

On Your Mark, Set, GO!

Whenever collecting urine for your dog's UA (urinary analysis) for the vet, it is most important to collect the first pee in the morning. Concentrated urine is necessary for a proper analysis. You might practice a few days in a row taking your dog outside on leash to get the dog more comfortable with you interfering in the "private" moments. Boys, as we all know, usually really don't care, and more likely are proud of what they can produce. Girls almost always despair! So, making it a practice of walking your dog on leash first thing in the morning works best. If you use a dog door, simply close it off or lock the dog in the bedroom, crate, etc. You want them to have a full night's urine stored for the best evaluation.

It also helps your female Dal learn to learn to potty on leash because it is most useful when traveling. The girls are notorious for holding it for hours or even days when forced to potty on leash, so why not add this experience to her routine? It is not necessary to do it daily, but walking your female on leash in early morning, when you KNOW she needs to go, and in the familiarity of her own yard, can be very useful. Walking your gal pal daily on leash for a week or until she willingly pees is all it takes, and then just do it once a week for awhile as long as she will cooperate and pee right away. Talk happy when she does what you ask, and return to the house. Most of the time dogs don't need to defecate first thing, but if you want to add that important exercise as well, go back outside with the dog (female or male) on leash right after they've had their breakfast. Sure makes long trips easier on them and you!

It is best to notify your vet's office that you will be bringing in a urine sample, but be sure to take it in as soon as possible and never refrigerate it. Not at your house and not at the vet's. Be sure that it is pre-arranged for the vet staff to NOT refrigerate it upon arrival, but to read it as soon as possible. Too often busy offices will store it in the refrigerator until they have time to get to it and this can affect the reading. This procedure for analyzing Dalmatian urine is highly recommended by the Dalmatian Club of America, but not all veterinarians know, so it is up to you to educate them. You can't be too educated about your Dalmatian's urine and neither can your vet! Vets can't be expected to know all treatments recommended for every breed, so we need to help them.

Take the urine to the vet in a near-sterile jar that has gone thru the dish washer and then stored with the lid tightened. Collect it from the boys in the jar if possible, but if not, use whatever is as clean as possible. With the girls, use a low-sided container (bowl) and then pour it into the jar. UA's are always recommended whenever there are questions about any urinary health, non-natural flow in the males, unexplained skin problems, pain when urinating, or non-natural stream flow, and at any time you do a checkup. Remember, (those of you faint of heart), that urine is sterile so don't panic if you get some on you!

Since this is naturally a high-uric acid breed, you should take in a urine sample at every physical, whether the vet suggests it or not. Do this for you and your dog. No one knows how the gene for high uric acid production came to be part of the Dalmatian's makeup, but unfortunately it is. Any Dalmatian is a potential stone former so it is good to know your own dog's urinary status with a routine UA. It is NOT uncommon to see sediment in a Dalmatian's urine but do not allow your vet to immediately put your dog on UD or any prescription dog food if he sees sediment or crystals, unless there are other symptoms of urinary malfunction. It is all too common for the vet to sell you expensive food for life, when he should instead discuss with you what you are feeding, how often, whether you FLOAT the food in water (MOST important!), and also how long the dog is housed and forced to contain his urine. Far too many vets don't know to do this and find it simpler and easier to just sell you prescription food. If it is necessary, then you change to that food for a short period until the urine clears. BUT, first determine if you need to. Check your dog's urine and pH to get an idea what it is normally. Watch him urinate as often as possible because normally it is the males that will plug up due to his male plumbing. If he has a good stream, then likely there is no problem. Do get in the habit of watching your Dalmatians pee, though. And don't think you're weird! You're just a good Dalmatian owner.

If your dog does plug up, you must get him to the vet immediately! If he is straining and trying to lift his leg frequently with no urine produced, then this is serious. This is not the male that has been peeing everywhere and is now just empty. This is the dog that frequently tries to urinate but can't, and he's usually very distressed and looks worried. He knows there is something wrong so get him to the vet immediately! Hopefully he can be back flushed with a catheter in the urethra and then you can discuss options for his future. If there is more serious blocking, then surgery might need to be performed. If left unattended, your dog's bladder could rupture and this could kill him.

The most common stones in Dalmatians (again mostly males) are urate stones, followed by struvites ("**infection**" stones caused by stone-forming bacterial species, e.g., **Staph** and/or **Pseudomonas. E. coli**, the most frequent pathogen causing urinary tract infection (UTI) is **not** stone-forming specie!) More females and pups than males and adults have these. The third variety is calcium oxalate and then silica stones but they are extremely rare.)

For more information on feeding, visit <http://www.thedca.org/fallacy.html>

Dalmatian owners need to request that their dog's stones be sent to either University of California at Davis or Dr. Carl Osborne's Minnesota Canine Stone Center because they are the best in the business. An informal survey by the stone specialists at U Cal Davis many years ago showed up to an 85 percent error on the part of local provincial labs analyzing such specimens. Your vet must submit the specimens.

Homepage for Minnesota Urinary Stone Center: (requires Acrobat Reader)

<http://www.cvm.umn.edu/depts/minnesotaurolithcenter/home.html>

Online instructions for submitting, mailing stones/samples (requires Acrobat Reader):

<http://www.cvm.umn.edu/depts/minnesotaurolithcenter/beforeyousubmitsamples/home.html>

Online form for submitting urinary stones: (requires Acrobat Reader)

http://www.cvm.umn.edu/img/assets/10220/Submission_form1.pdf

Your vet should know what drugs your dog is on because they can also contribute to stone formation. The following are stone-forming medications about which Dr. Osborne's (authority on Dalmatian stone formation) teaching textbook cautions practicing vets. Like so many other aspects of complicated canine stone disease, the chapter urges any general practice vet diagnosing and treating a stone-forming dog should be given a list of any medications the dog is receiving, and be reminded of the possible undesirable influence of stone forming medications.

Please print this information and give to your vet if you have any urinary problems. Or, just give it to them to help any other Dalmatian your vet might see.

(A printer friendly version of this information can be found at: http://www.dalmatianrescue.org/info/drug_induced_stones.pdf)

From: Drug Induced Urolithiasis, pp. 251-266, in Osborne, C.A.; Lulich, J.P., and Bartges, J.W., editors, The ROCKET Science of Urolithiasis, Vet Clinics of No. America, January 1999.

DRUGS WHICH MAY INDUCE CALCIUM-BASED STONES

- Acidifiers
- Calcitrol
- Corticosteroids (prednisone and analogs)
- Furosemide
- Sodium chloride (salt)

DRUGS WHICH MAY CAUSE UNDESIRABLE LACK-OF-SOLUBILITY OF STONECAUSING SUBSTANCES

- Urine acidifiers (for dogs forming urate and similar stones thriving in abnormal acid urine)
- Urine alkalinizers (for dogs forming infection and similar stones thriving in abnormal alkaline urine)

DRUGS WHICH MAY INDUCE OXALATE STONES

- Ascorbic acid (vit C)

DRUGS WHICH MAY CAUSE XANTHINE STONES

- Allopurinol (at overdosages above 450 mg. daily)

DRUGS AND THEIR METABOLITES WHICH MAY FORM PORTIONS OR ALL OF A STONE

- Urographic contrast agents
 - Magnesium trisilicate
 - Phenazopyridine
 - Fluroquinolones
 - Primodone
 - Sulfonamides and their metabolites
 - Tetracyclines (antibiotics)
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Home Remedy For Chronic Ear Infections

By Beth White

Years ago Sid Remmele, a veterinarian friend, told me what worked for his client's dogs' chronic ear problems. He said to first determine that the infection is not a yeast infection because yeast infections do require medicinal treatment specific for that condition. If the ear is not infected with yeast, then flood the ear with hydrogen peroxide (squirt into the ear gently with a syringe), and hold the ear leather down while you message the ear to get the peroxide spread throughout. The dog will want to shake his head, naturally, which you can allow after you've allowed a minute or so for the peroxide to invade all the areas of the inner ear. Next, dry the outside ear flap and gently put a cotton ball inside the outer ear to draw out as much moisture as possible, but do not force it into the depths. Next add boric acid powder, which you can get at any pharmacy. The peroxide loosens the dirt and the boric acid dries the ear. Many vets prescribe greasy steroid creams be put into the ear canal, which will immediately stop the itching, but rarely solves the problem, and in fact can worsen the problem. Greasy creams keep the ear moist which attracts bacteria and dirt. The secret is to dry the ear out! I've recommended this procedure for many years to dog owners and most people find it quite useful in clearing up chronic ear problems (that are NOT yeast infections, remember). Usually treating in this manner once a week for a month will then usually mean the end of the infection or if it does reappear, then repeat this process.

Cause of ear infections

If the above treatment does not cure your dog's ear problems, then look at the problem as possibly being a food allergy. Continue to use the above treatment, but also switch to a food that does not contain corn (highly allergic), corn gluten, soy, or wheat. And as usual, you want to feed all your pets a food that is more meat than grains, and of course a food that is premium quality. Cheaper is NOT usually better! Remember as well to feed a variety of foods because food allergies can always develop if the same food is fed all the time. If you eat one food for life you will likely develop an allergy to it as well. One of the worst things we have done to our dogs with modern dog foods is to NOT feed a variety. We are victims of marketing propaganda...Don't change dog foods because it will give your dog diarrhea. Well, your dog gets diarrhea because you DON'T change the dog food. We create problems because we do not give variety.

Now, although it is cheaper, I do highly recommend Kirkland Signature brand found at Costco because it is rated A+ and is affordable as well. The Colorado price is roughly \$22 for 40#. Kirkland has the chicken and the lamb variety and I feed both, along with scraps, eggs, yogurt, etc. and I do feed other premium brands from time to time too. Costco is the only place that you can find Kirkland because it is their own store brand, and you must be a member.

You can also learn more about feeding (and many other dog topics) by going to <http://www.dogaware.com>. Adding raw meat to commercial dog food is the best of both worlds; convenience and health. Remember, enzymes from raw meat also help protect our dogs from cancer and just keep them healthier. Your vet might try to scare you with warnings of e coli and salmonella in raw meat contaminated with e coli or salmonella, but dogs are carrion eaters by nature and by restoring enzymes to their intestines, they are healthy eaters.

Is Your Pal At Risk?

We recently sent out an email to everyone on our mailing list advising of the dangers of a certain toy ball (Pimple Ball with Bell, Item #20227-001, UPC Code 0 4566320227 9) produced by Four Paws Incorporated. We feel that it is worth repeating here in the newsletter. This ball is designed with only ONE hole in it. The problem is that dogs can and HAVE gotten their tongues stuck in this ball because of the vacuum caused when biting down on the ball and forcing the air out. You can read more about, Chai, a dog who suffered through this at her owner's blog found here: <http://www.thechaistory.blogspot.com/>. Please be sure to check your dog's toys to make sure that you don't have ANY toy with only one hole! If you find one, dispose of it immediately!!

Also, we all know that a lot of dogs LOVE tennis balls. They love chasing them, bringing them back to you, AND they love chewing them. Please be sure to check your dog's tennis balls. If the ball has been punctured, throw it away immediately. Your dog may chew it apart and swallow pieces of it. These pieces may then become obstructions in the intestinal tract. These pieces may not be visible in x-rays or ultrasounds and thus could be missed. If they are missed by the vet, your dog could die needlessly.

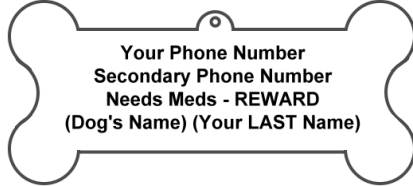
One more time...

From time to time there are items that we feel bear repeating... and because of the inquisitive nature of dogs, their penchant for sweet things and the truly deadly nature of Xylitol, we feel this is one of them. 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, even fatal 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.

If you even think your dog has consumed Xylitol, call your veterinarian immediately. You will most likely be instructed to bring your dog in for hospitalization and IV fluids containing glucose. 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. As with chocolate, grapes, raisins, etc., NEVER assume that what is safe for people is safe for dogs.

PLEASE IDENTIFY YOUR DOGS!!!!

Once again, we cannot stress the importance enough of having your dog wear ID tags. We recommend the 'bone' shape tag because you can generally fit more information on them than other shapes. 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 are also microchipped and wearing the microchip tag. They also have their rabies tag on their collar. The rabies tags generally 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.):



Pet Tags by Rocky Mountain Business Engraving

PET TAGS

PLASTIC



Small



Large



BLACK



RED



WHITE



BLUE



GREEN

Side 1: Pet's Name and Phone Number
Side 2: Owner's Last Name and Address

BRASS



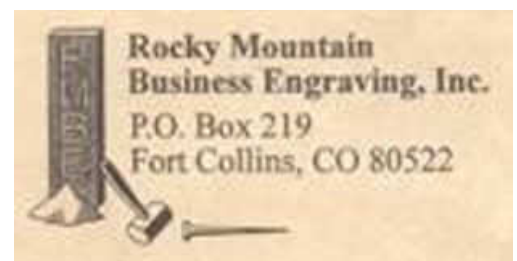
FOR RIVETING TO A FLAT LEATHER OR NYLON COLLAR
INCLUDES RIVETS AND MOUNTING INSTRUCTIONS
MAXIMUM 3 LINES

Plastic Tags engraved on both sides - \$7.00
Brass Plate engraved with mounting hardware/instructions - \$10.00
Metal Tags engraved on one side - \$10.00
Printed Tag, any color combination and photo - \$10.00

All prices include shipping and handling! Colorado Sales Tax is charged on all orders delivered in the state of Colorado.

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE: 5% discount on orders over \$50
10% discount on orders over \$100.

To place an order, simply call Sue at Rocky Mountain Business Engraving at 970-221-4622.



Bits & Pieces

*****Be A Pal, Save A Dal*****

PLEASE – They 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 who can relax, show his true personality, enjoy a thick bed rather than a concrete floor in a shelter and get 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 LIVE 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!

Growing old with dogs.... <http://www.greatdanepro.com/Growing%20Old/index.htm>

Quote of the month...

"Dogs' lives are short, too short but you know that going in.

You know the pain is coming, you're going to lose a dog and there's going to be great anguish, so you live fully in the moment with her, never fail to share her joy or delight in her innocence because you can't support the illusion a dog can be your lifelong companion.

There's such a beauty in the hard honesty of that, in accepting and giving love while always aware it comes with an unbearable price.

Maybe loving dogs is a way we do penance for all the other illusions we allow ourselves and for the mistakes we make because of those illusions".

Dean Koontz in "The Darkest Evening of the Year", 2007, Bantam Books.

Dog Training in Metro Denver

Are you looking for a trainer in the metro Denver area? Well look no more! We have found one for you. **Love My Dog Training** serves the Denver Metro area. Their wide range of services include: private training and consultations, group classes and seminars. You can check out their very informative website here: <http://lovemydogtraining.com/index.html>

Life, Explained...

On the first day, God created the dog and said: 'Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years.' The dog said: 'That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?' So God agreed. On the second day, God created the monkey and said: 'Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span.' The monkey said: 'Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the Dog did?' And God agreed. On the third day, God created the cow and said: 'You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years.' The cow said: 'That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?' And God agreed again. On the fourth day, God created man and said: 'Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years.' But man said: 'Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?' 'Okay,' said God, 'You asked for it.' So that is why for our first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone. Life has now been explained to you. There is no need to thank me for this valuable information. I'm doing it as a public service.

The Old Man and the Starfish

There was a young man walking down a deserted beach just before dawn. In the distance he saw a frail old man. As he approached the old man, he saw him picking up stranded starfish and throwing them back into the sea.

The young man gazed in wonder as the old man, again and again, threw the small starfish from the sand to the water. He asked, "Old man, why do you spend so much energy doing what seems to be a waste of time?"

The old man explained that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun. "But there must be thousands of beaches and millions of starfish!" exclaimed the young man. "How can you make any difference?"

The old man looked down at the small starfish in his hand and as he threw it into the safety of the sea, he said, "I made a difference to this one."

In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians

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

Kaylah

11+ Years Old, Black Spayed Female
Stray



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

Kaylah was found in the Bookcliffs area near Grand Junction, nearly starved to death. She is currently at the Royce Hurst Shelter there and desperately needs a foster home. This poor girl is a senior and is very lucky that she is alive today. It is amazing that no wildlife found her while she was lost. Since there has been no story of any Dalmatian missing, Kaylah must have been abandoned in the wilds. Who knows why people do what they do, but Kaylah managed to survive and her next hurdle is to find a home where she can live out her days. She is getting stronger, but is an older gal. She has a great zest for life now that her tummy is full! She has old age hearing (eh??) but what a delightful girl she is. We can get her to anywhere there might be a home for Kaylah. Please help her find her last home! NO dog should be in a shelter, especially this wonderful genteel lady.

Happy Beginning Story – One Year Later

Riley



Riley came into our lives from Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado last year. We were happily situated in Colorado until this spring when Boeing offered my husband an incredible position. This summer we moved to Seattle, Washington with our three kids and Riley. I enrolled Riley in Riverdog Canine Coaching to help her with the transition. I was tickled pink this July 4th when they asked Riley to be the lead dog in the canine parade in downtown Issaquah, Washington. The kids enjoyed walking up front with Riley in the lead. I thought you would enjoy Riley's continual happy ending story.

Tanya Rusak, Seattle, WA



Riley as a puppy



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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<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org>