

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Merry Christmas Everyone!

2008 has been another year of great rewards but heartbreak too. We thank everyone for the dogs that they've adopted and fostered and for the generous financial support as well. Without YOU we couldn't do any of this. As of middle November, we have placed ONLY 105 dogs. Our normal yearly average for the past several years has been in the range of 115-130 dogs a year. So, we need to get more adopted to make our yearly "quota"!

We have not had as many local (meaning Colorado and closer surrounding states) dogs this past year, so we have been able to help the Texas Dalmatian rescues with some of the many hurricane victims they have had this year. Truly sad dogs in horrible condition have made their way to Colorado and found forever homes. One of the worst cases, Tony, actually had 17 teeth pulled. He was wracked with pain for who knows how long? Coming from Galveston, he managed to survive Hurricane Ike and then weeks in a Houston shelter. Poor Tony was also found with toe nails growing into his pads, NO hair on the lower half of his body due to flea dermatitis, and his ears were swollen shut with infection. First thought to be deaf, Tony is now hearing better and better as his ears clear up. If he had not had the most endearing attitude and temperament, Tony would not have made it out of the shelter. Thanks to Patsy Perkins who donates so much of her time, money, miles and home, Tony arrived from Texas with a fancy red dog coat to keep him warm while he grows back the missing hair. I'm happy to report that on 11/22, Tony went to his FOREVER home in southern Colorado!!! Thanks Teri for taking such a special boy!!



Tony, seen above, enjoying the chance to play in the leaves at Patsy's 'Dalmatian Plantation' in Texas before he came to CO to his forever home with Teri S.

Our dogs don't all come from Texas. In fact several have gone to Texas. Besides Colorado some have even gone to Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, Utah, Kansas, Wyoming, Idaho, Illinois, Arizona AND Canada! It is wonderful what the power of the internet as well as recommendations by word of mouth from our adopters and supporters can do.

Sadly, we have seen an increase in older Dalmatians in rescue. The surprising thing is that most of these dogs have been "strays". We're not sure how and why an older dog would get loose and run away, and NOT be found by his owner (we sure found them!), but, again, through wonderful people who step forward, most of these dogs have found homes where they are appreciated, respected and loved. And, not surprisingly, these dogs never get loose or lost again! We have several older Dals still waiting to love someone with all their heart, so please check our website. They are coming in more often now with the hard economic times. Available dogs can change daily, so please check our website often!

Dalmatian Rescue has loved and cared for several elderly Dalmatians and then let them go when their frail bodies wore out. Blessed are our foster homes for stepping up and helping when there is such a need. It is always hard to love and let go, but I can't thank enough our foster people for all they do for the love of these sweet souls who only ask to love us. If you have a warm spot for an older dog, please let us know! No one should be homeless in old age.



Reef was such a sweetie that the vet couldn't euthanize him!

We have been challenged by health issues in several dogs. Reef was literally pulled from the euthanasia table when the vet just couldn't do it! His owners left him at the vet to be put to sleep because he couldn't walk like a youngster. Opie was released from the shelter after his owner was committed to a mental hospital. Both boys had signs of abuse/neglect and spinal problems but therapy, good food and supplements, and exercise have helped



Opie is a special needs sweetheart still looking for someone to love!

both these boys have a better life. Opie was also blessed with a sponsor that provided therapy and acupuncture as well. Reef went to a dedicated home for life, so that he is happy for however long he has. Reef is in his final home, but Opie is ready to charm you in the right adoptive home.

Some dogs we take in need little treatment other than their shots or possibly spay or neuter surgery, while others need extensive rehabilitation and time. These dogs can drastically drain our treasury, but we are happy to give to these sweet creatures as we can. We rely on our wonderful adopters and patrons to help us do our work and they do come through! When a beloved pet has passed on, owners have suggested donations to our rescue in the name of their dog and their friends have been generous! We have had donations from friends and family of people who have passed on as well. For all of these donations we are very thankful because it allows us to continue to serve our dogs.

What we have spent in the last year (just 11 month at this point) is amazing!! That we have had to spend this money and that we have been able to, is also amazing!

2008 Expenses (Through 11/22/2008)

Veterinary	\$17,337	Feed	\$980	Total	\$25,341
Boarding	\$2,083	Advertising	\$908		
Pharmacy	\$1,622	Transport	\$760		
Supplies	\$1,101	Microchips	\$550		

Since there are fewer purebred Dalmatians available locally we have been accepting more Dalmatian mixes. We can't hold it against a dog that his or her parents weren't the same breed, and we have placed many mixes in super homes. If it has spots, the shelters call us, and whenever possible we don't say no because we know that the dog will die. Sometimes the spots have nothing to do with Dalmatians (like several cattle dogs and Dalmatian - cattle dog mixes that found their way to us), and sometimes the dogs don't even have spots that are very visible.



Jenny and Lacey, pictured here, now get to play dress up with their new 'upright' sister!

One pair, Jenny and Lacey, sweet spotted mixes, were found running loose near the shelter in Nebraska, near 4-lane traffic. They found their forever home in the Rocky mountains where they are dressed up often by the little girl in their new home. We have so many wonderful dogs with wonderful temperaments just falling into our hands from every direction. We hope to continue helping as many dogs as possible, with Dalmatian spots or not. With your help we can!

We know that times are rough these days for many people and donations are and likely will drop off as more and more people find themselves on hard times. But, if you can foster, please let us know. If you can

transport, please call. You can even write off your mileage as you are driving for a non profit organization. If you can donate or if you are willing to help in other capacities, please contact us!

My email address is melodee101@msn.com and our website (should you forget) is www.dalmatianrescue.org

We hope you have a great and safe 2009 and you can find it in your heart to help others if you can.

Beth White, President
Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado

Time For A New Winter Coat?

With the impending arrival of cold and even colder weather and snow, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you once again about www.dogcoats.com. Their coats are a great quality and great fit because they are custom made to your measurements especially for your dog. Just make sure to follow the measuring guidelines closely so that the coat will fit properly. Measure your dog so the coat drops over the side far enough so that it can wrap underneath, and also so that it drops down over the rear legs. The coats are worn like a horse blanket with a velcro front for easy opening, and velcro straps under the belly.

Wipe your feet!

The snow is coming!! And, so too, will come the salt and various chemical ice melt products. It is always a good idea, after a walk on city streets, to clean your dog's feet off before entering the house, to prevent messy or damaged floors, but more importantly, to prevent ingestion of harmful chemicals. If you don't clean their feet they likely will. Doing this, they will like off those salts and chemical ice melts. Even if your dog isn't particularly finicky about his grooming, remember, your dog's pads are very absorbent and they can get the chemicals in their systems from simple absorption!

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 \$107.78. 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.

And don't forget you can also "GoodShop" for us, too!! A portion of all orders placed will be donated to us. The donated money comes directly from the retailer's profits and doesn't cost you anything extra! There are many retailers that most of us shop regularly. Some of them are: Petsmart, Best Buy, Nike, Staples, Wal-Mart, The Home Depot, Kohls, Macy's, Old Navy, Toys-R-Us and many more!

Tis The Season for Safety

Each year around the holidays, we often hear of news stories where a beloved pet has suffered because they got into something that was harmful to them. Here are some safety tips and suggestions to help make this holiday season a truly safe and joyous one for your entire family, including your four-legged ones. 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** – With Christmas trees come the obvious hazards... those little glass balls dangling from the branches and the shiny tinsel tossed with care onto the tree (and floor). You also need to keep a close watch on extension and light cords around the trees and ensure your pup isn't chewing on them, which could lead to a very shocking experience. During the holidays there are a lot of activities that can send your dog into a frenzied state and running close by and maybe even knocking into the tree. So you need to make certain to secure the tree so that it can't topple over. Dogs should not be allowed to drink the water used to hydrate your live trees. This can cause diarrhea, mouth sores, loss of appetite and vomiting.
- **Toxic Plants** – Toxic plants are common during the holiday season. Some of them are holly, mistletoe, poinsettias. These, especially, as well as other plants should be kept 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 very shiny and 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, and you enforce, the rules... No slipping people food to the dog. No matter how sad he looks, no matter how much he might beg. Absolutely no chocolate, raisins, nuts, etc.; no people food, period. If you really must give them a treat, save a little of the turkey for them, since turkey is easily handled by them.
- **Parties** – This time of year many people host holiday parties. It is a time to have fun and enjoy those who share your life in one way or another. A time to just relax and have fun. But if your lifestyle is normally less hectic and energetic, don't forget that it is probably true for your dogs as well. So as you plan your festivities, make sure you consider the four-footed family members and what you can do to ease their stress levels during the party. 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 doggie play room set aside just 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!

A Puppy For Christmas

By Jim Willis



As Santa loaded his magic sack,
filled with gifts for girls and boys,
he added candy and sugar plums,
and batteries for moving toys.

At the top of the sack he carefully packed
the most special gift of all.
A darling pup for a boy named Timmy,
(who from the sack tried to crawl).

Santa turned the puppy around,
he righted him right side up,
'cause there's no more precious cargo,
than a precocious, bright-eyed pup.

As he made his appointed rounds,
and down Timmy's chimney slid,
he discovered all the sack havoc –
what the blessed pup had done undid!

Santa looked around the room,
it was clear this family was poor.
He noticed the shabbiness everywhere,
and their poverty he couldn't ignore.

He waved his arms and a tree appeared,
adorned by blinking lights.
He sneezed and holly boughs were hung,
he created a Christmas sight.

Then Santa took to worrying
about a home whose ends wouldn't meet,
and whether it would be fair to anyone,
when a pup needs a lot to eat.

He scratched his head and knitted his brow,
accustomed to granting any child's wish,
and the puppy, grown impatient,
jumped up and gave Santa a kiss.

Santa sat down with pen in hand
and he wrote the following note.
He considered each word, thought long and hard
about every sentence he wrote.

“Dear Timmy, you are a splendid lad,
and I hoped to fill your request,
but for the animals of this world,
they each only deserve the best.

“One day you'll grow to understand
that not every wish may come true,
but I know there's a dog in your future,
who will love the best of you.

“The time right now was not to be,
I hope my other gifts make you smile.
One day you'll be a fine young man,
but for a dog, you must wait awhile.

“You see, a dog needs more than love,
he'll have needs, mostly your company.
You've yet a lot of growing to do,
and a dog's needs, I hope you'll see.”

Santa sighed as he folded the note,
and the pup again pawed Santa's knee.
Santa patted the puppy's head,
Lost in thought, absentmindedly.

The puppy worried about something amiss,
and whether he'd have a home.
Perhaps with someone to love him for life –
maybe love with toys and a bone?

Santa looked into the little dog's eyes,
in those eyes, love plain to see.
He said, “I've always wanted a dog myself,
And you'll be coming home with me!”

Ready for some GOOD NEWS?

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

Leroy was abandoned at a shelter because he 'has no manners'. Being deaf didn't help either. The shelter workers didn't know he was deaf, so maybe the previous owners didn't know either. He learned signs for 'sit', 'come', 'wait', 'good dog', etc., while at the shelter and in his foster home. Leroy is a cuddler and loves to play with his toys and smiles! He was adopted by a really wonderful lady who continues to work with him on his signs, and he is a very happy boy now! She even reported that he joined her in the shower one day!!



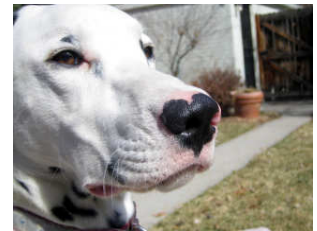
Betsy is the cutest little girl who was found languishing in a shelter where she never got out of a dark, dank room, covered in filth. One thing that she likes, which surprised us is showers. Yes, showers. Betsy loves taking a shower, but don't tell her doggie buddies! She was very lucky to have been adopted along with another of our dogs, **Buddy** (formerly Ado). Today, they live together with a very active family where they wrestle, play and when they run out of things to chew on, they chew on each other! Their humans report, "Betsy loves Buddy, he loves her, and we love them both!"

Claire is not a Dalmatian but she came in with her best friend KS Dottie. She appears to be a hound/beagle mix maybe, but she was out of time so we took her too because she is just young to die in a shelter. Claire went with her foster mom to her grooming salon and was a great 'PR pup' there. Then along came a woman who just fell for little Claire and wanted to take her home. So off they went on a loved filled journey and are living happily ever after!



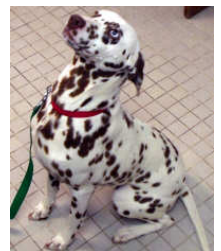
Parker spent SIX weeks in a cage in a shelter in UT. He was never let out, never played with, likely never petted, and he sure didn't have a soft bed. But this boy survived against all odds at a shelter that destroys many dogs. Parker has an old injury, apparently, which worsened from being inactive on concrete, but with exercise and good food he improved and was adopted and now lives the great life with his new family.

Willie is another one of those surrendered by owners who used the excuse that we hear all too often... "We're moving and can't take him with us." He was likely kept outside at the previous house and went into the shelter very thin, came out very thin and very sick. He managed to pick up a severe case of bacterial meningitis at the shelter. Thankfully we discovered this early on and he was treated by the vet and made a full recovery. He's a lover boy now (and that's very appropriate given his unique 'heart' design on his nose) and loves to run in the mountains and play in water.

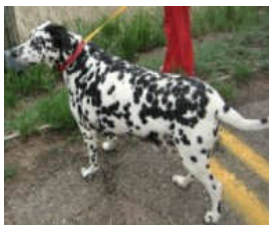


Miss Gigi deserved a better name than Jigs and also a better home. Gigi was a puppy mill momma her whole life, living in a 6' x 6' pen outdoors. When the breeder decided he didn't want her any more we took her in. Gigi made her way from the puppy mill, to a boarding kennel, to a rescuer in KS City, to a foster home in Aurora. Poor dear, had no front teeth since vet care is extremely rare in puppy mills, but she does try to smile anyway. She wanted to be brave and approach people but it was still scary. She finally overcame that fear and has been endearing her new family ever since!

Kayla (Now Hellenkeller) was impounded as a stray and the only thing we knew about her was that she is deaf. Despite her deafness, she was active and lively, and very affectionate. She responded very nicely to attention and sat when offered a treat! Kayla is one of several dogs that never left the foster home. She so loved the foster parents that they adopted her and kept her with them! We lose a lot of foster homes this way! Thankfully, most foster homes will still help out when we get ourselves in a pinch.



Ramona came to us as a stray, a small girl with a big attitude. Although she has some neurological deficit in the front legs she has made great strides with the help of a chiropractor. She wasn't going to give up on life and we weren't going to give up on her! Thankfully, she went into a foster home where they fell in love with her, despite her disability. And once again, we lost a foster home, but we can take losing a foster home when it means that a wonderful dog found truly loving parents who are willing to do what it takes to ensure she gets to live the life she deserves!



Caspar came to us grossly overweight and had a medical issue (borderline low thyroid) that would require a life-long maintenance regimen. It was easily controlled with a dietary supplement. But Caspar didn't allow that condition to keep him down and he showed his wonderful personality to everyone that gave him a chance. After he started his weight loss and exercise routine, Caspar began to look slim and trim and began playing and having a ball. He loves to be the co-pilot, riding in the front passenger seat and take walks. His thyroid condition is well managed and he's living the good life now.

Beck came from the Houston area where he spent the first TWO years of his young life living in a rusty stock trailer. We were able to get the owner to give him to us. He tested heavily positive for heartworms and was treated. Now, keeping a young dog like this quiet is not an easy task, but we managed and he made a full recovery. Coming from such a deprived life it is utterly amazing how NICE he is. Beck was adopted by a long time supporter and volunteer for Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado and is now charming everyone he meets.



Darby1 was SOOO happy to be out of the shelter after ONE MONTH of incarceration! She was found with an injured back leg, which was largely untreated in puppy jail, but she improved greatly after just one week of love and exercise. Lying on concrete never helps anything. She still carries her hind leg if she is running hard but the rest of the time she stands on it. She found a loving home where they continue to care for and work with her to rehabilitate her leg.

Along with the many other dogs that found homes this year, there were some who never made it into forever homes. But thanks to their foster parents, they lived their time with us knowing true kindness and happiness. As we take this time to celebrate all the wonderful placements made this year, please remember these lost souls who are waiting at The Rainbow Bridge, including Ryan, Dallas3, Quinn, Rocky and Jasmine, and many others that we have learned of who were adopted from us in the past. To their families we give our condolences and our thanks for the love and homes given.

Once again, we couldn't do what we do without the help, support, and following of all our friends. Thanks to **YOU**, more than **105** dogs have been saved this year and are now where they belong... in great loving homes!!! Thanks to **YOU**, we have many nice dogs in foster homes as well.

We can't thank YOU enough!!

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado

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Fort Collins, CO 80526**



Mail to:

Mailing Label Here

NewSpots is available online also, go to:
<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org/NewSpots.htm>

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www.dalmatianrescue.org