

Heartworm Season Is Near



As the weather changes to sunny and warm temperatures, the mosquitoes will be making their debut and with them will come heartworm. Now is the time to start thinking about how to prevent your dog from contracting these potentially fatal parasites. Since in years past Colorado had very few cases of heartworm this was not really a concern for most dog and cat owners, however things have changed. Recently it was announced that Colorado is ranked number 2, behind only California, in the western states for the number of heartworm cases seen by veterinarians. This is likely due to the number of dogs from California, Texas and the Katrina refugee dogs that have relocated to Colorado. Heartworm disease is nearly 100% preventable in dogs and cats. If caught early enough in dogs it is treatable. There is currently no safe and effective treatment for heartworm infection in cats. So it is now more important than ever that we take the steps to prevent the spread of heartworm in Colorado and more importantly in our own dogs. The first thing that you should do, if your dog isn't already on a preventative, is to have a blood test done to make sure that your dog isn't heartworm positive already. Once the blood test is done and your dog has been confirmed to be negative, put them on a chewable preventative like Heartgard Plus, Sentinel, Interceptor or a topical preventative like Revolution or Advantage Multi. Since these are

controlled by prescription, your vet can help you decide which preventative is best for your dog's lifestyle and risk factors. Heartworm infestation is transferred from an infected dog to a new host by mosquitoes. The mosquito bites the infected dog, drawing in the microfilaria which then matures within two weeks and is passed on when the mosquito seeks its next meal. Once bitten, your dog is the new host for the matured or infective larvae. During the next three months, the larvae migrate through the dog's body until finally reaching the blood vessels of the lungs. During the final three months of the larval development stage, the larvae become adult heartworms and enter the heart. Once in the heart, the worms continue to grow and can reach up to 14 inches in length. Eventually injury to blood vessels results in severe lung and heart disease. If both male and female worms are present in the host, they will reproduce and create new microfilaria that can damage other organs once the host's immune system attempts to combat the initial infection. Untreated heartworms may survive in dogs for five to seven years and two to five years in cats. While cats seem to be less susceptible to infestation, they are still susceptible and should be placed on heartworm preventatives, as well, especially so if they live with dogs.

The goal is to prevent the larvae from reaching the adult stage. It is far cheaper, and easier on your dog, to prevent the infestation than to treat it. Treatment can be expensive and dangerous, and the dog must be kept quiet for a minimum of 30 days, so the dying worms don't cause aneurysms. No romping or running for a month is very hard on most Dalmatians and their owners!

For more information about heartworm disease and prevention you can go to <http://www.goodsearch.com> and search the keywords 'heartworm prevention' or you can visit these websites:

http://www.avma.org/communications/brochures/heartworm/heartworm_brochure.asp#formats

<http://www.heartwormsociety.org/article.asp?id=11>

<http://www.marvistavet.com/html/heartworm.html>

<http://www.thepetcenter.com/gen/hw.html>

NewSpots! Online Has Moved!!!

Effective with this issue, NewSpots! has moved to the Dalmatian Rescue website. It can be accessed online from our website homepage by clicking on the NewSpots! Newsletter 'spot' or by the direct link at:

<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org/NewSpots.htm>. If you have a bookmark set for the rainsbowedge.us site, please update it now, as the <http://www.rainbowedge.us/dals> site no longer is active. We think this change is better for everyone as it places all of our newsletters on our site and we won't have to rely on a separate sever to maintain this valuable resource.

We're Looking for new ideas...

Do you have topics you'd like to know more about? Do you have questions about something that maybe one of us can help with? Do you have something that you feel others would benefit from? Experiences of yours that you'd like to share? Let us know and we'll put it in the newsletter, which is intended for all dog owners and probably useful too for a few cat owners (hiss, hiss!).

Bits & Pieces

Once again, we would like to remind everyone to remind all of your 'everyones' about Goodsearch.com. Powered by Yahoo! GoodSearch.com gives you the same great search results you are used to getting already. The big difference is that when you use GoodSearch.com Dalmatian Rescue gets money!! Every time you or anyone performs a search we get one cent. Now by itself, that may not seem like a lot, but in rescue work, every penny counts! Not only that, they add up... to date, since we registered with GoodSearch, we have earned \$ 60.47!! To GoodSearch, go to <http://www.goodsearch.com>. Under the grey box "WHO DO YOU GOODSEARCH FOR?", enter "Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado (Fort Collins, CO)" and click the verify button. Then you're all set. Simply enter your search term(s) and click the "Search" button and you just donated \$0.01 to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado!



Do you shop online?? Guess what? Now you can "GoodShop" as well. Once you have selected Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado (Fort Collins, CO) as your designated charity, simply click on the "Who do you GoodShop for?" logo (it looks kind of like a credit card) on the GoodSearch.com front page. Select the store that you wish to shop from and your purchase will generate a donation to Dalmatian Rescue! The amount of the donation is a percentage of your total purchase and can be up to 30% of the total purchase amount, depending on the retailer. Regardless, it is again an easy way to help us help the Dalmatians! Some of the stores that are participating are: Wal-Mart, Target, Amazon.com, Best Buy, Sears, Petsmart, Toys-R-Us, 1-800-Flowers.com, Staples, and many more. There are over 500 stores to choose from! So help us raise money by GoodShopping from the stores you shop at online already!

Spring Has Sprung

Yes, we've had a long, cold, windy winter, but if you believe the calendar, Spring is here! Time to trim the fat on owner and dogs alike, I'll bet? Several methods to do that come to mind, but remember that if you've not been keeping your dogs physically active through the winter, you must work them into an exercise program slowly. Pads need to toughen up if you intend to run your dogs on pavement or concrete, and muscles must begin to condition too. Don't forget your own conditioning. Might be embarrassing if your dog brought you home lame!

Check out the various dog-powered scooters on the internet. These are fun little vehicles for both you and your dog. Also the Springer, which is cheaper and gives you more exercise, is an arm which attaches to your bike so you can safely take your dog along and have both hands on the handle bars. These can be purchased at stores like Petsmart and Petco as well as on line. Jogging and hiking are still encouraged but they're not usually available to dogs and their owners as frequently, and dogs need to be active more than just on the weekends. It is advised that you use a harness or prong/pinch collar or even a Gentle Leader when attaching a dog to the Springer. You still need to know that you have control over your running rover. Remember, tired dogs are happy dogs! Happy dogs have happy owners, and you'll both look mahvelous!

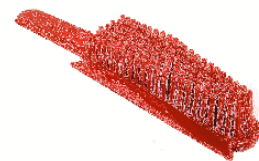
<http://www.angelfire.com/fang/dogscooter/index.html>

http://www.k9magazinefree.com/k9_perspective/iss10p16.shtml

<http://www.dogscooter.com/>

<http://www.springerusa.com/>

Looking for a good brush?



Beth recommends the Mini Sweepa Pet Hair Remover Brush by Evriholder Products.

"It is easy to clean, is easy to use and the dogs like the messaging action as well. Mine cost about \$4 and I really like it! There are many businesses that carry them. I also found many locations on the web."

This one-piece brush with natural rubber bristles can be used wet or dry to brush pets, clothing, upholstery, carpets, rugs, and more! The electrostatic design of the brush actually attracts hair and lint, leaving your clothes and furniture fur free. The edges form a squeegee, so you can remove water from windows, counters and tabletops too!

******* FOSTER HOMES DESPERATELY NEEDED *******

PLEASE, we 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 Rescue so we can save lives like we saved your dog's life!! PLEASE give a warm home to a dog that can relax, show his true personality, enjoy a thick bed rather than a concrete floor in a shelter and be ready for a new home. PLEASE help us 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 be until their forever home comes along. PLEASE be a spot for us... and for them?

We thank you and you know any dog you help us save will be eternally grateful! PLEASE submit a foster application if you can possibly help us and them! PLEASE take your cookie... good boy/girl!

In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians

Jenny and Lacy



Jenny: 7 Years Old, Black, Spayed Female
Lacy: 5 Years Old, Black, Spayed Female
Both Strays

Jenny and Lacy make a very nice pair of girls. They're small, very mannerly, walk well on the leash (even a child can walk them), and have a very gentle manner when taking treats. Great traits for any dog living with children, which they adore and are very tolerant with. They have been around 2 year olds and loved every minute of it. They have never met a stranger and are completely housebroken. The girls were abandoned strays in NE facing the gas chamber when they came to us, but have been living in a heated dog pen for six weeks because a foster home has not been available. They are physically comfortable but lonely. They have several runs each day but it isn't the same thing as being in the house with people. The girls are currently in Ft. Collins and really want to just love a family. They could be placed separately but they make a very manageable pair and get along very well. Room for two at the inn??



Eddie

Eddie: 3 Years Old, Black, Neutered Male
Stray

Eddie is likely a Dalmatian maybe Pointer mix. He's loving, good with dogs, and been fine with young kids in his first foster home and he ignored cats in the shelter. Eddie has been to the dog park where he didn't seem to want to play too much, but was very good with the other dogs. He is currently in a foster home in Colorado Springs where he endears everyone he meets and has proven to be a gentle, kind man, although he can be a bit clumsy and goofy at times. Eddie loves to run and go on walks and would do well as a jogging partner for someone... could that be you?



Happy Beginnings Stories

Hap (aka Mork)



Dear Dal Rescue...

First of all I want to say Thanks to all of you for ALL the hard work you do for the Dal Rescue!!!! Without you and all the tireless efforts and sacrifices that you make to ensure these little dogs find the right home, Hap would have never have been a part of my life and boy would I have missed out...so....Many Many Thanks!

After somewhat of a rocky start Hap is doing wonderfully and is the absolute PERFECT fit for my little family! Hap, who was so timid and shy when I first brought him home, was coming into a house with two very territorial dogs...a big challenge for even the most confident of dog. But after 3 months now, through his sweet, unaggressive, respectful nature has found his way into the heart of even his toughest critic...my 11 year old Dalmatian Apple who I found curled up with him on the dog bed this morning...now how's that for some serious progress.

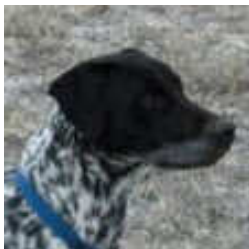
My other little ball of fire, "Hoyt" who is a 2 1/2 year old German Short-Hair Pointer can't get enough of him! Before I got Hap, Hoyt would be just about going crazy by the time I got home from work wanting someone to play with him. Now when I get home both Hoyt and Hap come in to greet me with love and kisses (and of course a snack) and then shoot right back out the dog door for another serious romp around the back yard. I absolutely love to watch those 2 play...Hap just runs and runs and runs with a big smile on his face and Hoyt is eating it up running right behind him trying to get Hap to engage in a serious wrestling match which is always soon to follow. I am in heaven when I look out there because I know how happy those two are and what great friends they have become and will continue to become which is exactly what I wanted for both of them!

I can't tell you how lucky I feel to have Hap in my life....every time I look at that little Black and White face I can't help but smile and then of course go over and give him a big kiss! He has been such a wonderful addition to all of our lives and I can't thank you enough for bringing us together.

Thank You Again!!!!

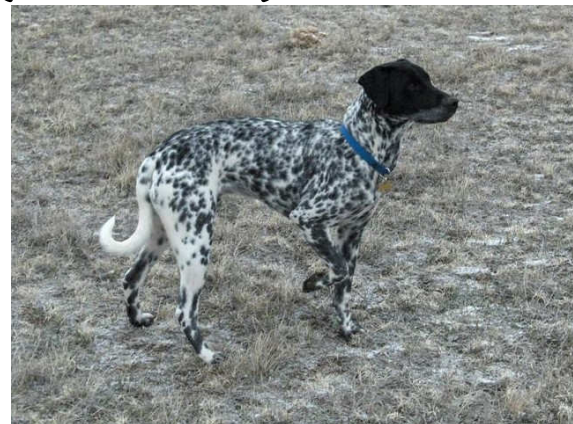
Jenny, Apple, Hoyt, and Hap
Highlands Ranch, CO

Benjamin B. Buckethead (aka Ben1)



We are a family with a history of Dalmatians. With all the horses, ranch work, and trail riding, we've found them to be a perfect match for our life style. Just under a year ago, I woke up and realized that my other two dogs were getting older and might even be slowing down a little. Jewel Basin Buzzard Beak was turning 11 and Rooter Rooterium Turkey Lips was turning 13. I decided it was time to get our

next Dalmatian so that Jewel and Rooter could train it properly. I told the Dalmatian Rescue that I wanted an older, smallish female, with the traditional black and white spots. I ended up with a 70 lb, male puppy, who is half black lab. So much for shopping. With his black head, white tail, and mishmash in-between, Benjamin B. Buckethead is a sight to behold.



But Rooter and Jewel trained him well this past summer and he lives for trail riding, just like a real Dalmatian. Ben fit into our family with ease and has told me repeatedly how lucky we are that he decided to stay. I couldn't agree more.

Joni Rio
Cheyenne, WY

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.

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>
