



Happy New Year!

A Dog's Guide To New Year's Resolutions

By Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT

I really want to be a good dog this year. My humans do so much for me like giving me their shoes to use as chew toys and collecting my poop in little bags. And how do I repay them? By drinking from the toilet and hogging the bed! They hate that. This year, I want to reward them for their generosity by becoming the well-mannered Canine Good Citizen they deserve. They make New Year's resolutions every January, so why can't I? I'm putting my best paw forward this year, so I hereby resolve to:

1. Stop Scooting Across Carpets

Okay, to be honest, I don't do this to be bad. I do it because it makes me feel better. Dog scooting is so embarrassing to humans. If only they understood how uncomfortable clogged anal sacs can feel. Do humans even have anal sacs? Dragging my butt across the carpet provides much-needed relief. And it's even worse if I have parasites or a food allergy. That can really mess up my backside. If I'm going to stop this habit, somebody had better check to make sure all is good back there.

2. Sit For Greetings Instead of Jumping on Guests

I love to greet people face to face. I have no idea why my humans want me to stay on the ground when I say hello. What could be better than a big slobbery kiss across the cheek? I've heard the best way to stop a dog from jumping on guests is to teach us to sit for greetings. That doesn't feel natural. But I guess it could be okay, as long as I get lots of treats and pats for doing it. Plus, if I know you'll notice me when my butt is on the ground, I won't have to jump to get your attention.

3. Not Hump in Public

This one really turns my humans' faces bright red. I don't see what the big deal is. Most of the time humping, or mounting if you want to get technical, has nothing to do with sex. I often hump other dogs as part of our playtime games. It's more about who's in charge than who's attractive. And if I go to town on a visitor's leg, it's usually because I'm overstimulated or stressed. How can you stop a dog from humping? I'll just have to find other ways to burn off excess energy. Hopefully, my humans can help by redirecting me to another activity or behavior that will get me a valuable reward.

4. Stop Pulling On the Leash

Why do people walk so slowly? There are so many fascinating smells to sniff yet they saunter down the sidewalk. Thankfully, when I pull on the leash, I get where I want to go. But I end up with angry humans. You'd think they'd appreciate that I'm doing all that work to pull them along. How do you get a dog to stop pulling on the leash? Maybe if I had a "no-pull" harness like my buddy at the park, it would be easier to walk nicely. If I can teach my humans to reward me for walking at their side, I'd be less interested in dragging them down the street.

5. Stop Sniffing People's Crotches

Have you ever noticed where I sniff other dogs when I'm saying hello? That's right, their butts! So why should it surprise my humans when I do the same to them? Dogs sniff crotches to gather information. It makes no sense for people to make such an odor-rich location off-limits to my powerful nose. But if they're going to be so uptight about it, I guess I'd better find another way to learn about the person I'm greeting. Maybe I could make do with sniffing their fist. Nowhere near as much odor, but I can still discover a lot.

6. Come When Called

I've noticed that my people usually call me when they want me to stop doing something they don't like, or even worse, make me do something I don't like such as having a bath. Why on earth should I come when called when it means the end of my fun? But getting a dog to come when called seems super important to humans. If I could teach my people to make recalls a game, that would really help. A round of tug-of-war or a tasty treat every time I return to them would help change my attitude. Now how do I train them to train me?

7. Stop Drinking From the Toilet

It's full of cool and fresh water, so why shouldn't dogs drink out of the toilet? To be honest, I don't understand why my humans sit on the toilet instead of scooping up a drink. Such a misuse of a perfectly good water bowl. If I could clean and change the water in my dog bowl a few times a day, that might give the toilet a run for its money. Even better, if I could only get approved for a credit card, I could buy myself a dog fountain. The oxygenated water in one of those could break my toilet habit forever.

8. Stop Sleeping in My Humans' Bed

I love luxury. Every dog does. Why would I want to sleep on the hard, cold floor when there's a perfectly good bed right there? And even better, my favorite people are in it. There are some drawbacks to sleeping with a dog, but I'm positive my benefits outweigh any disruption to their sleep. I know I'm happier sharing my humans' bed. However, sometimes my humans complain that I take too much space. An outrageous accusation! But I could be convinced to sleep in a dog bed if they got me one that was super comfortable and placed in the bedroom. Then I would be close enough to keep them safe without sacrificing the luxury I love so much.

Actually, now that I reflect on it, that's a lot of resolutions. And that means giving up a lot of the things that make me a dog. Do I really need to change that much? After all, my humans love me just the way I am. So never mind, here's to a great year just being a dog. Now if you'll please excuse me, it's time to toast the new year. There's a toilet bowl calling my name.

Seriously, though...

Just like their human companions, dogs can benefit from a few New Year's resolutions! Here are some fun and healthy ideas:

1. **Daily Walks and Exercise:** Make it a habit to ensure your furry friend gets their daily dose of fresh air and exercise.
2. **Learning New Tricks:** Dogs love mental stimulation. Try teaching them a new trick every month—whether it's 'roll over,' 'play dead,' or fetching your slippers!
3. **Health Check-Ups:** Regular vet visits are essential. Start the year with a thorough check-up and keep up with vaccinations and dental care.
4. **Balanced Diet:** Ensure your dog gets a well-balanced diet suited to their age and health. Maybe even try making some homemade treats.
5. **Grooming Routine:** Regular brushing, nail trimming, and baths can keep your dog looking and feeling their best.
6. **Socialization:** If your dog enjoys company, arrange playdates with other dogs or visit dog parks. It's great for their social skills!
7. **Mindful Playtime:** Invest in some new toys and dedicate time each day for interactive play. It strengthens the bond and keeps them happy.
8. **Safety Training:** Work on commands like 'sit,' 'stay,' and 'come' to ensure they stay safe in various situations.

How about starting with some of these resolutions to make your dog's new year even brighter? 🐾✨

How To Bring the Fun Back to Your Winter Walks

Some winter days, dog walks can feel like more of a chore than a good time. However, it's one of the most critical times to walk your dog. In fact, January is National Walk Your Dog Month. During these coldest and shortest days of the year, we all need an excuse to jazz up the daily stroll with the pup and get outside regularly with our pets (and it's a great New Year's resolution, too). We've got some ideas to help reinvigorate your routines and focus on good dog-walking behaviors, along with some great gear to make your walks healthy, fun, and safe.

1. Master good dog-walking form

Need a challenge to get moving? This January could be your chance to hone your walking form! An ideal walk sees your dog trotting beside or slightly behind you, without tugging or pulling ahead—but it can take some work to get there. For heavy pullers, a good place to start is a no-pull harness. No-pull harnesses are designed to make it hard for your dog to tug on the leash with any real force. They typically do this either by placing the leash attachment point at the front of the chest instead of the back or by gently tightening around the torso like a martingale collar. Once you've got a good handle on your dog's movements, start practicing positive reinforcement. Reward your doggo with a treat when they're walking by your side to keep them in stride with you (low calorie training treats and a treat pouch can help), and don't shout or yank the leash if your pup breaks form. It sounds like a small adjustment, but it can make a huge difference in the quality of your walks. You'll also want to use confident body language—head up, shoulders back. Your dog is watching you for cues, so show them you know what's up. Want more help? Consider dog training.

2. Get a leash you love and use it well

It might feel like a small thing, but having a leash you love can make a big difference in the quality of your walks. Try a hands-free option so you can bring your morning coffee, or if you're walking multiple pups, give a double-dog leash a shot to free up a hand for treat-training. Or maybe it's the mildew smell of a wet leash that you dread—in which case, try a waterproof collar and leash combo. You can also concentrate on practicing good form with your new leash, which means keeping it short but not too tight—just enough to discourage your dog from bolting, dawdling, or wandering.

3. Set some fun exercise goals

Setting activity goals isn't for everyone—but for those who enjoy marking milestones, deciding on some metrics for dog-walk success can help. Maybe you'd like to help an overweight pup lose a little weight, or you're hoping to tire a high-energy dog to cut back on chaos around the house. Tracking your progress against a set of goals can offer motivation when the weather is dreary. One unusual tool that's keeping some pet parents moving with their pups - dog fitbits, which can do everything from tracking your pup's steps and distance covered to monitoring sleep quality and scratching. Some models show you how you and your pup stack up against neighborhood leaderboards, while others are all about GPS-tracking and safety. We were prepared to laugh...until we tried some ourselves.

4. Waterproof yourself and your pup

It's hard to say whether the cold or the damp of January is worse. A good coat for both you and your pup can take the misery off a wet, chilly walk. Not all dogs need clothes, but for some - especially small breeds and senior dogs - an extra layer can restore enthusiasm for a rainy outing. And it's a lot more fun to walk a happy pup than a reluctant one. We also like dog rain jackets for minimizing post-walk drying and cleanup, since they keep not only rain but also mud off your dog's belly and sides. Together with a good dog doormat that can double as drying cloth and a paw-cleaner, they can shave a huge chunk of time off reentry. Finally, for the double-coated and extra-fluffy pups, we recommend one of our favorite splurges: a dog blow dryer. It can get your pup furniture-ready in minutes, and unlike human hair dryers, it's both safe and powerful enough to get the job done fast.

5. Light up the night (or the early morning)

January days are short, and it can feel like most of your dog walking is done in darkness. Light-up and reflective gear is a good safety precaution that helps other walkers, cyclists, and drivers see your dog before they're on top of you - which can improve your pup's peace of mind too. We've bought rechargeable HIGO collars in all the colors of the rainbow, plus the Illumiseen LED leash to light up the human part of the duo. Plus, pups decked out in glowing lights just make us smile—which adds some joy to a January walk.

6. Change up your route

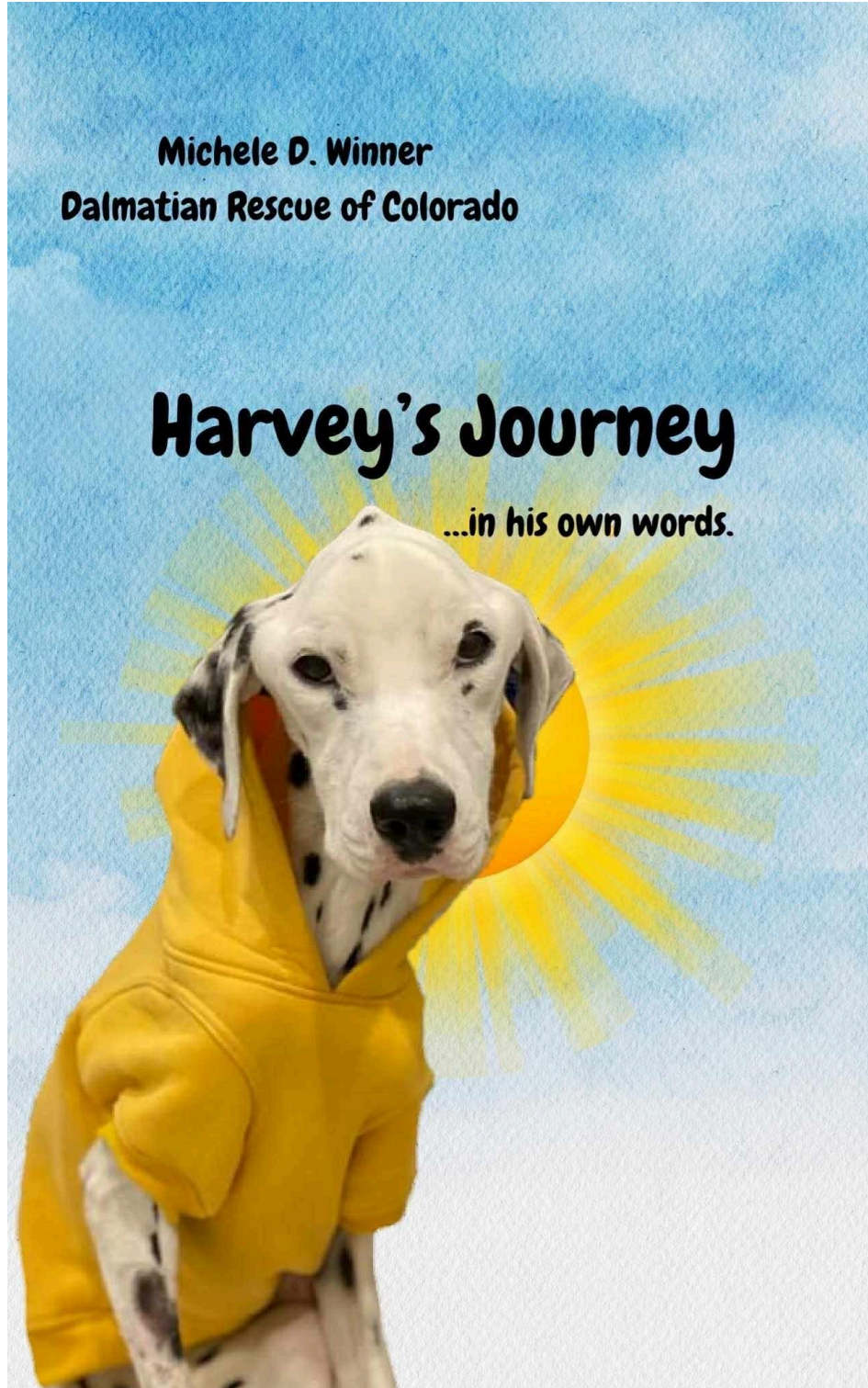
To make walks more fun for you and your dog, rove a little - travel off the beaten path by taking your dog on different routes, going to cool places like the dog park or a friend's house, and taking walks with buddies. You can also try making walks practice for some bigger expeditions. For example, try a dog pack that lets your pup carry some of their own load. Or maybe you need a way to get your pup to more interesting walking locations—in which case you can try a backpack that lets you carry your dog.

However you do it, walking your dog—this month and year-round—is one of the easiest ways to bond with your pet and get the mutual benefit of exercise. Above all, we hope you enjoy the time together!

Join DRC's own rescue Harvey, in his own words, telling the story of his life-changing journey from despair when first rescued back in December -- to sheer joy upon his adoption in June. Through the magic of social media, this heartwarming rescue story has already touched the hearts of nearly 50,000 people and will surely touch yours.

Harvey's unbreakable spirit will astound you and surely bring a smile to your face and lift your spirits. His miraculous recovery has garnered love and compassion from all ages, spanning from the elementary school aged generation to the retirement community. Treat yourself to a positive rescue story from Harvey's point of view. Available in an Amazon e-book and also in paperback.

All proceeds go to DRC.



**Available in either:
Paperback: \$14.99
Or E-Book: \$9.99**

Please click the link below to purchase this book and remember, 100% of book purchases benefit Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado!

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

Recent Adoptees!

There are (sadly) no adoptions to announce this month.

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.

We know that not everyone is in a position to adopt or foster a homeless dog. You can still help us with a donation of any size, at any time. You might even want to consider a monthly donation. You can donate by clicking the link below to give via Paypal, Venmo or GiveButter.

<https://dalmatianrescueco.org/donate.html>



These are AI generated images designed for place-holding, they are not actual Dalmatians available for adoption through Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado.

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



New Year's Eve Dog Treats Recipe



Prep Time:	15 minutes
Bake Time:	15 - 20 minutes
Total Time:	30 - 35 minutes

Today we're sharing a super cute & fun New Year's Eve dog treats recipe so your furry best friend can ring in the New Year along with you. Think about it: this holiday is totally for the dogs! A giant ball drops from the sky and everyone gets big, sloppy kisses at midnight! What dog wouldn't love that? This recipe is so much fun to make. Bonus: you can use the cookie cutters to make a version for your human guests too!

This New Year's Eve recipe is a hypoallergenic dog treat for pups who don't have issues with wheat flour or dairy products (the cream cheese). If your pooch is on a wheat-free diet, you can always try swapping that flour out for something like

almond flour. Let's check out this fun New Year's Eve dog treats recipe!

Ingredients:

- 1 C peanut butter
- 1 C skim milk
- 1 TBSP baking powder
- 2 C wheat flour
- Cocktail glass cookie cutter
- Wine bottle cookie cutter

Icing Ingredients:

- 4 ounces of cream cheese, room temp
- 2 TBSP vegetable oil
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1/2 tsp honey

Instructions:

- Preheat the oven to 375°F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.
- Add peanut butter to the milk.
- Whisk together the baking powder and flour in a bowl.
- Gradually add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients.
- Mix all ingredients together until well combined.
- Cover the counter top with parchment paper.
- Sprinkle some wheat flour on the parchment paper lined counter top.
- Roll out the dough onto the lined counter top.
- Cut with cookie cutters.
- Place cookies on the lined baking sheet.
- Bake for 15-20 minutes.
- Allow to cool on the baking sheet for about 10 minutes.
- Transfer to a wire rack for additional cooling.

Icing directions:

- Beat cream cheese for 1 to 2 minutes or until it has a creamy texture.
- Add the oil, vanilla and honey. Mix until well blended.
- Check for a thick texture. If not, place the mixture in the refrigerator for about 30 minutes.
- Scoop the icing into a piping bag with a small tip.
- Add the details to the dog treat as outlined in the picture or outline both the glass and bottle.

Store in the refrigerator for no more than 3 days.

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

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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NATIONAL WALK YOUR DOG MONTH - JANUARY 2025

If you've ever heard about Walk Your Dog Month, you may have wondered about its purpose and origin. Around 59% of dogs and 61% of cats are classified as obese or overweight and weight-related problems are an everyday struggle for some pet parents and their pets, so creating a month that encourages healthier habits is an amazing way to inspire everyone.

Walk Your Dog Month is mainly an initiative to unite all pet parents and motivate them to walk their dogs daily for at least 30 minutes—and January of every year is designated as Walk Your Dog Month. This way, you will ensure your pet stays physically and mentally healthy. Read the article below to learn more about Walk Your Dog Month.

Walk Your Dog Month is a fantastic opportunity to get some exercise while staying healthy and bonding with your pet. What better time to begin your new routine than January 1st as a New Year's resolution? Walk Your Dog Month occurs from January 1st to January 31st every year. This can become a regular part of your routine for you and your pet, allowing you to bond outside through daily walks.

Benefits of Walk Your Dog Month

The benefits of Walk Your Dog Month are tremendous, and it can be an amazing motivation for pet parents. Sometimes a feeling of unity with other pet parents dealing with the same problems as you can motivate you to take action. Other fantastic benefits of Walk Your Dog Month include the following:

- Quality time spent bonding with your dog
- A perfect way for both you and your dog to get regular exercise
- Walking your dog will increase their sociability and allow them to meet plenty of new friends
- Walks are a perfect opportunity to train your dog with some basic commands
- Walks also improve and boost your mental health

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL WALK YOUR DOG MONTH

Take your dog for a walk, EVERY DAY!

NATIONAL WALK YOUR DOG MONTH HISTORY

In 2022, 59% of dogs were classified as obese. The Association for Pet Obesity Prevention is dedicated to treating and preventing pet obesity and weight-related health conditions and Walk Your Dog Month was an initiative created to raise awareness about pet obesity and help tackle this problem. Many dogs lack proper mental and physical stimulation, eventually leading to weight problems, destructive behavior, heart problems, poor joint health, and even diabetes.

Most dogs need a minimum of 30 minutes of exercise per day, and a productive 30-minute walk could make a tremendous difference in your dog's well-being. Walk Your Dog Month was set to be in January, promoting a healthy attitude towards exercise and outdoor activities even during the coldest months.



Trainer Tips

“Teaching Your Dog To Heel”

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Does your dog know how to Heel? Do you want your dog to be able to Heel reliably at your side?

There are lots of ways to go about teaching it. Our preference is to teach your dog how to CHOOSE to heel at your side rather than being forced to. Heel can be fun or it can be not-so-fun. We prefer fun!

Heel is often mistaken for loose leash walking. There is a difference between walking politely on a loose leash and an actual Heel.

Do you know the difference?

Loose leash walking means your dog is walking near you and keeping a loose leash. That might mean the dog is walking by your side, but not in a formal Heel. Or they might be walking a bit ahead or a bit behind or a bit off to the side, but the leash is still loose.

Heel means your dog is at your left side, facing the same direction you are, with their right shoulder lined up with your left leg. Heel is the position. So if you are standing still, your dog is still beside you. If you are walking, your dog is holding that same position as you both move in sync. If you stop, your dog stops. If you pick up the pace, your dog picks up the pace. If you turn, they maintain position and turn with you. It's a pretty precise position.

This is much harder than keeping a loose leash near you, and it takes a good deal of focus from your dog.

Some people say they want a Heel but what they really want is a loose leash. Others do want a Heel, but you need to understand that it takes some work to teach it and get a really solid nice Heel.

When I say Heel to my dogs, they rush to my left side and put themselves in Heel position lined up with me. When I walk, they walk. When I turn, they turn. When I stop, they stop. They know how to get into Heel position and they know how to hold Heel position.

Does your dog need to be on a leash to Heel? No! If my dogs understand Heel, they can do it on or off leash. If they require a leash to do it, then I don't think they really understand what Heel is.

In fact, I do all of my beginner Heel work OFF leash. Indoors with minimal distractions is the best place to start.

I reward the CHOICE to be at my left side, so I never use a leash to force them into position. Forcing a dog to stay in heel position without having a choice to do anything else can be a good way to teach your dog to NOT want to be in that position.

You can use treats to lure them into position. However, if you are holding them in heel position with a constant treat lure, you are going to have to fade that lure out fairly quickly.

Many people who use the food lure keep it there far too long. The dog gets so focused on the food that it gets difficult to fade. Or they are so focused on the food that they are not really paying attention to WHERE they are and WHAT they are doing.

I start by helping my dogs learn how to CHOOSE to be in Heel position, and then good stuff happens!

Since I work a lot on Eye Contact and Great Focus, my dogs already have a sense of how to connect with my face and tune in with me.

I start by walking around my house – up and down a hallway, around a kitchen island, etc., and LOOKING where I want my dog to show up. When they show up there – either intentionally or accidentally! – I reward immediately. So I have my treats ready to reward the behavior I want, but I am not luring them into position.

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 am sorry to say that we have no reader recommendations for this edition of NewSpots! Don't forget, this segment of the newsletter only works if YOU send in recommendations and/or tips to share with other readers.

Recommendations can be anything Dalmatian (or in general, dog) related. A good book you read, how you got your dog to stay off the counter (we all hate counter surfers), treats your dog really likes, a new dog food you tried, dog themed movies... anything really. Just send your recommendation or tip to me at karl@dalmatianrescueco.org.

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

Buddy



7 Years Old, Black, Neutered Male
Reason Available: Abusive Home
Foster Home: Colorado Springs, CO

WHOA! Buddy 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. Buddy 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! Buddy 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 Buddy behind to fend for himself. So, we have this lovely mixed breed doggo who is the nicest dog! Buddy'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 and hikes. Buddy is located in Colorado Springs, CO, and his suggested adoption donation is \$350. Contact jeannine@dalmatianrescueco.org.

Pat

7 Years Old, Black, Neutered Male
Reason Available: Stray
Foster Home: Pittsburgh, PA



Pat is a loving, gentle & playful boy. He loves learning new things & being with

People and other dogs. Pat has had a very difficult earlier life. He ran away four times and ended up at the local humane society. Pat was brought there again after his owner died. He is gradually losing his hearing and is very nervous about this. He does not like a lot of shadows or flashlights. He is learning hand signals and has just learned to stop, to sit and to shake paws. Pat has also just begun acting as a loving parent to spotted dogs. This began in his latest home in Pittsburgh.

Pat loves to share cuddles and craves human contact. He'd be thrilled at the opportunity to be a velcro dog - a very Dalmatian trait!

If you are looking for a very handsome, smiling love bug and are interested in him, please contact sandy@dalmatianrescueco.org. Adoption \$300.00. The adoption application can be found at www.dalmatianrescueco.org.

Happy Beginnings Stories

Pedro



This is the story of how Pedro joined my family on July 5, 2021.

I was at a music fraternity meeting in June 2021 when colleague Jeannine Holt (Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado state director) mentioned she was needing to find a home for a blue heeler mix. My ears perked up as the blue heeler on my dog therapy group was an amazing dog and I've been fond of the breed ever since. When I asked Jeanine what the dog's gender was, she replied "a male", and I was even more interested. At that time, my family had two (unrelated) female dogs that missed their older male canine who died six months earlier. I knew another female would be wrong for the pack, but a male could potentially fit in well. Jeannine showed me a picture and I asked about the dog's personality. At that time, the dog's name was "Peanut" and I learned it was flown to Denver from San Antoniou by a volunteer pilot. "Peanut" had been fostered by a person in a townhouse with a small yard until the dog could be moved to live with Chris Iles who would give it some Dog Whisperer guidance: exercise and boundaries along with love as first foster home had given. After the music meeting, I told my husband, Greg, about the dog and we thought about it. He was headed out of town in a few days, so it gave me more time to consider "Peanut". I waffled in my decision to meet the dog; first wanting to, then cancelling the appointment, then changing my mind again. "Peanut" came to my fenced backyard to meet my two female dogs, mixed breeds also rescued from Texas. The meeting went well with Chris' careful watch and I learned Chris had

changed the dog's name to "Pedro" to mirror its Texas roots. I guarded my heart with "Pedro" as I didn't want to get too emotionally attached at the first meeting when Greg was unable to attend. The meet-and-greet lasted under 30 minutes. I called my husband and talked about "Pedro"; Greg thought the dog sounded great and was anxious to meet "Pedro". Several days later, I called Jeannine to make another appointment for "Pedro" to come back when Greg had returned home. Chris brought "Pedro" back to our backyard. This second visit and Greg's presence made a huge difference for me. Our two female dogs really liked Pedro, and Pedro really liked them. Greg liked Pedro, and so did I. When Chris and Pedro left, Greg and I talked about adding Pedro to our family. Greg said, "of course we need to adopt him!" and that was all it took to convince me that we should. I called Jeannine and said we wanted to adopt Pedro. We agreed to wait until after the 4th of July in case our neighborhood had fireworks that would frighten Pedro. On July 5th, Greg and I drove to Chris' house and picked up Pedro. He fit right into our pack and has been an amazing dog since Day 1. For the past three years, Pedro has been an integral member of the Sandstrom Family and canine pack. We go to the dog park every day, and sometimes twice a day. Pedro loves to run, sniff, and play. He is "Mr. Personality" to people; always hoping to get petted and loves dog treats. He is the most loyal dog I have ever had and a great hiking buddy. When my husband, Greg, died in March 2023, my dog pack became my constant companions and family. I can't imagine life without them! I am so grateful to all the Dalmatian Rescue volunteers who helped "Peanut" move from San Antoniou to Denver. Thank you to the many volunteers who rescued "Peanut" from the San Antoniou animal shelter, gave him a foster home with love, coordinated his flight to Denver, Dog Whisperer Chris Iles who instilled Pedro with manners, and to Jeannine Holt for mentioning "Peanut" at our meeting. Pedro is an amazing dog who constantly gives joy and unconditional love. My heart is totally smitten!

Jane S., Colorado Springs



Jetson

Cheers to all! And to Tori, the foster Momma!

Jetson came into our lives during a challenging time. About after a week in his Furever home, his older brother, Ziggy (aka Dusty) went to heaven from battling two different cancers.

Jetson and his people worked together with a doggie therapist to create a special bond and create a safe place. Jetson is now a very sweet, spirited, busy boy. He and his sister, Harper (Border Collie), are the best of buds!

He is known as Jet Fuel when we play ball in the field! He loves his doggie friends, enjoys hiking and cuddling. Jetson purrs when he snuggles! Too cute!

Throughout the journey, Jetson and his people are a happy loving family!

Thank you, Tori! (Jetson's Foster Momma)



Christy

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!

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