

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Hard to believe yet another Holiday Season is upon us. We in Dalmatian Rescue have been very busy this past year! We have adopted 109 dogs (Dalmatians and Dalmatian mixes) as of this writing, and yet we still have 28 lovely dogs still waiting for their special, forever home. We hope you will take the time to give your special pooch a big hug and let him or her know how much they mean to you. We KNOW they would tell you the same thing if they could talk.

We have been blessed with new people joining our efforts in 2007. More foster homes have enabled us to save lives of scared, thin, sick dogs in shelters that we might not have been able to have helped before. Giving a loving animal a place to land until that special person or family finds it is the greatest gift of all! Thanks to all who have been so dedicated in the past and to the new ones who are also there for us and these precious lives now! We couldn't do it without you.

As you know, Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity and we greatly appreciate any donations. Any donation, large or small is tax deductible. You know that we put your donations to work for the lives in our charge. Our overhead is minimal for such a large organization, through the generous donations of time and facilities of our volunteers. We want you to know that nearly every dollar goes to straight to the dogs!

Have you ever considered sponsoring a dog on a monthly basis? \$25 a month can still go a long way! Or whatever amount you wish to donate. Know that we put all donations to work for our needy friends.

For those friends, family members, neighbors, etc. you find hard to buy for during the Holidays... why not consider donating to Dalmatian Rescue in their name? You could specify a certain dog and include a picture of that special one in your card? Giving in the name of others is a gift that works hard for living creatures!

Last year, our expenditures were greater than normal. Sadly, we lost three young puppies to the deadly parvo virus. Several times that meant not only did we lose those precious lives, but we paid dearly for the effort. Efforts to save them have amounted to \$2,700 alone. Additionally routine and emergency Veterinary expenses, which continue to rise, totaled about 75% of our budget. We have had several situations requiring urgent care on weekends or at night. As you all know, off-hour treatment is very expensive. Our concern first is always the health of the dog, but THEN we must pay for that health care. We are blessed to work with many vets in the Front Range area who do give us discounts, but this just isn't always available in an emergency. We work hard to keep our veterinary expenses down but sometimes costs are just out of our hands.



Shirley, just 11 weeks old when she passed, was one of the pups we lost to parvo.

Even though we have a very generous support system with the B&B for D.O.G. in Aurora, we still paid more than \$1,000 for boarding. Spaying and neutering costs have continually increased as well. Where they once ranged \$30-50 in certain locales, they are now averaging \$100-\$130 a dog. We neutered or spayed 35 dogs last year running about \$3,500. Advertising was not too bad, since we have a very active and effective website, but it still ran nearly \$1,000. Financial support from two foundations was not forthcoming in 2007 due to their own financial problems. All in all, we have done well with the money we have had to work with, but of course, there is never enough. **Donations of any size are gladly accepted and as always, they are tax deductible!!**

Our stories have been tear jerkers (such as "Shirley" [pictured above], the baby we lost to parvo). They have been very sad too. Hundreds of loving faces staring through the fences of shelters all over the country. Since we are the only organized Dalmatian Rescue for most surrounding states, we are asked to help from many shelters everywhere. If we have a "spot" for the dog to go to in Colorado and a ride to get it here, we just can't say no! Our dogs have come from Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Texas and New Mexico (who has a rescue but is overwhelmed by the numbers). Also from Utah, Idaho, and even some from Arizona where the local rescue, too, is drowning in Dalmatians. We have orchestrated rescues for dogs in California as well. Last spring we met local volunteers who drove from California to Arizona and we brought home FIVE of God's creatures to find new lives in our state. I can't tell you how great the feeling was to help dogs, some of whom had spent upwards of SIX months in lock down, finally find their special family and a forever life. We are truly blessed to be able to help as much as we do. And, we can't do it without help from our friends. We know the greatest people who come through when we need them!

Today, our coffers are nearly empty. Increased costs, larger number of dogs to save, and fewer grants have been the reason. We know that everyone is hit hard today by the fuel costs but if you have it in your heart to donate, we are here for you... and for those really special spotted friends.

Were you considering a second dog possibly? We have quite a selection. Not all are purebred as you can see when you visit www.dalmatianrescue.org, but they all are in need of a loving home. LOVE in a four-legged body! Remember, we give a second dog discount, as well as a senior dog discount should you find that special someone, who is a little short in the tooth. Dogs that can't help that they are no longer puppies, but dogs with the mellowing of age so walks are easier, and the wisdom of experience. Dogs who have many more years of devotion to give if they are just given the chance.

We have youngsters who are ready to hit the park, go jogging, go biking, take to the hills and last all day! Puppies take that extra special time and attention, but given good exercise and a good dog buddy they are worth it! We have dogs for every situation, so check us out!

We thank you for your previous support, for the love of the critters you've taken and loved in the past, and for any future adoptions, donations, or time you can give!! May this Christmas be drier than last (remember Denver frozen in time December 2006), and happy and maybe even finding a new set of loving eyes under your tree! What is Christmas without something "new"?????

Beth White, President
Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado

Wipe your feet!

Snow and ice in winter means salt and who knows what all else our dogs are walking on. After a wintry walk on city streets, it's always a good idea to wipe your dogs feet off before entering the house, to prevent messy or damaged floors, but more importantly, to prevent ingestion of harmful chemicals. Your dog's pads are very absorbent!

Keep your buddy warm

With the arrival of snow, we thought we'd take this opportunity to remind you about www.dogcoats.com! Great quality and a great fit because they are custom made to your measurements especially for your dog. The coats are worn like a horse blanket with a Velcro front for easy opening, and buckles that wrap under the belly.

GoodSearch and raise money for Dal Rescue!

Once again, we would like to remind everyone to **PLEASE** use GoodSearch.com for your internet search needs. This is a way to generate donations for us that won't cost you anything!! The donations come from the GoodSearch advertisers. Every search conducted will generate a \$0.01 donation for Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado. Just think how much extra we could earn if everyone in your family and your friends used it! So far we have generated \$34.76. GoodSearch is powered by Yahoo! search engines, so you get the same quality search results that you would if you used the Yahoo! search feature. Here's how to get set up to click your way to donations:

1. Go to www.goodsearch.com.
2. In the text box under the gray "Who do you GoodSearch for?" bar, type in the words Dalmatian Rescue and click the yellow "Verify" button.
3. In the drop down list click on "Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado (Fort Collins, CO)".
4. You are now ready to search and raise funds for us! Just type your search text in the text box to the left of the yellow "Search" button, then click the search button.

Holiday Safety Reminders!

As the holidays approach we must look, once again, at safety ideas to make sure that you and your furry ones have a truly wonderful experience. 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 – While the obvious things like lights and ornaments need to be closely monitored, make sure to also secure the tree so that it won't be knocked over. Also, drinking the water used on live trees can create diarrhea, mouth sores, loss of appetite and vomiting. Electrical cords abound – Do not let your dog chew on them! Toxic Plants – Seasonal plants can be highly toxic. Place your holly, mistletoe, poinsettias and other plants 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 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 the rules... No slipping people food to the dog. No matter how sad he looks, no matter how much he begs, no people food, period.

To make sure the holiday is happy for everyone maybe during your big party you will consider ways to ease the stress on your dog. 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 dog play room 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!

Ready for some GOOD NEWS?

Here are just a **few** of our stories, where dogs went from bad situations to good!

Oliver was a very different story. He was about 10 yrs and mom adored him but mom had to move in with her son who had a pit bull. Mr. Pit didn't like Mr. Oliver, so Oliver went to the shelter. Mom cried her eyes out but couldn't keep her dog. Oliver was treated for heartworm before traveling to CO, but the treatment nearly killed him. He fought back through some very serious health conditions (supported generously by Carol Nesland) mostly caused by the local vet's treatment of him before we got Oliver. Oliver is a survivor, and today he is best buds to his new mom and her mom... He's their boy!



Cierra came from New Mexico...found at a local shelter in total debilitating fear. She shook so hard she looked like a vibrator. She is likely Dalmatian and Australian Shepherd mix, but oh what a pretty soul. Cierra spent time in New Mexico before coming here, learning to trust again but she was still afraid of men. Today she's living in the mountains where she gets to run free. She is still available for adoption but what a wonderful ladies dog and so good with dogs and in the house too! She could like men but she just hasn't met the man of her dreams yet!

Last winter during the blizzard, one really, cold little Dalmatian was found living under a trampoline, of all things. No dog house, nothing to cut the wind and keep him warm from the snow that was so bad last December. A jogger noticed the condition of this little guy and notified us. Fortunately, the owner was happy to give "**Banks**" to us...so named because he was sleeping in a snow bank. We got him in Dec. 2006 but he found a great family with kids and other dogs in early 2007. He suffers no more!



Snuggles belonged to a young family whose dad moved in with them because he was dying of cancer. The doctor said no animals in the house, to protect dad, so Snuggles came back to us. She found her forever home with a young lady who needed her as much as Snuggles (now Indi) needed her. It is a perfect fit!



Sometimes we have our little friends for long periods. We wonder why no one has come along to take them home. **Laydee** and **Hope** were just those little kids. But, their adoptive Angel just hadn't found them yet. Today, after being with us for a very long time, they are a spoiled pair in Laramie where they share the bed, the lounge and the truck with their loving human. Dog park every day too!



Another little tyke came from KS. **Raina** was likely a Dalmatian x Pointer mix. She was only about 12-14 weeks old when found as a stray. Raina made it to Colorado and then



to Alaska on a big airplane! Today she lives with a Dalmatian named Tucker and her name is Tailor. She loves to run in the woods in Palmer and terrorize Tucker too.

Pal's owner became physically debilitated and could no longer keep her home or her Dalmatian. Pal was nearly 10 years old and finally a "spot" came available for us to take him. His foster mom found Pal to be absolutely perfect in disposition and manners, and he stayed forever.



Carla was a tiny puppy in El Paso Texas, maybe 9-10 weeks old. A local rescuer pulled her out of the shelter literally as they were heading her down the hall to the euthanasia room. Carla had a spiral fracture of the hind leg which the vet felt was likely done by her being swung by her leg. The leg looked deformed but was only injured. Today she is healed and acting like a normal, bouncy puppy in Colorado.



A shelter in Hutchinson KS asked us if we'd consider a mix breed. **Oddball** they called him (but soon renamed Hutch) because he sure appeared to be a Rottweiler wearing Dalmatian spots. He had sat in the shelter for quite some time with no one wanting him. Today Hutch runs the KS farm where he lives, chases bunnies and the kids on the ATV!





Sadie-Lynn, a Dalmatian-English Pointer mix, came to us from a shelter in Independence, Missouri. She had tested positive for heartworm. She recovered from the heartworm very quickly and was adopted along with her foster brother. Sadly Sadie-Lynn had two failed adoptions, neither of them her fault. During her 9.5 months in foster she quickly became a neighborhood fixture loving to visit and play with the children on the block. Sadie-Lynn's angels smiled down on her and she was adopted by a young, active couple. She just loves her new home, all the exercise she gets and being the center of attention certainly doesn't hurt! They are just thrilled with her, too!

Junior (now JR) was found as a stray with horribly infected ears, was about 35-40 pounds overweight, and had some dog social issues. His foster mom worked diligently all summer to get his weight down, to relieve the underlying allergies to the infected ears, and helped him enjoy other dogs. Junior found his new home with a young person attending CSU... supposedly aiming for Veterinary School (we learned later that was a lie). It was with horrors that we learned that this student and his housemates were abusing Junior with drugs and neglecting him so that he never got out for potty breaks or exercise. With police in tow we reclaimed and took him from the hell hole where he lived. We have renamed him **JR** to give him a fresh start. **JR** is available for the right home, but he's no longer abused or neglected. He is healthy; his ears are healing (again!). We know that the perfect home for a perfectly lovely dog is out there.



Sunshine (formerly Laverne, Baby Shirley's sister) is 1/3 of a trio that came from El Paso, TX. She got sick with parvo along with Shirley. Thankfully we were able to catch it early enough and got her treated. She made a very speedy recovery and was once again a happy and healthy puppy. She was adopted by a very loving family with a very large yard and another Dal, Cosmo, that she can play with. Sunshine is loving life now, and we can only hope that her sister is watching over her from heaven and sharing in her joyous life.

We couldn't do what we do without the help, support, and following of all our friends. Thanks to **YOU**, more than **109** dogs have been saved and are now where they belong... in a loving home. Thanks to **YOU**, we have many nice dogs in foster homes as well.

We cant' thank YOU enough!!

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado

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<http://www.rainbowsedge.us/dals>