

8 Expert Tips to Keep Your Pet Safe During a Natural Disaster

By Ella Field

Editor's Note: The best time to prepare for a natural disaster is BEFORE it strikes. With that in mind, I present the following article by Ella Field.

Do you know how to protect your pets if a natural disaster strikes? Use our guide to get yourself and your furry family members ready in case of an emergency.

Whether you live in an area prone to tornadoes, wildfires, or earthquakes, having an emergency preparedness plan in place can make all the difference in keeping your family, including your pets, safe. We spoke with pet safety experts to learn exactly what you can—and should—do for different types of natural disasters and what you should keep on hand in case of emergency.

Meet the Experts

- Roxana Petzold is the pet services senior program manager at the American Red Cross.
- Susan Anderson is the senior director of disaster response at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA).

1. Put Together an Emergency Kit

Pack a bag to grab quickly if you have to evacuate or shelter. Include enough pet supplies for 7–10 days, including food, water, medications, and bowls. Add a photo of you and your pet in case you get separated. Check expiration dates and update the kit twice a year.

2. Create a Plan

There are many circumstances you can't control, but being prepared is one you can. Build a plan that outlines what you'll do if an emergency were to occur. Know what kind of natural disasters are most likely to occur in your area and create a plan for each one. Draft additional plans for scenarios like flooding, power or water outages, and house fires.

To assist you, use a printable checklist found on aspca.org, then practice your family's emergency plan. "Everyone should have an assigned role," says Roxana Petzold, pet services senior program manager at the American Red Cross. "Who's grabbing which bag? Who's got the dog?"

3. Download a Pet First Aid App

The American Red Cross Pet First Aid app is a great resource for emergencies, including step-by-step instructions for common health and safety issues. You can also connect your vet info and find emergency hospitals and pet-friendly hotels. Keep this on your phone and explore the different resources, so if there is an emergency, you can more easily navigate it.

4. Know What to Do If There's a Fire

If there's a wildfire and you need to evacuate, your pets should always go with you. That means creating a plan with potential places to shelter that will take pets. Since you can't guarantee all evacuation sites will accept animals, research this now. Never let your pet near damaged property after a fire, and if air quality is poor, limit time outside.

If the fire is in your house, however, Susan Anderson, ASPCA senior director of disaster response, says, "Don't go back in to grab your pet, as difficult as this is."

Tip

Consider adding a pet alert decal to one of your windows so first responders know there are pets in your home.

5. Practice Taking Shelter for Tornadoes and Large Storms

If you need to take cover based on weather alerts and warnings, your pet does too. Go to the lowest level of your home in a room with no windows. After the storm, “Your pet might experience stress, fear, and disorientation. Familiar scents and landmarks might have changed,” Petzold says. Keep pets away from damaged electrical wires and trees, and look for debris on the ground that could be a hazard. Also, be aware that wildlife could have taken shelter in your home.

6. Prepare for a Hurricane or Flooding

If local officials issue evacuation orders, follow the same protocol as for a fire. “Never tether pets to a pole or a tree or anything that would prevent them from getting to a safe area,” Anderson says. If you can’t evacuate and there’s a risk of flooding, go to the highest level of your house. After a hurricane or flood, don’t let your pets drink standing water, as it can be contaminated.

7. Be Aware of What to Do If There’s an Earthquake

Unlike other natural disasters, earthquakes often happen without warning. If you live in an area where they might occur, it’s important to have large furniture anchored to walls to protect people and animals from falling objects. For any disaster, but especially for earthquakes, identify places in your home where your pet might hide when scared. Additionally, be sure your pets are microchipped and the info is up-to-date.

8. Be Cautious in Extreme Temperatures

“If you don’t want to be outside, your pet shouldn’t be either,” Anderson says. In the cold, put jackets on small or short-haired pets as they have less natural protection. In the heat, test walking surfaces with your hand. If it’s too hot for you, it’s too hot for them. Treat an overheated pet with cooling packs or cold water on the head or armpits.

The Power of Pets *Health Benefits of Human-Animal Interactions*

<https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/2018/02/power-pets>

Nothing compares to the joy of coming home to a loyal companion. The unconditional love of a pet can do more than keep you company. Pets may also decrease stress, improve heart health, and even help children with their emotional and social skills. An estimated 68% of U.S. households have a pet. But who benefits from an animal? And which type of pet brings health benefits? Over the past 10 years, NIH has partnered with the Mars Corporation’s WALTHAM Centre for Pet Nutrition to answer questions like these by funding research studies.

Scientists are looking at what the potential physical and mental health benefits are for different animals—from fish to guinea pigs to dogs and cats.

Possible Health Effects

Research on human-animal interactions is still relatively new. Some studies have shown positive health effects, but the results have been mixed.

Interacting with animals has been shown to decrease levels of cortisol (a stress-related hormone) and lower blood pressure. Other studies have found that animals can reduce loneliness, increase feelings of social support, and boost your mood.

The NIH/Mars Partnership is funding a range of studies focused on the relationships we have with animals. For example, researchers are looking into how animals might influence child development. They’re studying animal interactions with kids who have autism, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and other conditions.

“There’s not one answer about how a pet can help somebody with a specific condition,” explains Dr. Layla Esposito, who oversees NIH’s Human-Animal Interaction Research Program. “Is your goal to increase physical activity? Then you might benefit from owning a dog. You have to walk a dog several times a day and you’re going to increase physical activity. If your goal is reducing stress, sometimes watching fish swim can result in a feeling of calmness. So there’s no one type fits all.”

NIH is funding large-scale surveys to find out the range of pets people live with and how their relationships with their pets relate to health.

“We’re trying to tap into the subjective quality of the relationship with the animal—that part of the bond that people feel with animals—and how that translates into some of the health benefits,” explains Dr. James Griffin, a child development expert at NIH.

Animals Helping People

Animals can serve as a source of comfort and support. Therapy dogs are especially good at this. They’re sometimes brought into hospitals or nursing homes to help reduce patients’ stress and anxiety.

"Dogs are very present. If someone is struggling with something, they know how to sit there and be loving," says Dr. Ann Berger, a physician and researcher at the NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. "Their attention is focused on the person all the time." Berger works with people who have cancer and terminal illnesses. She teaches them about mindfulness to help decrease stress and manage pain.

"The foundations of mindfulness include attention, intention, compassion, and awareness," Berger says. "All of those things are things that animals bring to the table. People kind of have to learn it. Animals do this innately."

Researchers are studying the safety of bringing animals into hospital settings because animals may expose people to more germs. A current study is looking at the safety of bringing dogs to visit children with cancer, Esposito says. Scientists will be testing the children's hands to see if there are dangerous levels of germs transferred from the dog after the visit.

Dogs may also aid in the classroom. One study found that dogs can help children with ADHD focus their attention. Researchers enrolled two groups of children diagnosed with ADHD into 12-week group therapy sessions. The first group of kids read to a therapy dog once a week for 30 minutes. The second group read to puppets that looked like dogs.

Kids who read to the real animals showed better social skills and more sharing, cooperation, and volunteering. They also had fewer behavioral problems.

Another study found that children with autism spectrum disorder were calmer while playing with guinea pigs in the classroom. When the children spent 10 minutes in a supervised group playtime with guinea pigs, their anxiety levels dropped. The children also had better social interactions and were more engaged with their peers. The researchers suggest that the animals offered unconditional acceptance, making them a calm comfort to the children.

"Animals can become a way of building a bridge for those social interactions," Griffin says. He adds that researchers are trying to better understand these effects and who they might help.

Animals may help you in other unexpected ways. A recent study showed that caring for fish helped teens with diabetes better manage their disease. Researchers had a group of teens with type 1 diabetes care for a pet fish twice a day by feeding and checking water levels. The caretaking routine also included changing the tank water each week. This was paired with the children reviewing their blood glucose (blood sugar) logs with parents.

Researchers tracked how consistently these teens checked their blood glucose. Compared with teens who weren't given a fish to care for, fish-keeping teens were more disciplined about checking their own blood glucose levels, which is essential for maintaining their health.

While pets may bring a wide range of health benefits, an animal may not work for everyone. Recent studies suggest that early exposure to pets may help protect young children from developing allergies and asthma. But for people who are allergic to certain animals, having pets in the home can do more harm than good.

Helping Each Other

Pets also bring new responsibilities. Knowing how to care for and feed an animal is part of owning a pet. NIH/Mars funds studies looking into the effects of human-animal interactions for both the pet and the person.

Remember that animals can feel stressed and fatigued, too. It's important for kids to be able to recognize signs of stress in their pet and know when not to approach. Animal bites can cause serious harm.

"Dog bite prevention is certainly an issue parents need to consider, especially for young children who don't always know the boundaries of what's appropriate to do with a dog," Esposito explains.

Researchers will continue to explore the many health effects of having a pet. "We're trying to find out what's working, what's not working, and what's safe—for both the humans and the animals," Esposito says.

"Behind every Dalmatian's spots, there lies a spot of wisdom."
- Anonymous

"Dalmatians are like spotted scholars, each spot represents a new lesson learned."
- Pet Ponderings

Recent Adoptees!



Dublin
Sugar Land, TX



Peaches
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

Heartwarming Holiday Tales Celebrate Dalmatians and the Power of Responsible Pet Ownership

The Queen of Spotland

story by
Hannah T. Petryk
Anna and Ian Burnett

illustrated by Vivian Mineker



"The Queen of Spotland" and Upcoming Sequel "Christmas in Spotland" by Hannah T. Petryk. Arrives just in time for the holidays.

Following the warm reception of her debut children's story *The Queen of Spotland*, which she co-authored with Anna and Ian Burnett, author Hannah T. Petryk is set to release the enchanting sequel, *Christmas in Spotland*, available December 5, 2025, on Amazon and Barnes & Noble—just in time to brighten the holiday season.

Inspired by her family's deep love for Dalmatians—two of whom share their home, including a rescue adopted last year—Petryk's stories blend imagination, warmth, and meaningful life lessons that delight readers young and old.

In *The Queen of Spotland*, which quickly became a bestseller earlier this year, Petryk and her young co-authors, the Burnett twins, introduced readers to a magical world where Dalmatians rule with wisdom, kindness, and a commitment to responsibility. This modern American fairy-tale gently teaches children what it means to care for and understand a pet, capturing the essence of loyalty, empathy, and respect that true dog ownership requires.

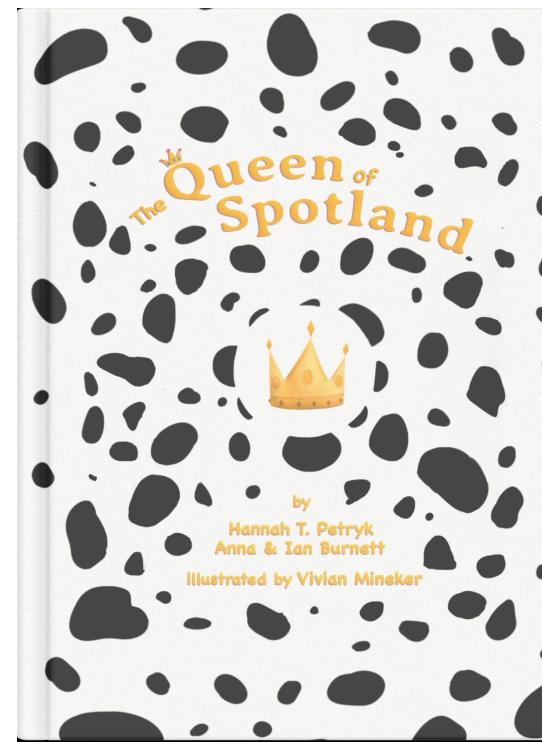
The upcoming sequel, *Christmas in Spotland*, expands that world with touching tales of lost pups, shelter dogs, and the hope of finding one's way home—a heartfelt reflection of the author's dedication to rescue and adoption. Readers will discover a rich, emotionally layered story that celebrates compassion, second chances, and the true spirit of Christmas.

Each book in the Spotland series stands out for its quality writing, multi-dimensional themes, and beautiful, detailed illustrations that bring the spotted world to life. Together, they offer not only entertainment but also an important message about love, kindness, and the responsibility we share toward animals.

With *Christmas in Spotland*, Hannah T. Petryk continues her mission to inspire young readers and Dalmatian enthusiasts alike—reminding everyone that every pup deserves a loving home, and every act of care creates ripples of goodness in the world.

Availability:

The Queen of Spotland – available now on Amazon and Barnes & Noble
Christmas in Spotland – releasing December 5, 2025



*****ADVERTISEMENT*****

How To Clean Pet Urine From The Carpet

Soak Up Your Furry Friend's Accidents With Ease

By Faith Brar

No matter how potty trained your pet might be, accidents happen—and more often than not, they happen on rugs and carpets. These easy steps will teach you how to clean pet pee from your floors and share safe and effective cleaning products you should be using to do so. Plus, learn how you can work with your pet to avoid repeat accidents in the future.

Why Does My Cat or Dog Pee on Carpet?

There are many reasons pets might have indoor accidents. During potty training, mishaps are common until they learn proper habits. Older pets can have bladder issues, and medical conditions like diabetes or UTIs may also be the cause; consult your vet if problems persist. Additionally, lingering odors can lead them to repeat accidents, so removing all smells is crucial. If you find yourself needing to clean up a dog or cat pee stain from your carpet, luckily it's not a very difficult task.

Tools for Cleaning Cat or Dog Pee on Carpet

Before you start scrubbing, make sure you have all the [cleaning supplies](#) you need to clean your rug or carpet.

Rubber gloves	Baking soda
Paper towels	Dish sponge
Distilled white vinegar	Trash can
Empty spray bottle	

Step-by-Step Guide for How to Clean Cat or Dog Pee from Carpet

"With any stain, it's best to tend to it and treat it as soon as possible for the best results," says Chris Albers, Marketing Director at Carbona, a stain-removal product company. The following steps will help you clean pee stains from the carpet effectively so that you don't have any leftover residue:

1. Soak Up the Urine

Using a thick layer of paper towels, blot the stain to remove as much moisture as possible.

2. Apply Distilled White Vinegar and Water

Distilled white vinegar is the go-to household item to get rid of cat or dog pee on carpet. "Dilute vinegar with water for a 1:1 ratio, and spray on the stain," recommends [Caitlin Sole](#), senior associate home editor for [Better Homes and Gardens](#) online. To make sure the vinegar is safe on your area rug or carpet, first spot-test on a small corner or discreet area, Sole adds.

3. Let It Sit

Once applied, let the vinegar sit for a few minutes before blotting dry. Repeat as necessary to remove odors.

4. Ensure That All Odors Are Gone

Baking soda is an excellent ingredient to help eliminate stubborn odors for good. "Sprinkle it on your rug or carpet as needed, and let it sit for at least 15 minutes or longer for set-in odors," Sole says. Sole, who owns a [Great Pyrenees](#), will sometimes let the baking soda sit overnight for best results.

5. Vacuum

Once the area is dry, thoroughly vacuum the carpet to remove any excess baking soda, and check the stain to make sure it's really gone.

How to Handle Old or Seriously Stubborn Pee Stains

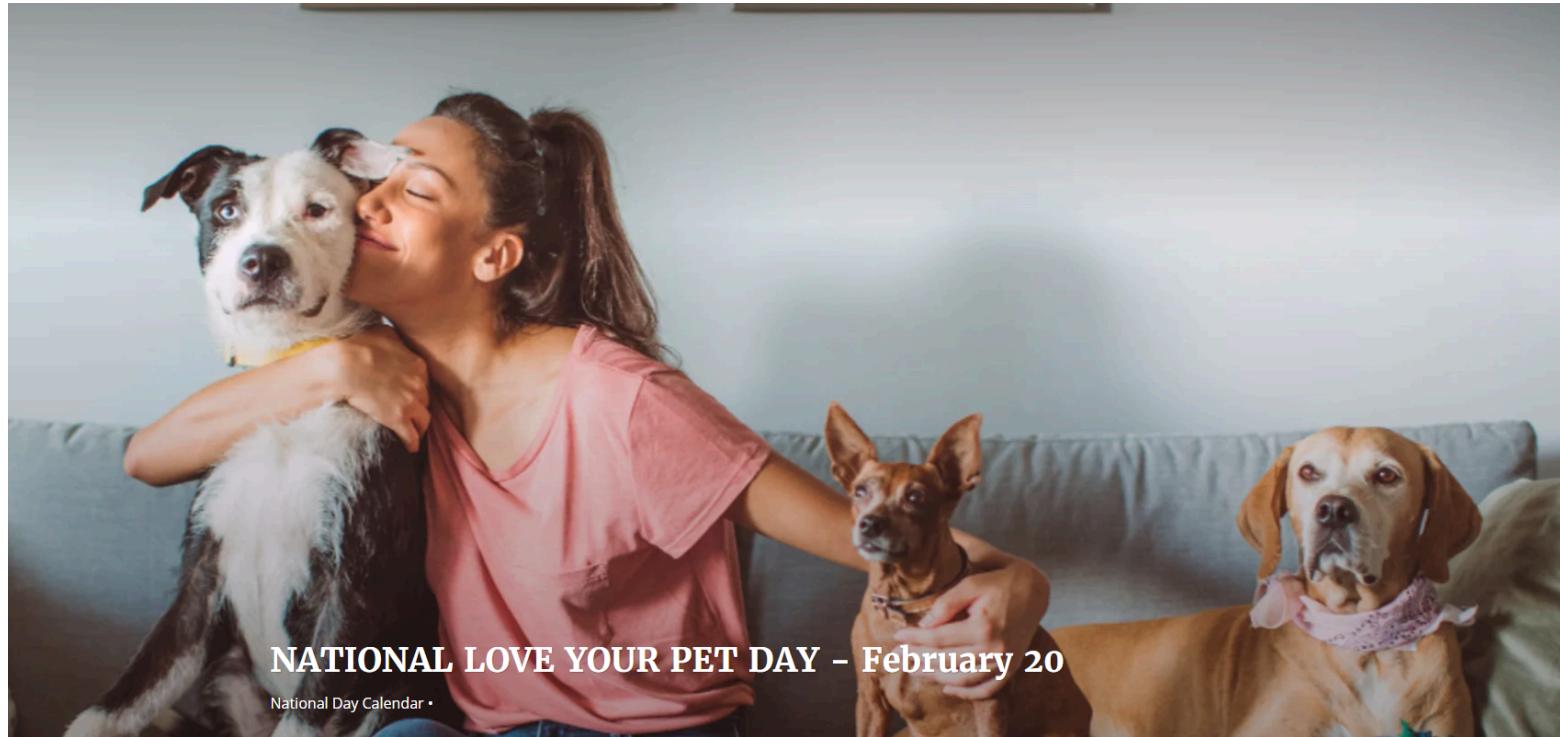
In an ideal world, you'd catch your pet mid-pee, but there are times when it takes days to notice cat or dog pee on the carpet. In that case, you might need to level up and use an over-the-counter [enzyme-based cleaner](#) that removes cat and dog pee stains and neutralizes odors to keep pets from returning to the scene for repeat accidents.

For safety purposes, when it comes to using any carpet cleaning product, the key is to allow the carpet to dry completely before allowing your pet to return to the area. "This will help to prevent the risk of skin irritation or gastrointestinal upset," says Tina Wismer, DVM, Senior Director, [ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center](#).

"Proper use of carpet deodorizing products should not cause significant harm or injury to pets," she adds. "Should your pet accidentally come in contact with the freshly applied product, we recommend washing the paws with mild soap and water to avoid minor skin irritation."

If your dog or cat inhales carpet cleaner, it could result in a mild upset stomach and minor respiratory irritation, which could lead to [sneezing](#), [coughing](#), or a runny nose, Wismer says. "That's why it's a good idea to keep pets out of the room until after you have vacuumed up all of the product," she explains.

For persistent urine smells, you might even want to consider treating your carpet with a [wet/dry vac](#), Sole says. These can come in handy, especially when it comes to cat urine, which can be particularly hard to clean. If you choose to go the vacuum route, there are several pet-specific models available on the market. Some come with a hefty price tag, but you can typically rent one of these vacs for the occasional major mishap. They are highly effective in removing deep pet pee stains and smells, says Sole.



NATIONAL LOVE YOUR PET DAY - FEBRUARY 20

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.
- Check that their vaccines are up to date.
- 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.
- 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.

Love Your Pets 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. 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.



NATIONAL DOG BISCUIT DAY - February 23

National Day Calendar •

NATIONAL LOVE YOUR PET DAY - FEBRUARY 23

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.

NATIONAL DOG BISCUIT DAY HISTORY

While National Day Calendar continues to search for the origins of this day, we're going to treat our furry friends to an extra dog biscuit to celebrate. We have no doubt a dog lover created this day, too.

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?

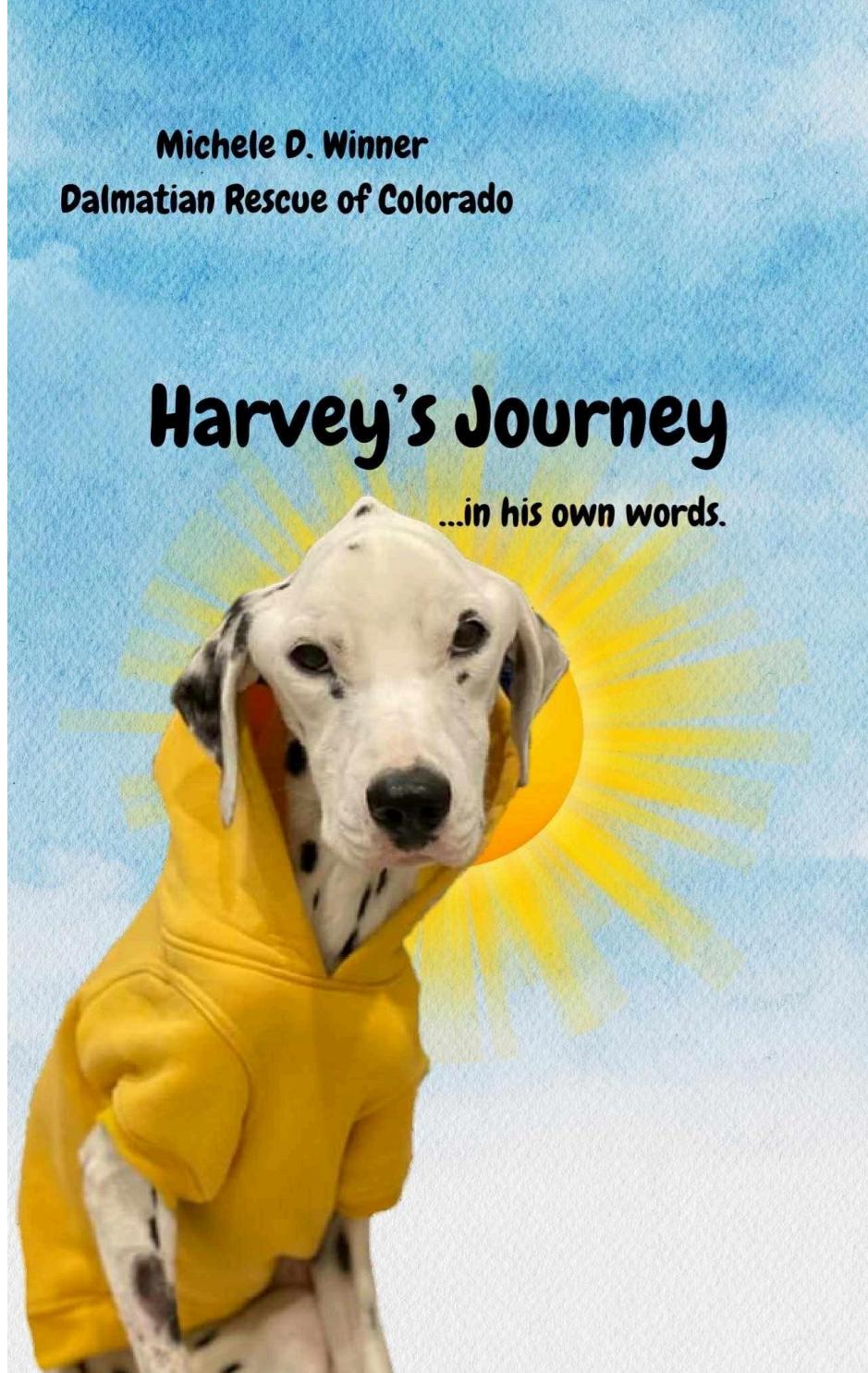
A. If you know what he's allergic to, you can make homemade dog biscuits using ingredients he can have. Talk with your veterinarian for specific ways to treat your canine pal.

To celebrate National Dog Biscuit Day, make the Cinnamon Roll-up from our reader submitted recipe which can be found on page 12 and give your pup a special treat!!

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.

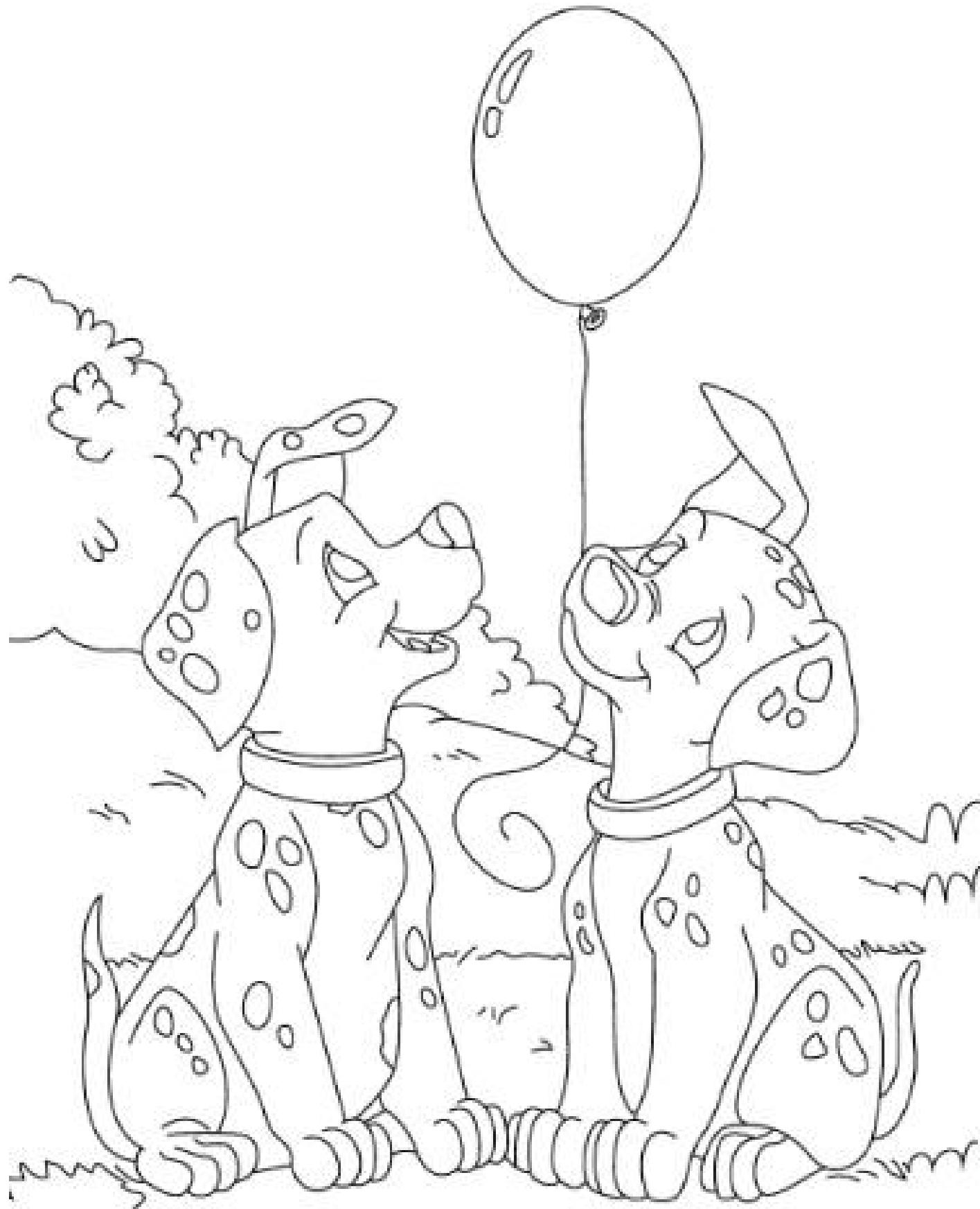


Available in either:
Paperback: \$14.99
Or E-Book: \$9.99

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)



Reader Submitted Dog Cookie Recipes

For the next several issues I will be featuring reader submitted recipes by Joann Keyton. If you have any recipes you'd like to share, please feel free to submit them to me at: karl@dalmatianrescueco.org.

From the kitchen of Maggie and Sally

Cinnamon Roll-Ups

INGREDIENTS	INSTRUCTIONS
<p>3 cups whole wheat flour</p> <p>½ cup honey</p> <p>¼ tsp baking powder</p> <p>¼ tsp baking soda</p> <p>1 tsp vanilla</p> <p>2 tbsp cinnamon</p> <p>¾ cup water</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Mix all dry ingredients EXCEPT cinnamon.2. Add wet ingredients and mix thoroughly.3. Knead.4. Roll out dough to a large triangle (at least 12" x 6").5. Sprinkle cinnamon over the entire surface (yes, use all the cinnamon).6. Starting on one of the long edges, roll dough into a tight log.7. Freeze for 30 minutes.8. Slice into ½" pieces.9. Bake on an ungreased cookie sheet for 30 minutes at 325°.10. Allow to cool.

NOTES:

Food processor makes kneading easier. Easy to make and one of our favorites!.

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://HowiGiveWorks.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!

Drink Coffee. Save Dalmatians.

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

You benefit from big, bold flavors — dogs benefit from your giant heart.

We don't roast until you order, so your coffee arrives at the peak of freshness.

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

Dalmatiancoffeecompany.com





Trainer Tips

“Begging”

© 2004-2026 The Light of Dog

Question:

I was told that we should not feed our dog human food because it will teach our dog to beg for food. Is that true, and should we never feed our dog human food?

The Trainer Answers:

Whether or not your dog should eat “human food” really depends on which human food it is. Unhealthy, processed foods are definitely best avoided. We should avoid them too! Using healthy, natural, whole food, such as unprocessed meats, cheese, fruits or vegetables can make better treats for your dog than some of the dog treats you find in stores.

Just because treats are made and marketed for dogs, it does not mean they are healthy, appropriate treats for your dog. Treats that contain such ingredients as meat by-products, sugar, salt, artificial colorings and flavors are best avoided. “Human food” such as chicken from the deli or baby carrots would be a better choice.

There are plenty of very good, healthy choices in dog treats, but you don’t need to rule out other choices simply because they are considered “human food”. If you are unsure of what is a healthy choice for your dog, do some research and consider talking to someone well-versed in canine nutrition.

The true answer to your question has very little, if anything, to do with human food vs. dog food. It has to do with the situation in which you are feeding your dog. If you are giving your dog any kind of food – human or dog – what really matters is what the dog did right before you gave him the food. If he was barking at you, pawing at you, or otherwise actively seeking your attention, then you are rewarding him for “begging” and it doesn’t matter what food you are using.

The question as to whether feeding a dog human food causes begging depends upon how and when you are feeding your dog. What causes begging behavior is more dependent upon the method, not the actual food you are feeding. For example, you are sitting at the dining room table eating dinner with your family. Your dog approaches, and barks or paws at you. You take a piece of food off your plate and give it to him. In this scenario, you are rewarding your dog for begging or attention-seeking behavior while you are at the table eating your meal.

Now, let’s take the exact same scenario, but this time, instead of taking food from your plate, you give your dog a dog treat that you have sitting in a jar on the table next to you. In this scenario, you are also teaching your dog to beg at the table. It has less to do with what you are giving him as the situation in which you are giving it.

Take the same two food options – human food and dog treats – and put them in a different context. I ask my dog to go lie down on his bed, and give him a reward for doing so. It does not matter which type of food I am giving him, what matters is what he is doing at the time I am giving the food. In this case, I am rewarding him for lying down on his bed. Even if I am rewarding him with “human food” it will not cause begging behavior because I am reinforcing a different behavior – one that I like and want to encourage!

However, the dog’s behavior will be affected by how much the dog likes what he’s getting – so if you have some really tasty, smelly food, then your dog will be far more likely to beg to get more of it than some boring mediocre food that isn’t nearly as exciting. Whether it is tasty human food or tasty dog treats does not matter, but the value to the dog will matter.

I encourage you to use healthy treat choices, whether they are marketed as dog treats or human food. Just be sure to only give them to your dog when he is performing a behavior you like and want to encourage!

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

MurphyA



6 Years Old, Liver, Neutered Male

Reason Available: Owner Surrender

Foster Home: Archer, FL

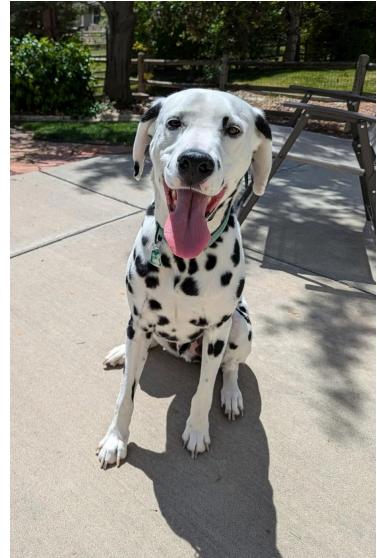
AN ATHLETE'S ATHLETE! Murphy is a gorgeous, green-eyed liver boy who loves an extreme lifestyle. He loves to run; he's begun to learn agility; and he would excel in all kinds of canine sports! Murphy had a horrible early start in life with a very abusive family who were observed hitting him often. He lived with 2-3 small kids, 2 small dogs (he has also lived with a female rottie) and his "parents" in a rented farmhouse in Illinois. One day, the family drove away and abandoned him in the house with no food or water. Two days later, the homeowner heard him howling for help. Poor Murphy was so afraid that he constantly shook and trembled and was terrified to be touched. Since then, Murphy has been with an extraordinary behaviorist and trainer near Orlando. He's gained enormous confidence and learned to love and trust. He is protective of his person while allowing them space, which he also wants. Like all dogs, he needs a job. Murphy is very focused on his handler and has tremendous drive and work ethic. He will need a special adopter who is willing to take the time to provide exercise, companionship, and learning to help him excel. Murphy has started obedience and agility training. Could you be the right person for this special boy? Please contact sandy@dalmatianrescueco.org.

Pippin

7 Years Old, Black, Black Neutered Male

Reason Available: Owner Surrender

Foster Home: Longmont, CO



Pippin needs a new home. He's a beautiful boy, 7 years old, well-behaved, vaccinated, crate-trained, leash-trained, and neutered. He has some anxiety and can be nippy with a bit of resource guarding which can be attributed to his anxiety. However, he is truly a wonderful dog despite these quirks. His owners started having children and small children contribute to his anxiety. Pippin is looking for a new home as his owners are now having their second child in a few weeks. As a near-senior dog, he does not adjust easily to changes in his world. He enjoys walks and cuddles. Pippin would do best in a home where he could be the only dog with older (teen-aged) children. Currently located in Longmont. For more information, please contact jeannine@dalmatianrescueco.org. Suggested adoption donation: \$350.

Happy Beginnings Stories

Unfortunately, we have no Happy Beginnings Stories to share with you all this month. If you haven't done so yet, now is the perfect time to submit your dog's Happy Beginnings Story. So why are you still reading instead of writing that story???

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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