

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!!

Jingle Bells and Merry Christmas!

One more year has passed and at this point (November 15th) we have placed 101 dogs into good homes. Can you believe it? Dalmatian Rescue didn't start with the Disney 101 Movie but it sure got well underway those many years ago. Hopefully more than 101 dogs will be placed this year but as I write this for the Christmas Holiday letter the successful placement is 101! Dear Santa, can we place 101 more this year??

Despite the economic troubles, we have been very blessed with some generous donations this year so we have been able to help more people and more dogs than ever expected. We have also been blessed (101 times!) with good families taking our good dogs. How can we complain? We have also had some really great new volunteers and foster homes come on board. Yes, it has been a great year!

We've had puppies several times this year too. In the spring a wonderful woman visiting an Indian reservation in Arizona learned of a Dalmatian mix momma giving birth under the trading post's porch. She dug momma and all her pups out and brought them home to New Mexico and they eventually came to a Loveland family to be fostered.

Then, in July, a friend and volunteer with our rescue in southern New Mexico accidentally stumbled upon a family setting up their pickup to peddle four-week old Dalmatian puppies. Fortunately, Rick was able to persuade the owner to let us have the whole litter. The truck had a metal box and was sitting in the hot sun and it was already 106 degrees! Had Rick not been there we hate to think how many baby Dalmatians might have been burned or certainly become dehydrated and possibly died. But, as luck and the Good Lord would have it, Rick was able to bring the puppies to us and they were all placed by eight weeks of age.

Then, in August, I had four seven-week old American Cattle Dog (ACD) pups left at my house when the owner moved away. I advertised them otherwise, but they didn't get their new homes until I posted them on our Dalmatian Rescue site, where good people go for good dogs, no matter what the breed.

No, we are not seeing as many purebred Dalmatians in Colorado as we used to (thankfully) but we are still importing them from other areas like Texas, New Mexico, Kansas, South Dakota, Nebraska, Arkansas and Missouri, to name just a few! We are taking in many nice Dalmatian mixes, however, if we have the room. They of course need a good, loving home as well as the purebreds. They can't help that mom and dad didn't meet at the purebred bar, but they can and do still provide lots of love and fun in their new homes. Some of the mixed breed dogs come to us as Dalmatian mixes yet when they arrive their spots suggest that they are from other breeds with spots. The shelters thought they were Dalmatian mixes and maybe the pictures suggested it, but once here with us, we do sometimes change their description. You can't help that shelters try to save their lives as well and ask us for help!

I have been asked many times why we post more than just purebred Dalmatians. Well, we are not exclusive or snobbish about helping just Dalmatians... a good dog in need is a good dog in need. When we can help a dog we do, and since people prefer different things in their pets, we are able to place more than just Dalmatians. In the past year we have taken in many ACD's, several pointers, a coonhound, a pit bull mix, and a border collie, to name a few. We don't even care that our mixes might not even be part Dalmatian; we care that they need a home. Sometimes people prefer a mix and that is wonderful. Every dog we list is just looking for that forever home where they can be safe, return the owner's love, and give them joy and happiness for a short or long time.



Dallas, one of the Texas Liver pups that we had this year, is showing off his color and his modeling skills

2009 Expenses (Through 11/22/2008)

Veterinary	\$20,073	Feed	\$844	Total	\$29,576
Boarding	\$220	Advertising	\$232		
Pharmacy	\$1,955	Transport	\$1,307		
Misc. Costs	\$4,427	Microchips	\$518		

It has been a true blessing that we have still continued to be able to find homes for most of our senior Dalmatians and Dalmatian mixes. We're never certain why owners can't find their seniors when they are strays on the street. We find them, other people find them, and shelters have them to be found. Yet, they are rarely claimed, except by us and then loving, caring people who take them in. No, they won't live as long as any owner hopes, but those sweet seniors do give their heart and soul till the end.

There have been several of our long-time seniors who did pass on in their foster homes this year, and we thank our wonderful foster families from the bottom of our hearts for their love and support of these seniors. I will mention here, too, that should you find that your adopted dog has developed a serious or life-threatening medical condition, please contact us for advice. We often have good knowledge to share, contacts to suggest, might possibly have some advice on how to proceed, and even solutions that not all vets know about. Please keep us in the loop in case we can help.

As I am writing this at Thanksgiving time, I will say that I am ever thankful for the wonderful adopters, as well as all our fabulous volunteers. For those people who foster, drive, donate, train, and work diligently to find each dog that special home. At this time of year I hope you all will think about the homeless and help those in need (human and animal) as you are able. Tell friends, volunteer time, and of course consider FOSTERING a homeless dog! We're always in need of good foster homes and we all know that foster homes save lives!! If you are interested, let me know and I'll forward our Foster Procedures and you can see what is involved.

I hope that everyone has a safe, warm and happy Holiday! Thanks for making a big difference in our lives and that of your new companion!!

**Beth White, President
Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado**

Xylitol Warning... Watch The Holiday Candies!

We have talked about Xylitol many times already, but it is such an important topic especially around the holidays, that we feel that we really need to remind you once again. Below is reprinted with permission to show you just how quick Xylitol can adversely affect the health of your dog.

"My Chanel Poodle stole a package of Sugar-Free Tic Tac Chill mints out of my purse and ate them early last Sunday morning. Within about 45 min she vomited, the 2nd time I took her running/ dragging her to the back yard. She couldn't stand up, she was twitching and sleepy, I carried her back in and tried to feed her to dilute what might be in her stomach but it fell out of her mouth. I found Peroxide and gave her some to induce vomiting... carried her out and she threw up 2 more times...carried her in by the computer and looked up Xylitol...yikes...it bottoms out their blood sugars and can cause liver necrosis...phone call to the ER center...then to ASPCA Poison control....honey rubbed into her gums to get her blood sugar back up and off to the Emergency Center where she spent the next 22 hrs. They metabolize the Xylitol rapidly and it creates an insulin shock. Xylitol is fine to use in diabetic people because we metabolize it slowly and it keeps your blood sugar very even. The honey worked wonders; by the time we were at the vet she could stand up and walk and had stopped twitching. Her blood sugar after the gobs of honey was 109 (normal) but I have no idea how low it had gone. They needed to give her an IV with Dextrose so her blood sugars could be observed closely as it was getting out of her system and they slowly decreased it as time went on. They monitored her liver function studies because they are not sure why the liver necrosis occurs. They said it may be the Xylitol effect on the liver, or it may be from low blood sugars."

"I never buy tic tacs, got them cuz the line at the grocery store was too slow and forgot they were there. They have a new package, the front slides down and you can have access to more...worked good for my Pood. The most expensive mints I have ever bought!!! I knew it wasn't good for dogs but never knew what happens. Now I know...I tell everyone with dogs....people have no idea..... Fortunately everything turned out fine. She had 2 sets of labs since she was released and her liver values are returning to normal. They have her on Denamarin which is given to protect the liver; she will stay on that for month. I am telling everyone I know who owns dogs."

Just a FYI for everyone. As was mentioned in the email about the poodle, Denamarin was prescribed to help with any liver damage caused by the Xylitol. Denamarin is a combination of Milk Thistle and Sam-E. Both are over the counter and can be found easily where supplements are sold. Milk Thistle is something everyone should keep in their "dog cupboard". It helps protect the liver against various toxins and encourages the regeneration of liver cells. It counteracts the toxic effect of a wide variety of liver poisons including alcohol, carbon tetrachloride, acetaminophen and death cap mushrooms. If you suspect your dog has ingested toxic mushrooms or acetaminophen, give them Milk Thistle immediately and then rush them to the Vet or ER. Giving the Milk Thistle can help lessen the damage.

Xylitol is contained in numerous 'sugar-free' candies and gums. Around this time of year, many of us fill our houses with all kinds of tempting smells and tasty treats so it is important to really keep an eye on our dogs and not let them get into things that they shouldn't be getting into.

Holiday Safety



As the holidays approach we must look, once again, at safety ideas to make sure that you and your furry ones have a truly wonderful experience. 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).

To make sure the holiday is happy for everyone maybe during your big party you will consider ways to ease the stress on your dog. 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 dog play room 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!



Two Lost Souls by Shelly Guidotti

"Did you hear that?" the old dog shouted.

They all ran to the front of their kennel doors to see if someone was coming to 'pick them'. "Sorry," he said to the other dogs as his ears fell down from their perked position. "I could have sworn I heard voices saying, 'Isn't he cute? It's Christmas; can't we take him home with us?'" "You must have been dreaming again, old man," said the dog in the cage next to him. "Anyway, what's the big deal about getting picked up as a Christmas gift? We've all been through that routine and look where it got us."

The word "home" meant little to these shelter dogs.

"Just once, I'd like to feel the warmth of a hand stroking my head," said the old dog. "I'd like to be the one who kisses the tears off a sad face. I'd like to curl up next to a fire instead of this cold concrete. It hurts my bones." He curled up and sighed as the others said, "The only place you're going to find that is in your dreams, old man."

Hank's wife had only been gone a year but the pain was as fresh as if time had stood still. He was an old man now, alone and longed for the comfort that he knew no other person would ever be able to give to him again. What would his life become without her by his side?

Hank's cupboards were close to bare now and, although he didn't want to go out, he knew he should at least pick up the basics. He drove slowly down the side streets for freeway driving had become too challenging. Suddenly, the car started chugging and sputtering until finally the engine quit altogether. One of the basic needs he had forgotten was fuel for the car! So he coasted over next to the curb, spotting a building within walking distance. Hopefully, they'd let him use their phone.

He walked into an office area and rang the bell for service but no one came. He spotted another door going outside; failing to notice the sign posted "Employees Only". As Hank walked out, he was overwhelmed by yaps, barks and insane jumping from dogs all sizes and shapes. He then realized he had unintentionally gone to the dog shelter.

Slowly he walked down the concrete aisle looking for an attendant. Three kennels down on the right, the old dog calmly sat there. Why should the old dog get excited? No one would want him. But, he sensed a need and couldn't resist offering a kind look and a gentle wag of the tail. As Hank neared the old dog's cage, he laced his fingers through the chain link to steady his gait and the first feeling of comfort he'd remembered in over a year came from a wet nose and lick across his arthritic fingers.

Just then a voice of authority sounded, and Hank jumped. "I'm sorry sir, you aren't supposed to be in this area!" she said. Luckily Hank didn't know he had walked into the "Final Area" where unclaimed dogs were scheduled to be put down. There went the nudge and lick thing again. Hank looked down to the most pleading eyes he'd ever seen. Ignoring the attendant's order to leave, Hank asked if he could see the dog closer. Her demeanor changed completely and her sternness melted away. She had forced herself to be this way so she could do the part of her job she despised.

She brought the old dog out and instantly the two souls -- once so lost -- found reason to hope.

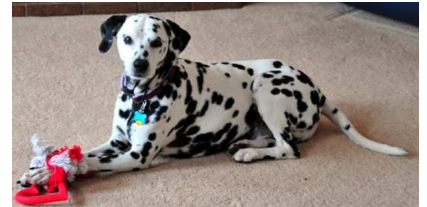
Hank's cupboards were now filled, a warm fire crackled and the old dog smiled inside as he remembered "only in your dreams." Closing his eyes he felt Hank's hand stroking his head whispering "sleep in heavenly peace".

It was Christmas after all.

And Now... The GOOD NEWS!!

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

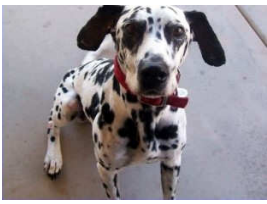
Elton (formerly Edgar) about 5 years old when he came to us from rather sketchy beginnings. The only thing we know for sure about his background is that he had several run-ins with the law – typical stuff, vagrancy, trespassing, etc. Eventually he was taken in by a foster home in NE and finally adopted by a wonderful and loving couple who can't imagine life without him. They say that Elton loves everyone he meets and charms them all with his smile.



Lili (formerly Lilli) was a family pet until one day the family decided Lili was dog aggressive and sent her packing. But what a bundle of joy wrapped up in a loving, playful, and well-trained and good mannered young lady. If you consider one and a half dog years to be young. She is definitely full of puppy yet. Her adoptive family reports that she's fitting in very well and is taking full advantage of the evening TV schedule to get in her naps. She gets lots of exercise with walks and trips to the dog park, although she needs to work on her Frisbee and tennis ball fetching skills. They are very happy with the newest addition to their household, regardless what the cats think!

Rain was surrendered with her Labrador buddy to a UT shelter in extremely starved condition. She had likely been an outdoor dog. She was small and timid at first. On arrival at her foster home she had developed severe pneumonia and underwent weeks of treatment and some trial and error to find the right meds that would work for her. She needed 24 hour care and steam treatments, special foods, meds and various therapies created such a strong bond that she was adopted by her foster family! They reported that it took over a month to get back her health, but she is now quite healthy and happy and loves to play with her biggie sister, Maggie, (who was adopted from us in 2008). Pictured are (left to right) Maggie and Rain.





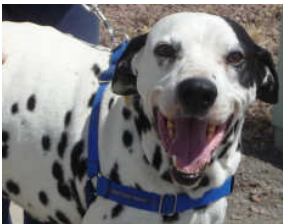
Jax1 came from a hoarding rescuer in AZ who starved him. He had some dental work done to repair a broken canine tooth when he first came to us. Then in just four days in foster getting regular meals he had put on 5 pounds. Jax simply wasn't fed before. Jax is a lovable dog who craves attention. He may be 8-9 years old but he has the energy of a young dog.

Grace (formerly Kitty) came from the seedier part of Dodge City, hence the name Dodge City Kitty (okay, we can have a little fun now and then!). Just under a year old maybe and alone, scared but as sweet as can be. Now she shares her new family with her step-sister, Kelsey, an adopted rescue Border Collie mix. Her family says, "Already it feels like Grace has been part of our family forever. We cannot imagine her not being her with us."



Mimi was the one dog of three that the family left at the shelter. They only wanted two. No one knows why they chose her to leave behind because she is a delightful girl. She was, naturally, pretty upset and scared when first left at the shelter, but she is gentle, mannerly and sweet. She arrived at the shelter fairly heavy but on "prison" food she lost a few pounds. Mimi was living life to the fullest with her foster family when she was 'spotted' by a lovely couple in Penrose and they adopted her and gave her a new leash on life with lots of walks in the mountains to help her weight reduction program.

Olivia was just a pup when she was put in 'puppy prison' after being picked up as a stray in a small eastern Colorado town. They were set to euthanize her, but one of our volunteers plucked her out just in time. Unfortunately, we didn't have space for her in a foster home then, so she went to another shelter. A tiny wisp of a gal at 40 pounds, she had plenty of energy and curiosity. When we were finally able to host her in a nice foster home, she so enchanted everyone that she just stayed there. Olivia's story is one of another the typical 'foster failure' types (where the foster home adopts and then has no more room to continue fostering), but we aren't complaining... she's in a great home!



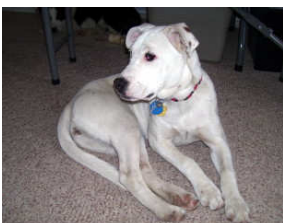
Sal was an owner surrender who came to us from a small town in NM. Sal's owners turned in three dogs in a small NM town. Economic downturn and hard times is what they were saying and that they couldn't afford to feed the dogs. Sal is a lovely dog who was adopted by a wonderful man in New Mexico who was fostering him, but felt that he had come home when he took him in. He continues to delight everyone, well not the guy who reached into his dad's car to steal something – to him he was all teeth! But if you're not a bad guy, he'll love on you and be your pal.

Dahlia1 came from a hoarding rescuer in AZ who mistreated and starved the dogs she 'rescued'. After getting into one of our foster homes and getting regular meals and love she blossomed into a beautiful girl who loves everyone and is a favorite in her new home.



Dugal is a very nice boy, saved from a Washington shelter where his owners left him and his sister behind. Now, Dougal may not have many spots but whose counting? Dougal is fairly mellow, yet still has energy for his several walks a day. He came in extremely thin and he is still fairly thin, but starting to gain. You'd not think he was 10 years if you didn't know it. Dougal is quite the attention hound. Dougal is currently touring the country with his adoptive family before they return to England early next year... he's so looking forward to getting the chance to be an international traveler!

Daisy12 found herself left behind and abandoned at a camp ground. The people that had her decided that she wasn't worthy of them anymore – for what reason, we'll never know. Miss Daisy had really bad sunburn which required extensive care to return her to her natural deep mahogany color (also called Liver). It seems that our Miss Daisy was an outside dog most of, if not all, her life before she went to Victoria, BC, Canada to a terrific home.



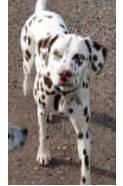
Scarlet was adopted as an adorable, sweet natured 9-10 month old deaf Dalmatian/Boxer mix. She is all white with hints of liver color spots underneath and on her ears. Scarlet is very smart and already learned signs for many basic dog commands like "sit" and "come" and "no" before she was adopted. She loves toys especially ones that light up. Scarlet also does well in the dog park. She loves meeting people and other animals. Scarlet is continuing to learn more sign language and is growing cleverer every day.

Sweetie1 was found in Kansas on someone's property where she had just given birth to 10 puppies! She was taken to the shelter where all her puppies were adopted but no one wanted Momma who gave them life. She is a two year old Dal-Heeler mix. After coming to her Colorado foster home Sweetie met Hudson (they adopted him from us in 2008), they were the best of friends. She won her foster family's hearts soon after she made it to their home, so they adopted her too!! They report that Sweetie loves to snuggle, lay in the sunshine, chase (and eat) grasshoppers, chew toys and play tug-of-war and "catch me if you can" with Hudson.



Cleo1 very slowly crawled out of her kennel, scared to death, but soon realized that she was leaving the shelter. She picked up her head and ran out the door and right into a large patch of grass where she ran around for quite some time enjoying the fresh air and freedom - tail wagging and with a huge smile. Cleo is a happy girl who loves to go for walks and she stays close even when off leash in a safe field. She actually enjoyed bath time and looked forward to sleeping in her doggy bed near her foster dad. Adopted by some great folks who live in Glenwood, IA Cleo is loving life!

Rama (formerly Zeke) came from a breeder no longer in the "business" in Aledo TX. He is gentle, fairly timid but good with dogs and seems to prefer men though given the time he is fine with everyone. Rama is now living the high life in Montana with a really wonderful adopter that met him and brought him to his forever home.



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 sweet souls who are waiting at The Rainbow Bridge, including Sarge1, Opie1, Lawton, Sparky3 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 **101** 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**



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<http://www.dalmatianrescue.org/NewSpots.htm>

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