

If Your Dog Is Mad At You... It Will Do These 10 Things To Let You Know

by Donna Dizon

Subtle behaviors reveal emotional friction beneath the surface.

Dogs rarely hold grudges the human way, but frustration shows up fast in their behavior. Missed routines, confusing cues, or a sudden change in tone can register as conflict. The signals are subtle, often mistaken for stubbornness or moodiness, yet they follow patterns seen in homes, parks, and vet offices across the country when stress quietly accumulates over time there.

1. Eye contact disappears during moments of clear tension.

Dogs rely on eye contact to check safety and intent, especially with trusted people. When irritation sets in, many dogs deliberately look away or fixate on walls, floors, or windows, reducing interaction without escalating conflict. This behavior is common after scolding or inconsistent commands, according to the American Kennel Club. Owners often misread this as guilt, but it functions as distance keeping. The dog chooses calm avoidance, signaling discomfort while waiting for routines and tone to reset again later peacefully.

2. Physical closeness suddenly feels unwanted and carefully avoided.

Affection usually comes easily to social dogs, so a sudden refusal to cuddle stands out. A dog may move away on the couch, leave the room, or stiffen when touched. This response often follows boundary confusion or overstimulation, as stated by the ASPCA. Rather than rejection, it reflects self regulation. The dog is lowering emotional load by creating space, a strategy seen during stress recovery, fatigue, or after tense training sessions with familiar people at home environments especially during evenings.

3. Normal responsiveness drops and commands suddenly get ignored.

Selective hearing is often emotional, not defiant. When upset, dogs process cues more slowly and may freeze instead of complying. Heightened stress hormones interfere with attention and memory, as reported by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Timing matters here. This shutdown commonly appears after raised voices, rushed walks, or unpredictable handling, especially in sensitive breeds. Consistency and calm delivery usually restore cooperation without punishment once the emotional climate stabilizes again over following hours quietly now.

4. Play invitations stop even with favorite toys nearby.

Play requires trust and shared enthusiasm. A dog that is annoyed may ignore balls or tug toys that normally spark joy. This withdrawal often shows up after interrupted rest, missed exercise, or tense interactions earlier in the day. Rather than boredom, it signals emotional fatigue. Many dogs pause play to regain control before reengaging later, once predictability returns and energy levels stabilize within familiar spaces like living rooms or yards during quiet periods at home evenings with trusted humans nearby.

5. Body stiffens during touch that was welcomed before. ©Image license via Canva

Subtle muscle tension is an early warning sign. A dog may freeze when petted, pull a paw away, or hold its breath briefly. These reactions often follow perceived unfairness, such as abrupt leash corrections or ignored calming signals. Stiffness is not aggression. It is a pause that prevents escalation. Dogs use it to say something feels wrong, especially in familiar environments where trust was previously high and expectations were suddenly broken by sudden changes in handling routines or tone shifts.

6. Sighing and exaggerated settling happen more frequently. ©Image license via Canva

Heavy sighs and dramatic flops are canine stress releases. They often appear when a dog feels unheard or thwarted, such as after denied access to outdoors or delayed meals. These sounds mark emotional processing rather than tiredness. Owners sometimes laugh at these displays, but they signal low grade frustration. Over time, frequent sighing can indicate unmet needs, especially predictable routines around feeding, walks, or quiet rest periods in multi person households with shifting schedules during weekdays and weekends alike consistently.

7. Ears pin back while posture remains otherwise neutral.

Ear position offers fast emotional data. Pinned or angled back ears often accompany discomfort even when the rest of the body seems relaxed. This mismatch frequently appears during mild conflict, such as being called after misbehavior. Because the signal is quiet, it gets missed. Dogs rely on ear movement to express unease without provoking confrontation, particularly with familiar people who usually respond to subtler cues inside homes during daily interactions and training moments that feel emotionally charged to dogs there.

8. Sleeping positions change to create noticeable distance.

Sleep is when dogs feel most vulnerable. An irritated dog may turn away, sleep at the bed edge, or choose the floor instead of usual spots. These shifts often follow unresolved tension from earlier interactions. Distance during rest helps regulate emotion. It allows the dog to relax without monitoring human movement, especially overnight when surprise contact or noise previously caused stress in shared bedrooms common in many households today with inconsistent bedtime routines and lighting changes across seasons and schedules.

9. Sniffing and pacing replace direct engagement suddenly.

When uncomfortable, dogs often self distract. Sniffing floors, circling rooms, or pacing hallways gives them an outlet without confrontation. This behavior commonly surfaces after confusion about expectations during training or household rules. Movement helps discharge tension. By staying busy, the dog avoids eye contact and decisions that feel risky, waiting for emotional clarity or calmer signals from people nearby in shared spaces like kitchens, living rooms and hallways during busy family activity periods especially evenings and weekends at home together.

10. Reconciliation comes slowly once trust feels restored.

Unlike humans, dogs move forward through behavior, not grudges. After frustration, they test safety in small ways, brief glances, tentative proximity, or soft tail movement. Repair depends on consistency rather than apology. Calm routines, predictable cues, and neutral tone allow trust to rebuild. Most dogs reengage within hours or days when the environment stabilizes and interactions feel fair again across familiar settings like homes, parks and cars where past conflicts no longer linger through repeated positive experiences with caregivers present.

10 Things Your Dog Hates Hearing From You (And Why You Should Stop Saying Them)

By Benjamin Gil Soto

Dogs may not understand human language the way we do, but they are experts at reading tone, repetition, and emotional intent. Certain phrases, even when said casually, can trigger stress, fear, or confusion. These are the things dogs truly hate hearing—and why it's best to avoid them.

1. “No” repeated constantly©Bunko Pet

When “no” is overused without clear guidance, dogs become confused. Instead of learning boundaries, they associate the word with frustration and emotional tension.

2. “Calm down!” in a raised voice©Bunko Pet

Yelling “calm down” often does the opposite. Dogs read tone before words, so a loud command signals danger rather than reassurance.

3. “You know better”©Bunko Pet

Dogs don't understand moral judgment. This phrase creates anxiety because they sense disappointment without understanding what behavior caused it.

4. “Come here” followed by punishment©Bunko Pet

Calling your dog and then scolding them breaks trust. Dogs learn that approaching you can lead to negative experiences.

5. “Bad dog”

Labeling behavior instead of redirecting it causes stress. Dogs respond better to clear instructions than emotional criticism.

6. “It's fine” during scary moments

Saying “it's fine” while your dog is anxious doesn't reassure them. Dogs rely on calm body language, not dismissive words.

7. Rapid commands without pauses

Firing multiple commands quickly overwhelms dogs. They need processing time to understand and respond appropriately.

8. Sarcastic or mocking tones

Dogs sense tone shifts instantly. Sarcasm can sound threatening or confusing, triggering defensive or anxious reactions.

9. "Be quiet!" shouted repeatedly

Yelling reinforces stress and may increase barking. Calm redirection works better than vocal confrontation.

10. Emotional arguments near them

Dogs absorb emotional energy. Heated conversations, even if not directed at them, can cause long-term anxiety and insecurity.



*Don't forget to
"Spring forward"
on Sunday,
March 8th at
2 AM!!!!*

National Animal Poison Prevention Week Is The Third Week In March This Year

National Animal Poison Prevention Week during the third week in March focuses on educating owners on what can poison their pets, identifying the signs they've been poisoned, and how to prevent poisoning. The week is tied to National Poison Prevention Week. Spring is a good time to remind pet owners of springtime dangers of poisonous material such as plants, herbicides, fertilizers, and pesticides.

Take a look around your home, both inside and out, and identify any potential dangers for your pet.

- Secure chemicals in a location your pets can't access.
- Keep medicines secure.
- Dispose of harmful food or keep them out of your pet's reach.
- Explore your yard for poisonous plants and bulbs.
- Remind guests that you don't feed your pet table scraps.

Protecting our pets takes more than regular walks and visits to the veterinarian. It includes knowing what can make them ill or worse kill them.

Research and post prominently in your house your local emergency veterinarian's phone number as well as National Poison Control phone numbers.

Recent Adoptees!



Apple
Concord, CA



Skye 2
Oklahoma City, OK



Dream
Crawford, TX



Chérie
Nampa, ID

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

Another Friendly Reminder

READY TO LOSE AN HOUR? TIME CHANGE UPDATE!



**Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on March 8, 2026.
Don't forget to set your clocks and watches ahead before bed
(if they don't adjust automatically)!**

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.

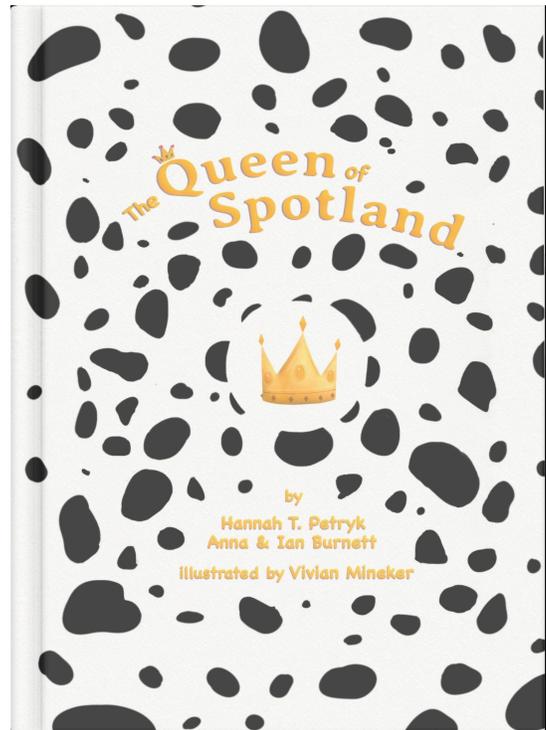
Each book in the Spotland series stands out for its quality writing, multi-dimensional themes, and beautiful, detailed illustrations that bring the spotted world to life. Together, they offer not only entertainment but also an important message about love, kindness, and the responsibility we share toward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

10 Best And Worst Foods For Dogs According To A Vet

by Maya Ono

As a dog lover, you want to ensure that your pup lives the longest and healthiest life possible. Eating the same dry kibble every day can make life pretty mundane for any living being. Still, it can be challenging to filter through the social media advice, as messaging and endless claims by supposed experts. So what is the truth about canine nutrition?

We spoke with veterinarian Brian Collins, D.V.M., at the Cornell Richard P. Riney Canine Health Center. “Feeding your dogs fresh food provides variety in their lives and is good for their mental well-being and their gut,” said Collins.

Before diving into specific foods, there are a few general guidelines dog parents should know. Beware of additives (especially xylitol), and stick with natural, whole foods. Consider whether your dog has preexisting conditions, is taking medication, is of a large size, or generally has a tough time swallowing; in that case, food should be cut into smaller pieces. While there is a movement to cook for dogs, this does require the guidance of an animal nutritionist. “There is a science to ensure your dogs are getting the proper amount of carbs, protein, fat and nutrients like calcium and other vitamins and minerals,” said Collins.

Look into other ways to provide nutritional enrichment, such as slow-feeding puzzle bowls or toys that let you feed your dog whole, healthy foods between meals, like frozen pupsicles. And as a general rule, when in doubt, consult your local vet!

Here are the top 10 best and worst foods for dogs.

5 Best Foods For Dogs

1. Apples

Apples are a great source of vitamin C, vitamin A, potassium, antioxidants and fiber, which are good for dogs. Be sure to cut the apple into pieces as you would for a human, and avoid feeding your dog any seeds, as those can be toxic and cause gastrointestinal blockages.

2. Blueberries

Blueberries are high in vitamin C, fiber, antioxidants and phytochemicals, making them a healthy choice for humans and for our canine friends. “Frozen berries can be great to cool your dog down,” said Collins. Keep a bag of organic frozen blueberries for hot days as a sweet treat or to throw into a meal.

3. Peanut Butter

Peanuts are an excellent source of protein, and peanut butter is great for masking medication, bath time and putting into enrichment toys. Be sure that your peanut butter is as plain as possible and free of additives like palm oil, sugar and salt (and Xylitol which is showing up in more and more peanut butters). Many natural-foods stores will have machines that make peanut butter from raw, unsalted peanuts.

4. Cucumber

Green veggies high in water content, like cucumbers, green beans and zucchini, are great, especially for dogs with ravenous appetites or trying to achieve a healthier body weight, according to Collins. Cucumber, in particular, is low in calories and high in vitamins B, C, K, potassium and magnesium. Be sure to cut off the ends and cut the cucumber into smaller pieces to avoid choking. Some vets also advise peeling the skin.

5. Meat

Lean meat cooked in water or its own juices, without seasoning or excess oil or fat, is ideal. Collins encourages caution when it comes to feeding dogs bones, as hard bones can crack a dog's teeth, get stuck in the roof of their mouth, or cause GI tract obstruction. Lean meat, such as chicken or turkey, without skin and carefully picked off the bones, tends to be a safe choice.

5 Worst Foods For Dogs

1. Macadamia Nuts

Macadamia nut toxicosis is characterized by vomiting, weakness, hyperthermia and central nervous system depression. “We see a lot of dogs that have accidentally eaten macadamia nuts around the holidays,” Collings shared. If you are baking with nuts or if your dog is prone to grabbing food off a plate or table, be extra careful.

2. Grapes and Raisins

Ingesting just one grape can cause incurable kidney failure in dogs, according to Collins. If your dog has ingested a grape, raisin or foods containing those ingredients like raisin bread, contact your veterinarian or animal hospital immediately, as vets have

medication that can help a dog vomit before the toxins are absorbed into the body. If you can't get to a vet, hydrogen peroxide could work as a last resort (but check with a vet first).

3. Chocolate

Chocolate contains caffeine and theobromine, two chemicals that affect a dog's central nervous system and heart and act as diuretics that can cause dehydration. The darker the chocolate (the higher the cacao content), the more lethal the dose could be. This means that any foods containing caffeine, like coffee, should be avoided as well.

4. Alliums

Onions, garlic, leeks and chives are all part of the Allium genus of plants, which contain N-propyl disulfides and thiosulfates that can cause damage to dog's red blood cells. Beware when cooking with these veggies, as a tiny piece can cause serious harm to pets, especially smaller dogs. And while we may not readily give these vegetables to our pets alone, they are often hidden in sauces and seasonings for meat and other foods.

5. Chewing Gum

Anything containing xylitol is highly poisonous to dogs. Even a small amount of xylitol will cause a dog's blood sugar to plummet to dangerous levels, leading to vomiting, loss of balance, tremors and possible liver failure. "I don't keep chewing gum in my home at all," says Collins, who has three dogs of his own. Even if a dog doesn't immediately show symptoms, they may need to be monitored overnight by a vet. Xylitol can be one of those sneaky additives hiding in some peanut butters and sugar-free candies and desserts, including light ice creams and baked goods.

The Bottom Line

The love we have for our canine besties knows no bounds, and maybe reading this article has given you some food for thought (pun intended). All good pet parents want to give their dogs the best lives while they are on Earth with us. The good news is that you don't need to go to extremes or spend a lot of money. There are some simple, fresh foods that are easy to throw in your grocery cart. Plus, adding more fresh fruits and veggies will only benefit ourselves, the humans we love and the dogs who make our lives exponentially brighter.

Resources: If your dog has ingested something toxic and your veterinarian is unavailable, you can call either of these 24/7 emergency hotlines: Pet Poison Helpline: 855-764-7661 // ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center: 888-426-4435.



NATIONAL PUPPY DAY - March 23

NATIONAL PUPPY DAY - MARCH 23, 2026

Observed each year on March 23rd, National Puppy Day celebrates the unconditional love and affection puppies bring to our lives. Their cuddles and wiggles make us smile and without a doubt, there are squeals of delight when there are puppies around!

#NationalPuppyDay

The day also brings awareness to the need for care of and homes for orphaned pups as well as to educate people about the horrors of puppy mills across the country. Puppies are a big responsibility. Be sure to consider everything involved and adopt from a shelter. The puppies there need love and a home just as much as any other and they grow into loyal pets, too!

According to the ASPCA, approximately 3.3 million dogs enter shelters every year. Some of these dogs come with litters of puppies. If you're seeking a puppy to start your furry family, check the shelters first. When these abandoned and abused animals find their way to a shelter, each one needs a forever home and their potential is limitless.

HOW TO OBSERVE NATIONAL PUPPY DAY

- Use #NationalPuppyDay and post photos of your puppy on social media.
- Go to the dog park and let your puppy play.
- Pick up a special treat for your puppy.
- Go for a walk with your young friend.



NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY - March 13

NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY - MARCH 13, 2026

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.

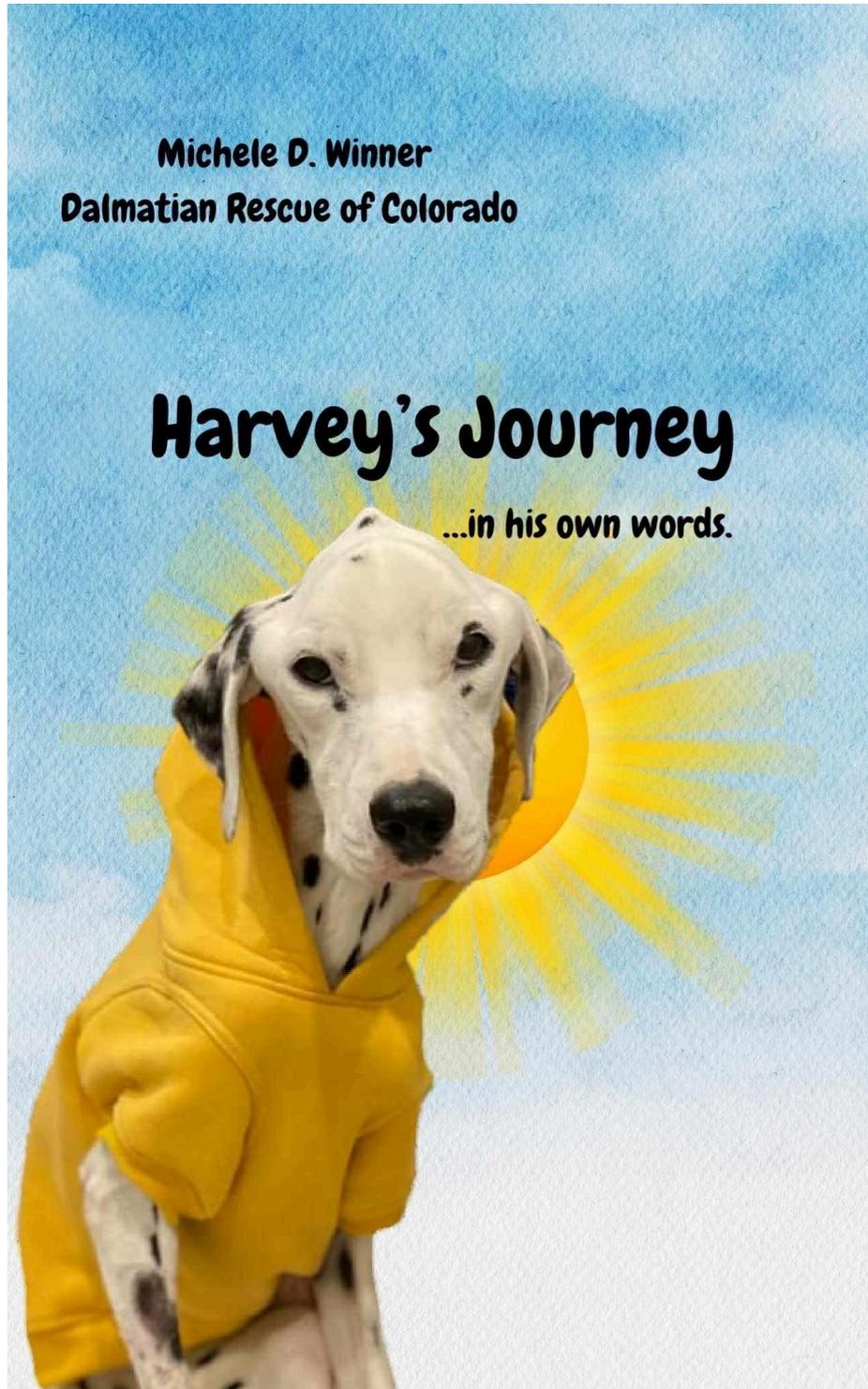
Q. Do K9 officers receive special training?

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

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

Peanut Butter Wafers

INGREDIENTS

4 cups whole wheat flour

½ cup cornmeal

1 egg, beaten

1¼ cup peanuts, chopped

1 tsp vanilla

1¼ cups water

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Combine all ingredients.*
- 2. Knead.*
- 3. Form 1 inch balls.*
- 4. Flatten with cookie stamp (spray mold of stamp with spray oil) on lightly greased cookie sheet.*
- 5. Bake for 30 minutes at 350°.*
- 6. Allow to cool.*

NOTES:

Food processor makes kneading easier.

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!

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](http://dalmatiancoffeecompany.com)



DALMATIAN



20% OF PROFITS BENEFIT
DALMATIAN RESCUE OF CO.
AND OTHER GREAT RESCUES.

dalmatiancoffeecompany.com





Trainer Tips

“Find It - Fun Game AND Useful Tool In Your Dog Behavior Modification Toolbox”

© 2004-2026 The Light of Dog

Have you ever played the Find It Game with your dog? Some people see it as something fun to do with your dog. Others see it as a way to distract your dog from other things. And it can be both of those. But if you don't know how to utilize it as a useful tool in your dog behavior modification toolbox, then you are missing something big.

What is the Find It Game? It might be something else for you, but for us here at The Light of Dog, this is the game: For starters, you need some really good tasty smelly soft treats. Dog biscuits and kibble work well for some dogs, but they are not the best option for many dogs or in more distracting environments. We prefer something that has a nice strong smell.

In a low distraction area either indoors or outdoors, say Find It just as you toss a tasty treat on the ground right in front of your dog. Your dog should see it hit the floor and easily gobble it up. Hopefully, your dog turns right back to you in case you want to do that again. Same thing. Take another treat, say Find It. Then immediately toss another tasty treat on the ground close to your dog. Once your dog begins to understand that Find It is your cue that you are about to toss a treat on the ground, your dog hopefully starts to watch for the treat to drop. Or immediately starts looking for it if they didn't see it drop.

Once your dog knows the game a bit better, you can toss the treat a bit farther.

Then you can toss it somewhere a bit harder to find. At first, you might toss it on the hardwood or tile floor. Then you might try the rug or the sidewalk or a patch of dirt. Then you might try in the short grass. Later, try it in longer grass. Then you can start to toss multiple treats. Or you can toss a treat or treats that your dog did not see. The goal is to get your dog to engage that high-powered nose and put it to work finding those treats.

Once your dog understands the game, you can begin to use it in the backyard. On walks. When there are other things going on that your dog has trouble handling. Or gets just a bit too overstimulated about. The goal is NOT to distract your dog, however. This is a common misconception. Well, either that or it's not being used correctly. You CAN use it to distract. But that's not our goal when we use it. The goal is to learn to engage the nose and search out treats WHEN something else begins that is difficult to handle.

Here's an example of how we utilize it when we have dogs who are dog-reactive when out on walks. You are out on a walk with your dog-reactive dog. Up until now, your dog spots the other dog and acts in a way that embarrasses you in front of your neighbors. Barking. Pulling on leash. Lunging at the other dog. You get the idea. In this case, you spot the dog from a good safe distance. As soon as you notice that your dog has spotted the other dog, you say Find It and toss your treats off to the side of the trail or sidewalk. It is critical that your dog NOTICE THE OTHER DOG FIRST before you start your Find It Game. If you try to start the game before your dog notices the other dog, then you are using it as a distraction and not a useful alternative behavior to reacting to the other dog. That is not our goal. Our goal is for the dog to notice the other dog AND THEN engage in a completely different / alternative behavior instead of reacting to the other dog. We are helping your dog learn to engage in a different behavior when noticing other dogs so that we create a new pattern of behavior.

The Find It Game is just one thing that we use for these types of issues. If we start it when the dog is far enough away, we help the dog to know the dog is there but not react to it other than noticing it. We have lots of other things we can do as well, but the Find It Game is an easy one to start with. It does not take direct focus on you. It does not take a lot of brainwork/thought on your dog's part. It merely engages the nose. And that nose is pretty powerful. Once you know HOW to utilize the Find It Game properly, it can become a very useful tool in your toolkit.

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

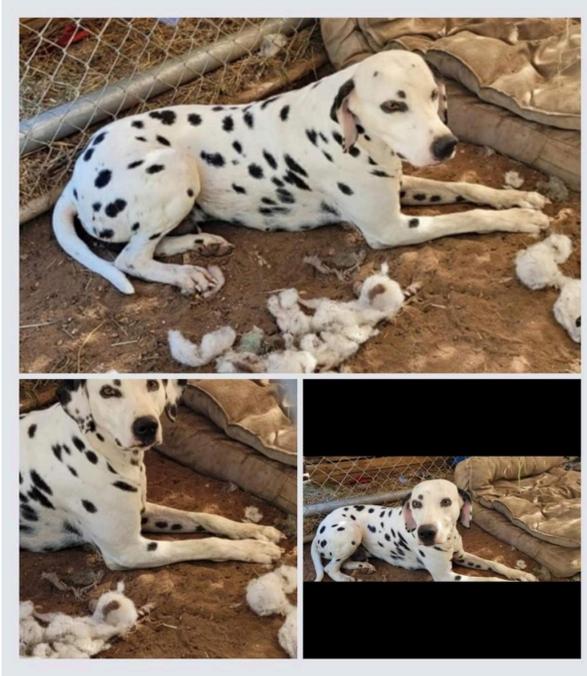
This is where we share recommendations and tips from and for our readers. Our newsletter is read by as many as 1800 people each month. That number constantly increases as we have more adopters and adopters recommend it to their friends and family as well. So, go ahead... share your tips and recommendations. 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

Lance



8 Years Old, Black, Neutered Male

Reason Available: Stray

Foster Home: Colorado Springs, CO

Lance is a beautiful male Dalmatian who has been somewhat overlooked in the last couple of years. Dumped near Dallas, TX, he was un-mannered and very strong. As with most strays, he was nervous and a little difficult to manage when first meeting new dogs. Since he was neutered and moved into a loving foster home, Lance has learned to get along with lots of other dogs. His foster/trainer has worked very hard to teach Lance some manners and will be available to work with Lance's new family to ensure an easy transition. Cats are unknown. Older children are recommended because of Lance's size and strength. He would be a great running companion. Lance is located in Colorado Springs, and his recommended adoption donation is \$350. For more information, please contact jeannine@dalmatianrescueco.org.

Pablo

4 Years Old, Black, Black, Neutered Male

Reason Available: Stray

Foster Home: Dallas, TX

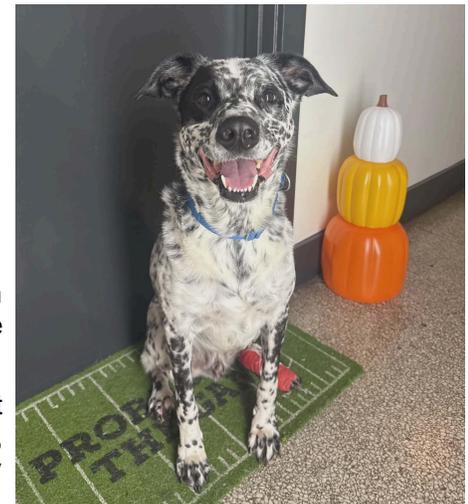
Many of you will remember Pablo, who came to us with devastating degloving injuries on his rear legs, believed to be from being dragged by a car. Today, we are thrilled to share that Pablo is almost completely healed and ready for his forever home.

Pablo is a 4-year-old "Dalmatian wannabe" with sweet spots, soulful eyes, and the kindest heart. He adores other dogs, gets along great with his foster brother, and has a calm, gentle nature with both dogs and kids. He has not been tested with cats. Pablo is potty trained, crate-trained, knows sit, lay down, and shake. He loves his chew toys, car rides, walks, and trips to the dog park. Pablo is also a professional cuddler and will happily "talk" to you when he needs to go outside or wants to play—though most of his time is spent lounging peacefully or chewing contentedly.

Pablo does prefer to eat separately from other dogs, screams dramatically at the vacuum, demands belly rubs, and has dangerously cute puppy eyes that make saying no nearly impossible.

He has shown incredible strength and resilience, and now that he is fully vetted, neutered, heartworm negative, and healthy, he's ready to find the loving forever family he so deeply deserves. Pablo is truly a survivor with the gentlest soul.

For more info, contact us at info@dalmatianrescueco.org. Adoption fee \$400



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 kari@dalmatianrescueco.org.

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

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