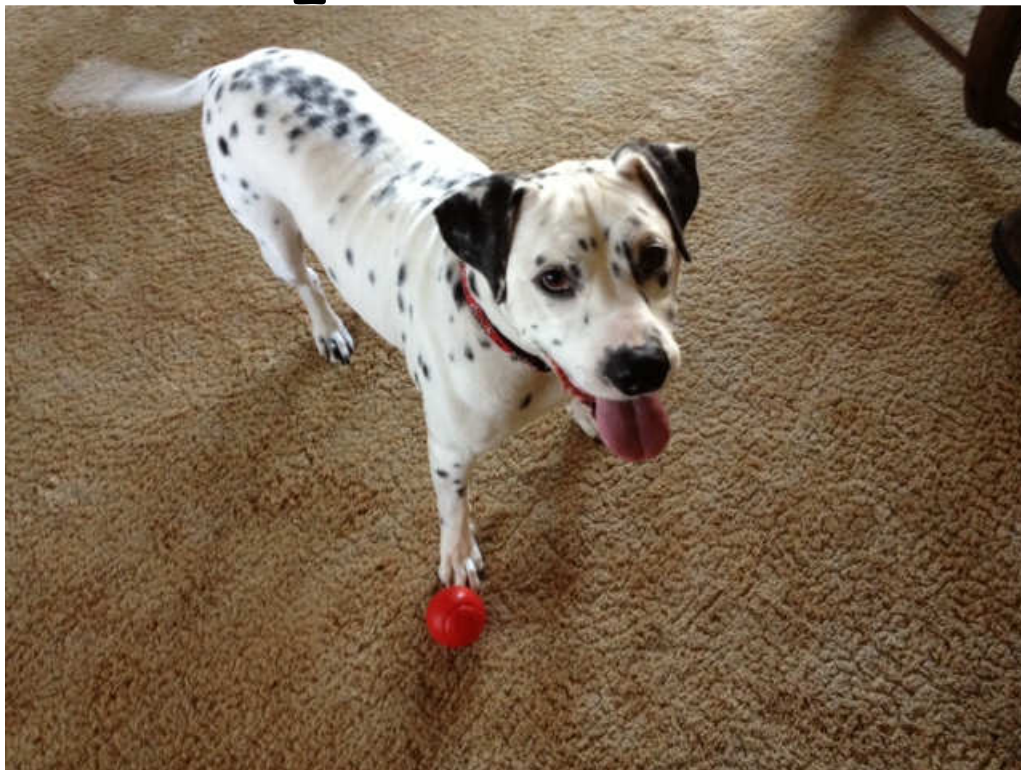


Trooper (aka Spencer4)



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 of Colorado 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 of Colorado!
Derek & Lisa C.
Carter Lake, IA



C'mon!!! Let's PLAY!!!!!!!!!!