

Indoor activities for pets

By Charlotte Francesca Stiles, DVM

With the winter months and their cold wet weather, you may be wondering what you can do to help keep your pet entertained inside. No matter the time of year, keeping our pets' minds and bodies active is very important to keep them healthy. In this article, we'll discuss some indoor activity ideas for pets to keep them entertained!

Disclaimer: Please refer to this article as a guide only. If you're not sure whether an indoor activity may be suitable for your pet, it's best to discuss it with your veterinarian.

Indoor activities for dogs

Now let's take a look at some indoor activities suitable for dogs.

Toys

Whatever your dog's character, you're sure to find a toy they'll love! You could even get creative and make your toy! We've listed some examples of different types of dog toys below:

- Interactive toys - these are toys pet parents can become involved with too, such as ball-throwing and puzzle toys.
- Home-made toys - such as snuffle mats or chew ropes.
- Food-oriented toys - such as lick mats.

Training

Training your dog, whether for obedience or fun, can easily be done indoors! You can seek the help of a professional, or read up online and try your hand!

Agility

Agility training is something you can do with your pet in your home (if you have space) or in a special facility. It can be a great way to provide your pet with exercise and mental stimulation and if you go to a class, an opportunity for social interaction too.

Swimming

It may seem strange, however, swimming can be a great way to keep your dog fit indoors! Whether being used as hydrotherapy, or just for fun, swimming has a range of benefits such as:

- Improving muscles
- Weight loss
- Increase fitness

Gentle on the joints and tendons, so may be suitable for older or arthritic dogs too (check with your veterinarian beforehand).

Playdates

If your dog enjoys interacting with other dogs, why not invite friends over so they can play together? Playdates can be a good way to ensure your dog gets enough contact with other dogs even when the weather is bad.

If you are considering having a playdate, we'd recommend you make sure the dogs are supervised at all times.

10 Tips To Help Your Dog Adjust To A New Home



Moving to a new home can be overwhelming for dogs, as they rely on familiarity and routine to feel secure. Unfamiliar sights, sounds, and smells can create anxiety, leading to stress or behavioral issues. However, with a bit of patience, preparation, and thoughtful strategies, you can help ease your dog's transition into the new space, making it feel like home. By creating familiar areas, maintaining routines, and offering extra reassurance, you'll help your dog adjust smoothly and settle happily into their new environment.

1. Create a Familiar Space

Setting up a dedicated space with familiar items is one of the best ways to help your dog feel at ease in a new environment. Bring along their favorite bed, blanket, or toys to give them a sense of security in an unfamiliar setting. A designated spot in the new home that smells like them can help reduce anxiety and remind them of the comforting surroundings they've left behind. This familiar area serves as a retreat where they can relax and feel at home while gradually exploring their new environment.

2. Maintain a Consistent Routine

Dogs thrive on routine, so sticking to a familiar schedule for feeding, walks, and playtime can provide comfort and reassurance. Moving can disrupt normal routines, but try to keep meal times, potty breaks, and bedtime as consistent as possible. A regular schedule will help

signal to your dog that even though their surroundings have changed, their daily life remains predictable. This consistency helps them feel secure, offering a sense of stability during a time of major change.

3. Take it Slow with Introductions

If you're moving to a home with new family members, other pets, or even an entirely different neighborhood, introduce these new aspects gradually. Allow your dog to meet new people or animals one at a time, in a calm and controlled setting. Too many new faces at once can be overwhelming, so keep these interactions short and positive to prevent stress. With gradual introductions, your dog will have the chance to become comfortable in their own time, helping them adapt to their new environment.

4. Stick to Known Commands

In a new environment, it's essential to reinforce basic commands that your dog already knows, like "sit," "stay," and "come." Familiar commands offer structure and a sense of normalcy, making your dog feel more secure. Using these known commands also helps reinforce that you are still in charge, no matter where they are, which can ease any feelings of anxiety they may have. This approach allows them to rely on what they know and feel more confident as they navigate new spaces.

5. Keep Walks Familiar—At First

If your dog is used to certain walking routes, try to replicate those as closely as possible in the new neighborhood. Initially, walk around quieter areas or take familiar toys along to help your dog feel comfortable. Gradually explore different paths and let them sniff and investigate, but don't rush the process. Familiarity breeds comfort, so easing them into new routes allows your dog to feel at ease and confident in their new surroundings.

6. Give Extra Attention and Reassurance

During the adjustment period, your dog may need extra affection and reassurance. Offer plenty of cuddles, pats, and verbal praise to let them know they're safe and loved. Spending more time with them, playing or simply being nearby, can help them relax and feel secure. This extra attention can significantly ease their anxiety, reassuring them that they haven't been abandoned in this unfamiliar place. A little extra affection goes a long way toward helping them adjust more comfortably.

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8. Avoid Leaving Them Alone Too Soon

Leaving a dog alone in a new home too soon can heighten their stress and lead to separation anxiety. Ideally, spend as much time as possible with your dog during the first few days after the move. Gradually introduce alone time by leaving for short periods and increasing the duration as they become more comfortable. This gradual transition will help them understand that you'll always come back, reducing their anxiety and helping them settle into the new home with confidence.

9. Use Positive Reinforcement for Exploring

Encourage your dog to explore their new home by using positive reinforcement. Whenever they show interest in a new room or object, offer a treat or a kind word. This will create positive associations with the unfamiliar space, making them feel more secure and adventurous. Positive reinforcement helps build their confidence as they become familiar with the environment, easing their anxieties and making the space feel like their own.

10. Be Patient with Potty Training

In a new environment, even a well-trained dog may have accidents. Give them time to adjust, and reinforce potty training as you would with a puppy. Show them where they should go and praise them when they use the correct area. If accidents do happen, clean up without punishment, as scolding can increase their stress. Patience and consistency are key to helping them relearn their potty routine in their new environment.

Tail Wags And Sniffing Success

Helping your dog adjust to a new home requires patience, familiar comforts, and a lot of love. By maintaining a steady routine, providing their favorite toys or blankets, and using positive reinforcement, your dog will begin to feel at home in no time. Keep treats handy, offer extra snuggles, and let them explore at their own pace. With your support, they'll soon be wagging their way to comfort and confidence in their new space, making it truly feel like home.

Recent Adoptees!



Tsunami (aka Penny8)
Arvada, CO



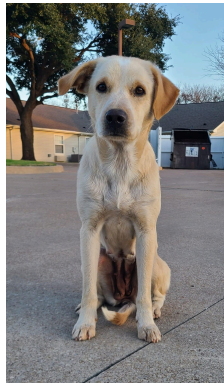
Cody
Abilene, TX



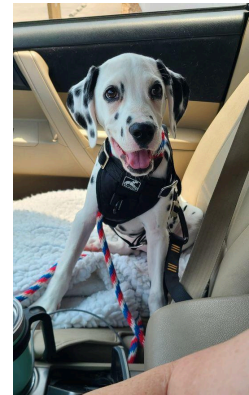
Colt
Anderson, IN



Quackers (aka Skittles)
Fairplay, CO



Brie Anne
Waco, TX



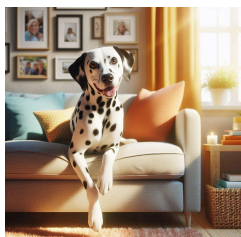
Ellie Mae
Devine, TX

FOSTERS SAVE LIVES!

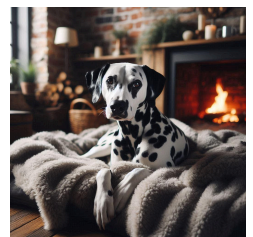
Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado **desperately** needs foster homes. We have four dogs currently needing foster care and two or three more waiting to come in. We can't help these needy Dalmatians without assistance from our community. We are looking for active, out-doorsy people who have secure fences and 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>



FOSTERS SAVE LIVES!



Puzzle toys can help manage dog boredom

By Dr. Wailani Sung

Puzzle toys are a great way to keep pets engaged. If you've been working from home more often over the past few years, this may sound familiar: The minute you start to focus — on anything — your dog gives you a reproachful gaze or disappointed sigh. Or maybe your cat jumps onto your desk, like mine does, and starts batting at your pens...right in the middle of your online presentation.

Why do our pets do this? Perhaps it's their way of getting back at us for staying home for so long and encroaching on their territory. But, more likely, they're simply bored and need something to do. In your pet's mind, there is nothing better than playing with an interactive partner, and you're their top pick. However, for those moments when you can't drop everything for a game of fetch, puzzle toys are a great alternative that can engage and entertain dogs for hours. In the past decade, puzzle toys have soared in popularity as pets and parents alike discovered all the ways these varied and exciting toys can enrich our pets' lives.

The basics: How puzzle toys work

Most puzzle toys operate according to a very simple concept — parents add food or treats to a special compartment within the toy, then pets play with the toy to figure out how to get their tasty reward. The concept may be simple, but the world of puzzle toys is incredibly varied and exciting, with toys of various shapes, sizes, materials, and even different levels of complexity to keep pets of every age and stage occupied.

Puzzle toys take play to a whole new level — both in terms of enjoyment and the duration of playtime. Traditional toys are more one-dimensional in the sense that a dog may chew on a rubber bone toy because they like to gnaw or enjoy the way the bone's texture massages their gums. Whereas a bone-shaped puzzle toy provides similar benefits, plus every so often, when your dog chomps down on the toy in a certain manner, it releases a treat.

Not only will the unexpected surprise delight your dog, but they'll immediately start trying to figure out how to repeat the process. That, combined with the smell of the treats and the enjoyment of the basic chew toy is often enough to keep your pet engaged for a much longer period of time.

How puzzle toys benefit you and your pet

Puzzle toys not only keep your dog mentally occupied, but they are also intentionally constructed to keep pets moving, active, and physically engaged. Many toys are designed to be pushed, rolled, chased, batted, picked up, bounced, or flung around. When these actions occur, food is dispensed. What a rewarding way for your pets to earn (and possibly burn off) a tasty snack!

Puzzle toys are also a great way to help train and socialize younger pets, too. When puppies play with a puzzle toy, it helps them develop a comfort level with inanimate items of different shapes, smells, textures, sizes, movements — and unexpected surprises. They learn that unfamiliar items aren't a threat and can be rewarding to interact with. Puzzle toys promote exploratory behavior and help build a pet's confidence. A curious puppy is more likely to grow into a confident adult.

And puzzle toys don't just benefit pets. When your dog is occupied with an engaging puzzle toy, it gives you more options, too — like catching up on work without a dog parked on your keyboard, or watching a movie without your dog nosing a cold, slobbery ball into your hands. For pet parents returning to work after an extended period at home, puzzle toys can provide you with some peace of mind to help ease the transition — for both you and your pet. In your absence, your furry friend will have something active and stimulating to keep them occupied, so they don't sleep the day away or express their displeasure and stress with inappropriate chewing, scratching, or other destructive behaviors.

If you start early enough, you can also use puzzle treats to help your pet form a positive association with your absence. Whenever you leave your pet home alone, consider using a "special" puzzle toy your pet only gets when you're away. If your pet gets totally engaged in working for the treats, that can help take their mind off your absence and give them something to focus on, rather than allowing their anxiety to escalate.

Keep in mind that this may not work if your pet gets so anxious when you leave that they can't even eat. In that case, it's best to talk with your veterinarian to find a more effective way to manage your pet's anxiety.

How to pick the best puzzle toy for your pet

When shopping for a puzzle toy that's the perfect fit for your dog, it's important to consider your pet's activity level, play style, learning style, and material preferences. Some puzzle toys are made of softer, chewable materials to encourage gnawing, whereas others are constructed of hard, durable materials that can withstand bouncing, bumping, and jarring to knock the treats loose.

Your pet's species also plays a part in the kind of puzzle toy you choose. Dogs tend to be more likely to engage with toys that they can pick up and chew on. And, depending on the pet, some dogs may prefer toys that roll around and move. You may need to demonstrate at first to show your pet that food comes out of the toy when it is moved around. Sometimes you can smear a little bit of wet pet food or a substance you know your pet likes, such as peanut butter or baby food, on the toy to "get the ball rolling," so to speak.

What to look for in dog puzzle toys

Every dog is different, but here are some tips to help you discover the right puzzle toy for your curious canine:

Is your dog a super chewer? Look for a puzzle toy made of chew-friendly materials with a hollow center designed to squeeze out treats as your dog chomps down on it. Or, consider options with deep recesses or grooves you can fill with lickable treats like peanut butter to keep your dog's interest. These also do double duty as a dental toy if you replace the peanut butter with pet toothpaste, so your pet can play and "brush" their teeth at the same time.

If your dog loves balls, then look for a puzzle toy in this classic shape to stimulate their interest. Starting with a familiar shape is a good way to introduce dogs to puzzle toys. Once they learn how to roll the puzzle ball around to release a tasty reward, they will be more likely to engage in other puzzle toys. This is a great option for active working dogs who enjoy a good chase.

Got a dog who loves to "shake," or tap you with a paw to get your attention? A wobble-style puzzle toy may be just the thing. The dog bats the toy around, the toy tips over to dispense the food, and then swings back upright again.

Puzzle toys for dogs and cats

Some puzzle toys are universally appealing to both cats and dogs. If you want to spice up mealtime (and encourage slower eating to aid digestion), consider a puzzle feeder — essentially a bowl that has either a maze or structure at the bottom that makes it more challenging for pets to get at their food. Cats or dogs need to use their tongue or paws to work the food out of the bowl. And remember, your pet can't tell whether a puzzle toy was designed for cats or dogs. So don't feel compelled to stick with toys specifically designed for your pet's species. Just be sure the toy isn't too big or too small for your pet's size or contains other hazards that would make it unsafe for them.

I advise many cat owners to consider puzzle toys designed for small dogs, such as chihuahuas. I've found that there's a much broader selection of puzzle toys designed for dogs compared with those designed for cats.

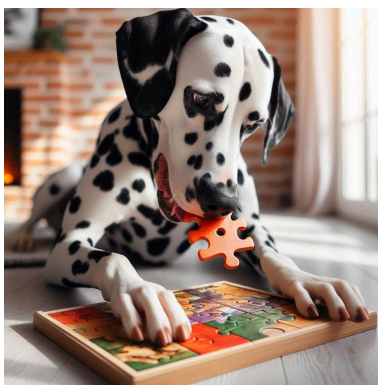
This also comes into play if you have a multi-pet household. As long as the puzzle toys are safe for all pets and they don't mind sharing, any puzzle toy can be fair game. But if your pets often fight over toys or have a hard time taking turns, you can place your pets in separate rooms so they each can play with their toy undisturbed.

Getting the most out of pet puzzle toys

If you want to reap the many rewards of puzzle toys, it's important to keep a few key points in mind:

- Some toys are simple to use and some are a bit more complex and involve pushing a button and moving another piece of the toy to open up the food compartment. You may need to demonstrate a few times to help your pet get the hang of a new puzzle toy. If your pet becomes frustrated by the complexity of the toy, distract them and offer them a simpler toy to work on.
- As long as you don't load puzzle toys up with lots of high-calorie treats, they can be a great way to help your pet shed extra pounds or maintain a healthy weight. Consider dividing your pet's meals into portions "served up" in a puzzle toy. The puzzle forces your pet to slow down at mealtime, and that allows more time for the stomach to tell the brain it is full. That means your pet is more likely to feel satisfied with a smaller amount of food.
- Regularly inspect puzzle toys like you would any other toy, and discard or replace them if you notice hazards such as fraying pieces or sharp, broken edges.
- Always look for a puzzle toy that can be easily washed and dried — and that means one with a compartment you can open to remove any left-over food stuck inside. Otherwise, old bits of food can become moldy and potentially make your pet sick.
- Try to remove the puzzle toy promptly when it is empty. Otherwise, your pet may become increasingly frustrated when food does not appear. Look for signs of agitation such as increased vocalization, batting the toy harder, picking up the toy and throwing it around, biting the toy and some cats may whip their tail from side to side in a quicker motion.

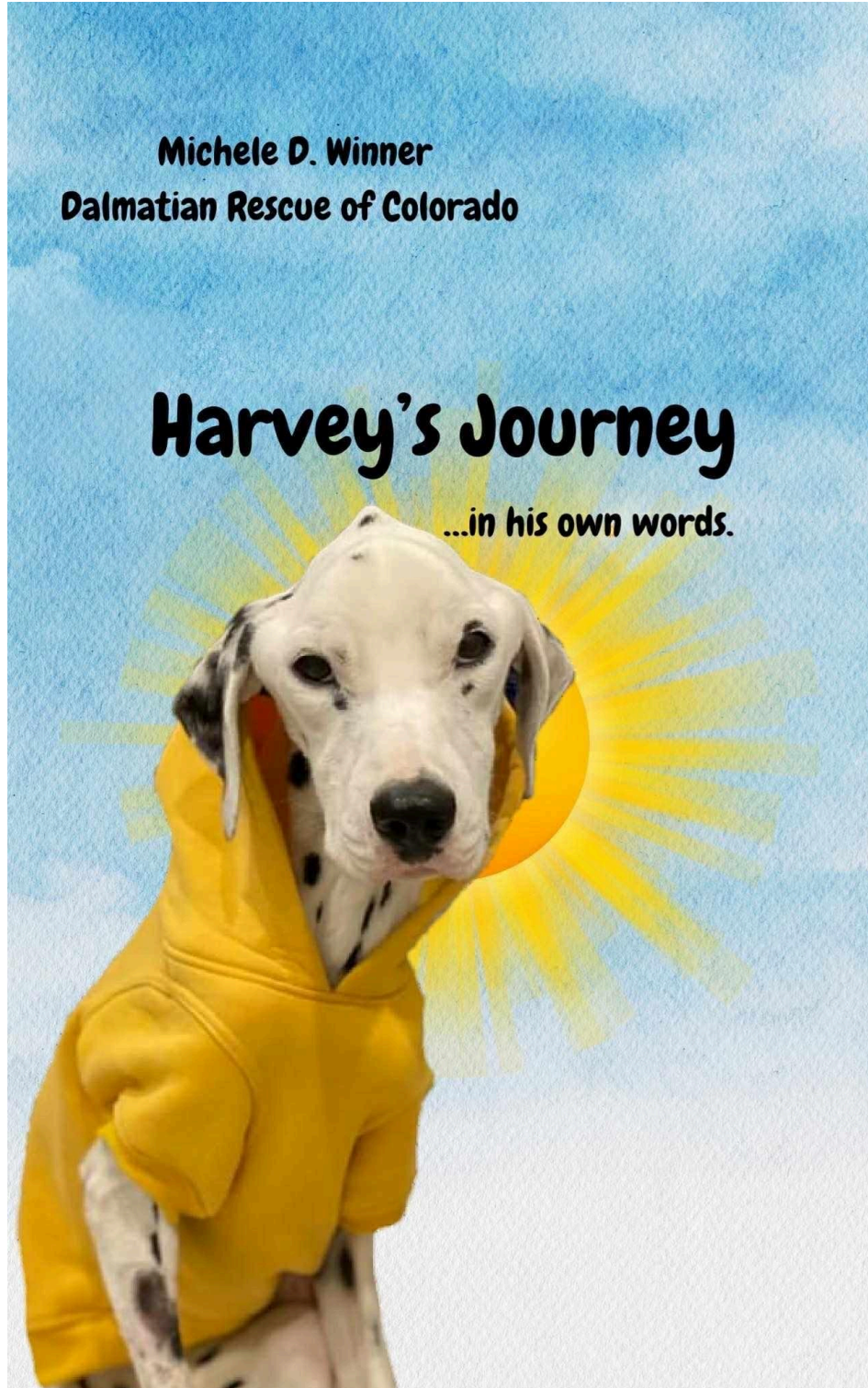
Used properly, the right food puzzle toy can provide overall physical and mental benefits to your pets. They can reduce stress, relieve boredom and reinforce playing alone. No matter the breed, size, or age of your pet, all pets can benefit from using their brains to work for food. Providing puzzle toys to your pets can enhance the quality of their lives. You will reap the benefits by having calmer, happier companions who can keep themselves occupied with their toys.



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
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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](#)

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



Celebrate National Dog Biscuit Day With This Yummy Recipe



Prep Time:	20 minutes
Bake Time:	40 minutes
Total Time:	60 minutes

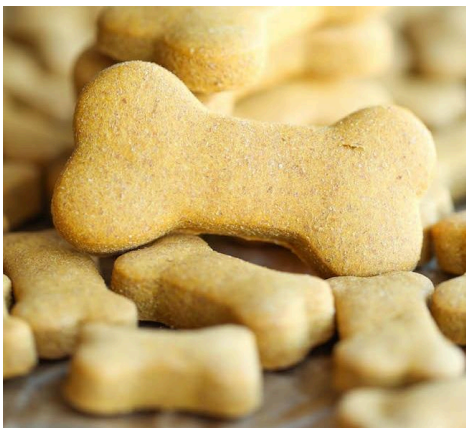
This month we are sharing a very easy Pumpkin Peanut Butter Treat recipe in honor of National Dog Biscuit Day which is on February 23, 2025. You can celebrate by making homemade dog treats for your four-legged friend. When cooking for your pets, you'll want to ensure that any recipe you use contains pet-friendly ingredients and has been approved by a veterinarian. While there can be a lot of misleading and incorrect information found on the Internet, we've got you covered! Here's an ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center and ASPCA veterinarian-approved recipe you can safely make for your dog.

Ingredients:

- 2 ½ Cups of oat flour
- ½ Cup of unsweetened applesauce
- ¾ Cup of pumpkin puree
- 3 Tbsp of peanut butter

Instructions:

- Preheat the oven to 350°F.
- Combine ingredients well.
- Roll out ½ inch thick and cut out individual biscuits with a cookie cutter.
- Lay out on a greased cookie sheet and bake for 40 minutes or until crunchy.
- Transfer to a cooling rack and let it cool completely (you don't want to burn their mouth!).
- Finally, give your pup a treat! before giving it to your pup to enjoy.



Store in a sealed container in the refrigerator for no more than 7 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](http://www.igive.com)

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

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To Use the King Soopers or City Market Community Rewards Program, simply visit the appropriate link below.

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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.

*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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Trainer Tips

“Trimming Dog Nails”

© 2004-2025 The Light of Dog

Many people are amazed when I tell them that nail trims for my dogs are drama-free, quick and require no restraint. Is that possible, you ask? Why yes, it is! I have worked hard to ensure nail trims are easy, as stress-free as possible, and require no restraint other than holding their paws still so I can cut nails with the nail clipper. And here is the secret...regular practice and consistency!

What do I mean by that?

Well, I put on my calendar to trim my dogs' nails at least every other week. Because I do it so often, and have been doing it since I first got my dogs, it has become a habit not just for me, but more importantly, for my dogs. It may take you some time to get your dog used to it, but trust me, it will come when you put it in your calendar to do each week. The alternative is to have your vet or groomer do it every once in a while, which is often not enough.

First, like human nails, it is important to check and trim nails often because nails grow. Do you want to be taking your dog to your vet or groomer every few weeks to trim nails? Maybe that is OK with you, but I do not have the time nor can afford it!

Second, I've seen what can happen at vet clinics or groomers when the techs have to muzzle and restrain dogs for nail trims. They get harder and harder to do each time, and the stress is overwhelming for some dogs. So, how do you trim nails on your own so that you can do it quickly, easily, as stress-free as possible for your dog, and saves you money because you are doing it yourself?

I am glad you asked. Here is what I do:

1. Train your dogs to lie down on their side. (Or to hold another position if you find it easier.) Build this important “trick” into your training. I teach this in some of my classes as well as my online dog training course. It is very easy to do. Get your dog to do it all the time and reward them for it. Make sure that over time, you continue to build in longer time frames for them to hold this position by delaying their reward.
2. At the same time, you want to practice handling your dog so they get accustomed to you touching them. Touch their paws and nails and handle them often. This will help your dog get used to you doing that.
3. Start your nail trimming sessions by getting your dog to lie down as you taught them and start gently cutting away very small ends of their nails while they hold the down on the side position. You can recruit some help if you find it easier to have someone else feed while you trim nails.
4. You might have to break up your nail trimming sessions to start...doing only one foot or even one nail at a time and come back again later to do another. Be patient as you need to help your dog get used to these sessions. So, like I advise in my training, start with short sessions.

If you do the above and stay consistent, your dog will become more accustomed to it. Some dogs are OK with it very quickly, but others it takes time.

I find clippers to be the best tool, while other people prefer using a dremel. The dremel's noise plus the vibration is stressful for some dogs, so if you use one, make sure you help your dog adapt to the sound before using it on the nails. I find nail clippers much easier to use personally.

If you need help understanding how best to cut the actual nails, have your groomer or vet tech demonstrate it for you. Even if you decide you just can't do it yourself, these steps will help make the actual trims done by your groomer or vet tech much easier. They will thank you for it!

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/>).



NATIONAL DOG BISCUIT DAY - February 23

National Day Calendar •

NATIONAL DOG BISCUIT DAY - FEBRUARY 23, 2025

All dog owners, remember that February 23rd is National Dog Biscuit Day! This day is also observed around the world as International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day.

Dog biscuits come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and flavors. They serve to reward a man's best friend for good behavior as part of their training. Dog owners may also give a biscuit to show their canine companions just how much they love them, too. Sometimes, dog biscuits serve to deliver vitamins and medicines we may have difficulty getting our pooches to take otherwise.

Specialty treats offer dogs and their owners so much to chews from! Even dogs on restricted diets won't have trouble finding a dog biscuit that's gentle on their tummy. Others help keep teeth healthy and fresh, too! What better reward could you ask for?

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL DOG BISCUIT DAY

- Get your canine companion a dog biscuit to celebrate.
- Go for a walk to burn off any extra calories or explore the varieties available. Maybe you'll find a new treat your furry friend loves.
- Share your favorite dog biscuit recipes.
- Use #NationalDogBiscuitDay to post on social media.

Dog Biscuit FAQ

Q. Can my dog have too many dog biscuits?

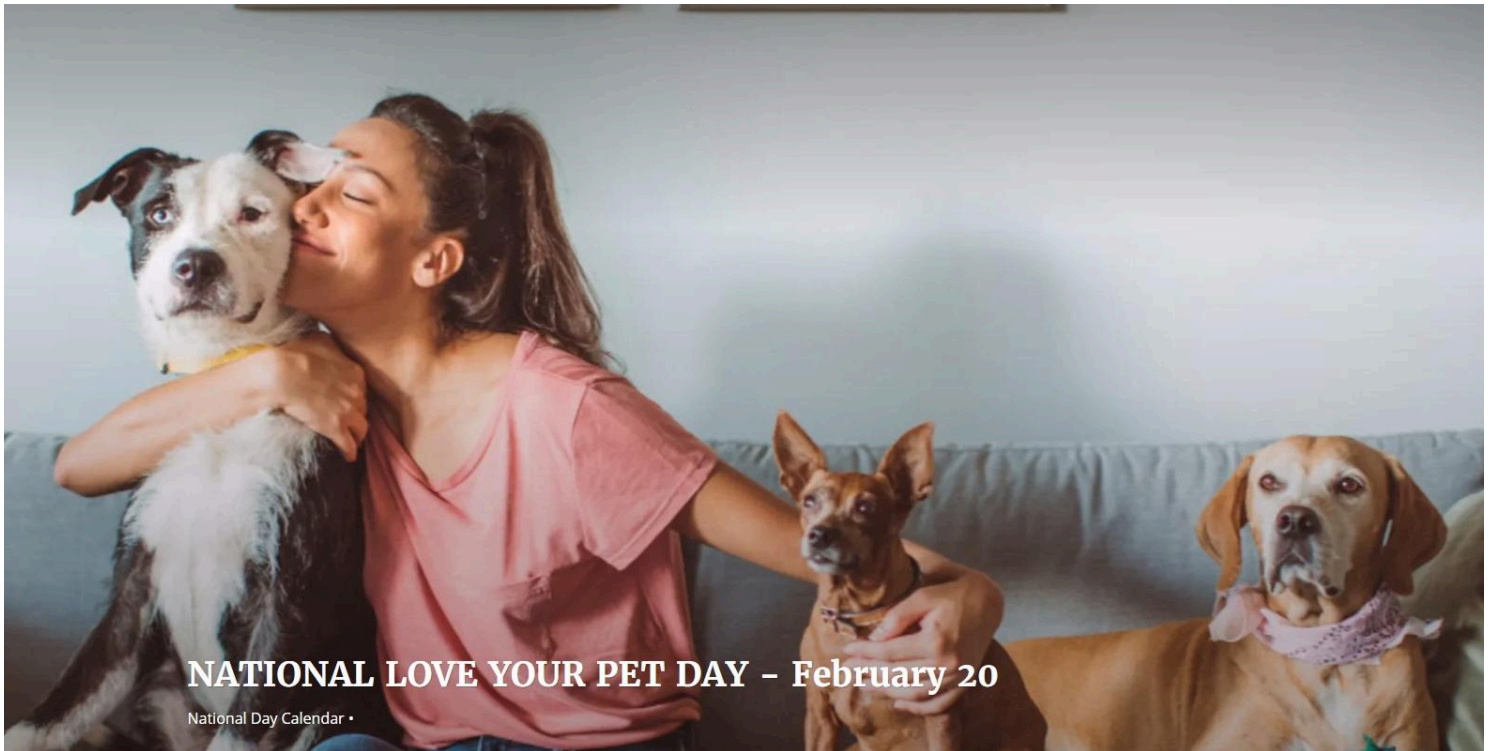
A. Like humans, our furry friends can overeat, too. Speak with your veterinarian to determine the frequency of treats for your four-legged pal.

Q. Are all dog biscuits the same?

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

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

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



NATIONAL LOVE YOUR PET DAY - February 20

National Day Calendar •

NATIONAL LOVE YOUR PET DAY - FEBRUARY 20, 2025

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

Did you know that most households in the United States have at least one pet? While there are more cats than dogs in the United States, more households have dogs than cats, but not by much. Pets are not limited to the canine and feline categories. There are quite a few who prefer the companionship of birds, reptiles, fish, or rats. Whoever your pet companion is, we are sure you will enjoy spending a little extra time with them on National Love Your Pet Day and reap the benefits, as well such as stress relief and lower blood pressure. So on February 20th (and every day) show your appreciation to your pets!

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL LOVE YOUR PET DAY

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

NATIONAL LOVE YOUR PET DAY FAQ

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

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

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

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

Q. Do all pets like to snuggle?

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

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

Skye

2 Years Old, Black, Spayed Female
Reason Available: Abandoned
Foster Home: Albuquerque, NM

Introducing Skye CGC. Skye is a very special girl who would do really well in a performance home. Please reach out to her foster, Denise Soon, for more info. Skye has so many things going for her, it is hard to pick a place to start. While many people are first struck by her pleasing looks and happy outgoing personality towards everyone, one of the big hidden bonuses is that she is LUA (Low Uric Acid), and thus is no more prone to forming stones in her urinary tract than any average dog, does not need a special low purine diet, and can eat any good quality diet. She is whip-smart, learns new tasks in just a few repetitions, as well as remembering them at future sessions. She has impressive eye contact and looks deep into your soul when focusing on you. However, like many smart and alert dogs, she is curious about everything going on around her, so is still learning to be able to maintain continued focus around distractions, and impulse control remains one of her ongoing lessons.

Skye has a lot of potential to be a competition dog in sports if someone is interested in

continuing to take her in that direction, and she is easily motivated with a strong food drive. She has been started in Rally and Obedience, and video clips of her training progress attached show her working on impulse control, as well as a Novice Rally run, and a series of obedience exercises. She has her AKC PAL (Purebred Alternative Listing) number, so she can be entered in AKC events and earn AKC titles, and she has already earned her CGC (Canine Good Citizen) title.

At 2 1/2 years of age, she is just coming out of her teenage phase and is settling into being a pleasant house dog. She is cuddly, but will also give you space when you ask for it. She will self-play with toys and then settle in a secure yard, but always is happiest if she is wherever you are. She is crate trained and housebroken, and rarely picks up an inappropriate item in the house, but does enjoy having toys available to carry and shake. She settles well with a chewy or a snuffle mat, and that, or a brief training with play session, are key to helping her be calm and relaxed around the house. She would love to chase the cats, but does fine with a cat that will not run or hide from her. She would love to wrestle and play with a dog equal to her in size and energy level, but is learning to not bother the other dogs in the house that do not want her level of enthusiasm.

As with all dogs at DRC, Skye is spayed, microchipped, current on her vaccines, and on heartworm prevention. She tested negative for heartworms, intestinal parasites, and tick-borne diseases, and has had no health problems during her time with DRC. For information on adopting Skye, you can contact Tena at tjp@mygrande.net, or for further information about Skye herself, you can contact her foster, Denise, at wingsong56@aol.com

LOCATED IN ALBUQUERQUE, NM.

Links to Skye's obedience work:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3TNCbHbdVJK> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zxr8E-mRIzg>

Happy Beginnings Stories

Sadly, we have no new Happy Beginnings Stories to share this month.

If you haven't sent your pup's Happy Beginnings Story in yet, it is NEVER too late!

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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