



Grapes and Raisins are **TOXIC!!**



The 'article' below has been circulating the internet since about April 2004 and is attributed to Laurinda Morris, DVM, of the Danville Veterinary Clinic in Danville, Ohio. Regardless whether the details of the 'patient' and his treatment are accurate or not, the fact remains grapes and raisins are TOXIC to dogs.

"This week I had the first case in history of raisin toxicity ever seen at MedVet. My patient was a 56 pound, 5 year old male neutered Lab mix that ate half a canister of raisins sometime between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday. He started with vomiting, diarrhea and shaking about 1:00 a.m. on Wednesday but the owner didn't call my emergency service until 7:00 a.m.

I had heard somewhere about raisins AND grapes causing acute Renal failure but hadn't seen any formal paper on the subject. We had her bring the dog in immediately. In the meantime, I called the ER service at MedVet, and the doctor there was like me – had heard something about it, but... Anyway, we contacted the ASPCA National Animal Poison Control Center and they said to give IV fluids at 1.5 times maintenance and watch the kidney values for the next 48-72 hours. The dog's BUN (Blood urea nitrogen level) was already at 32 (normal is less than 27) and creatinine over 5 (1.9 is the high end of normal). Both are monitors of kidney function in the bloodstream. We placed an IV catheter and started the fluids. Rechecked the renal values at 5:00 p.m. and the BUN was over 40 and creatinine over 7 with no urine production after a liter of fluids. At that point I felt the dog was in acute renal failure and sent him on to MedVet for a urinary catheter to monitor urine output overnight as well as overnight care.

He started vomiting again overnight at MedVet and his renal values continued to increase daily. He produced urine when given lasix as a diuretic. He was on three different anti-vomiting medications and they still couldn't control his vomiting. Today his urine output decreased again, his BUN was over 120, his creatinine was at 10, his phosphorus was very elevated and his blood pressure, which had been staying around 150, skyrocketed to 220. He continued to vomit and the owners elected to euthanize."

According to the ASPCA, around 1989 a disturbing trend began to emerge from the AnTox database used by the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center. Nearly all the dogs reported to have eaten grapes or raisins developed acute renal (kidney) failure. These cases were reported all across the US with the amount of grapes or raisins consumed varying widely from over a pound of grapes to as little as one small serving of raisins.

The database showed that dogs who ate grapes and/or raisins typically began vomiting within a few hours of ingestion. Most of the time, partially digested grapes or raisins could be seen in the vomit, fecal matter or both. At this point some dogs would stop eating and develop diarrhea. They frequently became quiet and lethargic, and showed signs of abdominal pain with these symptoms lasting for several days – sometimes even weeks.

When medical care was sought, blood chemistry panels showed certain patterns developing. Hypercalcemia (elevated blood calcium levels) was frequently present, as well as elevated levels of blood urea nitrogen, creatinine and phosphorus (substances that reflect kidney function). These chemistries began to increase anywhere from 24 hours to several days after the dogs ate the raisins or grapes. As the kidney damage developed, the dogs would produce little urine. When they could no longer produce urine, death occurred. In some cases, dogs who received timely veterinary care still had to be euthanized.

It is not known exactly what component of the grape causes renal failure, and it is not been shown that every dog who ingests a grape or raisin will develop acute renal failure. So, should your dog eat a grape or two, there is no immediate concern that your dog will keel over (but surely, if symptoms discussed here develop, get veterinary care immediately). But it is best to avoid the possibility of poisoning by keeping grapes and raisins safely out of reach of your dog and never giving them as treats.

As we have said before in *NewSpots!* grapes and raisins are not the only toxic 'people' foods for your dogs. Onions, chocolate, cocoa, avocados, certain nuts (like macadamias) and mushrooms are also toxic. As is Xylitol, an ingredient in many sugar free chewing gums and candies.

From The President...

In The Future...

If you cannot keep the dog you adopted from us, if you are having problems with your dog, or if you need help... PLEASE contact us! In case you don't remember, we asked you to sign a copy of the adoption contract that you downloaded or was provided by the foster parent. We also asked you to keep a copy for your own files. When you adopt a dog from us, you agree (signed on the dotted line) to return your adopted dog to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado if you couldn't keep the dog. This is a legally binding contract!

Recently, there was yet another dog adopted from Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado that was turned over to a Colorado shelter! We were not asked to take him back or even called to alert us that there was a problem. The dog is up for adoption at the shelter, so we are assuming that there is no issue with him, so it must be an issue with the adoptive family that dumped him. We do our best to work with adopters and we take our dogs back as soon as we can. Often we can help improve the situation too with training advice, references and referrals. In the future, please remember what you agreed to when you adopted you dog from us. We are here for you!

Beth White

President
Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc.

Get Ready for Springtime in the Rockies

Ahhhh! Springtime in the Rockies. A great time to get outdoors and shed those winter blues. There are several things to keep in mind as you get ready to hit the hiking trails and work off those holiday calories that you consumed while housebound. Unless you adjusted your dog's food to match their energy and activity level, they likely have gained a little extra weight over the snowy months too. And they will be itching to get out there with you to burn off those excess pounds, too.

At the beginning, moderation is the key. Build up to the long hikes. Don't just think that you or they can run like the wind as you did before. Take your time working up to it. Slow and steady wins the race in this case.

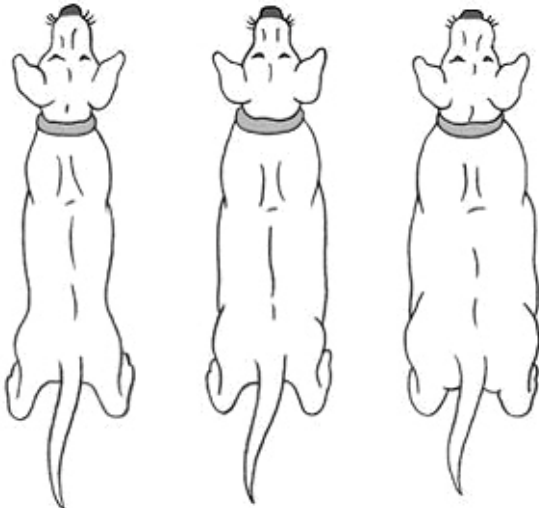
Also, as you start to venture out, be aware that wild animals are also starting to get out and about. Be on the lookout for wildlife on your outings. Critters that weren't there on those rare winter days when you could get out are sure to start showing up along your hiking trails as the weather becomes warmer.

And of course, make sure that you bring plenty of water to keep yourself and your pets hydrated.

Is Your Dog Fit, Fat or Obese?

It's a (forgive the pun) HUGE subject (it's actually a problem of epidemic proportions), but I will keep my comments short. There are three points that I'd like to make about overweight dogs:

- They don't live as long as fit dogs.
- They don't get overweight because they were spayed or neutered, per se. Being altered can change their metabolism, but all that means is that you need to feed them less (and save money – in fact, the surgery pays for itself, eh?)



From Left: Fit, Fat, Obese

- To get them to lose weight, feed them less, and/or exercise them more. (Dogs should exercise at least twice a day, generally speaking. Remember to reduce portions gradually, so the body doesn't go into "starvation mode", making it harder to lose weight. Talk to you veterinarian for specifics.)

As a rule, you want to be able to feel your dog's ribs, *but not see them*. The diagram at left is from The Whole Dog Journal. With some exceptions by breed, a fit dog should have an indented waistline. You should be able to feel individual ribs and the space between each rib. Dogs tend to put on weight at the shoulder blades, hips and tail head. These areas should be "readily palpable".

Before starting a diet/exercise regime, see you veterinarian to rule out any metabolic disorders and arthritis, both of which can decrease energy and the dog's interest in exercise. If the dog does have arthritis, it is even MORE important that he lose weight!

Ask The Trainer

“Introducing a New Dog to the Resident Dog”

© 2004-2010 Love My Dog Training

Question: We are planning to adopt a second dog. What’s the best way to introduce the two dogs?

The Trainer Answers: A successful first meeting between your resident dog and a new dog can help to ensure an easier integration of your new dog into your household. Some planning will help this first meeting to be a success.

First, how does your resident dog do when introduced to new dogs? Do you have a friendly dog with good social skills? Some dogs are very friendly but have poor social skills which can cause problems! Is your dog territorial at home or even in your neighborhood? If your dog has poor social skills, any potential dog-dog issues, space issues or territorial issues, then you will need to be more careful. The same questions apply for the new dog.

If there are any doubts, it’s best to err on the side of caution and set yourself up for success. It’s best to have one person to handle each dog. Rather than bring the new dog into your house, with your other dog waiting just inside, it’s best to bring your new dog into the house with your resident dog safely elsewhere. Give the new dog a chance to check out the new surroundings and check out the smells without a face-to-face meeting at the door.

The actual dog to dog introduction is best handled outdoors. If there are any concerns about territoriality or space issues, plan for the dogs to meet outdoors in neutral territory where there is plenty of space, such as a local park. If your dog is territorial in your neighborhood, a park that you do not frequent is best.

Start by having one person walking each dog, on leash, apart from each other. Rather than approaching head-on, you should gradually join up with the other dog walking in the same direction. Start by walking further apart, so the dogs can see each other but not get too close. Gradually walk closer together until you are walking side by side. This gives the dogs a chance to get used to each other and check each other out without the pressure of coming at each other head-on. It is very important to keep the leashes as loose as possible but still keep hold in case you need to separate the dogs. If each person holds tightly to the leashes, you create tension for the dogs and could cause a problem that might not otherwise have occurred because they are picking up on your tension.

When you bring the dogs home, allow them to meet again outside the house, and then bring one in at a time. Do not walk them in together, as tight doorways are prime locations for dog-dog scuffles. Bring one all the way in away from the door, and then bring the other one inside.

Provide close supervision at first to ensure there are no problems. In particular, keep an eye on doorways and other tight spaces, as well as anything that might be considered a valuable resource, such as food bowls, bones, toys, beds, or even you. Put away potential problem items, such as bones, when first bringing both dogs in the house.

If you detect any potential problems, address it in a positive manner quickly to prevent escalation into a fight. If you are not sure what signs to look for or how to address early warning signs, contact a professional who will help you to address it appropriately. Punishment – even if it seems to work in the short term – is not the best way to address these issues, as you could make matters worse in the long run. Also, assuming that dogs will work things out themselves – although some will – is not always the best approach either. Help your dogs to make good choices rather than assuming everything will work out without your assistance. Prevention is much easier than addressing problems that build up over time.

(This “Ask The Trainer” article is reprinted with permission of Sue Brown, owner of Love My Dog Training and a Certified Dog Behavior Consultant. Love My Dog Training is located in and services the Denver Metro Area.

<http://www.lovedogtraining.com>).

You’re One Lucky Dog (... and so is your new buddy!)

Happy Tails Books would like to congratulate you on your new family member and thank you for choosing adoption.

Having adopted and fostered dogs, we know the first few weeks with your new dog will be an adventure as you get to know each other, so we thought we might lend you a paw...

Our new eBook, the *Mill Dog Manifesto* covers many of the different situations you might encounter with your new dog and explains how we got our dogs through them.

You can download the Mill Dog Manifesto for free at <http://happytailsbooks.com/milldog.htm>

(Ed. Note: While this book is primarily about mill dogs, a lot of the info applies to any dog that comes from a stressful background – most of ours do! So please feel free to download it and check out our very own Tillie who is pictured on page 7!!!)



“Doggie Parenting”

by Victoria

Food Bowl Aggression

Dogs who guard their food (or other resources such as bone and toys) are a danger to anyone coming near. Although it is NORMAL dog behavior (and often manifested by stiffening, staring, growling or snapping), we must teach our dogs not to do it. If your dog guards her food from you, you probably are not her leader. In fact, she might think SHE is YOUR boss. With some work, you can change your relationship with her and extinguish this dangerous behavior. You should always be able to take *anything* away from your dog, even if it's food, and even if it's already in her mouth.

To prevent food guarding, when your PUPPY arrives, teach her that there is benefit in having you near her food. Place her food on the floor, and teach her to wait until you tell her it's ok to eat. While she's eating, tell her to “Leave it” and pick up the bowl and place something special (a piece of meat or cheese) in it, then let her continue eating. Keep your hands on the bowl while she eats. Feed some of it to her by hand. Pet her while she eats. Occasionally remove food from her mouth. Do this once in awhile throughout her life to maintain her comfort level.

With an older dog who is guarding her food, you have your work cut out for you. DO NOT practice these exercises as you are risking a bite. DO NOT use any type of force trying to get her to allow you near her food. Forcing the issue can get you bitten, and will only further damage your relationship with her. In addition, teaching her through force will not change her motivation or “heal” her distress. It can only make her more aggressive, or it may cause her to suppress her aggression and surprise you with it later.

You really should seek professional help. Choose a trainer who uses positive, motivational methods (never choose a force/punishment trainer) to work on your dog's food bowl issues. She probably needs you to be firmer with her in all aspects of your relationship. If she's “top dog” in your pack, that needs to change!

Over time, she should get comfortable with you near her food, and some day you should even be able to remove food from her mouth.

The Best Deal On Poop Bags You Will EVER Find Wholesale Prices! Free Shipping! Free Samples!

My friend Yoyo sells these poop bags. They are great bags at a great price. Several of my readers have written to tell me, they too, love the bags, as well as Yoyo's warm, friendly, enthusiastic customer service. Buy her bags! You'll love them. LOL! – Tori.

Hello! My name is Yoyo and I sell poop bags! They are 15” x 6” x 4”, black tie and toss bags. My prices are unbeatable!

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Plus, I offer free shipping in the US. And... if you want to check them out before buying... I'll send you some FREE SAMPLES! Visit my website for more information! <http://www.kissdoggies.com>

Thanks, Yoyo.

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I loathe people who keep dogs.
They are cowards who haven't got the guts to bite people themselves.
– August Strindberg

Heaven goes by favor.
If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in.
– Mark Twain

Children and dogs are as necessary to the welfare of the country as Wall Street and the railroads.
–Harry S. Truman

Bits & Pieces

Important Info Keep it handy!!

ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center :

<http://www.aspca.org/pet-care/poison-control/>

Phone: 888-426-4435 (Consultation fee may be required by credit card)

Planning For Your Pets In Your Will

It's a sobering thought, but do you know who will take care of your pets if you should die? Many people assume that family members will keep their pets, but shelter volunteers see numerous pets surrendered because of the owner's death. If plans aren't carefully made, your pets may not be where you'd hoped. Whether your death turns out to be unexpected or not, planning for your pets' care can give you peace of mind. No matter what we think of our pets, legally they are property, and unless specific arrangements are made, they will be treated like property after your death. Several sources can assist you in ensuring the results you want. Sadly, it's not as simple as stating in a will "I want my dogs to be taken care of," or "the cats should go to my niece, Katie." What if Katie doesn't want them, or is undergoing unseen financial misfortune when the time for transfer arrives?

Several states have pet trust laws in place, including Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Washington, Wisconsin, and Utah. The laws are not the same in each state. In states without such laws, a trust becomes an honorary system. Without a pet trust, your only option is to designate a caretaker.

A book by Lisa Rogak, titled *PerPETual Care: Who Will Look After Your Pets If You're Not Around?*, (published by Litterature) outlines some steps you can take, and mentions why certain approaches may not work but others will. Rogak states, "The law will regard the clause in your will where you bequeath money or property to your pets after death as the equivalent of leaving your car to your washing machine." She discusses how to avoid challenges from relatives who don't love pets, and explains how to make a workable, legal plan for your pets in the event of your death or disability. It's not as straightforward as it sounds.

A new company called *PetGuardian* (http://www.petguardian.com/common.php?v_section=1&flash=yes) estimates that 500,000 pets are euthanized at shelters and veterinary offices each year because their owners have died. PetGuardian offers pet trust plans. In conjunction with the Best Friends Animal Society, which operates the Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kanab, Utah, it has created the Best Friends Backup Service in which Best Friends will find a "backup caregiver" to ensure that pets are placed in good homes if the designated caregivers are unable to accept the pet. PetGuardian Pet Trust Plans have been created with the help of legal experts, estate planners, and animal care professionals. Veterinary Partner doesn't endorse PetGuardian, but we feel that you should be aware of its services.

Another option to using a service like PetGuardian is to talk to your attorney. While having an attorney create a trust is more expensive than a service like PetGuardian, the attorney will set up a trust to take care of all your assets, not just pets. These trusts are aimed at reducing probate tax (the so-called "death tax"), but language regarding your pet would simply be included. There would be no additional fee for including pets as you pay for the service as a whole. It's really an issue of telling your attorney what your exact wishes are regarding your pets; this is especially true in states that have pet trust laws in place.

Not all veterinary colleges provide legacy/bequest services, but many do. In a legacy service, your pet will be adopted by a veterinary student, who will care for it for the rest of its life. Ask your veterinarian for names and addresses of veterinary colleges, and check into this fantastic program.

Gina Spadafori, whose Pet Connection column appears in *Veterinary Partner*, is well aware of these issues. She explains [how she has prepared](#) for her pets. Two of the dogs will be returned to breeders, the pocket pets will go back to the rescue groups they came from, the parrot will go to his avian veterinarian (a good friend of Gina's), and her remaining dogs go to friends who have agreed to keep them. "With each pet will go a sum of money," says Gina.

Being prepared for the worst, or at least the inevitable, can ease some of the concern at that time when everyone is upset and no one is sure what to do. Outlining exactly what you want to happen makes a big difference.

Originally Published at VeterinaryPartner.com by Veterinary Information Network, Inc. which retains copyright.

Date Published: 5/23/2004 11:35:00 AM

Date Reviewed/Revised: 01/05/2010

*****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 the Dalmatian Rescue where you obtained your Dal, or the one closet to where you now live, so they can save lives like they 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 rescues 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 rescue and for them?

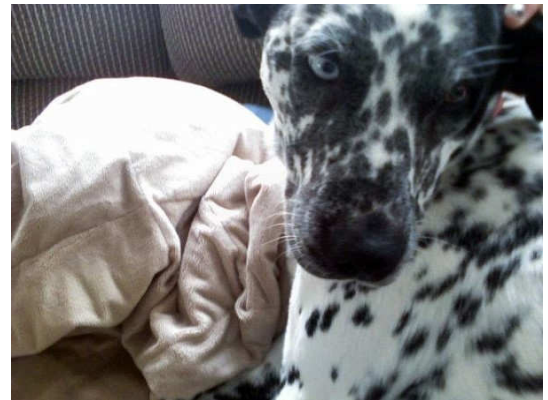
We thank you and you know any dog you help your local rescue save will be eternally grateful! PLEASE submit a foster application if you can possibly help your local rescue and them! PLEASE take your cookie... good boy/girl!

Happy Beginning Story

In 2009 we adopted 114 dogs but we ONLY have 18 Happy Beginning stories on the website. Come on guys!! Send us your stories about your new friend, your exploits, cute pictures, funny stories, etc. We work so hard to make these stories possible and it is our reward to see your stories in print. That's what we live for!! It's not hard and it only takes a minute. You can send your pictures and stories to the Webmaster at spotted-dog-designs@comcast.net. Do it today before you forget!!

Sam (aka Hardy)

My friend Fay is a devoted Dal. foster mom. Every time I go to visit her she has a new precious pup playing with her four permanent dogs, Monty, Quoodle, Scarlet (a deaf Dal), and Henry. Before Christmas '09 I had gone to visit Fay and she had, yet again, a new dog in the pack. She introduced me to Sam (then called Hardy) and I immediately adored him. However, I was leaving in a few weeks for a trip home to Maryland. Plus, as she puts it, I "love all the fosters".



Fast forward three or four or five weeks and I returned again to visit my friend in Longmont, CO. Much to my surprise Sam was still there. We talked about it and we just didn't understand why this sweet, slightly timid boy had not been taken into a forever home, yet. She told me he had been found in NM half starved and maybe his slight fear of people put potential parents off. That evening I got snowed in at Fays and had to spend the night. After playing with the dogs for much of the evening I decided that I loved Sam and wanted him in my life.

My boyfriend and I had talked about getting a dog, but with two cats we just weren't sure if our boys would be interested in having another creature romping about the house. David (the b/f) and I went out to visit with Sam and his foster parents. I told David that if he did not love Sam as much as I did I in no way wanted to pressure him into getting a dog he did not want. Since we already have two animals it had to be a family decision.

Lucky for me, Sam melted David's heart and we took him home two days later.

It has been a few weeks now and it feels like we have always had Sam in our lives. He has learned Sit, Stay, and Lay Down, though being young he still sometimes gets distracted easily. He's learning to walk nicely on the leash, but again there is just so much to look at! Sam is putting on a bit of weight, which we are so ok with, since he was a bit thin when we first got him home.

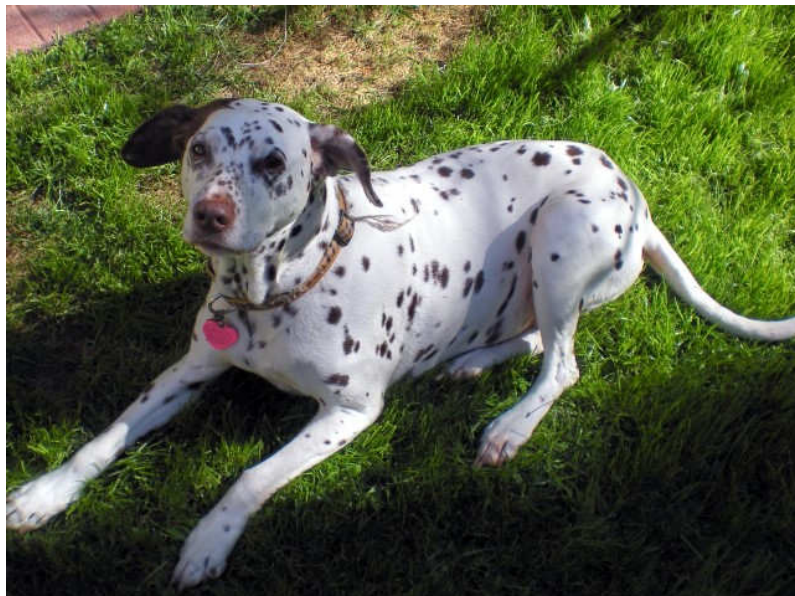
Sam also was pretty shy around David for a little while, but he has learned now that his new Dad is not going to hurt him, and is also a great spot for a nap. We have discovered that Sam does NOT like baths, but love, love, loves his stuffed animals. He hoards his toys in his kennel and only occasionally brings them out to show them off to us. He also gets along rather well with his new brothers, occasionally playing tag with the smaller cat, Koa. It's pretty funny watching Sam chase Koa down the stairs and seeing Koa and Kirby tag team chase Sam back up the stairs.

We feel like the luckiest Dal. parents because he stayed with his foster family so long that it was obvious he was meant to come home with us. Sam completes our family.

Ashleigh M. & David K.
Arvada, CO

In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians

Sprinkles



9 Years Old, Liver Spayed Female
Reason Available: Owner Surrender
Los Angeles, CA area

*****URGENT*****

This is a courtesy posting for the family of Sprinkles, a liver and white (brown and white) Dalmatian whose owner is dying of cancer. Her owner rescued Sprinkles when she was about 18 months old and he was about 76 at the time. She's a very sweet girl and just craves attention, which she isn't getting much of now since her owner is so sick. Sprinkles would be totally happy if she could lie next to someone and be petted all day (like most Dalmatians!). Since Sprinkles has not been on many walks lately she gets pretty excited to GO, but in the right collar/harness she does fine. The family says that Sprinkles is good with kids and most other larger dogs. Cats are unknown but she seems to not prefer smaller dogs. This pretty little brown girl has lots of life left in her and it would

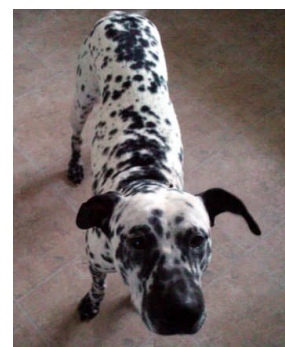
be a shame for her to not have a home to move on to when the time comes for her owner. This time is fast coming, unfortunately. Since her owner was retired Sprinkles has been used to having lots of attention, but in her new home she can adjust to a working family if she has good exercise to replace some of the lost attention, although Sprinkles is very good in the house and can be left alone. That's the nice thing about mature dogs! She does like to go outside and enjoys being in the yard, chasing the squirrels and sunning herself, but has primarily been a house dog. Sprinkles obeys basic commands and is a very sweet girl. If interested in enjoying this pretty little girl, please submit an application from our site at www.dalmatianrescue.org and we'll send it to the family.

Buddy3

3 Years Old, Black Male
Reason Available: Stray
Foster Home, El Paso, Texas

*****URGENT*****

My name is Buddy and that is exactly what I want to be to you. I am two to three years old and a bouncy, playful little guy. So I am looking for my forever humans to have the energy and interest to give me lots to do. I love to play with the other dog in my foster home but my #1 job is to make sure my foster mom always knows where I am just in case she might be wanting to scratch me and love on me. I even sleep on her bed so she doesn't lose me by accident. I am very good at my job! Perfect, in fact. Well, there is one thing. I am told that kitties are not squeak toys but I am not convinced. So my foster mom says, NO CATS! I think this is no fun but she is more worried about the cats than me. I would love to have another playful doggie brother or sister though and I get along just beautifully with the young humans around here. I will play fetch for hours and am still gentle as a lamb with the little kids. So a two legged brother or sister would be great too! How about a yard to play chase in? And a fire truck? OK, that one is negotiable. I spend all day in a crate while my foster mom is at work and she wants me to have a home where I can run and play. Anyway, mostly I am looking for someone who can love me my whole life long, forever and ever. I promise I will love you back just as hard and just as long. I am in El Paso, TX



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!!
6828 Rim Rock Trail, Fort Collins, CO 80526 [Rescue Hotline: 303-281-8963](tel:303-281-8963) Fax: 970-377-9509

<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org>
