

8 Ways Dogs Communicate Silently

By Esther Evangeline, Editor, DoggoDigest.com

Dogs are known not only for their vocal cues but also for their rich repertoire of silent communications. Observant owners can learn a lot by paying attention to their dog's body language, facial expressions, and other non-verbal signals. Understanding these signals is essential for strengthening the bond between humans and their canine companions.

The Power of Tail Wagging

The tail is one of the most expressive parts of a dog's body. While a wagging tail is generally perceived as a sign of happiness, it can convey a range of emotions. The speed, direction, and height of a wag can indicate excitement, agitation, or even anxiety. For instance, a high, stiff wag might suggest an alert or aggressive state, whereas a slow, low wag often indicates appeasement or uncertainty.

Deciphering Ear Positions

Just like tails, a dog's ears can reveal a lot about their mood and intentions. Pricked-up ears typically show interest or curiosity, while ears that are pulled back may indicate submission or fear. Breeds with floppy ears might be a bit more challenging to read, but close attention to subtle movements can still provide valuable insights into how a dog feels.

The Language of Eye Contact

Dogs often use their eyes to communicate silently with their owners and other animals. Direct eye contact can be a sign of affection and trust, but it might also be seen as a challenge or threat, depending on the context. A soft, blinking gaze usually means the dog is relaxed and comfortable. Conversely, avoiding eye contact might suggest submission or anxiety.

Facial Expressions and Mouth Movements

Much like humans, dogs use their facial expressions to communicate emotions. A dog with a relaxed mouth and lips pulled back slightly into what resembles a grin is likely happy and content. On the other hand, a dog showing its teeth or pulling back its lips in a snarl is signaling aggression or discomfort. Observing the overall context in which these expressions occur can help interpret them correctly.

Body Postures and Gestures

A dog's body posture is a powerful indicator of their emotional state. A rigid, tense posture may signal aggression or stress, while a relaxed body often means the dog is calm and at ease. Play bows, where the front legs are lowered while the rear stays elevated, are clear invitations for playtime and friendly interaction. Dogs may also roll over to show submission or trust, especially when they expose their belly.

Understanding Paw Actions

Pawing can be a gentle gesture indicating a dog's desire for attention or interaction. Dogs might offer a paw as a sign of affection or as a way to communicate that they want something, like food or play. Excessive pawing, however, may signal insecurity or demand for reassurance. Owners should observe the frequency and context of this behavior to understand what their dog is trying to say.

The Message Behind Sniffing

Sniffing is not just about exploring the world; it's a form of communication. Through scent, dogs gather information about their environment and other animals. They may sniff the ground frequently to learn about recent canine visitors or investigate new scents. When dogs greet each other with a nose-to-tail sniff, they are exchanging vital information about identities, moods, and health.

Body Language During Walks

Even something as routine as a walk can provide insights into a dog's feelings and state of mind. A dog walking confidently with a loose leash likely feels secure and content. In contrast, a dog lagging behind or pulling excessively might indicate anxiety, eagerness, or discomfort. Observing these cues can help owners adjust their behavior and environment to better suit their dog's needs. This was published first on <https://doggodigest.com/8-ways-dogs-communicate-silently-1-263746/>.

HEROIC HEARTS COLLECTIVE - NOMINATE A REMARKABLE RESCUE

Give back to the rescue group (Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado) that brought joy to your home, with a nomination for the Heroic Hearts Collective. Nominated groups will have a chance to win:



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Your rescue gave you a best friend. Now's your chance to help them save more lives.

Behind so many happy adoption stories is the rescue group that made it possible. With kindness and patience, these dedicated organizations rebuild trust and heal broken spirits. Their work transforms frightened strays into beloved family members - your furry friend's journey to you likely started with their compassionate care!

Help us celebrate your rescue hero. The Heroic Hearts Collective by PetPlace shines a light on the organizations that bring pets and people together. They dedicate so much to helping us make our families complete - join us in honoring them by sharing your story.

Nominate the remarkable rescue that changed your pet's life! Share their story and give them a chance to win a donation for their organization.

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BY CLICKING HERE!](#)**



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Skye
Fountain Hills, AZ

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>

Become A Dalmatian Foster Family Or Volunteer

When a Dalmatian is scheduled to be put down at a kill shelter, we try to place it in a foster home in order to give it another opportunity to find a permanent home. We desperately need concerned individuals to provide short term or long term foster homes.

What do you get out of fostering? If you like Dals (since you're reading this newsletter, you probably do!), then fostering is a great way to meet and learn about all kinds of Dals - males and females, blacks and livers, young and old. Plus there is the satisfaction of helping an animal that literally may have nowhere else to go!

We are very grateful to those who volunteer their homes and love for needy Dalmatians. But if you can't foster, there are other ways that you can help us. Volunteers can help evaluate dogs in shelters, transport dogs however far, give love and attention to Dals in temporary boarding facilities and help with fundraising. Some volunteers work with those dogs that have special needs, and provide them with food and supplies. We also have (and thank) the many people willing to sponsor a dog financially. We also have volunteers who perform home checks, staff fundraising and educational events.

So, as you can see, there are many ways you can help other than fostering.

If you want to volunteer and help the dogs of Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, please contact us at the email address below:

info@dalmatianrescueco.org

Things Responsible Pet Parents Do

By Rebecca Norris

Celebrating National Dog Day, taking your pooch for a pup cup treat, and spoiling them with gifts are all nice gestures, but they're not enough to ensure your dog feels safe, supported, and content. Things like regular mental enrichment, relaxed walks, and a balanced diet can make much more of a positive impact on your pup. What is the most important thing you can do as a dog parent? Stay calm, cool, and confident in every encounter with your four-legged friend. Dogs are pack animals; when adopted into a home, they consider you (and your family members) their pack. That doesn't mean they'll automatically get along perfectly, though. To ensure the relationship is copasetic, a relaxed, trusting bond is paramount in making your dog feel safe and secure. All in all, the things that every responsible dog owner should do are directly tied to making your dog feel supported. Ahead, some ways to show up for your dog to ensure their health and happiness.

Create a Safe and Comfortable Living Space

It's important that your dog feels safe and comfortable at home. While letting them roam freely is great, many dog trainers stand by the idea that dogs should have designated dens. "Provide your dog with a secure, cozy space they can retreat to when they need rest, a well-designed crate, can offer both comfort and security for your dog."

Feed Them Nutrient-Dense Snacks and Meals

You are what you eat—that goes for humans and dogs alike. "Ensure your dog's diet meets their nutritional needs," Crampton says. "Consult with your vet to choose a high-quality food that suits your dog's age, size, and activity level. A well-fed dog is a happy and healthy dog."

Physical Exercise

Physical exercise is just as fundamental as mental stimulation. "Ensure your dog gets enough physical activity through walks, playtime, and exercises that match their breed and energy level," Crampton says. "Regular exercise keeps them fit, helps with weight management, and prevents behavioral problems."

Remember That There's a Time For Heeling and a Time for Exploration

Speaking of walks, Ellis says that it's important to implement both disciplined strolls and enrichment exploration. "Your walks don't need to be in a perfect heel—it's okay if your dog walks ahead of you (in a safe manner, of course); let them sniff, let them go slow; there is no rule on how a walk must go," she says. While waiting for your dog to make their way down the sidewalk slowly might feel frustrating, it's incredible for their mental health, which will show in their behavior. "Sniffari walks are mentally enriching and provide sensory stimulation that a normal walk might not offer,"

Monitor and Maintain Oral Health

Brushing your dog's teeth daily might feel like overkill, but Ellis and Crampton agree that regular oral health is paramount. "Dog dental disease can shorten your dog's life, leading to issues like heart conditions—start taking care of your dog's teeth from a young age to really help them live a long life," Ellis says. Specifically, Crampton says to regularly check your pup's teeth and gums for signs of plaque and tartar. If they don't tolerate regular brushing, giving them a daily dental chew can help maintain optimal oral health.

Establish a Grooming Routine

A regular grooming routine will keep your dog looking and feeling their best. "Regularly groom your dog by brushing their coat, trimming their nails, and checking their ears for dirt or infections," Crampton says. "This keeps them clean, reduces shedding, and helps you detect any skin issues early." An easy way to prepare your pup for grooming is to take them on a walk or for a game of fetch beforehand. Milan says doing so will help them naturally want to relax.

Train Your Dog for Health Examinations

As helpful as well-timed exercise can be, Milan says it's essential to train your dog to be handled. "Touching your dog's paws regularly builds trust," he explains. "Touch them multiple times before you examine or groom them. It requires loving, caring, and trusting energy." The same goes for getting them comfortable with having their teeth, ears, and eyes touched. All in all, the more comfortable your pups are with getting handled, the more productive their vet visits will be and the less stressful your life will be overall, Ellis says.

Create Rules For Your Dog, and Stick to Them

Dogs will only learn and maintain good behavior if such parameters are clearly outlined. "You are a better dog owner if you provide rules, boundaries, and limitations for your dog," Milan says. "Dogs want to follow their pack leader."

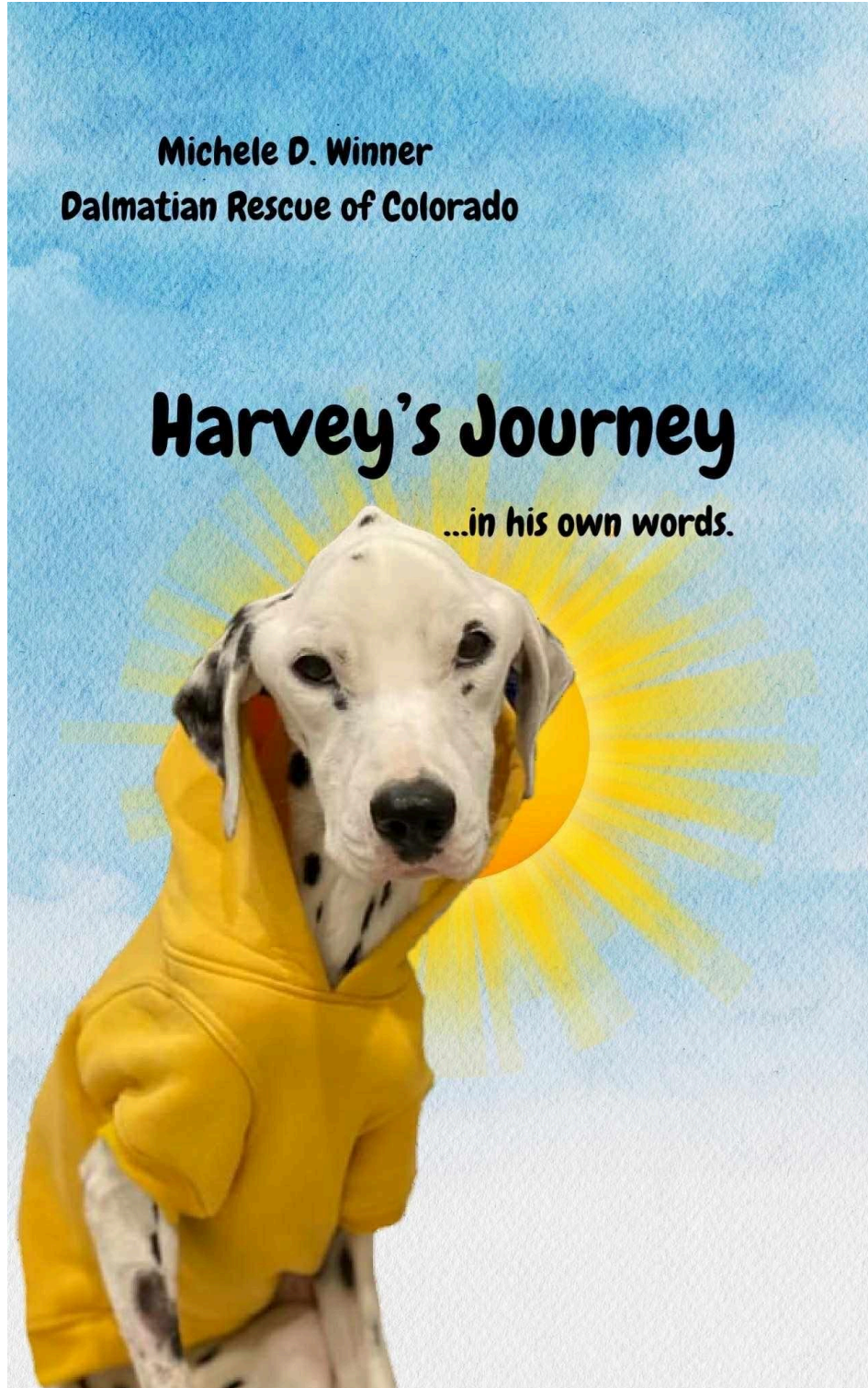
Prioritize a Solid Recall

The most important thing you can teach your dog is a strong recall. This will not only lessen the stress of having to chase them around when you need them, but it can also be a life-saving measure while off-leash. As such, Ellis says to be generous when rewarding a recall. "Reward your dog when coming when called—throw them a party, pet them, tell them how great they are," she says. "Never get frustrated with your dog not coming when called, and don't only use a recall when leaving somewhere fun, like the park. A solid recall can be so important, so make sure it's valuable to your dog."

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](#)

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



Two-Ingredient Watermelon Ice Cream Is an Easy Summer Treat for Your Dog



This month we are sharing a very easy Watermelon Ice Cream recipe. This simple, two-ingredient watermelon ice cream recipe is delicious for humans, but pets will love it, too.

Turn your leftover watermelon into a treat your dog won't be able to resist. It's the perfect something special to celebrate gotcha days, picnics, BBQs, or just because watermelon was on sale.

Prep Time:	10 minutes
Total Time:	250 minutes
Yield	2 cups

Ingredients:

- 1 ½ Cups of frozen watermelon
- ¼ cup of yogurt (for lactose intolerance, you can substitute coconut milk or coconut yogurt)
- ¾ Cup of pumpkin puree
- 3 Tbsp of peanut butter

Instructions:

- Wash melon before cutting.
- Dice a few cups of watermelon, removing any seeds as you go,
- Place in freezer for 4 hours (or overnight if you prefer).
- Place 1½ cups of frozen melon in the food processor.
- Add ¼ cup of yogurt.
- Blitz in food processor, adding more fruit or yogurt to adjust flavor and texture.
- Serve immediately.

Do You Shop Online?

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

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

Check out iGive at [How iGive Works - iGive.com](http://www.igive.com)

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

KING SOOPERS/CITY MARKET COMMUNITY REWARDS



For Colorado supporters (or anywhere King Soopers or City Market operates), Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado has also enrolled in the King Soopers and City Market Community Rewards Program.

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

For King Soopers Stores - go to <http://www.kingsoopers.com>

For City Market Stores - go to <http://www.citymarket.com>

Once logged in to your King Soopers or City Market account, search for Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc., either by name or FR415, and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a loyalty card.

*Customers must have a registered King Soopers or City Market loyalty card account to link to our organization. If you do not yet have a King Soopers or City Market loyalty card, they are available at the customer service desk at any King Soopers or City Market.

REMEMBER, purchases will not count for our organization until after you have registered your loyalty card (the same card that you use to build fuel points). You must swipe your registered King Soopers or City Market loyalty card or use the phone number that is related to the registered King Soopers or City Market loyalty card when shopping for each purchase to count. This does not affect your fuel points!



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Every abandoned dog deserves a second chance. At Dalmatian Coffee Co., we use the sale of our single origin and blended coffees to help them find new homes. Twenty percent of our profits benefit Dalmatian Rescue operations (including Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado), no-kill animal shelters, and dog foster care organizations.

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When you purchase our coffee, apparel, and other items, you'll be part of a small group of rescues listed on our home page that receives an even share of 20 percent of our profits, each quarter.

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Trainer Tips

“Outwit, Outplay, Outlast A Motto For Survivor And Our Dogs”

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Whether or not you're a fan of the show Survivor, you might have heard the show's motto: Outwit, Outplay, Outlast. That same motto could be applied to dog training, especially when you live with an adolescent, high energy, and/or smart dog. (Romeo qualifies under all three of those categories, by the way.)

“Outwit” seems applicable when our dogs seem to be outsmarting us at times. Sure, we might be the more intelligent of the two species. But aren't there times when you feel as if your dog is outsmarting you? Dogs are great at figuring out how to get what they want, whether it's sure-fire ways to get your attention by stealing the one thing you are most concerned about being destroyed or figuring out how to get the baby locks off the cabinets so they can dig in the trash under the sink. The baby lock thing was a specialty of my first Greyhound, Gunner. He would move the chair I had placed in front of the cupboard. Then he would remove the baby lock meant to keep toddlers out of cabinets. He could get those things off faster than I could. Then he'd dump the trash can under the sink and empty the trash all over the floor. Dogs can be great problem-solvers when it involves getting at something they really want. We need to “outwit” them by staying one step ahead.

“Outplay” just doesn't seem possible when you have a high energy adolescent dog. I could play all day with Romeo, and I guarantee you that I will tire long before he will. However, I can create ways to help him better entertain himself. Find it games with myself, food, toys or other fun things are always good. He waits while I hide things and then release him to “find it”. I also use a “find it” sort of game when I ask him to “bring me a toy” or “find daddy” and he's off on a search. Chase games with more than one person or dog chasing Romeo helps so that we can work together to try to catch him – one of us alone never seems to be enough to be successful. Interactive toys that I hide food or other toys in so he has to work to get them out are always good. Training “games” that involve Romeo being more active than me are always good ways to burn off some of that “play” energy. Fetch, around, under, over, and other active cues he knows are best for burning off both mental and physical energy.

“Outlast” when it comes to our dogs is the whole idea of patience. Dogs learn quickly that in some households persistence pays off. If they just stick to it long enough, someone will eventually give in and give them what they want. Barking at you for attention. Nudging at you for petting. Shoving the ball at you to throw it. Dogs often learn that if they can outlast your patience, you'll eventually give them what they want just to get them to stop what they're doing. However, if you can outlast your dog, s/he will learn that persistence does not always work. If Romeo hits the end of his line when out on a walk, he can wait until the cows come home, but we'll never proceed forward until he returns to me. I can “outlast” the best of them. Some people might call it being stubborn. I call it patience.

Who is better at “outwit, outplay, outlast” – you or your dog?

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 K9 VETERANS DAY - MARCH 13, 2025

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

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

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

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

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

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

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY

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

NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY HISTORY

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

K9 FAQ

Q. Does a K9 live with its human partner?

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

Q. Do K9 officers receive special training?

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

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

Avocado (Armani)

3 Years Old, Black, Neutered Male
Reason Available: Owner Surrender
Foster Home: Portland, ME

Avi is an almost 4 year old beautiful male Dalmatian. Avi has taken obedience training and special recall training. His past was tense and sad because of his home situations. We have discovered that he is happiest with other dogs, playing and living! He now meets new people with friendliness and joy. A wonderful, new life awaits him!!

Avi, now called Armani, is now with an excellent behaviorist, Christina Loveland-Dupuis, and doing magnificently. He adores other dogs and his people there.



Chérie

5 Years Old, Black, Female
Reason Available: Stray
Foster Home: San Antonio, TX

Chérie is a 5-year-old, 45-pound pup with a big personality and a lot of love to give! She's current on vaccinations, spayed, and heartworm negative.

This active girl would love a home where she can hike, bike, run, or walk with you every day. She's also a big fan of swimming, so beach days would be a dream for her! Chérie thrives when she has a job to do and would be super happy in a sport-oriented home. She's already started some obedience training and is doing well—she'd love to show off her agility skills! If you're interested in canine sports, Chérie could be the perfect match for you.

During quieter moments, Chérie enjoys her squeaky toys and loves showing them who's boss. When it's time to relax, she's happy to snuggle on the couch with you or take a nice, long afternoon nap.

She's house-trained, crate-trained, walks nicely on a leash, and loves car rides. She'll sleep quietly in her crate at night, though she'd much rather sleep in your bed!

Chérie adores people of all sizes, but because she doesn't always know her own strength, we recommend a home with children over the age of 8. Like many dogs (and people), she's a bit selective about her friends, so a meet-and-greet is necessary to ensure compatibility with other pets.

If you're looking for an active, loving, and trainable companion, Chérie is ready to be your adventure buddy!

For more info, contact Annalisa at alphalimacharlie7@gmail.com or Tena at tjp@mygrande.net
 Located in SAN ANTONIO, TX. Adoption fee \$400



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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