

Dog Myths Are Everywhere!

Dispelling some of the most common myths

Story by Wendy Rose Gould

You may think your dog knowledge is outstanding (you know popular dog breeds like the back of your hand), but the truth is that some dog facts you've heard through the grapevine simply aren't that true. That's right. There's a lot of misinformation out there about our pups. And while much of it's pretty harmless, some perpetuated dog myths are downright dangerous—for you and your dog.

Some inaccurate beliefs can cause you to misinterpret certain dog behaviors or dog facial expressions, lead to subpar nutrition or put a strain on the owner-dog bond. We reached out to a range of pet experts, including veterinarians, dog trainers and behaviorists, to shine some light on the biggest dog myths out there. Are those signs your dog is happy incorrect? Can you actually interpret the things your dog wishes you knew? Get to the bottom of these dog myths and facts.

1. A wagging tail always means a happy dog

Have you wondered what your dog's tail is telling you? Tail wagging is just one of the ways dogs communicate. And although a wagging tail often does denote an excited or happy dog, that's not always the case. "For example, a vigorous tail wag to the right means happiness at seeing its owner, but slow wags of a tail held halfway down can mean fear or insecurity," says Jess Trimble, DVM, chief veterinary officer for Fuzzy Pet Health. "Additionally, a tail held very high and wagged extremely fast can mean fear or aggression for some dogs."

2. Dogs eat grass because they're feeling sick

You might have noticed your favorite canine buddy likes to chomp on grass once in a while. They might even go straight for the patch of green the second they're outside. One of the most common dog myths is that eating grass is a sign your dog is sick, but that's not necessarily true. "So many clients come to me worried when their dog eats grass that they may be coming down with a sickness. This is not completely untrue, because the grass does act as a natural antacid to help make your dog's belly feel better," says Lindsay Butzer, DVM, a veterinarian and PetMeds partner. However, dogs eat grass for many reasons, some of which have nothing to do with an upset stomach. "They might just like the taste of the grass," Dr. Butzer says, "or they are still hungry and want to keep eating, and the fibrous grass will fill them up."

3. You can't teach an old dog new tricks

You've heard this phrase before (or maybe you've seen it on the best gifts for dog lovers): "You can't teach an old dog new tricks." And while it is true that puppies are like sponges, making it so easy to teach them new things, "make no mistake, old dogs can learn too," says Trish McMillan, a certified animal behaviorist. "For example, the 9-year-old Doberman I adopted a few years ago earned her Canine Good Citizen title [from the American Kennel Club] within a few months." McMillan notes that some geriatric dogs that struggle with vision, hearing or mobility issues may not be as easy to train. However, as long as their brain is in good shape, they can absolutely learn new things.

4. Dogs only see in black and white

Dogs really do have a mind of their own—there are the things dogs think about during the day. But they also have eyes of their own and other senses they rely on. And the idea that they only see in black and white is arguably one of the most perpetuated dog myths out there. Dogs can in fact see some color, but the spectrum is limited, says Adam Christman, DVM, chief veterinary officer for dvm360. "Humans and most other primates have three kinds of cones in our eyes, making us trichromatic; dogs are bichromatic." And because of this, they do have a tendency to mix up greens and reds.

5. Garlic is a natural flea and tick remedy

When your dog is dealing with fleas or ticks, you'll likely do anything to give them (and your household) some much-needed relief. If you've read that garlic acts as a natural cure, don't believe it. Garlic is actually toxic to dogs and one of the foods dogs can't eat, so you'll want to keep it away from your pup.

"Garlic will not only have zero effect on fighting off fleas and ticks, but it can also lead to a serious disease known as Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia (IMHA)," says Michelle Dulake, DVM, veterinarian and founder of Fera Pet Organics. "Even though it is a rare disease, IMHA causes the body to destroy its own red blood cells, leading to life-threatening anemia. By feeding garlic, you are unnecessarily risking your pup's health, expensive hospital bills and multiple blood transfusions."

6. If you meet a dog, let it sniff your hand

This is a well-intentioned line of thinking, but a perpetuated dog myth nonetheless. In actuality, you should not stick your hand out toward any dog you've just met. "In our human interactions, it's second nature to offer a handshake or a fist bump, but we must remember that dogs aren't humans," says Guillermo Roa, a credentialed dog trainer and founder of GR Pet Services. "Sticking out your hand can be misinterpreted as a sign of aggression, and a dog may bite you." Roa says it's better to calmly wait for the dog to approach you, if it is interested in doing so. You don't know about the dog's obedience record, after all. So if you must approach a new dog, do it from the side and avoid making intense eye contact.

7. One dog year equals seven human years

Although dogs do age quicker than humans, the seven-to-one ratio isn't quite accurate. Their comparative age depends entirely on breed, size and genetic makeup, says Dr. Trimble. "The bigger your dog is, the faster they age. I have patients that are 10-pound terriers that still act like puppies at 16 years old and would be considered around 75 to 80 in human years. In contrast, a Great Dane at 16 would be a record and considered to be more than 130 years of age."

8. Bad dog breath is completely normal

Bad dog breath is so common that most people think it's just something dog parents live with. The truth is that your dog's breath really shouldn't be that bad—and you should be brushing your dog's teeth more often than you think. "Your dog will never have minty-fresh breath, but it shouldn't be unbearable either," says Tim Vogel, professional dog groomer and CEO of Scenthound. "Bad breath is an indicator of underlying health issues. Specifically, chronic bad breath is caused by bacteria in the mouth and is often the first sign of dental disease." In fact, Vogel says the biggest culprit of bad dog breath is periodontal disease, which affects up to 80% of dogs by age 3. In addition to tooth loss, abscesses and periodontal disease, poor oral hygiene can lead to life-threatening conditions, including kidney, liver and heart damage.

9. A warm and dry nose means your dog is sick

One of the most repeated dog myths out there is about dog illness symptoms and implies that a healthy dog's nose is always cold and wet. Warm and dry noses are completely normal though, so don't worry if this is the usual state of your dog's snout. "Everything from dry air and allergies to simply taking a nap can affect the wetness of your dog's nose," says Dr. Christman. "However, if you notice your pet's nose is constantly dry, cracking or running—not simply wet—then you should make an appointment with the vet."

10. Always spay or neuter at a young age

"Spaying and neutering dogs at a young age was happening at an alarming rate several years ago, and many veterinarians took the stance of 'the younger, the better,'" says Adam Gibson, a dog trainer and director of Top Dog Texas. The idea is that early neutering or spaying will curb behavioral issues as the pet gets older, but it might actually be a mistake dog owners are making. Gibson points out that numerous studies have shown this to be untrue and waiting to neuter your dog may be safer in the long run. "There are also added health benefits to allowing dogs to keep their reproductive organs intact into adulthood," Gibson says. The community is responding to this new data, and more vets and owners are waiting six months to one year to spay or neuter pups.

11. A dog's mouth is cleaner than a human's

This is one of the most common dog myths vets encounter. If a dog's saliva was as antibacterial as the myth states, they'd be walking medical superheroes. Sure, dogs are superheroes in their own right, but this is one dog myth we've got to put to rest. "While dog saliva has a slightly more alkaline pH, which can discourage some bacteria from reproducing, it's not truly antibacterial," says Dr. Trimble. "In fact, as a vet, one of the most common causes of canine skin infections we see is from a dog licking a wound or itchy spot too much." Learning how to clean your dog's teeth properly is vital to improving their oral health and preventing disease.

12. Rubbing your dog's nose in an accident curbs future behavior

This is one of those dog training myths that does more harm than good. Because dogs tend to understand behavioral problems at the time the behavior occurs, rubbing your dog's nose in an accident when you come home and find it likely will not help them make the connection. "When you do this, you're in essence punishing a dog that doesn't know why it's being punished. This could exacerbate the issue and create more problems in the future," warns Dr. Christman. "Rather, it's best to catch them in the act and redirect them to their proper potty destination."

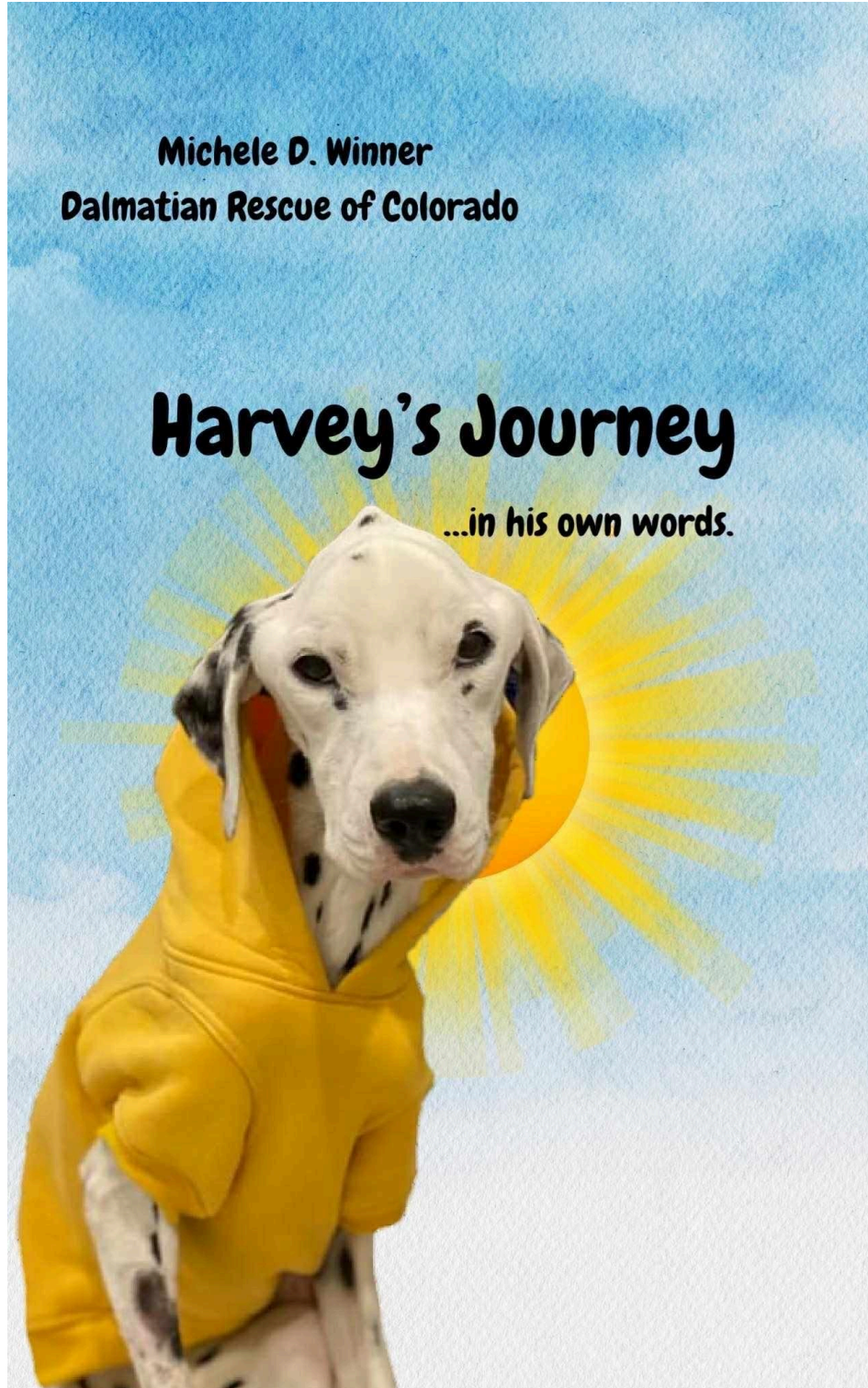
And the last one (especially for you Dalmatian Parents)... Short-haired dogs don't need grooming

When people think of dog grooming, they often think of haircuts. So it's easy to assume that only long-haired dogs would need routine maintenance. But that's one of those dog myths that's bad for their health. The reality is that whether you choose to see a professional or groom your dog at home, every dog requires grooming to maintain good health. "All dogs need routine care, like bathing, ear cleaning, nail clipping and teeth brushing, to stay clean, comfortable and healthy," says Vogel. "For example, long nails aren't just unattractive or noisy—they can affect your dog's overall health and comfort." Routine ear checks and cleaning can ensure your dog is free of parasites, while brushing and bathing removes loose hair and dander. "Basic hygiene and grooming services aren't luxuries reserved for special occasions; they're imperative to maintaining your dog's overall health and wellness."

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[Harvey's Journey ...in his own words: Winner, Michele D.: 9798332160677: Amazon.com: Books](#)

How to keep your pet safe and comfortable in hot weather

It's August... but hot weather is still here!

By Lacey Guck

When summer temperatures soar, it's crucial to ensure the safety and well-being of our furry companions. From recognizing the signs of heatstroke to providing proper hydration, there are many steps you can take to protect your dogs and cats during hot weather conditions.

The dangers of hot vehicles for dogs

Leaving your dog in a car, even for a few minutes, can have serious consequences. In just 10 minutes, a car can heat up by 20 degrees, and in 30 minutes, the temperature can increase by 50 degrees. This puts dogs at risk of overheating and even death. To avoid these incidents, it's best to leave your dog at home when running errands.

What to do if you see a dog in a hot car

Leaving a pet in a parked car during warm weather can lead to irreparable organ damage or even death. When it's warm outside, the temperature inside a car can become [dangerously hot within a short period of time](#), and even rolled down windows have little effect.

If you see a dog or a cat in a hot car, here's what the [Humane Society of the United States](#) says to do:

- Note the car's make, model, and license plate number and ask businesses nearby to make an announcement to find the owner.
- If the owner cannot be found, call the local police or animal control's non-emergency number.

Be sure to learn your state's laws on leaving pets in hot cars and have essential phone numbers on hand so that you can act quickly in an emergency.

Recognizing and responding to heatstroke in dogs

Heatstroke is a serious condition that can occur in dogs when they are exposed to high temperatures for an extended period. Symptoms include heavy panting, vomiting, lethargy, and collapse. If you suspect your dog is suffering from heatstroke, it's important to take immediate action, such as moving them to a cool area, providing water, and wetting their fur. If symptoms persist, seek veterinary assistance.

Top 7 tips for maintaining the health & safety of pets during hot weather

1. Keep pets indoors during peak heat hours

Identifying the hottest part of the day is key to protecting your pets during hot weather. Keep your dogs and cats indoors during these hours and schedule outdoor activities during cooler times. Pets that are outside for extended periods during the hottest times of the day are at risk of heatstroke, so limit their time outside during these hours.

2. Ensure proper hydration

Proper hydration is crucial for pets during hot weather. To ensure they stay hydrated, follow these tips:

- Provide access to clean and stable water sources at all times
- Bring water with you on walks or outings
- Consider adding ice cubes to their water dish to keep it cool
- Encourage them to drink water by adding flavor or using a pet water fountain

Signs of dehydration in dogs and cats

Signs of dehydration can vary depending on the severity of the dehydration.

In mild cases, you may notice your pet has dry gums, sunken eyes, and less elastic skin. They may also seem less interested in drinking water.

In moderate to severe cases, they may become lethargic, have a rapid heartbeat, and show signs of weakness or collapse.

If you suspect your pet is dehydrated, it is important to seek veterinary care immediately. Severe dehydration can be life-threatening and requires prompt treatment.

3. Provide cooling tools

Dogs can quickly become overheated during hot weather, and cooling them down is crucial. Use ice packs and wet towels to cool down your pet, and provide them with access to air-conditioned or breezy rooms. Protect their paws from hot pavement with paw wax or booties, and consider providing them with a small kiddie pool or a comfortable outdoor bed in a shaded area.

4. Offer chilled treats to cool down

Make homemade doggie ice cream and broth popsicles or provide chilled fruits and vegetables to help cool your pet down. These treats will not only provide your pet with essential hydration, but also help them stay cool and comfortable.

5. Create shady outdoor spaces

Providing plenty of shade in your yard is crucial during hot weather. Set up a small kiddie pool or a comfortable outdoor bed for your pet to rest in and ensure that they have access to shade throughout the day. Shade is essential for preventing heatstroke in dogs and keeping them comfortable during hot weather.

6. Groom for hot weather

Regular grooming during the summer can help prevent overheating. Ensure that you groom your dog or cat at the right time for maximum effect. Regular brushing helps to remove loose fur, which allows better airflow to the skin and helps prevent matting. You can also consider a summer haircut, which leaves enough fur for protection but still helps with airflow; just be careful not to shave your dog's fur too short as it provides protection from the sun's rays and can prevent sunburn. Keeping your pet's paws and nails trimmed can also prevent discomfort and injury when walking on hot surfaces. Finally, make sure to check for any signs of skin irritation or hot spots caused by excessive licking or scratching.

7. Apply pet-safe sunscreen

Protect your pet's skin from the sun's harmful rays with pet-safe sunscreen. Pet-safe sunscreen is typically free from certain ingredients that can be harmful to pets, such as zinc oxide, which can be toxic if ingested. When applying pet-safe sunscreen, it's important to choose the right SPF level for your pet and apply it regularly, especially if they are spending a lot of time outdoors in the sun. Be sure to also apply sunscreen to areas that are not covered by fur, such as their nose and ears.

Why proper pet identification is especially important during hot weather conditions

During hot weather conditions, it's important to ensure that your pet is properly identified with a microchip or ID tag. Hot weather can increase the likelihood of dogs escaping their homes or yards in search of cooler environments. This can result in disorientation and increased risk of heat-related emergencies. Having your dog microchipped or wearing a pet ID tag (preferably both) can help ensure that they can be quickly identified and returned to you if they become lost.

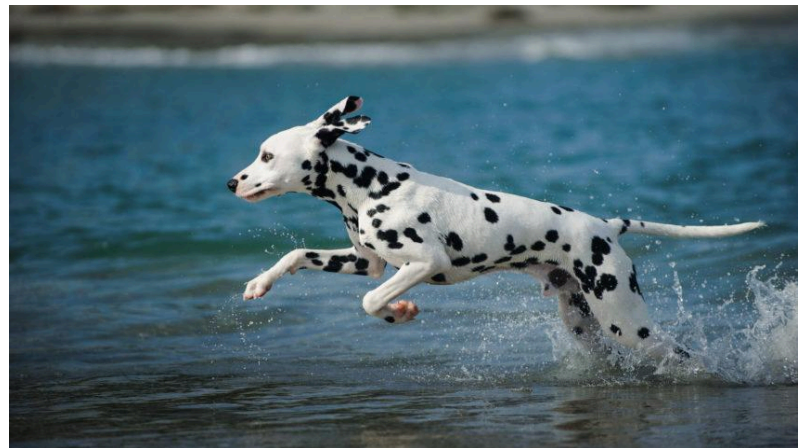
Beat the heat this summer

As a dog or cat owner, taking the necessary steps to ensure your pet's safety and health during hot weather conditions is vital. Whether it's keeping your pet indoors during peak heat hours, providing access to water and shade, offering chilled treats, or having proper identification and access to medical care, there are many ways you can protect your pet from the dangers of hot weather.

Be proactive this summer

As the sun beats down and the temperature rises, it's important to remember that our furry companions feel the heat too; they're just as susceptible to heatstroke and dehydration as we are.

From keeping them indoors during peak heat hours to providing plenty of shade and cool water, it's all about taking a proactive approach to staying cool.



Playing in the water can be fun and help beat the heat. Just make sure that the water is SAFE for your dogs first.
Blue Green Algae is TOXIC and potentially FATAL for dogs!

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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.

Microchips Save Lives and Reunite Families! *Real-life reunion stories*

"Max, our family member, ran off from our house on April 12th. We looked everywhere for him. We live in a very rural area in NC. There are over 600 acres of undeveloped land. Every day we prayed and looked for Max. I posted him on every Lost Dog Facebook group, Instagram, and local sites. On May 6th, I said to my husband, almost a month after Max ran off, there's no way he's still alive. That same afternoon, my phone rang; it was Halifax Animal Control letting me know they had my dog. I went down and picked him right up. 24Petwatch reunited my family."

Pet Parent - Samantha L.

Are Dalmatians Troublesome Dogs?

Story by Katelynn Sobus

Who doesn't love Dalmatians and their beautiful spotted coats? These dogs are smart, loyal, and affectionate but may be more work than you expect! Dalmatians are hyper dogs who need plenty of exercise every day—a daily walk likely won't be enough for them. They require knowledgeable owners who can train them well with force-free training techniques, which helps to prevent behavioral issues such as chewing and jumping. In this article, we'll discuss some common complaints about Dalmatians, how to address some common behavioral issues, and more.

1. Dalmatians Need Lots of Exercise

Dalmatians need plenty of exercise each day. For adults, this means running, hiking, or other vigorous activities. When your Dalmatian is under two years old, their joints are still growing and they require low-impact activities to exert their energy without straining their joints. They should also be kept from jumping on and off of furniture for the same reasons. Dalmatians and other large-breed dogs are prone to hip dysplasia and other joint issues, especially if they're overexercised in their youth.

2. Untrained Dalmatians May Jump on People

Jumping is a problem for many Dalmatians, and their large size doesn't help! They can hurt people, especially children, disabled people, or elderly people who are more easily knocked over. Train your Dalmatian not to jump by rewarding them heavily for keeping all four paws on the ground. Use a baby gate or a leash to prevent them from jumping on guests or strangers outside while they're still learning.

3. They Can Be Destructive

As with any smart, high-energy breed, Dalmatians can be destructive if they don't get enough attention, exercise, and mental stimulation. They also tend to be large puppies who can do more damage to your home than smaller breeds during their teething phase.

4. Dalmatians Bark a Lot

Dalmatians make good guard dogs, in part because they're very protective of their people and tend to bark when they spot things outside. However, this becomes a problem when your Dalmatian barks at strangers on a walk or sits at the window all day, waiting for things to yell about! Allow your Dalmatian to bark to alert. This lets them carry out their instincts rather than fighting against them and also ensures that you'll know if something is truly amiss. Teach a quiet cue to stop them from barking after a few barks. Some people use the word 'quiet' while others might say 'thank you' as a sign that they've seen what's happening, and their Dalmatian has barked enough.

5. They Shed Considerably

Without a lint roller, you might begin to look like Cruella De Vil with Dalmatian fur all over your clothes! They'll also shed around the house and on furniture. Dalmatians shed even more if their coats aren't brushed weekly. Though their coats are short, this maintenance is important.

6. Proper Training is a Must

Dalmatians can be stubborn dogs. They're also prone to anxiety and fearfulness. You must know how to train a dog right—without using aversive methods or tools which will only increase their fear. Early socialization is essential. Puppy classes with force-free trainers are a great idea for Dalmatians, especially if you're inexperienced in training dogs yourself. They teach your puppy how to behave around other dogs and people and provide great socialization in a controlled setting.

7. They Don't Do Well in the Cold

Dalmatians have short, single-layered coats. They don't have the insulation provided by a double coat like many other breeds. This means they don't tend to do well in the cold and may need a winter jacket to keep them warm.

8. They're Prone to Sunburn

While they don't do well in the cold, Dalmatians also don't necessarily do well in the heat either. Their short, light-colored coat makes them particularly prone to sunburn. You'll need to apply doggy sunscreen (not human sunscreen!) regularly, avoid long trips outside in the intense sun, and opt to stay in the shade with them when possible.

Dogs are our link to paradise. They don't know evil or jealousy or discontent.
- Milan Kundera

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

This month's recipe is number six 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!

Decadent Dog Cake Recipe

This recipe has a very dog-friendly extra ingredient: bacon! It incorporates bacon fat into the cake itself and thick applewood bacon crumbles as a garnish. What dog could resist that?

If you think celebrating a dog's birthday is ridiculous, then I'm sorry. We could never be friends. Is that too harsh? It's just how I feel. In my heart. But I know that you don't think that way, since you're here reading this post on how to make a dog birthday cake. So we can definitely be friends.

This dog cake is packed full of great ingredients, including peanut butter, applesauce and pumpkin. It comes together and bakes up just like any other cake, but is perfect for your pets. The optional frosting is made from peanut butter and yogurt. **This recipe calls for peanut butter, make sure it is Xylitol free!!!**

Prep Time: 10 minutes Bake Time: 25 minutes



CAKE INGREDIENTS

*****As listed, these ingredients make ONE round cake, double or triple ingredients for a layer cake as shown in the photo*****

- 1/4 cup peanut butter (with only peanuts as an ingredient)*
- 1/2 cup pure unsweetened pumpkin puree
- 1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
- 2 tablespoons organic raw honey
- 2 eggs
- 3 tablespoons bacon fat
- 1 cup organic unbleached flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda

FROSTING INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup plain Greek yogurt**
- 1/4 cup peanut butter
- 4-5 slices of thick applewood-smoked bacon

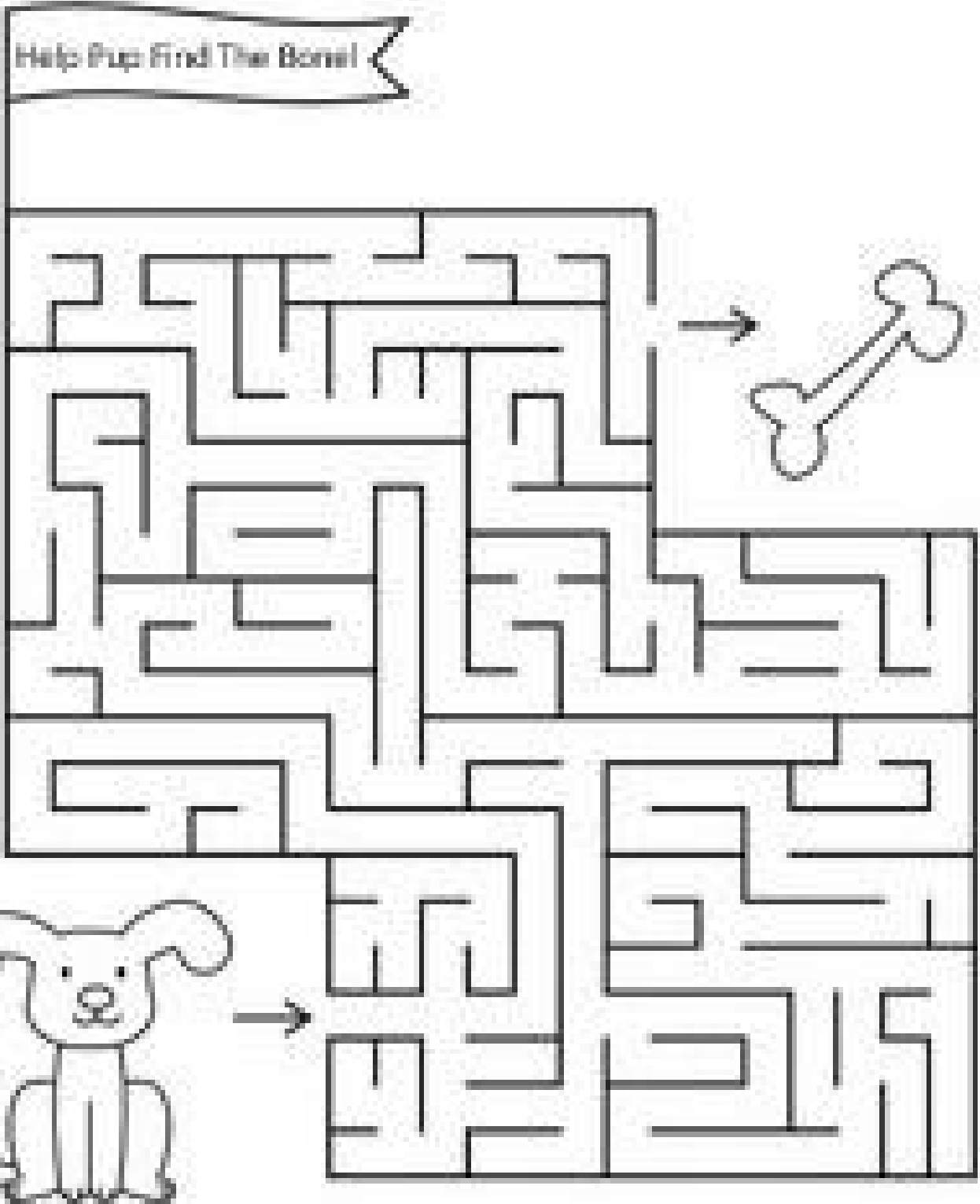
INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Grease an 8" round baking pan and line with parchment paper.
2. Pan fry the thick slices of bacon until crisp. Set the bacon aside and reserve the bacon fat.
3. In a large bowl, whisk 3 tablespoons of bacon fat with the peanut butter, pumpkin puree, applesauce, and honey until combined. Whisk in the eggs. Stir in the flour and baking soda until the batter is well combined, but do not over-mix.
4. Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake until the top of the cake springs back when touched and a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, about 25-30 minutes.
5. Make the frosting by stirring the yogurt and peanut butter together until smooth.
6. When the cake is completely cool, slice the cake in half through the middle. Fill the cake with half the frosting, and top with the rest. Decorate the cake with the cooked bacon. Enjoy!

NOTES:

1. *It's very important to find a natural peanut butter with only peanuts in the ingredients, like the one linked above. Xylitol, a common ingredient in peanut butters, is very toxic for dogs. Other common ingredients, like palm oil and added sugar, aren't so great either.
2. **It's important to use plain Greek yogurt here, as regular yogurt will make the frosting too runny.
3. This makes a large cake, perfect for sharing with your doggie's friends! If you have leftovers, you can crumble up the cake and make bite-sized cake balls. The cake balls can be kept in the freezer and defrosted as needed for treats.

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



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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](https://www.igive.com)

We hope you'll sign up and support Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado every time you shop online!

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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.

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Trainer Tips

“Leaving Alone Baby Toys”

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Question:

How do I teach my dog to play with his toys only and leave alone the baby's toys?

The Trainer Answers:

For some dogs, this will be a piece of cake. For others, as with any training, it will take significantly more assistance on our part. Start by having separate areas for the dog toys and the baby toys. This might be separate floors of the house, separate rooms, or separate areas within the same room. The farther apart they are to start, the easier it will be for most dogs. When you are not training your dog to leave alone the baby toys, make sure that all baby toys are safely closed up away from your dog. If you leave the baby toy out on the floor when you leave, then it certainly must have been designated as a dog toy as far as your dog is concerned!

When you are ready to start training, you begin by teaching your dog a “leave it” cue, which means, “Whatever you are focused on, forget about it and focus on something else.” Ensure you can prevent your dog from picking up the toy you want him to leave alone. As soon as he looks at it or takes a step in that direction (don't wait for him to actually grab the toy!), say “Leave it” and immediately redirect him to an appropriate dog toy. Make the dog toy much more interesting and inviting to him. He should be immediately rewarded for turning his attention away from the baby toy – in this case, the reward is a toy that is far more interesting and exciting. Since it's inevitable that baby toys will be on the floor at some point, consider finding a way to more clearly identify which toys he is to leave alone. One great way to do this is by scenting one set of toys. For example, you might decide to scent all of the baby toys with vanilla. The scent of vanilla will help the dog to learn that ANY toy scented with vanilla is off limits. Dogs can learn to leave alone specific items, but the more clearly we can identify them for him, the easier it will be. He might learn to leave alone the toy you are using for training, but then you will need to train for EVERY baby toy you have, and for each new toy you bring home. Having a commonality among them will help your dog to generalize leaving all of them alone much more easily. Since dogs use their olfactory senses for so much information, scenting items will usually be a very clear signal for the dogs, whereas having to differentiate by sight alone might be more difficult.

With proper management and training, your dog learns to leave alone anything with the scent of vanilla (or whatever scent you choose) on it. You might need to re-scent items periodically while this process is taking place, but eventually, the dog learns which toys to leave alone. During this process, you always redirect the dog to a very fun dog toy each time the dog shows interest in a baby toy. Just telling the dog “no” or “leave it” is probably not enough at first. If the dog wants to play, and he/she can't play with the baby toy, you need to provide an alternative. You want to play? Great, just not with this toy. How about this one? Initially, start with only one baby toy and one dog toy. When you're ready, bring out a few more baby toys and dog toys. Set out the toys, but have the dog toys within easier reach and make them more enticing. Encourage play with those. If the dog looks at or goes for a baby toy, don't scold, just redirect to an appropriate dog toy.

With repetition, the dog begins to leave alone the scented baby toys and always selects the dog toys – which are at first always the most easily accessible. Baby toys begin to get ignored because the dog never gets the chance to play with them. And the dog toys are always made to be more exciting – you play along, you hide treats under or in them, they are thrown or moved around, etc. Gradually, you move a baby toy in closer so the dog has a tougher choice to make, but you always help the dog to make the right choice.

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 and he will work with you to provide your ad and place it prominently within the newsletter.

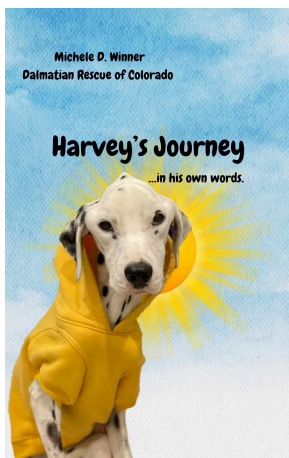
Foster Homes Needed!!******** Be a Pal, Save a Dal ********

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.



I just got my copy of Harvey's Journey today. Read it cover to cover in one sitting. Very engaging and fun to read. Although it can be a little tear-jerking at times. But what rags to riches story isn't?
-Karl Schill

You can find it here:

[Harvey's Journey ...in his own words: Winner, Michele D.: 9798332160677: Amazon.com: Books](#)
Paperback is \$14.99 and the E-book is \$9.99

I also want to remind everyone that ALL PROCEEDS go to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado!

In The "Spot" Light... Our Featured Dalmatians

Heartily (now Poppy)



1.5 Years Old, Black, Spayed Female
Reason Available: Shelter - Owner Surrender
Foster Home: Alpharetta, GA

Hartley is a very pretty, petite black and white Dalmatian mix. She may have had an owner prior to the dumper as she knows sit and down. She is a quick learner. Her owner was indifferent to their fates and not too knowledgeable about canine birds + the bees. Shelter staff report that he harshly told his 3 crying children to be quiet.

She is completely loving + involved with her babies. Plays with them constantly. She is very loving with her foster parents and seeks to join in on "group hugs!" She loves to roll on the grass -- this is so different from her life at the end of a chain!!! Hartley is a quick learner + takes instruction easily. She loves playing with balls and is an enthusiastic participant in Fetch. After a lifetime of being chained, she loves playing outside and running around. She is very ready for a life as a single, childless lady.

Hartley so wants a family of her own. She will need slow introductions to new people in her life as she has been failed by her previous owners. Obedience classes would be a good idea to increase the human-animal bond between Hartley and her new humans. Hartley's suggested adoption donation is \$300. For more information, please contact sandy@dalmatianrescueco.org or jeannine@dalmatianrescueco.org.

Austin and Dolly



6 Months Old, Black, Male and Female
Reason Available: Stray
Foster Home: Alpharetta, GA



Sweet Austin and Dolly were taken in by Dalmatian Rescue when their mom, Heartily, was about to pop. Shortly after she came to us, she ended up with eight of the cutest puppies you have ever seen. They're not "spots," but they are certainly "wannabes." Six of the eight have been adopted.

Currently in the Atlanta area, these babies are ready for new homes. They have been socialized appropriately for their age, and are current on vaccinations. They will be adopted on spay/neuter contracts with a \$200 deposit, which is fully refundable when the pups are spayed or neutered, preferably by August 1, or whenever your vet deems it safe to move ahead with the surgery. Providing a copy of the invoice covering the spay or neuter will be sufficient to receive your refund.

More information can be obtained by contacting Sandy@dalmatianrescueco.org. Adoption applications can be found on Dalmatian Rescue's website at dalmatianrescueco.org. Suggested adoption donation is \$250.00.

Happy Beginnings Stories

Tucker



Here is the most recent picture of Tucker taken on 14 July 2024. He is with his new best puppy pal (and partner in crime) Koda (middle) and his buddy Jake. We have 2 other older dogs who didn't feel like posing for the picture. My brother (who relocated to Colorado and also lives with us) adopted Tucker approximately 8 months ago. He fit in from the start. He loves to go on long hikes with my wife in the forest behind our house. He has lots of energy, which is one of the reasons we rescued Koda from our local shelter. He now has a playmate closer to his age and energy level. They love to get into trouble together.

- Keith and Kyle C.

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!

Tilly (aka Vegas)

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado Class of 2018



*Don't worry, Tilly... it has a happy ending,
I promise!*

About Us

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

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

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

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