

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Dear Friends:

It is Christmas time again! A time to think of family, friends and those in need. Dalmatian Rescue is thankful for all the great support we have received, the financial donations and the well wishes. We LOVE to see those Happy Beginning stories when they come in, to show us how much our kiddos are loved now.

We also LOVE to save as many four legged and mostly spotted friends as we can. As you know, there are not as many purebred Dalmatians available as there once were, and truly we do try to get them when we can, but they go quickly. But we feel the need to help those fabulous Dalmatian Wannabe's we find everywhere. So many lovely dogs that need us but we have had to limit ourselves since adoptions have really slowed down this year.

Please remember them when you hear of a friend losing a companion, or someone at work who now has a home and yard and wants a new pet. Or maybe a friend at church or down the street who might really benefit from a Wannabe who will make them the center of their universe? Someone who needs a loving pair of eyes and a wagging tail to make their life complete. Canine love is unconditional and so necessary for most of us. Please share our website (www.dalmatianrescue.org) often and also our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/pages/Dalmatian-Rescue-of-Colorado).

While donations are so welcome, **we truly need FOSTER HOMES!** Remember, that most likely your own dog was made available to you from a foster home that gave of its space, time and love to keep your dog safe until the forever connection was made. **FOSTER HOMES SAVE LIVES!** We work hard to place the right dog in a foster home so that it is good for the family, their dog/s and our dog. With your help we get to know the new dog in a family setting, work with any issues that the dog might have (and most don't have any real issues than jumping up for hugs!), and also expose him or her to your friends and community. Walking your foster dog and telling everyone about them helps him or her connect with possible families.

Hooray, we now have a site for adoption events once a month. For many years we have not held many adoption events and we relied upon our website and then Facebook to advertise the dogs we have. Too many new rescues have popped up where they hand out the dog at the event with no reference checks and no home visits. Cash and carry as it were. We stopped attending those events because people just want the dog on the spot. They don't want to jump through our "hoops" of references and home visits. Now, however, we have a site where only rescues of our caliber will be invited. It is the Pet Club on Mississippi Avenue in Aurora where we'll be displaying our dogs now.

My letter of resignation sent out recently has most thankfully resulted in many offers to help. I really don't want to quit, but the load is just too much and I'm getting purdy old these days! Jamie Boening is the new Foster Coordinator and she also made arrangements for us to attend Pet Club for our events. Mary Rutherford will become the Record Keeper in December following her return from the Agility FINALS in FL with her rescue boy Lars! What an honor and we will have an update in the next newsletter. Amy Simons and Al Moccia will now be selling lovely donated Dalmatian items on eBay or even new sites now (??). Phyllis Lucas will be our new Social Chairperson for the volunteers. We have offers as well of help with the website and that will be coming in January. We still could use help with Reference checks and I had three people offer but sure enough...I lost the list. UGH! If you would like to do that, please let me know AGAIN! So sorry...

Fundraising is still important and we welcome any suggestions and willingness to help. In 2014, as of Thanksgiving, we have spent over \$36,500 in the following areas:

\$6,500 Food, transport, boarding, training, etc. \$28,000 Veterinary services \$2,000 Supplies, postage, printing

We thank so much those people who dutifully donate to us and whose employers match or double or even triple! match their donations to us. What a wonderful benefit! Also, to those who have suggested donations in lieu of flowers when a friend or family member passes on. Or in the name of their beloved pet at the Rainbow Bridge. This makes the memory a living memory! Monthly contributions add up! Every dollar goes to the dogs and remember that all donations are tax deductible. **We simply can't thank you enough!**

In 2014 we still "imported" many lovely dogs from TX, but also KS, NE, MO, NM, WY, and LA (Louisiana). We have young ones under 6 months, older puppies, young adults and sedate seniors. We highlight several dogs each month in our newsletters and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/pages/Dalmatian-Rescue-of-Colorado), but a few that are still wondering when they'll find their forever home are:





Annabelle – from unwed momma to fabulous companion



Gunner – still in doggie daycare desperately awaiting a home



Jolee – still going out for swims and to the dog parks



JuJu – so happy and playful with a ride to Colorado!



Keifer – still needing a 6' fence in Denver, Colorado



Lady6 – freezing her spots off in Michigan!



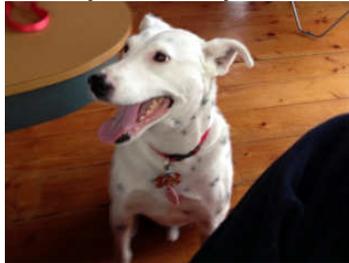
Lucky13 who is warm in Houston



Ms Beezie who is STILL waiting very patiently in Greeley, Colorado



Tank – just hanging out in Missouri



TobyA – our adorable little Japanese import chillin' in Berthoud, CO

Some recent adoptions are:



Megan2 (from TX to MD)



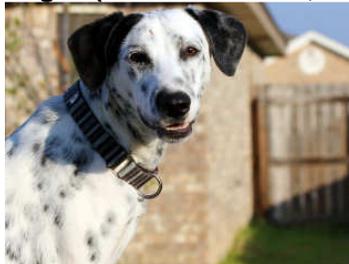
Morgan (from TX to Delta, CO)



Sam2 (from TN to Firestone CO)



Opie2 (from NM to Englewood, CO)



Miles (KS from very southern TX)



Duke1 (from TX to Denver)



Lizzie (from a puppy Mill in MO to Calhan, CO)



Giselle (from east TX to CO Springs, CO)



Kaycee (from TX to a little boy at Xmas in Johnstown CO)



Sabrina (from TX to Ft. Collins CO)



Barney (from MO to Denver, CO)

Just to name a few...

We hope that you'll read and share our newsletters (produced so nicely by Karl Schill each month). Remember the advice given, heed the warnings and share the fun. Spread the word about our efforts and as they say these days "friend us"! You'll be glad you did and we'll be glad you did! Don't you Wanna Wannabe????

We couldn't be as successful as we are without everyone's care, concern and involvement. 2015 is just around the corner. Maybe snowy here in CO or maybe not for Christmas, hopefully not too cold anywhere, but we wish you the happiest Holiday and the brightest New Year!

Here's to a New Year with fewer dogs and more adoptions! Thanks everyone and Merry Christmas!!

Beth and Board and all the fabulous volunteers at Dalmatian Rescue!!

Donation Coupon

The vast majority of funding for Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado is from generous supporters like you. And we rely on donations to continue to help the spotted dogs that so desperately need our help, love and compassion. You can take this opportunity to help us in our mission by sending this coupon to us with your tax-deductible contribution today!

Yes, I would like to help save more Dalmatians and Wannabes! I have enclosed a donation in the amount of:

- _____ \$10.00
- _____ \$25.00
- _____ \$35.00
- _____ \$50.00
- _____ Other _____

Your Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Telephone # _____
 Email Address _____

**Please mail this coupon with your payment to our treasurer at:
Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado
713 McGraw Drive
Fort Collins, CO 80526**

Alternatively, remember, we do accept donations by PayPal. Just visit our website (<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org>) and scroll down the front page to the PayPal link at the bottom.

Tis The Season for Safety

Each year around the holidays, we often hear of news stories where a beloved pet has suffered because they got into something that was harmful to them. Here are some safety tips and suggestions to help make this holiday season a truly safe and joyous one for your entire family, including your four-legged ones. Holiday hazards can include decorations, ornaments, decorative lighting, toxic substances (plants, chocolate, etc), candle flames and many other dangers. Fortunately everyone can take simple steps to make the festivities safe and humane for all who attend.

- **Christmas Trees** – With Christmas trees come the obvious hazards... those little glass balls dangling from the branches and the shiny tinsel tossed with care onto the tree (and floor). You also need to keep a close watch on extension and light cords around the trees and ensure your pup isn't chewing on them, which could lead to a very shocking experience. During the holidays there are a lot of activities that can send your dog into a frenzied state and running close by and maybe even knocking into the tree. So you need to make certain to secure the tree so that it can't topple over. Dogs should not be allowed to drink the water used to hydrate your live trees. This can cause diarrhea, mouth sores, loss of appetite and vomiting.
- **Toxic Plants** – Toxic plants are common during the holiday season. Some of them are holly, mistletoe, poinsettias. These, especially, as well as other plants should be kept out of the reach of your dog. It only takes one bite to do a lot of damage. Tinsel and Wrapping Paper – These items are very shiny and enticing, but may cause choking hazards, pick them up right away!
- **Cookies, Candies and Other Foods** – Yummy holiday treats are all around us this time of year. You know that they are dangerous and possibly fatal if your dog eats them. So make sure that your kids and your guests know, and you enforce, the rules... No slipping people food to the dog. No matter how sad he looks, no matter how much he might beg. Absolutely no chocolate, raisins, nuts, etc.; no people food, period. If you really must give them a treat, save a little of the turkey for them, since turkey is easily handled by them.
- **Parties** – This time of year many people host holiday parties. It is a time to have fun and enjoy those who share your life in one way or another. A time to just relax and have fun. But if your lifestyle is normally less hectic and energetic, don't forget that it is probably true for your dogs as well. So as you plan your festivities, make sure you consider the four-footed family members and what you can do to ease their stress levels during the party. Keep him in a less active area of the house, invite the kids to play in the room with the dog to keep him occupied and out of the high traffic, high stress areas. Maybe, invite others with pets to bring their dogs over and you can have a special doggie play room set aside just for them (just make sure someone is there to monitor them – you can share this responsibility among the people who brought a dog).



With these few simple tips you can ensure your family, including your dog, has a truly wonderful and SAFE holiday!

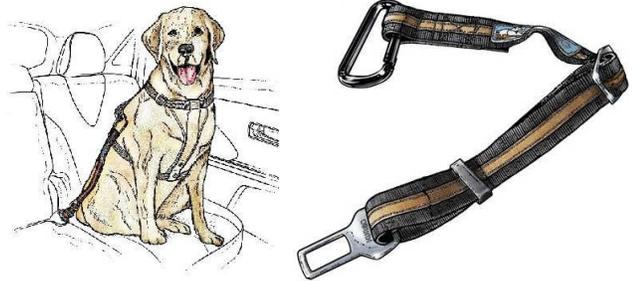
Wipe your feet!

The snow is coming!! And, so too, will come the salt and various chemical ice melt products. It is always a good idea, after a walk on city streets, to clean your dog's feet off before entering the house, to prevent messy or damaged floors, but more importantly, to prevent ingestion of harmful chemicals. If you don't clean their feet they likely will. Doing this, they will lick those salts and chemical ice melts off their feet. Even if your dog isn't particularly finicky about his grooming, remember, your dog's pads are very absorbent and they can get the chemicals in their systems from simple absorption! If you want to use ice melt products, we recommend one that specifically states that it is a 'pet safe' product such as Safe Paw or Safe Step. Both are pet friendly and safe around both pets and children. Available at many retail outlets throughout the United States and online, as well.



Buckle Up!

There are far too many stories about pets being injured, killed or even lost in traffic accidents. We are buckled down and so should your companions! If you don't have a crate, PLEASE use a harness... even for the shortest of trips! Here is another product you might consider: <http://www.duluthtrading.com/store/product/pet-tether-79714.aspx?prodSource=quickLook>



Hi, my name is Mary and like so many others, I never thought I would have a traffic accident. I have had dogs since I was born and they were never restrained or confined when riding in vehicles.

My pets have always been a beloved member of my family (just like your children). I was searching for a Yorkie companion for my older Yorkie, Raider. Raider had lost his brother, Zip, and buddy, Bogie, and seemed lonely. Then I spotted sweet Dixie on Petfinder.com belonging to Pet Pals. A year ago, after giving us such joy for seven years, my sweet girl has now gone over the Rainbow Bridge. It is in her memory that I want to tell you how Dixie and I would have died in October 2002, if we had not been wearing "restraints" while traveling in my Jeep.

After Linda York of Pet Pals did her screening and I was allowed to bring Dixie into my heart/home, I complied with her "rule" that Dixie be restrained in a vehicle at all times. I had bought her a delightful car seat that was held in place with the seat belt - she sat high enough to see out the window; it had a strap to hold her in and she had her little suitcase beneath her.

It was Halloween of that year that Raider's health took a turn for the worse. The local veterinarian couldn't do anything more and suggested I take him to CSU Veterinary Hospital in Fort Collins. It was cold and the roads were snow covered but the sun was shining and I knew we could make Fort Collins before dark. I bundled Dixie in her car seat and put Raider in his bed on the front passenger seat and we were off on a six hour drive.

Everything was fine until we were delayed by an accident on I-80 and rerouted and didn't get to Laramie until dark. I stopped and let the dogs eat, drink and walk for a bit, then since it was a clear night, I decided to go on and head for CSU since the doctors were waiting for Raider.

Shortly after leaving Laramie, we were in blizzard conditions. I couldn't see well enough to turn back to Laramie so continued on following some tail lights ahead of me. We were traveling very slowly and I was using the "rumble strip" on the shoulder to keep myself in my lane - visibility was that bad and there was a lot of oncoming traffic. I had no idea how much further we needed to go, but I was following those tail lights wherever he was going. All of a sudden I lost sight of the tail lights, there was something blocking them from my view, but I didn't realize for a minute or two that it was a vehicle coming at us sideways in our lane. I tried braking the car but started to slide so I started to release and apply the brakes to slow down and I kept moving further to the right until my left tire was on the "rumble strip".

As I realized we were going to collide with the side of this vehicle, Raider jumped into the back seat. I was going less than 15 mph so I didn't think the impact would be too bad. Boy was I wrong, the other vehicle was traveling a lot faster and when we collided, the sound was horrendous, and then silence. I was unconscious for a while, I guess. Then someone was talking to me, but when I tried to talk it was difficult because my chest had been crushed and I was having difficulty breathing.

I finally was able to ask about Raider and the man gently told me that my beloved Raider was dead. I turned and saw Dixie out of the corner of my eye and she was sitting up in her car seat. He told me he had checked her and she seemed ok. I started sobbing over Raider and was told I passed out again. I came around again while they were using the "jaws of life" to extricate me from the car and I begged them to take Raider and Dixie into CSU because I didn't think I was going to make it (I had heard someone telling the fireman that).

That 'Good Samaritan' was Tim and he promised me he would take care of both my "kids" and give his name and number to the EMT. As they were lifting me out of the car, I briefly passed out again. I came around as they were loading me into the ambulance and I told them I refused to be transported until my dogs were taken care of, the EMT reminded me that Tim was taking my "kids" to his home in Laramie and he would contact CSU. They would be safe and he had Tim's name and number for me.

Two days later when I began to come around in ICU, my husband, Bob, was there and told me he had picked up Raider and Dixie. He said Raider was probably killed on impact after talking to Tim. I was sobbing so hard they sedated me again.

I was in the ICU for 2 weeks, I had a head injury; broke all my ribs, had a broken shoulder and sternum and my leg had been shattered when the front end of the car had come in on me. Once I was in my surgical room at Poudre Valley Hospital, their wonderful personnel let Bob bring Dixie in to see me. She cuddled right in with me and we were happy. She was allowed to come for several visits while I was hospitalized. That hospital was awesome!!

After my release from the hospital, I was bed bound for six months and Dixie laid next to me most of the time. I had a lot

of time to think. Why hadn't I forced Raider into a car seat or at least some kind of restraint? How stupid was I? Since that horrifying night, we've gotten four more Yorkie pups and NO one rides in our vehicles unless they are in car seats or wearing seat belt restraint harnessing (I'm using the third row seating in my Explorer for the first time!). I have been on a one woman mission in my area telling everyone about the dangers and heartbreaks of not having your pet restrained in your vehicle. Just having a leash or one of the car seats that doesn't have the strap to attach to your pet (always a harness), which isn't securely attached to the seat with the seat belt system, isn't good enough. If you can't afford a car seat so they "have a view", please put them in a crate or use a proper dog restraint harness. Even a harness sold at Wal-Mart properly fitted will work as long as your pet can't slide or be thrown out of it. It REALLY is a matter of life and death for your beloved pet and will save you heartbreak!

(Note from Linda York of Pet Pals, Inc.: The article was very hard for Mary to write. PLEASE take heed.

It was because of a rescued dog named Bentley, who died in a car wreck and now Rader that I insist on pets being restrained while traveling. Five of our rescued pets have now been involved in car wrecks. Luckily, none have died. Thank you, Mary!)

Colorado Gives Day and Colorado Animal Rescue Express

We have used C.A.R.E. transport for many years and they are the best! I hope you all will share this!

- Beth White

Hello Everyone,

Colorado Animal Rescue Express (C.A.R.E.) is honored to participate again this year in **Colorado Gives Day** on Tuesday, December 9th. We hope to raise over \$50,000 to help fund our services in 2015.

Please take a few minutes to visit our website,

<http://www.caretransport.org> and read our new newsletter. With your support, our programs have transported 23,000 homeless pets to safety, provided veterinary care to 2,900 animals, and neutered 9,000 dogs and cats in communities with high levels of pet overpopulation.

We can help even more animals next year with your continued generosity. To donate for **Colorado Gives Day**, please visit <http://www.caretransport.org> and click on the link for "**Colorado Gives Day**". You can even pre-schedule your online donation for Dec. 9th now by clicking on a link to <http://www.ColoradoGives.org> at the bottom of that page. **Be sure to designate that your donation is for Colorado Gives Day and the donation will be processed on December 9th.**

100% of all donations made through <http://www.ColoradoGives.org> will go to C.A.R.E. to help homeless pets. FirstBank and Community First Foundation will absorb all processing fees. In addition, FirstBank's Incentive Fund will be allocated proportionately across all the donations received, increasing the value of each donation.

Thank you for your continued confidence in our mission. Please circulate this email to your friends, family and social networking sites so that we can reach our fundraising goal. **Together, we are making a big difference in the lives of animals in need!**

Lisa Mendelsberg / Linda Fox
Colorado Animal Rescue Express





8 Things You Should NEVER Feed To Cats And Dogs



Veterinarians are finding that many of our most delicious foods, even healthy ones, can be deadly to animals

Who knew that a few sticks of sugar-free gum could kill your dog?

Evidently many people don't, but the veterinarians tell us they're seeing more animals coming in with hypoglycemia after eating as little as a stick. And even if the animal's blood sugar returns to normal, there's quite a bit of concern that liver damage, and possibly death, may follow.

"It's not just dogs, it's cats as well," says Maureen Saunders, owner/director of the Spring Valley Animal Hospital and Cat Care Clinic of the Nyacks. "And it's important to get the word out there, so people know to watch for this."

Many of us tend to think that dogs and cats can eat what humans eat. We often don't think twice before giving them a bite of our cookie or worry too much when they scavenge for food. But dogs and cats don't metabolize foods the same way we do, and many of the foods we eat without problems can hurt, and even kill them. Here are eight of the most harmful foods to keep away from your pets.

1. **Xylitol.** One of the more ubiquitous sweeteners in sugar-free products, xylitol is a naturally occurring sugar alcohol found in the fibers of many fruits, vegetables and mushrooms. It's typically extracted from hardwoods and corn cobs for commercial use and found in sugarless gum, toothpaste and many low-calorie baked goods.

While xylitol has no known toxicity in humans, just a few stick of sugar-free gum scavenged by a 20 pound dog can cause its insulin levels to spike and send it into hypoglycemia. Ingesting higher amounts of xylitol can create serious liver problems including acute hepatic necrosis, leading to death. Cats are also susceptible to xylitol poisoning.

Sometimes vomiting occurs soon after ingestion, followed by hypoglycemia within the next hour. At this point, the animal may act lethargic and lose coordination as a result of lowered sugar levels. Elevated liver enzymes and liver failure can be seen within a few short days.

If caught within the first few hours and taken to a veterinary clinic, many pets can be nursed back to health by inducing vomiting and perhaps the administration of dextrose.

2. **Chocolate.** Cocoa, the main ingredient in chocolate, is said to have many health benefits for humans, from lowering the risk of cardiovascular disease to reversing age-related memory loss. However, one chocolate bar can be deadly to a dog or a cat.

Chocolate, along with coffee and some soda drinks, contains compounds known as methylxanthines. When pets ingest foods with these compounds, they may display signs of hyperactivity, discomfort or excessive thirst. Often, these symptoms give way to abnormal heart rhythms, seizures and even death. Baking chocolate and dark chocolates, which contain more of these compounds, are for more dangerous than milk chocolate or white chocolate.

3. **Avocados.** Guacamole is a staple dip in many households, and we might think it's harmless to let out pet lick the bowl when we're done. But the avocado fruit contains persin, a fungicidal toxin. While it is harmless to humans (with the exception of those with avocado allergies), when consumed by dogs and cats it can cause vomiting and diarrhea. Birds and rodents such as hamsters and guinea pigs are especially sensitive to avocado poisoning and can develop congestion, difficulty breathing, and fluid accumulation around the heart. Larger amounts of ingested avocado can create similar symptoms in cats and dogs and even cause death.

4. **Macadamia nuts.** Dog owners should be especially mindful not to feed cookies, especially store-bought ones you might not know the ingredients of, to their pets. Beyond typical macadamia nut cookies, other flavors of commercial cookies and even some brownies and cakes contain macadamia powder or oil as an ingredient.

Veterinarians are still not quite sure why, but macadamia nuts are known to cause vomiting, ataxia, tremors and hypothermia in dogs, though they don't seem to have the same effect on cats and other domestic animals. Dr. Saunders says the results can be life-threatening and that elderly dogs may be more at risk.

Dogs typically develop these signs between 12 and 48 hours after ingestion. Vets recommend that asymptomatic dogs should be treated with activated charcoal, while those who become ill should immediately be taken to a vet clinic where treatment may include fluids, analgesics and antipyretics.

5. **Grapes and raisins.** The veterinary community has recently put out the word that grapes are highly toxic to dogs and cats.

"We didn't know about this until a few years ago, but eating grapes and raisins can lead to acute kidney failure in pets," says Dr. Saunders. "Unfortunately, we're still not sure why some animals can tolerate them and others cannot."

The ASPCA believes that pets who already have the one of a variety of health conditions may have more dramatic reactions to grape ingestion.

6. Yeast dough. The yeast in uncooked bread dough can rise in a pet's digestive system and cause high amounts of gas to accumulate. This can cause an animal's stomach or intestines to rupture, possibly leading to a painful death.

While the ASPCA says that the risk is much lower for pets when the dough has been cooked and fully risen, it can also cause problems. The organization recommends that bread-based treats should be no more than 10% of a pet's caloric intake.

7. Onions and garlic. "For cats, this is a major issue," says Dr. Saunders, who says she's seen several serious cases of onion poisoning. "People might think it's okay if they're cooking stew to give some to their pets, but that's actually a real problem for them."

It's not just cats – a dog's health can also be put at risk by onion ingestion. In both animals, the compounds thiosulfate and allyl propyl disulfide found in onions work to oxidize an oxygen-transporting protein called hemoglobin in the blood, making it less capable of carrying oxygen throughout the body.

All members of the allium family, which includes garlic, shallots and scallions, contain these compounds, which can wreak havoc on a pet's red blood cells, if eaten in large enough amounts. Garlic tends to be much more toxic than the common onion. Also, garlic and onion powders, typical ingredients in many soups, baby food and meat sauces, can be quiet killers.

The veterinarians we spoke to say that symptoms typically don't show up immediately, but eventually the animal becomes lethargic and there can be some physical changes, such as pale gums and dark-colored urine. In the most severe cases of onion poisoning, a blood transfusion might be needed to save the animal's life.

8. Marijuana edibles. Legal for either recreational or medical use in several states, marijuana is often sold in more potent forms, including edibles that taste much like some foods we would typically eat.

Tina Wismer, of the Animal Poison Control Center told NBC News that animals don't react to the tetrahydrocannabinol in cannabis the same way humans do. "Without treatment, they can go into comas and die," she says, noting that edibles may be even more lethal if they also contain chocolate or raisins.

A 2012 study published in the Journal of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care found that marijuana ingestion of baked goods that contain medical-grade THC butter can kill a dog. The researchers looked into 125 cases of dogs ingesting marijuana between 2005 and 2010 and found that it resulted in two deaths. Both dogs asphyxiated on their own vomit.

Since marijuana was legalized in Colorado, veterinarians in the state say they've seen some dogs die from ingestion. Ashley Harmon, a veterinarian at Fort Collins Veterinary Emergency and Rehabilitation, told a local newspaper that one dog died after eating a pound of pot brownies while another ate a pound of pot butter.

Pet owners who use marijuana edibles in their homes must exercise caution and keep these items securely packaged and out of reach of dogs and cats.

Other Home Toxins

Dr. Saunders says that while pet poisoning from foods is a serious problem, there are many other common home items our pets shouldn't come in contact with.

"One of the biggest problems I see is people trying to help their pet with medicines to treat them. They often do that by giving them Tylenol, but they end up giving them inappropriate doses," says Saunders. "This is especially a problem I see with older dogs. Pepto Bismol is given to dogs, but the aspirin in it is a major issue with cats."

Dr. Saunders says that people should pay particular attention to where they store antifreeze, which contains ethylene glycol. Its sweet smell and taste are attractive to pets as well as wildlife. Antifreeze is deadly when consumed.

Even certain flowers can cause a problem in the home. "Some types of lilies are a real issue with cats," she says.

If your pet suddenly becomes ill and you know or suspect it has eaten any foods in this article, Dr. Saunders suggests you immediately contact the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435. Also, find out where the emergency veterinary clinic is in your area and keep its address and phone number clearly posted on your fridge in case of emergencies.

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center

888-426-4435

In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians

Summer



6-12 Months Old, Black Female
Reason Available: Stray
Foster Home, The Woodlands, TX

*******URGENT*******

New foster home needed. Summer was quite the case... a tiny baby in a big, scary shelter, with no hair and miserable itching and infection. You can only imagine her pain and stress! Summer came to us also with horribly infected ears and very little good hair on her body. How she must have been neglected in her early life to be that bad at just 4 months of age. Summer now is ready for the next step...moving in with a loving person or family. She is good with the 6 yr. boy she lived with, all the other dogs, large and small, is crate trained and loves to run in the yard. Summer has the energy to race all day but loves to have belly rubs when inside. She will need more socializing as her medical condition required she be isolated for most of her healing period, but she's ready to take on the world now! Living in north Houston, Summer already has her bag packed because she needs a new foster home soon. For more information, contact Beth at melodee101@gmail.com. Adoption \$200. Rides are available to CO frequently.

Happy Beginnings Stories

Trooper (aka Spencer)

This is much delayed, but here is OUR story!

After losing our beloved Dal of 15 years, we weren't quite ready to adopt again. The last few months of his life were very difficult and it was heart-wrenching when we lost him.

We had been in contact with Dalmatian Rescue and kept hearing of "Spencer" who was heartworm positive and very ill when the Rescue took him in. He was in a foster home in Texas until he was strong enough to travel. He was very skinny and it was obvious by the severe callouses on his elbows, sores on his backside and his thin, dirty coat that he had been neglected most all of his life. It was a big decision, but we knew we had the love and commitment he needed for the rest of his life. We wanted him to know the joy and happiness of a loving home and that not all humans are bad.

The day we picked him up, we were shocked at how skittish and sad he was. The whole way home it was clear he was scared but also somewhat relieved. For the first few weeks, he ate and slept – curled up in a ball, away from us. He did not want to be petted and would walk away when touched. We were amazed as we learned he did not know how to walk up and

down stairs, he was petrified of car rides and he couldn't jump. With patience and consistency, we have seen such a huge transformation! Initially we were going to rename him Bandit because he loved to "move" our shoes when we weren't looking. But as we watched him be so brave, try new things, and come out of his shell, we kept telling him what a trooper he was. Hence, his name was to be...Trooper.

We are happy to report two years later, Trooper is happy, healthy (heartworm negative now), friendly and just an all-around great dog. Definitely a member of the family! He gets so excited he wags his tail in a circle and he adores chasing any type of ball. Along with gaining weight, he now has muscle tone from frequent walks and trips to the park.

And, as we had hoped, he has learned to love boating as we do! The first time he walked on a dock, he hit the deck and did a soldier crawl, but now he is old hat and runs out to be the first one on the boat.

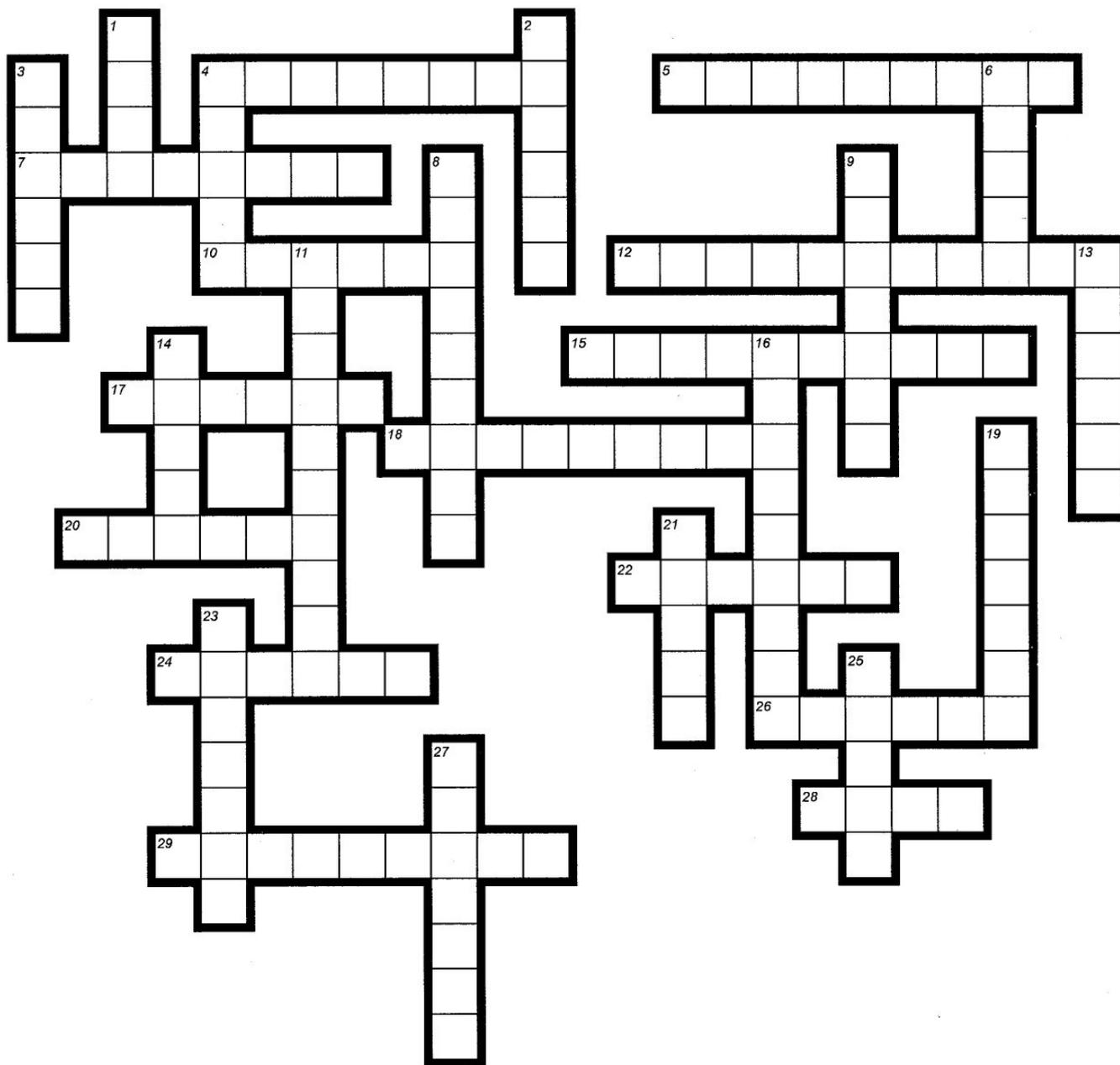
We were glad to rescue him, but he has made our house a home again, as only a great pet can. Thank you Dalmatian Rescue!

Derek & Lisa C.
Carter Lake, IA



Christmas 2014

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado © 2014



Across

4. The state our rescue is headquartered in (8)
5. Our favorite dog breed (9)
7. The name of our newsletter (8)
10. One of Santa's reindeer (6)
12. Someone who helps move dogs from one location to another (11)
15. Famous singer of "White Christmas" (two words) (10)
17. Strands of these are often hung on Christmas trees (6)
18. Someone working for Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado is a _____ (9)
20. A shiny decoration hung on trees (6)
22. Take a homeless dog into your home until he finds a forever home (6)
24. A famous snowman (6)
26. Christmas transportation (6)
28. What we decorate in our homes this time of year (4)
29. Our most exalted President (two words) (9)

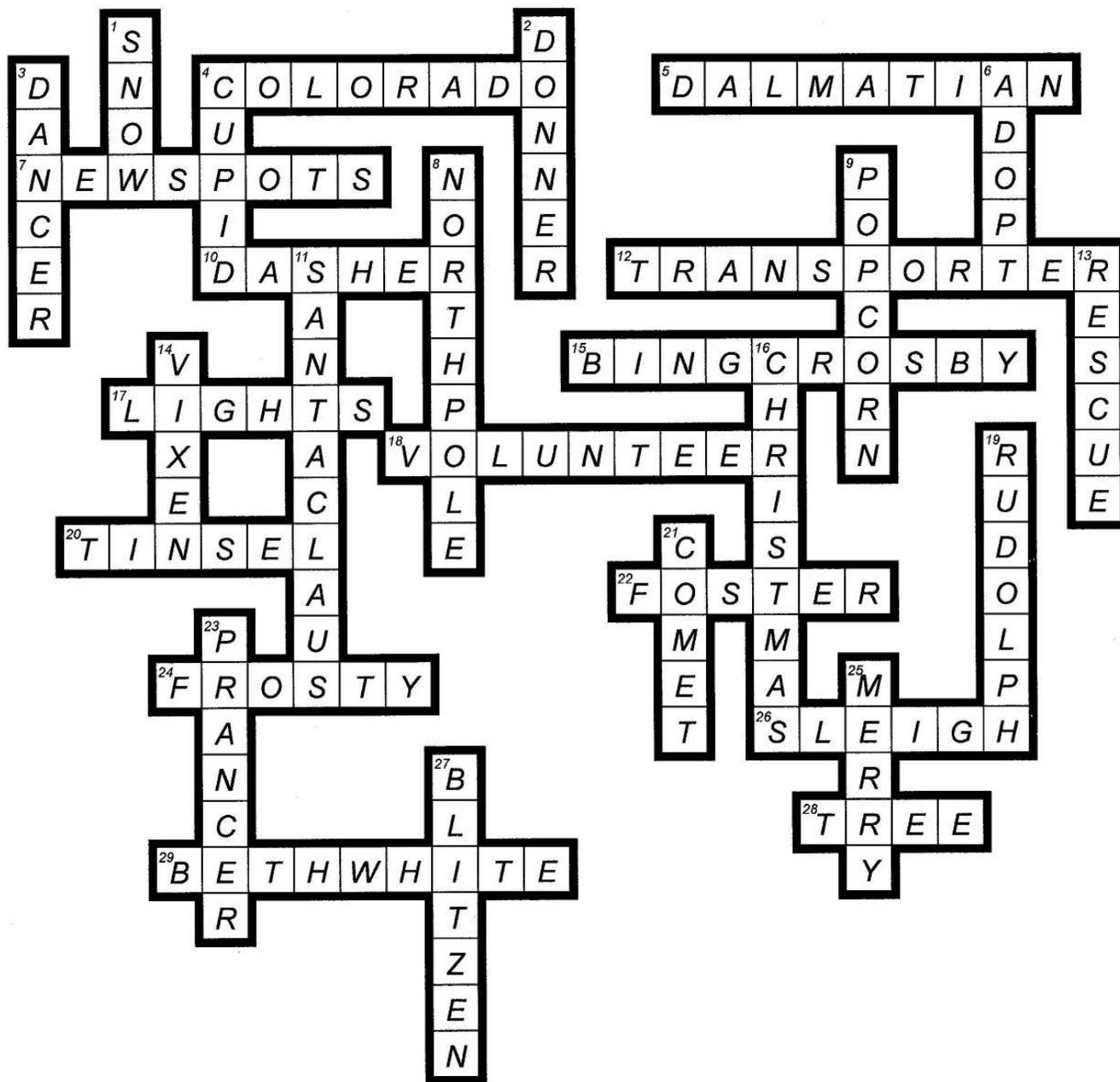
Down

1. Christmas precipitation (4)
2. One of Santa's reindeer (6)
3. One of Santa's reindeer (6)
4. One of Santa's reindeer (5)
6. Make a dog yours by legal means (5)
8. Where the jolly old man lives (two words) (9)
9. In olden days (and in some homes still today) this was used in place of Christmas lights (7)
11. The jolly old fat man of the season (two words) (10)
13. Save someone from imminent danger (6)
14. One of Santa's reindeer (5)
16. December 25th (9)
19. The most famous red-nosed reindeer of all (7)
21. One of Santa's reindeer (5)
23. One of Santa's reindeer (7)
25. Eat, drink and be _____ (5)
27. One of Santa's reindeer (7)

Answers on next page of newsletter

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Please don't forget... if you haven't sent in your Happy Beginnings Story yet, why not do it right now while it's fresh in your mind! It's never too late to see your story in print!! NewSpots is published and released on the first calendar day of the month. The deadline for submissions for future issues of NewSpots will be 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: spotted-dog-designs@comcast.net

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible!!
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<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org>