

The Importance Of Avoiding Urinary Obstructions!

Submitted by Beth White

A friend recently left her Dalmatian at a respectable kennel for several days. Unfortunately, the dog developed a urinary obstruction (urinary stone) and no one noticed. Since he could not urinate (void) his bladder eventually ruptured and he died after a time in emergency care. Not only was this a tragic loss, but very expensive too. If you ever board your Dalmatians, please be sure that the kennel staff understands that this breed CAN obstruct at any time and they must watch for dogs (most of the time males) straining to urinate. **If it happens, the dog must go to the vet immediately!** This is something anyone who cares for your Dalmatian needs to know. Most dogs don't have the problem, but since the breed is high uric acid; if conditions are right (confinement, illness, heat stress, etc.) they can form stones which block the passage for the body to eliminate urine.

Being in a kennel is stressful and quite often Dalmatians either don't urinate or are not given the opportunity to urinate outside of their kennel. If a dog obstructs, he usually **ONLY** has 45 minutes to an hour before he is in grave danger of rupturing his bladder! It is most important that you advise all caretakers of our animals about the potential danger of a dog not urinating. This was an unusual incident, but it sure could happen again and like this case, with deadly results.

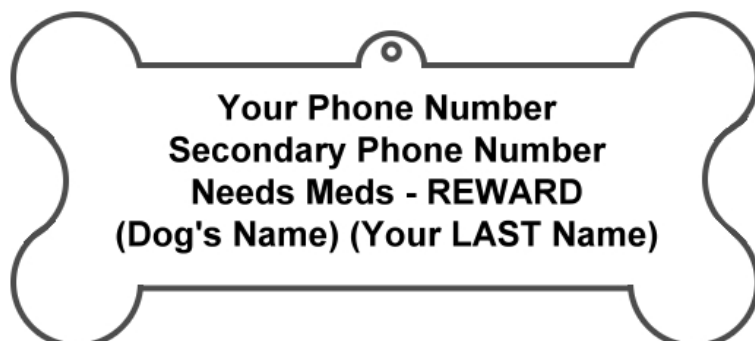
While telling the caretakers about this, also ask them to feed your dog with water added to the food, to force them to urinate more. Water, water, water is the important key to keeping a Dalmatian passing urine well. Should the urine become too concentrated, then sediment, crystals, or even stones can obstruct the passage. Possibly my friend's dog didn't drink like he should because he was upset or off his schedule, or maybe he turned his water bowl over? Whatever the reason, the boy obstructed and died. We don't want that to happen again, so this is a word to the wise.

If you are not floating your dog's food; you are not doing the easiest thing there is to keep your Dalmatian in urinary health! Move as much water through him as possible and floating his food (NOT soaking) food forces him to drink MORE water than he might want to drink, so that he can get his meal. You also want to give him frequent opportunity to urinate through the day. Hopefully your dog never does beyond 4 hours at a time without urinating? If you don't have a dog door and your dog is locked inside all day, consider getting one. It could save your dog's life.

A Reminder About ID Tags & Microchips For Your Dals!

Rabies tags and licenses have numbers on them... but will they really assist with reuniting you with your lost pal? On a weeknight or weekend or holiday in a distant city? Probably NOT! Most people, including many shelters, will not go to the trouble of trying to find a phone number to call the issuing license authorities and track down the owner's name, address, and phone number. And even if they do try, there's no guarantee that the authorities will release that information to them. The Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado tag that is on your Dal when you adopted him (and should still be there!) is there for a last resort contact. If they try to contact you and cannot reach you, they can call us. But that doesn't mean that we will answer right away. Sometimes there can be several hours between times that messages are checked on the hotline. This is why it is so vitally important that you have your dogs tagged with YOUR contact info and THEIR name! On the ID tag you should have TWO forms of contact. We suggest a cell and a home phone or a friend's phone that will answer. This past weekend we had one of our dogs picked up by a nice man who remarked that cell phones often go dead or are turned off. He kept his found dog from 3:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. because the owner could not be reached. Yes, the dog had his microchip ID on his collar and the rescue tag, BUT it would have been nice to have been able to reach the owner too. Dogs whose owners can't be located right away are often taken to the closest shelter and that is further stress to the dog and also costs money to reclaim.

Your dog should have his own tag which should contain the following information:



ID tags are the most common method of identifying your dog, but what happens if they dash out the door right after bath time when they aren't wearing their collar and tags? Or she has been out for a day or so and the collar snagged and broke off? That's where the microchip comes into play. Microchips are a secondary line of defense in protecting your dog's identity should her tag get lost. Microchips have saved many dogs lives including one dog recently stolen in Rapid City and later dumped in Fort Collins.

Thankfully, through the microchip, she was able to be reunited with her owners!! Many adopters brought their spotted wonders home before Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado began routinely microchipping the dogs we take in. Unfortunately, due to budget constraints we cannot chop them for you, but we do strongly urge you to get all of your dogs microchipped for their safety and your peace of mind. We are now using and highly recommend the "Home Again" brand microchips as they don't migrate away from the injection site as other brands have been known to do on occasion. You can ask your vet if they can do it. If they don't use Home Again, you can locate a nearby vet who uses the Home Again microchips via the search feature on their website. The Home Again website is: <http://www.homeagain.com>. Or call Home Again at: 1-800-HOMEAGAIN (1-800-466-3242).

Please check your own dogs! Are they properly identified???? If not, please do this for your dogs today and get one for your foster dogs. Let's keep them safe!



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Submit ideas and suggestions for **NewSpots!** or any tips you want to pass along to adopters and fosters to us at: dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net

Beginning with this issue, NewSpots will be 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 month. Submissions received after the deadline may be delayed in publication until the following month, subject to the Editor's discretion.

Bits & Pieces

You know you're a dog person when...

- You have a kiddie wading pool, but no small children
- Lint wheels are on your shopping list every week
- You have baby gates permanently installed throughout the house, but no baby in sight.
- You refer to yourselves as your Doggie's mommy and daddy
- Your dog sleeps in the bed with you
- You can't see out the passenger side of the windshield because there are doggie nose prints all over it
- You talk about your dog the way other people talk about their kids
- You sign and send birthday/anniversary/graduation cards with your dog's name
- You like people who like your dog, but despise people who don't like him

A local business was looking for office help. They put a sign in the window, stating the following: "HELP WANTED, Must be able to type, must be good with a computer and must be bilingual. We are an Equal Opportunity Employer."

A short time afterwards, a dog trotted up to the window, saw the sign and went inside. He looked at the receptionist and wagged his tail, then walked over to the sign, looked at it and whined.

Getting the idea, the receptionist got the office manager. The office manager looked at the dog and was surprised, to say the least. However, the dog looked determined, so he led him into the office. Inside, the dog jumped up on the chair and stared at the manager.

The manager said, "I can't hire you, the sign says you have to be able to type." The dog jumped down, went over to the typewriter and proceeded to type out a perfect letter. He took out the page and trotted over to the manager and gave it to him, then jumped back on the chair. The manager was stunned, but then told the dog, "The sign says you have to be good with a computer."

The dog jumped down again and went to the computer. The dog proceeded to demonstrate his expertise with various programs and produced a sample spreadsheet and database and presented them to the manager. By this time the manager was totally dumb-founded! He looked at the dog and said, "I realize that you are a very intelligent dog and have some interesting abilities. However, I still can't give you the job."

The dog jumped down and went to a copy of the sign and put his paw on the sentence that told about being an Equal Opportunity Employer. The manager said, "Yes, but the sign also says that you have to be bilingual."

The dog looked at him straight in the face and said, "Meow."

Find these and many more items of 'Dog Humor' at: <http://www.nanceestar.com/DogHumor.html>

These wonderful folks have adopted from us, and have kindly offered to donate a percentage of the profit from the sale of their products to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado!! So we're happy to do a little shameless promotion for their business. Can you blame us?

BLUE HERON SAND ETCHING STUDIO

20 % of all sales donated to help our friends at Dalmatian Rescue.

Custom pet portraits carved into granite, \$75 each.

Carved name and paw print on river rock, \$20 each.

Set of 4 custom etched wine glasses, \$45 per set.

Will ship anywhere in USA

To see LOTS more stuff, please visit

<http://www.blueheronsandetching.com>

They make wonderful Christmas gifts!!!!



Well, I FINALLY ordered some Sticky Sheets from Second Chances Dalmatian Rescue and FINALLY used one of the sheets because I was having company. "WOW!" is all I can say!! Check it out, because these buggars really work! And a percentage goes back to the rescue coffers. Get some today! (As they say).

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

Sticky Sheets can be applied to furniture, car seats, blankets, curtains, etc. and they remove **dog hair and anything else that needs to be removed**, gently and efficiently and easily. There are other uses too, like removing cobwebs in ceiling corners. A tough but removable stickiness that works great! If you want people to think your pets DON'T rule your house and car, give these a try!

NEW PROCEDURES FOR FOSTER PARENTS...

We have had a couple too many of our adopted dogs be found with NO owners information on them recently. So, the new procedure is:

1. Please tell the applicant that they can come to your home to meet the dog BUT may NOT take the dog until their own ID is placed on the collar. If they say they don't want to make a name tag yet, tell them they will need an ID tag for any dog they have, whether from us or not, so hopefully whatever dog they end up with will have their own personal ID. If they like the dog and want to adopt right away, then send them to the nearest pet store or Wal-Mart to make a tag (if they came without one) and they will have to make a second trip.
2. On the ID tag they should have TWO forms of contact. We suggest a cell and a home phone or a friend's phone that will answer.
3. Suggest they put on their tags the following information:

Phone Number
Phone Number (could fit on the first line possibly)
Needs Meds – Reward
Dog name with owner's last name (i.e. Spotty Davidson)

The bottom line is simple: NO TAG, NO DOG! Period.

In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians

Brodie



9 years old, neutered male
Stray

URGENT! Okay, so Brodie's NOT your typical Dalmatian, but he does need a temporary foster home because his foster family is traveling September 11-16. Can you help?? Brodie was found as a stray with his Dalmatian friend Junior, who has now been adopted. We went to the shelter to rescue Junior and couldn't leave Brodie behind. We are guessing he is a collie x lab mix but, hey, he does have some spots! When he first arrived in his foster home, Brodie could barely walk; he needed help getting up and had no sparkly in his eyes. We were really afraid he was going to die, but we committed to giving him a chance. To our surprise and happiness, this sweet fellow has a great will to live and has done a complete 180 turn around! He prances on his walks, can get up and down (though not like a puppy) just fine on his own. His coat has improved and best of all, he has a sparkly in his eye and is enjoying life again! Brodie needs a special home looking for companionship where he can live out the remaining years of his life. He isn't ready to quit yet and will add a great deal to his

Forever home. Brodie will thrive in any home as long as he is given some TLC! He is mellow and doesn't ask much. This sweet boy is in Edwards near Vail and transport to Denver area is often available. He's just looking for a lawn to relax on and a calm hand to enjoy! Do you have these? Give him a try in September, and we'll bet you won't let him go! Let us know if you can foster him temporarily or he will have to go to a kennel and that will be hard on his old hips. Help Brodie!!

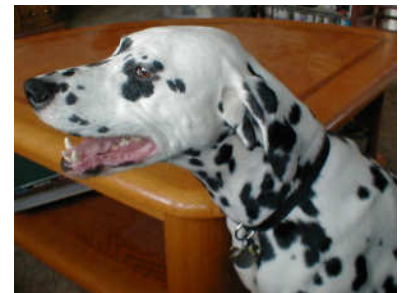
Featured Happy Beginning Story

Flora

Hi Beth,

I don't know if you remember me. We talked about a month ago and you got me in touch with Karl down here in the Springs. We adopted Flora. I just wanted to thank you for my new baby. She is the best little girl in the whole world. She fit right in with the boys (our other babies). She sleeps with us in our bed, uses the doggie door with no problems and jumps up on the window seat when she hears our cars. Flora follows me where ever I go. We love her so much. Thank you!

Donita & Robert – Fountain, CO



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!!

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

6828 Rim Rock Trail, Fort Collins, CO 80526 **Rescue Hotline: 303-281-8963** Fax: 970-377-9509

<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org>
