

BOO! Is Your Dog A Scaredy-Cat?



We are fast approaching that haunting time of year. It's time to examine just how you and your dog will handle all those spooky little figures running through the neighborhood and constantly ringing your doorbell with pleas for treats or threats of tricks. Of course the little ghosts and goblins aren't your only concern. Many grown kids like to have fun this time of year, too! Many dogs enjoy the hustle and bustle that accompanies this time of year, but equally as many, if not more, can become stressed beyond comprehension. So with all this holiday hoopla, just how can you make it a time of safety and sanity for your four-footed scaredy-cat? The most obvious thing to do is to keep the dog separated from the activities that are worrisome for him. Let him hang out in his bedroom and put on some soothing music or the television to provide a little background sounds to help alleviate the noise of the party-goers in other areas of the house. If you dog (and your house guests) can get along together during the party, that's fine.

Some of the dangers that abound can easily be avoided by following these simple tips:

One of the biggest dangers to your dog during Halloween celebrations is tempting treats and sweets. So be sure to keep a watchful eye on all the candy and treats lying around. Dogs are known to have a huge sweet tooth and as we have recently pointed out there are a lot of dangers in those tasty morsels. Things to be wary of are artificial sweeteners like Xylitol, and also the traditional fares as chocolate grapes and raisins. etc.

Even the hardiest of dogs can turn tail and run at the sight of some of today's costumes that blink, flash, make weird noises, and have scary looks. Try to minimize your dog's exposure to these costumes. When you go trick or treating with your children, the temptation to bring along the dog is high. But this is one time that your dog would best be served by having him stay home.

NEVER leave your dog outside in the yard unsupervised! Halloween with its accompanying masks and costumes has a tendency to embolden otherwise well behaved kids and teens. The anonymity of the night and the costumes make it seem like they can get away with whatever they want, which could include teasing, tormenting or causing physical harm to an unattended dog. And remember, many times in the past we have heard about dogs becoming frightened and jumping over fences and running away. If your dog goes out even for just a minute, you need to make sure he not alone and is wearing his collar AND identification tags... and also consider using a leash if the kids are actively trick or treating.

Costumes??? Yes, some dogs really like playing 'dress-up'. If your dog is one of them, have fun, but PLEASE don't overdo it. NEVER leave a costumed dog alone! Ensure the costume fits properly, not too tight, but not too loose either. You don't want him tripping over it every other step he takes. Your dog should be able to walk, breath, hear and see normally. When you remove the costume make sure that everything is accounted for and that he hasn't ingested any of it.

And finally, just remember to keep a close eye on your dog for any signs of stress. If your dog is stressed, he could behave in a manner atypical of your usual self. If your dog is stressing out, take him home or put him in his room right away to allow him to relax and remove the stressors.



An Alternative to Pet Insurance...

We have recently become aware of an alternative to traditional pet insurance programs. As with those programs, this alternative is something that should be investigated on its own merits and the potential benefit to you and your pets. Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado is simply providing it as a resource for our adopters.

Happy Tails Veterinarian Discount Network is a reimbursement program that allows you to obtain veterinary care from your veterinarian of choice, nationwide. You then submit the claim to them and they pay either 25%, 45%, or 65% of the vet bill back to you by check. Remember, this is a REIMBURSEMENT program, not INSURANCE. You must pay the entire bill to the vet, then file a claim with Happy Tails who then processes your claim and mails you a check, according to their website usually within three business days they receive the claim. Program coverage is available regardless of the pet's age, existing or future health issues.

Happy Tails



Veterinarian Discount Network

If you are interested in checking out the Happy Tails Veterinarian Discount Network program, please visit their website at: <http://www.happytailsmembership.com>.

Plastic Bags Are Deadly

In honor of our precious Ella's memory, I am crusading an effort to let everyone know that this can and does happen and hopefully I can save someone else from the same agonizing pain!

Our 9 month old Sheltie puppy, Ella, suffered a tragic, sudden, senseless death this past Friday. She suffocated to death on a bag liner that was inside a box of Cheez-its snack crackers. We were out for the evening and someone had left a box of Cheez-its within Ella's reach. She put her head in the bag inside the box to get to the crackers. The bag came out of the box but she couldn't get the bag off of her head. We came home and found her dead from suffocation. It doesn't seem possible, that a dog couldn't get a bag off their head, but they can't.

I have since learned that this occurs more often than you would imagine. There was also a family whose 6 year old Labrador got hold of a Doritos bag when they weren't looking. They found him dead with the bag over his head, having died the same way as Ella. I also learned from the man that is cremating Ella for us that he has had FIVE other dogs that have died like this in the PAST MONTH! Make sure that ALL PLASTIC BAGS AND BOXES WITH BAG LINERS (chips, snack crackers, cookies, cereal, etc.) are WAY out of your pets reach!!!!!!

This tragedy has been a tremendous blow for our family! I have tried to be strong, but the whole scenario has played out in my head over and over and I have been a total mess! I cannot begin to understand the senselessness of this and my heart is absolutely broken! Ella was so young and full of life...an adorable, sweet, smart, loving dog, and her life was cut short way too soon!

Please help me honor Ella and save someone else from this horrific tragedy by passing this on to as many people as you know!

Thank you!

Anne Mackey
Charlotte, NC



Ella, a nine month old Sheltie, pictured above, died after suffocating on a bad liner from a box of Cheez-Its snack crackers.



Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado Fundraiser on eBay.com!!!!



After a lengthy wait, it is finally here! The Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado fundraising event on eBay.com was started Sunday, September 28, 2008 at approximately 10:00p.m. MDT. The auctions are scheduled to run for seven days ending on Sunday, October 5, 2008 at approximately 10:00 p.m. MDT. Be sure to head over and check out our auctions and bid to win! Supporting Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado and getting something really neat in the process. There are many Dal themed items and many non-Dal items as well. And be sure to send this info out to all your friends, family members, co-workers, enemies (hey we're not picky, their money is just as good!) and anyone else you can think of who might like to support our efforts. You can see the complete list of items listed by clicking here:

<http://www.auctiva.com/stores/viewstore2.aspx?id=940990&styleid=74&siteid=0>

Another ID Tip

Another idea to help with your dog's identification is to write your phone number on the dog's collar in indelible ink just in case the tags happen to get pulled off. Just make sure to use indelible ink so it doesn't come off if the dog or collar gets wet. Also check it from time to time so you can 'freshen' it up if it begins to wear off.

*****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!

Bits & Pieces

A PET'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

1. My life is likely to last 10-15 years. Any separation from you is likely to be painful.
2. Give me time to understand what you want of me.
3. Place your trust in me. It is crucial for my well-being.
4. Don't be angry with me for long and don't lock me up as punishment. You have your work, your friends, your entertainment, but I have only you.
5. Talk to me. Even if I don't understand your words, I do understand your voice when speaking to me.
6. Be aware that however you treat me, I will never forget it.
7. Before you hit me, before you strike me, remember that I could hurt you, and yet, I choose not to bite you.
8. Before you scold me for being lazy or uncooperative, ask yourself if something might be bothering me. Perhaps I'm not getting the right food, I have been in the sun too long, or my heart might be getting old or weak.
9. Please take care of me when I grow old. You too, will grow old.
10. On the ultimate difficult journey, go with me please. Never say you can't bear to watch. Don't make me face this alone. Everything is easier for me if you are there, because I love you so.

Take a moment today to thank God for your pets. Enjoy and take good care of them. Life would be a much duller, less joyful experience without God's critters. We do not have to wait for Heaven, to be surrounded by hope, love, and joyfulness. It is here on earth and has four legs!

Jolly Balls... A Dal's Next Best Friend?

Jolly Balls have been Doberman (a friend's) and Dalmatian (mine) tested and stand up. The Dobies are far tougher on their toys than my Dals ever thought of being. They make great pool toys too as even when they are punctured – like a thousand times – they still will float and have a handy handle for retrieving. They last the Dobermans about a year – heavily used, Dalmatians – 4 years and counting.

Submitted by Dianne D.

Editor's Note: After a little sleuthing on my part I have discovered that Jolly Balls come in a wide array of colors and sizes. You can also get them in scented and unscented varieties. They can be purchased in many pet supply stores and at numerous online outlets.



Some Thoughts To Remember...

- Properly trained, a man can be dog's best friend. – Cory Ford
 - Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole. – Roger Caras
 - If a dog will not come to you after having looked you in the face, you should go home and examine your conscience. – Woodrow Wilson
 - A dog can show you more honest affection with a flick of his tail than a man can gather through a lifetime of handshakes. – Gene Hill
 - I think dogs are the most amazing creatures, they give unconditional love. They are the role model for being alive. – Gilda Radner
 - A dog is the only thing on this earth that loves you more than he loves himself. Money will buy you a pretty good dog, but it won't buy the wag of his tail. – Josh Billings
 - No matter how little money you have and how few possessions you own, having a dog makes you rich. – Louis Sabín
 - To err is human, to forgive, canine – Anonymous
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In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians

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

Nick1

5 Years Old, Black Neutered Male
Owner Surrender



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

Fall is here... winter is right around the corner... and Nick really, REALLY wants and NEEDS to come in from the cold!!

Nick URGENTLY needs his own home! Nick was once rescued from a WY shelter as a young dog. He might be a lab mix (built that way) or who knows what. He has

lived for several YEARS in a lonely dog pen but sadly the rescuer there had a huge fire and lost everything. Her health was bad as well, so all the rescued animals had to go. Nick is living in Wheatland WY now where he is a very good dog, but still outdoors. He LOVES attention, minds well, plays with the other dogs too, and he desperately wants his OWN home. If there is a home, we can get him to Ft. Collins. Nick has even been around chickens and ignored them; he doesn't run off either! Nick has never had anyone to call his own. Could you give Nick some time?

Ali

1 Year Old, Black Spayed Female
Abandoned

Ali has been featured before, but she is truly in need of a new place to call home and we are frantically trying to find a place for her to go. Please consider fostering her!!

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

New foster/permanent home needed ASAP because the foster home's house is selling. 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 and joy in a little spotted body!



Opie

8 Years Old, Black Male
Owner Surrender



This is Opie. Don't be fooled by his sad look because as soon as he is able to get up, his tail starts wagging and doesn't stop (until he plops down again). Opie found himself in a shelter after his owner was admitted to a mental hospital. After 10 long days on a concrete slab, we were able to save him in a nick of time and although he has a long way to go to regain his strength, he is showing determination and the will to survive. He now enjoys the love of children and adults in a foster home in Fort Collins and gladly returns the love. Opie will be seeing a specialist soon to work on gaining strength in his hind legs and we know it is only a matter of time before he is able to enjoy all the things a dog should. Soon enough Opie will become a terrific and loving dog.

Happy Beginning Stories

Winnie (aka Winona)

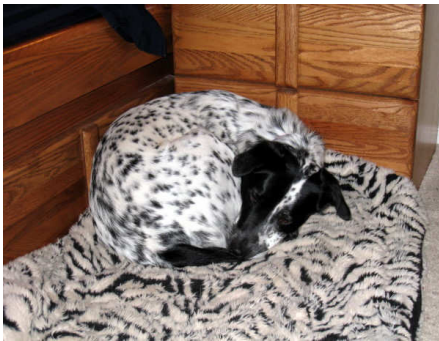
Winnie has been doing great since we adopted her! We took her to obedience school and she learned basic commands (sit, down, stay, etc.) very well. She is still a little difficult on a leash (she must have been a sled dog in her previous life) but we are continuing to work on that with her. Overall she is very well behaved and gets along great with people and other dogs.

Winnie enjoys walks, hiking, camping, trips to the dog park (especially if she can jump in the water), lounging around in our back yard, and just about any activity we can include her in outdoors. We have her on Heart Guard per our vet's recommendation due to the amount of time she spends outside, but she has a clean bill of health with plenty of vigor and energy!

I have attached a few pictures we have taken of her over the last several months.



– Greg and Keri, Littleton, CO



Hudson



My partner, Betts, and I, had the tragic loss of TWO of our beloved Dalmatians in the period of just one week this past April. It was devastating, and we both vowed to have no more dogs for a while. When you're a dog lover, however, the house is empty, quiet, and lifeless without a pal to love, and soon we both realized that no matter how tragic and sad the loss is, that the love from one dog can far outweigh any amount of grief. It is worth the inevitable loss of our pets to just have the opportunity to love them for whatever time their beautiful souls are with us on earth. That said, we adopted Hudson, the most loving, frivolous, silly and loyal Dalmatian one could ever ask for! He has enriched our lives and brought so much joy into our home. I'm convinced Ladybug and Bailey's little dog angels sent Hudson our way. It was love at first sight!

– Mary and Betts, Silt, 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!!

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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