puppies and adult dogs, definite red flags exist, indicating a potential problem with biting. These include a dog who nips, bites, or growls when:

- you wake them up
- they're eating
- they encounter strangers
- they're angry or frustrated

When you see these warning signs, it's time to work with a professional who can evaluate your dog and recommend a solution. Often, that involves intensive training sessions with a heavy focus on behavior modification techniques.

Some perspectives on dog nipping

Out of the 3 million dogs that enter the shelter system each year, almost half of those admitted for behavioral issues are between the ages of five months and two years — essentially dog teenagers.

Like humans at this stage of life, adolescent dogs' brains haven't fully developed. They can be rowdy, immature, and often challenge authority.

When discouraged, remember that consistency is vital in training techniques. You may not see a change overnight. But with time, patience, and plenty of enriching one-on-one play, your pup will grow more content, settled, mature, and become less likely to nip when it's not appropriate.



Recent Adoptees!



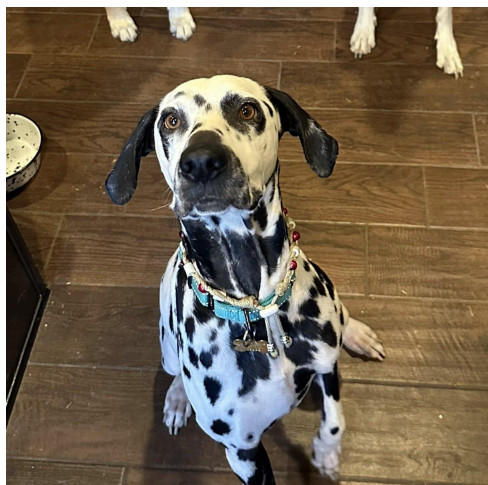
Jesse



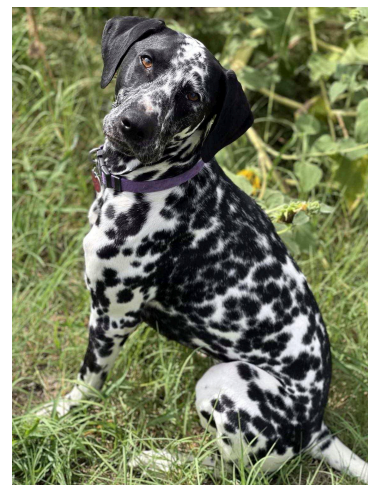
Jesse
Kingwood, TX



Noble
Coupland, TX



Faron
Austin, TX



Journey
Joshua, TX

Attention Adopters!!!

If you haven't already submitted your Happy Beginnings story, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE take some time to do it now!
 Yes, I am begging. We really would like to have your stories on the website and make you a star here in the NewSpots!!
 What are you waiting for? Submit your stories and a new photograph of your fur kid(s), and yourself if you want, to me today!

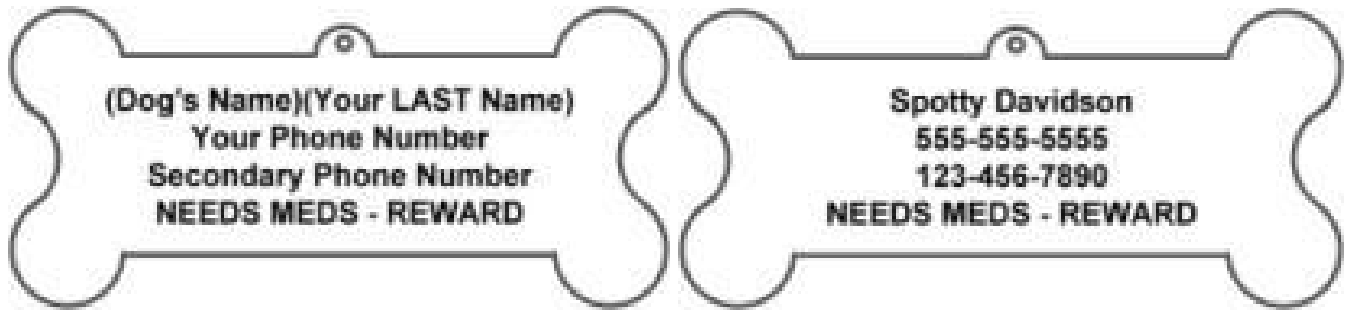
Karl@dalmatianrescueco.org

"If joy were a physical form, it would take the shape of a Dalmatian in play."

-Unknown

FOSTERS SAVE LIVES!

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



The above pictures show what information Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado recommends to have on your dog's ID Tags

NATIONAL PET ID WEEK - April 17 - 23, 2024

National Pet ID Week is always for seven days starting April 17. It gives pet owners an excellent opportunity to review the steps they can take to ensure their pet has the best chance of being recovered should the animal become lost. An estimated one in three pets will go missing at some point. Data also suggests that about 5 million animals enter shelters each year. Of those shelter animals, 40 to 60 percent are lost pets. Getting those pets back home can reduce shelter crowding and free up valuable resources and kennel space for truly homeless animals.

Dog collars with identifying features are historic. Ancient kings, queens, and pharaohs used dog collars to show the status of dogs. Even though it is believed that dog collars with identifying features originated in Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece gave dog collars their practical purpose. While the Egyptians used dog collars for decorative and possibly even identification purposes, Ancient Greeks used dog collars for more than identifying the dog and its owner. Farmers created spiked dog collars to protect their dogs' throats from being ripped out by wolves.

Vets recommend every pet owner prepare for a lost pet. They say pet identification is a crucial step to keeping pets safe. Even the most well-behaved cats and dogs can get lost, runoff unexpectedly, or get separated from their owners. Two popular ways to I-D your pet are to use a microchip and a dog collar and tag. Collar tags are historically the most common. Pet owners can get personalized tags at pet stores or online.

Tag Info

Make sure the tag has the most important piece of information:

- Your cell phone number. Inspect your pet's collar and tags.
- Are they in good repair?
- Are the tags readable? Or scratched and worn?
- Is the contact information up to date? (Contact info should include your cell phone number and your address.)

Microchips for pets began in the mid-1990s. Global Positioning Systems were developed to become "bionics capable" of being read by satellites using Radio Frequency Identification of RFID. They could be tracked within inches of their location anywhere on the planet.

HOW TO OBSERVE #NationalPetIDWeek

- Follow on Social Media #NationalPetIDWeek, #PetIdWeek
- Add identification to your pet's collar.
- Consider getting a microchip. If your pet is already microchipped, make sure your address and phone number are up to date with the manufacturer.
- Keep the microchip brand, the 1-800 number of the company, and the microchip number of your pet in an easily accessible place.
- Keep current photos of your animals.



National Kids And Pets Day

NATIONAL KIDS AND PETS DAY - April 26, 2024

National Kids and Pets Day on April 26th raises awareness of the importance of picking the right pet for children at the right time. It's an important decision that can lead to a lifetime of bonding between pet and child.

The day also celebrates the bonds children and pets can share and a day to remember safety where our pets and children are concerned. There are many benefits of having a pet in a child's life. From fostering natural nurturing abilities to developing responsibilities, pets have a lifelong impact on a child's development.

It is also important to remember that small children as well as the pets may not know their limitations and should not be left alone with each other. They should always be supervised to prevent injury to both the child and the animal.

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL KIDS AND PETS DAY

- Help kids and pets learn to be good companions to each other.
- Learn about adopting shelter/rescue dogs, cats or other pets.
- Use #NationalKidsAndPetsDay to post on social media.

NATIONAL KIDS AND PETS DAY HISTORY

In 2005, Colleen Paige, Celebrity Family and Pet Lifestyle Expert, founded National Kids and Pets Day.

Kids and Pets FAQ

Q. My 10-year-old wants to get a pet. Is one pet better than another?

A. The right pet for your family may not be the right pet for the next family. It's important to analyze the amount of time, space, and energy your family has to invest in a pet. Dogs require more attention than cats and cats require more attention than fish. But all of them need proper care, though they may be different kinds of care. Sit down with your 10-year-old and talk about the kinds of care required for the animal she's interested in getting. Have her help a friend or neighbor care for their pets or ask her to volunteer to bring the class guinea pig home for the weekend. Volunteering at a local animal shelter will give your child hands-on experience caring for cats, dogs, and sometimes more exotic animals.

Q. Do dogs and cats get along?

A. Some do. When they've been raised together, they're likely to learn to accept each other sooner than older animals that have just been introduced.



CANINE FITNESS MONTH - April

Founded in 2017 by National Day Calendar® and FitPAWS®.

NATIONAL CANINE FITNESS MONTH - April 2024

During April, Canine Fitness Month focuses on keeping our most loyal companions healthy and physically active.

Like many human counterparts, too many dogs suffer from obesity and “sedentarism,” the two most common preventable conditions in the canine and human populations. Too much sitting and too many calories in treats or poor nutrition choices often contribute to weight gain. Besides causing our furry friends to have sore joints, difficulty breathing, a higher risk of cancer, canine diabetes, and other diseases, obesity also shortens their lives.

Unfortunately, sedentarism has become a normal lifestyle for many dogs and their people. The opposite of a sedentary lifestyle is movement—playing, being outside, engaging, and moving. Canine Fitness Month encourages us to take a step toward developing a healthier lifestyle and bond with our four-legged family members.

ALWAYS: Check with your veterinarian to be sure your pet is healthy enough for exercise and find out what kind of diet routine Fido should be eating.

HOW TO OBSERVE #CanineFitnessMonth

- Get walking! One foot in front of the other, and the fresh air will do you both good.
- Try active play. Throw a ball, stick or frisbee in a safe environment, or better yet – run or jog with your pet to retrieve it.
- Play hide and seek with your pet's daily allowance of treats. Place them behind doors, under bowls and chairs.
- For dogs unaccustomed to the game of fetch, use a treat-dispensing ball. Again, keep the amounts small and intermittent.
- Play food fitness games. Place an unstable object in front of the food bowl for your dog to introduce balance activities and limb strengthening as a fun and rewarding game.
- Raise the floor. Integrating a platform your pet can climb on or crawl under during the day will add movement if space is tight and the weather isn't cooperating.
- Many dogs shadow their canine companions everywhere they go. Take advantage of this when starting a new workout routine. When you shuffle across the room, grab a toy and lure them into doing the same.
- Incorporate some of your pooch's well-known obedience drills – like sit, stand, down – into your yoga routine. Try asking your loyal pal to lie down when you go into cobra. When you move into downward dog, have him sit.
- Create obstacle courses indoors and out all year long. Move rugs and chairs around to create obstacles and a workout worthy of both human and canine. The key is to make movement fun for both of you!
- Don't have time? Find a Canine Fitness Trainer or a Dog Walker who can help get the recommended 20-30 minutes your dog needs each day.
- Get moving with your best friend. Share your tips and success by using #CanineFitnessMonth on social media.

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

This month's recipe is number two of nine veterinarian approved cake recipes I am sharing 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!

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!

The Best Healthy Dog Birthday Cake

The Best Healthy Dog Cake that is perfect to make for any pawty! Made with all-natural ingredients like oats, peanut butter, and banana, your puppy will be sure to LOVE every bite!

This 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.

Make sure the peanut butter used is free of Xylitol! Also, if you're like me... **beware: this recipe uses coconut oil!**

EQUIPMENT

- Mixer
- 1 flour sifter
- 1 Whisk
- 1 7" x 10" Bone (or other shape) cake silicone pan
- 1 Spatula

Frosting

- 1/2 cup Skyr or greek yogurt non-fat
- 1/4 cup all-natural peanut butter creamy

TOPPINGS (OPTIONAL)

- All-natural sprinkles*

INGREDIENTS

- 2 cups oat flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 eggs
- 4 tablespoons coconut oil melted
- 1/2 cup all-natural peanut butter creamy
- 2 ripe bananas peeled
- 1 cup oat milk unsweetened
- 1 1/2 cups grated carrot approx. 1 large carrot
- 1 tbsp coconut oil to grease the silicone mold*

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350
2. Using your hand, lightly grease the cake mold with coconut oil. Set aside.
3. In a large mixing bowl, combine bananas, peanut butter, and melted coconut oil. Mix until well combined.**
4. Add in the eggs. Mix again until combined.
5. Sift in the oat flour, baking powder, and baking soda until well combined. Slowly pour in the oat milk while mixing.
6. Fold in shredded carrot.
7. Pour into a 7x10-inch bone-shaped silicone cake pan. Bake for 40-45 minutes or until cooked and a toothpick comes out of the center clean! Let cool for 10 minutes.
8. For the frosting, use a hand mixer whisk together the yogurt and peanut butter until combined and fluffy!
9. Once the cake is fully cooled, cover with frosting and decorate with all-natural sprinkles or toppings of your choice!

** If you're not using a stand-mixer, you will want to mash the bananas first using a fork.



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://www.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!



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

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





Trainer Tips

“Touch Or Nosse Target”

© 2004-2024 The Light of Dog

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

For me, Touch is a nose target. I am teaching the dog to touch an object with his nose. In this case, the object is your hand. So, when I say Touch, I am asking the dog to move to you, touch his nose to the hand you have presented and then get a reward for it.

Before we get into the details, what do we use Touch for? Why is it so versatile?

We can use Touch for:

- another form of recall/come – to touch your hand, they have to come to you
- a way to connect with you and get them tuned in
- a way to redirect them from other distractions you do NOT want them fixating on
- a way to move them away from something
- a way to engage and keep their focus on you
- a way to reduce jumping by having them touch down low before having the chance to jump
- a way to help them learn to start engaging safely with other people (especially for dogs who struggle with stranger danger issues)
- a way to start the concept of using their nose to touch or push other objects
 - I taught Romeo to push a basketball across the floor to me with his nose – it was too big to pick up and bring to me, but he could still bring it to me without being able to put it in his mouth.
 - You could use this to teach a dog to turn off a light or push a drawer shut, for example.
- what other ideas can you think of?

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

Touch means the dog's NOSE touches your hand. Not the dog's mouth. Not the paw. Just the nose. There is NO TREAT in your Touch hand. Let me repeat that. There is NO TREAT in your Touch hand. When you hold out your hand, within a few inches of your dog's nose to start, your dog will probably reach in to investigate. Does the human have a treat in that hand?! As soon as you feel the nose touch your hand, you mark (click your clicker or use your verbal marker) and reward from the other hand or from your bait bag or from the treats sitting somewhere nearby. Repeat. And repeat. You do not touch the dog's nose with your hand. The dog must reach to touch your hand. But they should not need to reach too far at first. As they get the hang of it, you will move farther away. And change up the location of your hand, the distance, the height, etc. If your dog does not reach to touch your hand within a few seconds, remove your hand. Then reset and hold it out again. If the dog does not reach for your hand pretty quickly, do not leave your hand sitting out there hanging. It's sort of like reaching out to shake someone's hand and they do not reciprocate. Don't leave yourself hanging out there! Once your dog is getting the hang of it over a few sessions, you can add in your verbal Touch cue. Say it just before you hold out your hand or as you are holding out your hand but before they touch with their nose.

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

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

 <https://thelightofdog.com/>

Copyright © The Light of Dog. All worldwide rights reserved

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

Bits & Pieces

Advertising in NewSpots! is FREE!!!

Do you have a business or a hobby that other adopters, fosters, and volunteers might be interested in? Let us help you spread the word by 'advertising' in Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado's monthly newsletter – NewSpots! We currently notify about 1800 people of the new editions of NewSpots! That's a lot of word of mouth and print advertising for **FREE!**

Simply contact the editor, Karl Schill, at karl@dalmatianrescueco.org and he will work with you to provide your ad and place it prominently within the newsletter.

Foster Homes Needed!!

******* Be a Pal, Save a Dal *******

PLEASE – They need YOUR help!! Remember when your rescue Dalmatian came home with you, from the warmth of a loving foster family? If we hadn't had foster homes, you probably would not have gotten YOUR dog. PLEASE think about fostering a dog for the Dalmatian Rescue where you obtained your Dal, or the one closest to where you now live, so they can save lives like they saved your dog's life!! PLEASE give a warm home to a dog who can relax, show his true personality, enjoy a thick bed rather than a concrete floor in a shelter and get ready for a new home. PLEASE help rescues and the dogs so that others might have a dog that is well socialized, trained and ready to love. PLEASE think about this... Dalmatians are everywhere and are literally dying to meet you or someone willing to give them a "spot" to LIVE until their forever home comes along. PLEASE be a spot for rescue and for them?

We thank you and you know any dog you help your local rescue save will be eternally grateful! PLEASE submit a foster application if you can possibly help your local rescue and them! PLEASE take your cookie... good boy/girl!

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 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 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

Spike 2



6 Year Old, Multi-colored, Neutered Male
Reason Available: Abusive Home
Foster Home: Colorado Springs, CO

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

Joe

6 Year Old, Black, Neutered Male
Reason Available: Owner Surrender
Foster Home: Jonah, TX

Joe has been with us in foster care for just shy of a year and is desperate to find his furever home!

Howdy Y'all!

My name is Big Joe. My foster family also calls me Smiley Joe because I love to smile. I'm an extremely handsome black & white 6-year-old male Dalmatian. I am very well-mannered, crate-trained, housebroken, and obedience-trained. I'm healthy, heartworm negative, current on my shots, wormed, and neutered.

I was given up by my owners and rescued from a shelter where I was sure to die because I am considered an older dog and no one wants older dogs. Lucky for me, I was rescued and fostered by people who love Dalmatians and know a good Dal when they see one... and I'm a good dog!

Being pampered by my foster family has raised my standards for my new family. I have become used to family activities such as Mondays are movie night, where my foster siblings and I share our own bag of popcorn. Tuesday is chicken dinner. Wednesday is bath and nail day. Thursday is beef dinner. If my foster mom is at dog shows on the weekends, then I stay home with my foster dad and supervise yard work. I like yard work; I enjoy laying out and sunning myself with my siblings. I like my foster siblings, we play a lot. As for cats, I'm not so sure. I haven't met any yet. I'm a bit of a talker, so when it's time to eat or when the delivery man is dropping off a package at the door, I will let you know.

If you are the right home that can accommodate me and my high standards, I can be adopted. If you'd like to meet me and I can show you my handsome smile and loving personality, we can have a lunch date! For more info, contact Jessica at jessica_logan@msn.com or Tena at tjp@mygrande.net. LOCATED IN SPRING BRANCH, TX. Applications may be submitted at www.dalmatianrescueco.org. Adoption fee \$400.



Happy Beginnings Stories

Maverick



Hi! I just wanted to share some love. 10 years ago, in February 2014, we drove down to Colorado Springs to pick up our new family member, Maverick. Maverick has been THE BEST pup we could have ever asked for. He is living his best life sunbathing at his home in Orlando, Florida. Mav spends his days lying on the couch or bed and playing with his three human siblings. I can't thank you enough for giving us an absolutely amazing dog! The picture above is Mav from 10 years ago when we got back to our home. The picture below was from this past summer (2023) when Mav was on vacation with us at my parent's farm.

Sincerely,
Heather C.
Orlando, FL



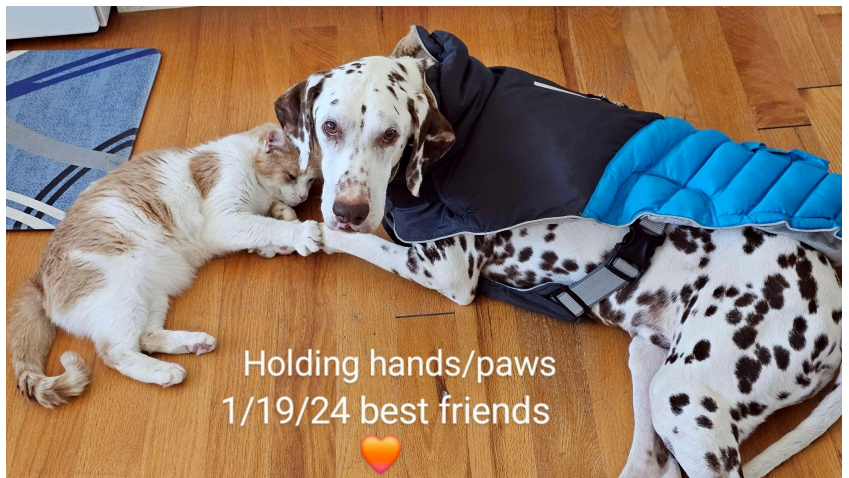
Dunkin



Today, February 18th is Dunkin's birthday, he is 14 years old today. Dunkin was a rescue dog from Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado. We adopted him on 6/10/16 Dunkin is an amazing dog who loves me more than he loves himself, always under foot and by my side. He loves everyone and every animal, he truly has a heart of gold.

He has been losing mobility and is too heavy for me to pick up, so he wears a life jacket. The life jacket has a back under strap and two handles on top to lift him up when he falls down.

Thanks for a great dog,
Andrea and Travis A.



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

We got a couple new Happy Beginnings Stories submitted last month!!

Let's keep them coming! If you have adopted your pup from us, regardless of when, and have not submitted their Happy Beginnings story yet, please do it now while it's fresh on your mind.

These stories are the "pay" that fosters get for all their hard work!

About Us

NewSpots! is published and released on the first calendar day of the month. The deadline for submissions for future issues of NewSpots! is the 25th of the previous month. Submissions received after the deadline may be delayed in publication until the following month, subject to the Editor's discretion.

Send submissions to the Editor at karl@dalmatianrescueco.org.

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

3428 CR 27, Loveland, CO 80538

Rescue Hotline: 303-281-8963

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