

De-skunking Your Dog!



In a follow-up for last month's feature article about skunk rabies in Colorado, and a rather timely one for me... we bring you a little information on how to remove the odor if your dog gets 'skunked' like Lisa did last night! She trapped one in the corner of three fences (mine and two neighbor's fences that meet with a small 'trap area' where they come together). After tearing one of the fence slats trying to get at the skunk, she had it in the 'trap' and of course you know what happened next! Yep... sprayed right in the face!! Yet that didn't stop her. I had to risk getting sprayed myself and go out there and pull her away... she really wanted to get revenge!! So I had to do something, but what? Here's what I found. One of the best and most recommended methods for treating an animal (or person) that has been sprayed by a skunk is to use the following mixture, most – if not all – of the ingredients are found in most households:

1 gallon of water (temperate for your dog – not too cold, not too hot)

1 quart (2 - 16 ounce bottles) of 3% hydrogen peroxide (the type normally sold at the drug store, Wal-Mart, etc)

- make sure the peroxide is fresh, unopened bottle is best because over time the hydrogen leaks out of an opened bottle and you're left with a bottle of regular water.

¼ cup of baking soda

1 teaspoon of liquid soap

In an open container, mix all the ingredients. Do NOT attempt to use a closed container as the gas build up may cause the container to explode! The mixture will bubble (the hydrogen peroxide reaction). Taking care not to get it in the dog's eyes or ears, thoroughly scrub the mixture into the dog's coat like you are giving him a shampoo and let it stand for about five to ten minutes. Then rinse with clean water, cover their eyes with a washcloth if you have to rinse the head to keep the mixture out of their eyes. If the dog got sprayed heavily you may have to repeat the application one or more times.

From our experience last night, I can attest that this formula is very effective! Even though she got a good dose right in the face, using care and a washcloth I was able to get around her muzzle, forehead, and under her ears. The only place I didn't get too close on (and still smells a little) is right around the eyes and ear openings. Hopefully you won't need this, but it's always good to know, especially if you live near skunks or go out into the wonderful nature that surrounds us.

Leptospirosis and You

With summer heat comes the temptation to cool off in the streams, ponds and lakes. You should be aware of the potential to be exposed to Leptospirosis. Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease which affects humans and animals. Leptospira organisms have been found in cattle, pigs, horses, dogs, rodents, and wild animals.

In humans it causes a wide range of symptoms and some infected persons may exhibit no symptoms at all. Symptoms include high fever, severe headache, chills, muscle aches and vomiting, and may include jaundice (yellow skin and eyes), red eyes, abdominal pain, diarrhea, or a rash. If left untreated, it can cause even more severe problems like kidney damage, meningitis, liver failure, respiratory distress and in rare cases, death. Many of the symptoms can be, and often are, mistaken for other diseases. Leptospirosis is confirmed by laboratory testing of blood or urine samples.

Leptospirosis is usually contracted through contact with water, soil or food contaminated by the urine of an infected animal. This may happen by swallowing contaminated food or water or through skin contact, especially mucosal surfaces (eyes, nose, or broken skin). It is not known to spread from person to person. The time between a person's exposure and becoming sick is anywhere from two days to four weeks and usually begins abruptly with high fever, chills, headaches and muscle aches, vomiting or diarrhea. The illness can last from a few days to three weeks with treatment. If left untreated, recovery may take several months.

Leptospirosis is treated with antibiotics, such as doxycycline or penicillin, which should be administered as early in the course of the disease as possible. IV antibiotics may be required for those with more severe symptoms.

Leptospirosis occurs worldwide but is most common in temperate or tropical climates. It is an occupational hazard for many people who work outdoors or with animals, for example, farmers, veterinarians, shelter workers, animal rescuers, or military personnel. It is a recreational hazard for campers, hikers, fishermen and boaters. Reducing risk of exposure can be achieved by not swimming or wading in water that might be contaminated with animal urine.

Sugarless Gum and Candy Dangers

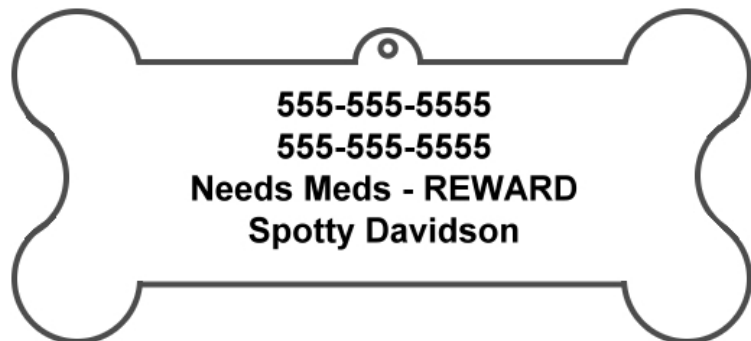
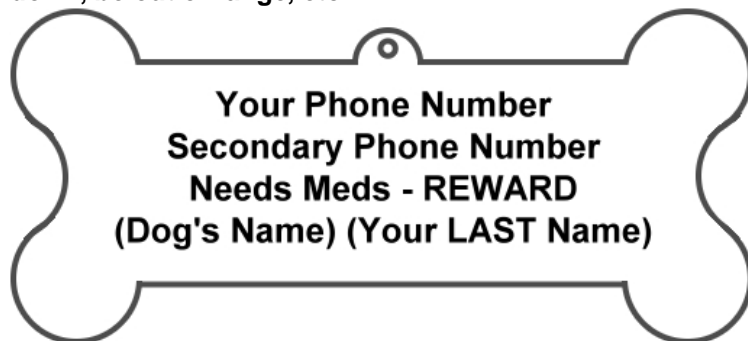
Xylitol has been known to be toxic to dogs. Xylitol is a sugar alcohol used in candy and chewing gum. It is also found in some pharmaceuticals and oral health products like chewable vitamins and throat lozenges. While safe for humans, it can be harmful to dogs. When ingested by dogs, it causes a dangerous surge of insulin. In as short as 15 minutes, the blood sugar of a dog that has ingested Xylitol may register a marked drop in blood sugar. At high doses, Xylitol is believed to be toxic to the canine liver. Just three grams of Xylitol can kill a 65 pound dog! Because of the different formulas used in producing sugarless gum and candies, the number of sticks or candies that could prove fatal varies and cannot be specified.

A dog that has consumed an item containing Xylitol can rapidly experience a drop in blood sugar causing weakness, lethargy, loss of coordination, collapse and/or seizures. Those symptoms can develop within 30 minutes and the dog must receive immediate veterinary treatment to survive. Without help, irreversible brain damage occurs and the dog most often will die. Xylitol also appears to cause severe liver damage within 24 hours. According to a study published in the October 2006 *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, of eight dogs who had ingested Xylitol, five died of liver failure. If you even think your dog has consumed Xylitol, call your veterinarian immediately. You will most likely be instructed to bring your dog in to have vomiting induced and IV fluids started. Veterinary treatment usually involves hospitalization and IV fluids containing glucose. Your dog's blood sugar levels will be monitored every couple hours to adjust the glucose levels. If the liver tests normal after 24 hours, your dog should be ready to go home.

So how do you prevent Xylitol poisoning? Recognize that in addition to large canine teeth, most dogs also have a very large sweet tooth as well. Do not leave tasty treats lying around in reach of that toothy grin! As with many other items, such as chocolate, grapes, raisins, etc., **NEVER** assume that what is safe for people is safe for dogs.

PLEASE IDENTIFY YOUR DOGS!!!!

Once again, we find ourselves having to remind people to make sure that their dogs are wearing ID tags. This past month we have had two more dogs get out and because they weren't wearing their owner's ID tags, no one could find or contact the owners. In both cases, we were contacted, but only AFTER the dogs had been impounded and taken to a shelter. These two dogs were needlessly traumatized, exposed to disease, and cost the owners money to reclaim them. This could all have been prevented had the dogs been wearing ID tags. EVERY dog, adopted and foster, that is handled by Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado is issued an ID tag that bears an ID number and our name and phone number. They also come microchipped and wearing the microchip tag. The dog should also have their rabies tag on their collar. These are NOT helpful for identification, but are usually required by law. We ask, plead and beg of you to leave ALL of these tags on your dog. Adopters should have their own ID tag affixed to the dog's collar PRIOR to leaving the foster home. Fosters should place their own ID tag on the dog as soon as they first meet! We recommend the following information be placed on your dog's ID tag (If one phone is a cell phone, please include one that is a landline phone – cells can die, battery run down, be out of range, etc.):



I know, I know...

We always ask for foster homes in every issue... and I won't disappoint you with this issue either! Seems the country is being overrun with Dalmatians and the shelters are overflowing with dogs. And we are constantly being asked to help them out. BUT we can't help them if we've no place for these desperate souls to land once they get to Colorado. So we implore you to help spread the word and let's see if we can't get some new foster homes opened up!! And a special note to our past adopters... you can foster too!! Even if just a couple days until we can find a more 'permanent' place for the dog, you can help to save a life! If we hadn't had a foster home for your dog, you would not have gotten him. PLEASE think about fostering a dog. PLEASE give a warm home to a dog that has not known one in a long time, where she can relax, show her true personality, enjoy a nice thick and comfy bed instead of the cold, hard concrete of the shelter floor. Dalmatians all over this country are literally DYING to meet you or your friend who is willing to give them a 'spot' until their forever family finds them.

*******PLEASE FOSTER A DALMATIAN TODAY*******

Bits & Pieces

*Dogs are not our whole life,
but they make our lives whole.
-Roger Carasi*

A Dog Is Truly A Man's Best Friend!

If you don't believe it, just try this experiment: Put your dog and your wife in the trunk of the car for an hour.

When you open the trunk, which who's really happy to see you?
(DO NOT try this at home!)

Really Need Help. MUST GO!!

Please help! After two long years of being on a waiting list for a dog, we have been notified by breed rescue that, at long last, our number has come up and... WE ARE HAVING A DOG!

We must get rid of our children IMMEDIATELY because we just know how time consuming our new little dog is going to be and it just wouldn't be fair to the children. Since our little dog will be arriving on Monday we MUST place the children up for adoption by this weekend!

They are described as:

One male --name is Tommy, Caucasian, light blonde hair, blue eyes. Four years old. Excellent disposition. Doesn't bite. Does have problems with peeing directly in the toilet. Has had Chicken Pox and is current on all shots, house trained and gets along well with others.

One female --name is Lexie, Caucasian, strawberry blonde hair, green eyes, quite freckled. Two years old. Is current on all shots. Gets along well with others but does not like to share her toys and therefore would do best in a one child household. She is currently working on her house training. Shouldn't take long at all.

We really do LOVE our children so much and want to do what's right for them. That is why we contacted a rescue group. But we simply can no longer keep them. Also, we are afraid that they may hurt our new dog.

I hope you understand that ours is a UNIQUE situation and we have a real emergency here! They MUST be placed into your rescue by Sunday night at the latest or we will be forced to drop them off at the orphanage or along some dark, country road. Our priority now has to be our new dog.

My Foster Dog – Author Unknown

My foster dog stinks to high heaven. I don't know for sure what breed he is. His eyes are blank and hard. He won't let me pet him and growls when I reach for him. He has ragged scars and crusty sores on his skin. His nails are long and his teeth, which he showed me, are stained. I sigh. I drove two hours for this. I carefully maneuver him so that I can stuff him in the crate. Then I heft the crate and put it in the car. I am going home with my new foster dog.

At home I leave him in the crate till all the other dogs are in the yard. I get him out of the crate and ask him if he wants "outside." As I lead him to the door, he hikes his leg on the wall and shows me his stained teeth again. When we come in, he goes to the crate because that's the only safe place he sees. I offer him food but he won't eat it if I look at him, so I turn my back. When I return, the food is gone. I ask again about "outside." When we come back, I pat him before I let him in the crate. He jerks away and runs into the crate to show me his teeth.

The next day I decide I can't stand the stink any longer. I lead him into the bath with cheese in my hands. His fear of me is not quite overcome by his longing for the cheese. And well he should fear me, for I will give him a bath. After an attempt or two to bail out, he is defeated and stands there. I have bathed four-legged bath squirters for more years than he has been alive. His only defense was a show of his stained teeth that did not hold up to a face full of water. As I wash him, it is almost as if I wash not only the stink and dirt away, but also some of the hardness. His eyes look full of sadness now. And he looks completely pitiful as only a soap covered dog can look. I tell him that he will feel better when he is clean. After the soap, the towels are not too bad, so he lets me rub him dry. I take him outside. He runs for joy . . . the joy of not being in the tub and the joy of *being clean*. I, the bath giver, am allowed to share the joy. He comes to me and lets me pet him.

One week later I have a vet bill. His skin is healing. He likes for me to pet him (I think). I know what color he will be when his hair grows in. I have found out he is terrified of other dogs, so I carefully introduce him to my mildest four-legged brat. It doesn't go well.

Two weeks later a new vet bill for an infection that was missed on the first visit. He plays with the other dogs. Three weeks later his coat shines, he has gained weight. He shows his clean teeth when his tongue lolls out after he plays chase in the yard with the gang. His eyes are soft and filled with life. He loves hugs and likes to show off his tricks, if you have the cheese.

Someone called today and asked about him. They saw the picture I took the first week. They asked about his personality, his history, his breed. They asked if he was pretty. I asked them lots of questions. I checked up on them. I prayed. I said yes. When they saw him the first time, they said he was the most beautiful dog they had ever seen.

Six months later, I got a call from his new family. He is wonderful, smart, well behaved, and very loving. How could someone not want him, they ask? I told them I didn't know. He is beautiful. They all are.

In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians

(Okay, so they're mixes... but they're CUTE!)

Pansyl

2 Years Old, Black Spayed Female, Dal Mix
Stray



*****URGENT!!***URGENT!!*****

Pansy REALLY needs a home now! We've had Pansy in foster care since last November and she really, really needs a home environment to relax and enjoy. This poor girl has been through a lot in her two short years. Bounced around as a stray for who knows how long, she managed to survive. She had to be moved from her foster home because they could no longer foster for us, due to no fault of her own, and has been living in at a doggie day care center for quite some time

now because we don't have a foster home with space right now! Living at the doggie day care center has been better than the shelter, but still not even close to a real home. Pansy gets some exercise there which has helped slim down her figure, but she really needs a place to RUN and continue her weight management. She gets attention, but still longs for that close personal interaction that only a foster or forever family can give her.

She is very friendly and LOVES belly rubs, walks in the park, and just sitting and discussing politics. She is an active girl and needs good exercise and would make a good jogging or biking partner. Pansy is housebroken and has excellent house manners and would probably do best in a home with a submissive male who will let her be the boss. We think Pansy is probably part heeler from the way she plays but that is a guess. Do you have room for a pretty flower like her?

Ali

11 months old, Black Spayed Female
Abandoned

*****URGENT!!*****

URGENT: New foster/permanent home needed ASAP because the foster home's house is selling. Once they are set up in their new home they will happily take Ali back if she hasn't found a forever home by then.

See that BIG smile... That's Ali... happy and ready to go have fun with you, your kids and your dogs. This sweet little Dalmatian mix girl had a rough start at life as she was thrown out of a moving vehicle on a busy highway as a young pup.

Luckily some nice women pulled her out of traffic. Despite her sad start to life, Ali has a REAL zest for life and is just one happy, happy dog! Ali is looking for that special family that will enjoy her enthusiasm and active personality. She is a great biking companion and she can go to the dog park for some fun. She is GREAT with other dogs and kids (young as 4 in her household) and is the next person's best friend, but would do best without cats. She is completely housebroken and crate trained and she knows several commands. Ali loves to learn too and is highly trainable. Only weighing about 43 pounds, Ali is a small girl, but she will need a 5/6 ft fence in her new home as she is athletic and short fences are no challenge to her. Ali is currently living in Edwards, near Vail, but loves her car rides and will go anywhere to find her new home. Ali really needs a dog buddy to play with and an active family that she can keep entertained! So much love & joy in a little spotted body!



Happy Beginning Story

Maya (aka Celeste)

Maya was originally a stray, with a puppy that was quickly adopted. She was facing euthanasia in a small mountain town. Fortunately Maya made her way to a Dalmatian Rescue foster home in Colorado Springs. I wanted to adopt another Dalmatian when I heard about Maya and went to see her. She was so frightened but she also appeared to have a very kind soul. I did not hesitate to bring her home with me. Maya has been a joy to me and my husband. She is so loving and wants to be with us as much as we want to be with her. She has adjusted to our home, and our cats, quickly even though she is still afraid of strangers. We are working on playing and socialization, and she is becoming acquainted with neighbors and their dogs. We could have not asked for a more wonderful companion.



— Sandy & Dick Erman, Canon City, CO



Going, Going, Gone!



We are about ready to hold our EBay fundraising auction. We can still use more donations though. Anything at all that you have laying around the house just gathering dust... kitchen gadgets, that old camera that you don't use anymore, perhaps an old ring that turned your finger green! If you have anything to donate (remember, you can claim it as a donation to Dal Rescue on your taxes) please contact Karl at dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net to arrange delivery or pick up so that he can get it photographed and ready for the auction. Once everything is set, we'll send out a notice a little later this month to let everyone know that the auction is starting... and then you can help spread the word about the auction and maybe even replace your donated item with a new one!

These are some of the items that we are auctioning:

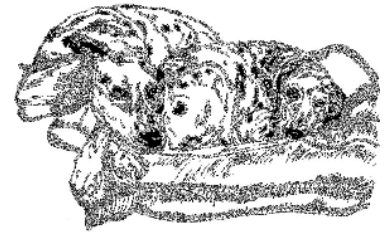


This is a framed photograph by Barbara Augello, a noted dog photographer. The color photo is 8"x10" and the frame is approximately 11"x14". You have probably seen her work and may not even have realized it. A lot of her images are licensed to makers of those famous coffee mugs with photos of a particular dog breed on them. Her images have also appeared on mouse pads, coasters and note cards.

Barbara has graciously offered to donate a set of her note cards for the auction as well.

You can visit Barbara's website to learn more about her and her art:
<http://www.dogimage.com>.

Here we have a way for anyone to memorialize their beloved pets. Colorado artist (and a previous Dalmatian Rescue adopter) Mary Blichmann is offering a custom black ink artwork featuring your pet. The drawing will be approximately 8"x10" with a matte finish, but NOT framed. She draws these by hand from a photo that you send her! She can combine two photos into one image (so if you have two pets but don't have them in the same picture, you can still have her draw them together!!)



Mary has also supported us by donating portions of sales from some of her works to Dalmatian Rescue. You can visit her website here to learn more about her and her artwork:
www.blueheronsandetching.com.



An authentic Patricia Nixon IPS (Inscribed Photograph Signed) circa mid 1950's when her husband Richard Nixon was the Vice President. This item has an authentication certificate and appraisal.

The photograph itself is an uncommon high quality studio print by noted Los Angeles celebrity and movie studio photographer John Engstead, printed in matte finish on an unusually heavy stock bearing his blind emboss at lower right – all of which suggests a smaller print run, not the run of the mill portrait sent out by Nixon in larger quantities. The photo is approximately 8"x10" and is unframed.

We have 25 of these cute little figurines!! Yep, that's right, TWENTY-FIVE!!!

Perky and playful, a spotted pup is captured here with his favorite ball. Absolutely adorable and remarkably realistic, this friendly little fellow is here to warm the heart of any Dalmatian fanatic!!



They'll make a wonderful stocking stuffer for Christmas!!!

We also have a couple other autographed photos and a diamond necklace. So, as you can see, there is a wide variety of items so far. BUT we still could use more!! The more items donated for the auction, the more money we can raise!!!

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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