



Xylitol Is Poisonous



In the past we ran several articles and cautions about xylitol, but we recently ran into another case of xylitol toxicity and felt that now is a good time to once again remind you of the dangerous nature of this artificial sweetener commonly found in many sugar-free products like chewing gums, candies, etc., that dogs like to eat.

From JAVMA News:

“Our concern used to be mainly with products that contain xylitol as one of the first ingredients,” said Dr. Eric Dunayer, who specialized in toxicology at the center. “However, we have begun to see problems developing from ingestions of products with lesser amounts of this sweetener.” Dr. Dunayer said that with smaller concentrations of xylitol, the onset of clinical signs could be delayed as much as 12 hours after ingestion.”

As shared in an email by a Dal owner with first-hand experience with this nasty toxin:

“Dr. called me at 4:30pm and had me pick Chance up. She wants someone to be with him for the next 48 hours, as it will take that long to know he is out of danger. We are to watch for the following signs: diarrhea, vomiting, acting drunk (stumbling or uncoordinated movements), or being lethargic (low blood sugar signs) and we are to keep checking his gums and eyes for signs of them turning yellow (liver involvement). She gave me her cell phone number and told me to call if ANY of these symptoms appear. The closest emergency clinic is 35 minutes away and she said that, if he showed any of these signs, she wouldn't want treatment delayed that long.

So, while I am cautiously optimistic, we really won't be certain until Sunday evening that he is out of the woods. I am so thankful that I was home with him at the time (although if I hadn't been, my purse – and the gum – would have been with me) and that I responded quickly. While my husband loves our three Dals a tremendous amount, he laughed when I called to tell him what happened. “It's just gum!”, was his response. Well, from what I've read and the reaction of Chance's doctor, I think we can safely say that xylitol ingestion is nothing to mess with. This has certainly scared me enough to continue to research and to make sure others know about this danger. I know that I will not be buying products with xylitol in them anymore.

Lesley & Richard S.”

She also included a link to a list of products that contain xylitol and we are including it here for your information:
http://petdiabetes.wikia.com/wiki/Sugar-Free_Products_Warnings

As you will see by looking at the list of products included in the link xylitol isn't only in food products; it is also in health and beauty products and over the counter and prescription medicines.

If your dog ingests any products containing xylitol, it is important to try to get them to vomit to get the stuff out of their stomach. Lesley sought out and received many suggestions for how to accomplish this task. One of the most common was to use hydrogen peroxide. Simply pour it down the dog's throat (about one tablespoon per dose) and wait for the dog to vomit. If the dog hasn't vomited within ten minutes, give another dose of hydrogen peroxide and wait again. While waiting, if it's possible, begin transporting your dog to the veterinarian or emergency animal clinic immediately (yeah, they might make a mess in the car – but it is preferable to clean a car than deal with the death of your beloved dog). **We should note – ordinarily you should NEVER induce vomiting without having first consulted with your veterinarian.**

If for whatever reason your dog does not vomit – seek immediate medical attention! Not only because whatever you used to induce vomiting failed and is now in your dog's stomach, but because there might be a more important reason going on that caused that failure which could require the attention of your veterinarian!

Recent Adoptees!

We're off to a great start in 2012!!



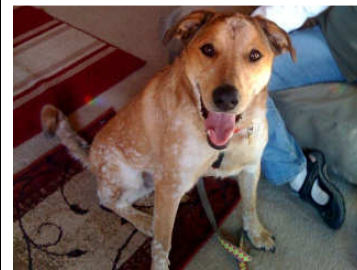
Kelsey1
Santa Fe, NM



Pirate3
Aurora, CO



Lundy
Denver, CO



Sierra1
Fort Collins, CO



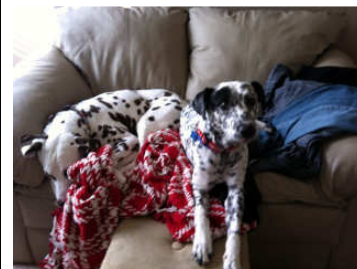
Bandit A
MT



Muffin
Commerce City, CO



Dede
Poncha Springs, CO



Wiley
MT



Lucie
El Paso, TX

5 Pet Poisons Hiding in Your Purse, Backpack or Work Bag

According to the folks at Pet Poison Helpline (<http://www.petpoisonhelpline.com/>), they talk frequently to terrified pet owners whose dog or cat found an enticing 'treat' in a purse or backpack and gobbled it up.

Since during winter months pets tend to be indoors more, a handbag or similar item lying open with contents exposed, can prove an irresistible temptation to a confined, curious and perhaps slightly bored pet.

Top 5 most common purse items that poison pets

1. Human medications – about half the yearly calls to the helpline are because the pet ingested medication found in the purse, bag, etc.
2. Asthma inhalers – If your dog bites into an asthma inhaler, it has the potential to result in acute, life-threatening poisoning. These inhalers contain highly concentrated doses of drugs like albuterol and fluticasone.
3. Artificially sweetened gum and mints (**Editor's note – see our lead story!**) – Many sugarless gums and mints contain xylitol – a sugar substitute highly toxic to dogs.
4. Cigarettes, smokeless tobacco, and other products containing nicotine – a small dog can die from ingesting just three cigarettes, depending on the brand. Chewing tobacco is also toxic and so are stop-smoking products like nicotine gum.
5. Hand sanitizer – These products, which are used to kill germs, contain lots of alcohol. If your dog were to ingest a small bottle of hand sanitizer, it would be about the equivalent of a shot of hard liquor.

To read the rest of this story, please go to: <http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2012/01/26/pet-poisons-in-owners-bags.aspx>

Tax Breaks For Pet Foster Parents... Make Sure You Claim Yours!

June 16th, 2011 by [Amy Rossi](#)



Jan Van Dusen and some of her foster cats

(Editor's Note: Following our article last month about tax deductions for contributions to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado (and any other IRS recognized charities) we wanted to throw this out there for all of our fosters and transporters!)

In a landmark tax court case, Jan Van Dusen emerged victorious against the IRS. Van Dusen claimed many tax deductions on her 2004 tax return, for all the expenditures she'd put out for the 70 (yes, you read that correctly) stray and feral cats she had fostered, as part of her volunteer work with Fix Our Ferals, a non-profit California charity.

Van Dusen claimed over \$12,000 related to cat food, vet bills, garbage bags, and other items for her care of the cats. In 2009, a judge finally ruled that because her expenses were used toward a charitable organization, she was legally allowed to claim them. In fact, 90 percent of her vet bills, cleaning supplies and food was tax deductible.

What does this mean for you?

If you've ever fostered an animal or know anyone who has, you're probably aware of the expenses associated with it. Beside just opening your heart and home to an unfamiliar animal, you also usually have to provide food, gas used to transport the animal to vet appointments or potential adopter meetings, and all the supplies that come with taking care of an animal.

"People have claimed these types of expenses before, thinking it makes sense because they're doing this service for a charitable organization, they should be able to recoup some of their out-of-pocket costs," said Rachel Hirschfeld, estate planner since 1999 and pet trust lawyer who created the Pet Protection Agreement found on LegalZoom.com. Hirschfeld was one of the first in the country to focus on pet trust laws for the security of pets' futures in cases where their owners might no longer be able to care for them.

Hirschfeld is thrilled with Van Dusen's victory. "There are so many people who want to foster and help animals, and this ruling will make it easier for everyone. More people will foster knowing it's a legal expense and this will help the whole community," she said. She suggested that a great next step would be tax deductions for people even after they've adopted the animals. "If you're adopting from a charitable organization or shelter, you're really helping out the shelter. The whole world would be a better place if people adopted more animals." *(Side note: I adopted my foster dog, and would love to know I could claim her expenses! Wouldn't many of you feel the same way? I know I'm not alone as a "foster failure").*

How to get the most money back

Hirschfeld has some tips for foster parents planning to claim deductions on their taxes.

Collect and retain all your receipts associated with foster pet purchases. Write a note on every receipt and be specific (i.e., if you go to a hardware store and buy cat litter or lights for the room the dogs are kept in, circle the items on the receipt and write a note about the purpose of the item). Remember, that as of right now, the only tax-deductible purchases are for foster pets, not resident pets.

"This is huge what's happened here!" said Hirschfeld, and encourages all pet foster parents to take advantage of this and share with all their animal networks to help raise the rate of fostering, and thus saving animals in shelters across the country. "This shows that people are starting to really see animals as actual beings."

Ironically Hirschfeld used to be terrified of animals. Now she tells the story of adopting her foster dog. "When you adopt an animal, it actually changes your heart."

Doggie Parenting

Tips and tricks on loving and living with dogs!

By Victoria Rose
Nanny 911 For Dogs
Training and Behavior Modification

Pavlov's Jetta

Does your doggie follow you around the house, watching you with pleading or anxious eyes when his dinnertime nears? You move to another room and he's hot on your heels, eagle-eyeing you for any hint you are preparing to feed him? Jetta started doing that not long ago. Man, does it annoy me!

So I got an alarm clock specifically to alert Jetta to her dinnertime. I set it morning and evening, and when it sounds, she gets very excited and runs to find me, exclaiming, "It's time to eat! It's time to eat!" I am always ecstatic for her: "Jetta! Is it time to eat? Yeah! Let's eat!"

So now she waits for the alarm. My movement and activity are no longer the predictors of her mealtime, so there is no reason for her to focus on me. She is calm. She does not stare at the clock or try to get to it. She waits. Usually she sleeps.

If you have the same issue with your kid, and find it annoying, you can easily change this behavior. Get an alarm clock that you use for nothing else. That's very important. Set it, and ignore the dog until it rings. When it does, stop what you are doing and feed the dog immediately. This is also very important. You want the dog to KNOW that when the alarm sounds, she eats. (Which is another way of saying, she learns that UNTIL the alarm rings, she DOESN'T eat.)

Dogs require lots of repetition to learn new things, so do this every mealtime. Dogs should eat twice a day (and very young puppies should eat *three* times a day), so you can get lots of practice in a short time. If you want to speed up the process, divide her meals into 2-4 portions, and set the alarm, ignore her (TOTALLY), feed her a portion when it rings, set the alarm for 5-10 minutes later, ignore her, feed her when it rings, and so on.

If your dog associates mealtime with your presence and activity in the kitchen, or wherever it is that you keep the food and bowl, be sure to NOT be there when the alarm buzzes until she has had enough repetition to break that connection.

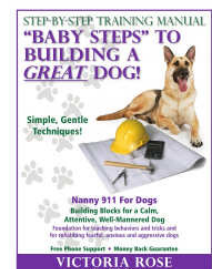
Rotate Toys To Keep Dog's Interest Fresh

Does your kid lose interest in some of his or her toys? Try removing them from the toy box... pack them away.... Bring them back out in 2, 3, 4 weeks and see if he acts like they are brand new! Jetta has so many that her toy box was overflowing, so I took out half of them simply because we didn't have room for all of them. I stored them in the garage, leaving just half her toys inside. A month later I brought them in and we had fun opening the box. It was like Christmas seeing what all was in there that she'd forgotten about. Then I stored the ones that had remained in the toy box... and will bring them back in later, keeping all her toys on a scheduled rotation. Give it a shot and see if it freshens your kid's interest in his balls, babies and chew toys.

'Til next time, "kiss the kids"
Tori (Mom of Jetta WAC, CGC)

Want more Doggie Parenting tips and tricks? Visit my website below to subscribe to my free 4,000-subscriber e-newsletter. I have *hundreds* of tips to help living with dogs easier and more enjoyable.

Victoria Rose/Nanny 911 For Dogs Training and Behavior Modification offers dog training/behavior modification in-home, by phone and via her "Baby Steps" training manual. All services are guaranteed; payments accepted. Visit www.Nanny911ForDogs.com



Ask The Trainer

“Stop Your Dog From Eating Rocks, socks and other non-food items”

© 2004-2011 Love My Dog Training

For most of us, it's hard to understand why dogs would eat things like rocks, socks or other non-food items. Yet many dogs do. The technical term is pica. For some, it can result in a hefty vet bill when something dangerous is ingested and needs to be surgically removed.

In evaluating the behavior, we look at what is being eaten and under what circumstances. If the dog is eating rocks or dirt, it is possible the dog is looking to fulfill a nutritional deficiency. A visit to your vet might be worthwhile as well as evaluating your food choices.



Romeo practicing his “Drop it” with a toy

If your dog is eating non-food items, look at how the behavior developed and when it's happening. For example, a dog might start out by finding and playing with or chewing socks, pillows and anything else around the home that looks fun. For some dogs, it is merely an attempt to explore their world – which dogs do primarily through their noses and their mouths. Looking to have some fun or alleviate boredom is a common issue. Some dogs express this through chewing. Some dogs will chew lots of things but not ingest. Others will ingest the items they chew.

In other cases, the dogs end up swallowing items in an attempt to maintain possession if people are constantly taking things away. The attempt to maintain control can display itself in a game of keep away or tug of war. In other dogs, resource guarding will develop and a dog might growl, snap or even bite. And for some dogs, they will swallow the item to prevent someone from taking it away.

One client has a dog who was swallowing socks. While it most likely started out as something fun to play with and chew, she began swallowing them in an effort to keep them from being taken away. The original behavior probably started due to a bit of boredom, but it turned into a resource guarding issue being expressed by swallowing the item.

Another client has a dog who is eating rocks. In our discussion, we determined the rock eating appears to be due primarily to boredom. The dog is looking for something to do, and most likely started out playing with the rocks, but now eats them. In this case, I think resource guarding also plays a part. This dog also has some food aggression issues, so resource guarding rocks is certainly a possibility.

In the case of both clients mentioned above, the approach is similar. First, prevention. Don't allow the dogs to practice the unwanted (and dangerous) behavior while we're working to change it.

Next, we work very hard on teaching a reliable “drop it” and “leave it”. Anytime I am working with a client on “drop it” or “leave it” I want to make sure we are making it fun and rewarding for the dog, but it is particularly important in these cases. If there is an element of possessiveness, we need to be careful about perpetuating this perception that we are always taking things away and never giving anything back. Providing worthwhile rewards in exchange for leaving or dropping the items they have is essential. Sounding like you are having fun and playing a game, not scolding or punishing the dog, is also necessary.

In addition, we work at replacing these behaviors with more constructive behaviors. If the dogs are getting enough physical exercise and mental stimulation in more constructive ways, they will begin to forget about eating non-food items. Some of these issues are easily resolved, while others will take quite a bit of work. But working to resolve these issues could save the lives of these dogs, so it's well worth putting in the effort.

If you have an issue you would like addressed in a future installment of Ask the Trainer, please send your question to: sbrown@lovemydogtraining.com or Sue Brown, Love My Dog Training, 1494 S Perry Park Road, Sedalia, CO 80135.

For additional training tips and information, you can read our blog at <http://www.lovemydogtraining.com/wp/> or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

Please send questions to: sbrown@lovemydogtraining.com



www.lovemydogtraining.com

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(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.lovemydogtraining.com>).

Bits & Pieces

Do you have a business or a hobby that other adopters, fosters, and volunteers might be interested in? Let us help you spread the word by 'advertising' in Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado's monthly newsletter – NewSpots! We currently notify a little over 450 people of the new editions of NewSpots! That's a lot of word of mouth and print advertising for FREE!!

Advertising in NewSpots! is free!!

Simply contact the editor, Karl Schill, at dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net and he will work with you to provide your ad and place it prominently within the newsletter.

*******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!

Links Of Interest

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38adYwOWTck&feature=related> – a cute video of Dal puppies getting their first taste of peanut butter!

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=qFP28ANXLLA&vq=medium – lengthy, but nice, video about a guy somewhere in Europe exercising his 16 dogs!

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=x91rBzNKvIc&vq=large#t=160 – a little late, but a very well done New Year's vid

One reason a dog can be such a comfort when you're feeling blue is that he doesn't try to find out why.
~Author Unknown

Scratch a dog and you'll find a permanent job. ~Franklin P. Jones

Want to see your dog in print?

(Or on our website or advertising flyers, etc.)??

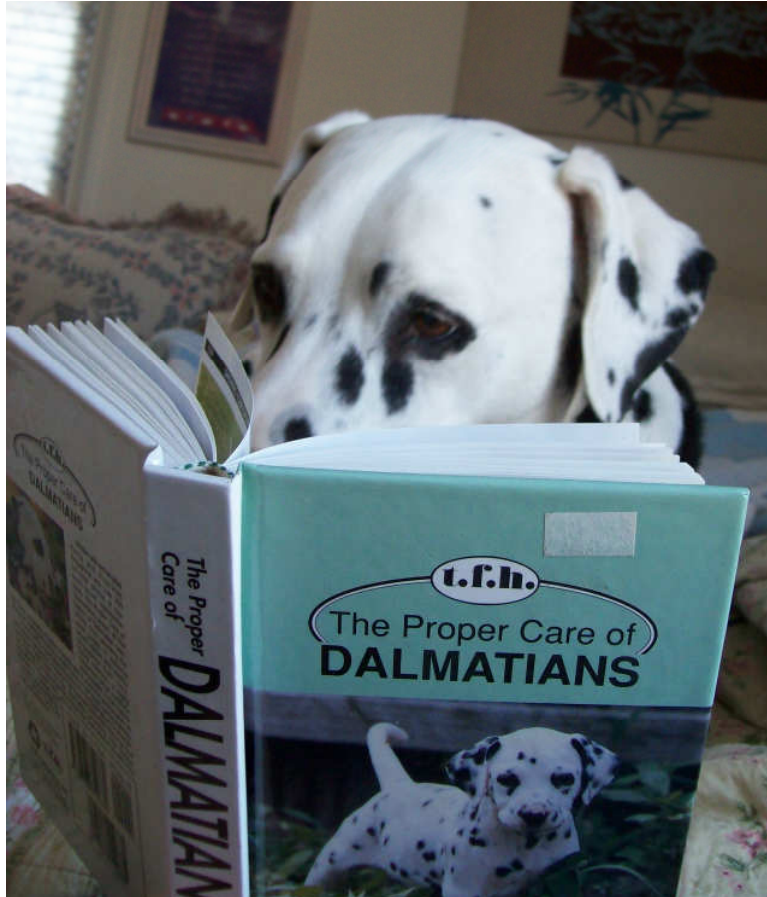
We are seeking reader submitted photos! So get busy with your camera and start sending the photos in today. We prefer either TIF or JPG format and sized no smaller than 640 x 480 pixels. Please include some descriptive text to help identify what's happening in the photo(s) and be sure to include your dog's name(s), your name, city and state (so that I can give you credit for the photo). Send photos to me at spotted-dog-designs@comcast.net. I cannot guarantee that we will use all photos submitted. The more interesting and unusual the photo, the better the chance of it being used. ☺ Some ideas of photos could be your dog 'reading' a newspaper (hint, hint) – even better if he'll wear glasses while doing so; your dog watching television; sitting in the driver's seat; wearing a harness (this one could be used for a safety article); costumed up ready for Halloween. So there you have it... time to get busy with the camera and submit your photos today! See below for a few sample reader submitted photos – three of them have already appeared in NewSpots!



This reader submission shows Radar "smiling" BIG for the camera... it got us to thinking. We want to see YOUR dog showing his or her pearly whites for the camera. Send them in to spotted-dog-designs@comcast.net and I will publish them all in the next issue of NewSpots! Be sure to get them submitted by Nov 25th so that they make the deadline!

Photo: Radar

Reader Submitted Photos!



Hello! You asked for photos in a recent newsletter, so thought I'd send one of my Cesar enjoying a good book. (I think he likes ogling the pretty girl Dals in the photos of the book.)

Cesar is 10 years old, a rescue from the former Greater Ohio Dalmatian Rescue. Originally tied to a tree in Cincinnati and left behind when his owners moved away, my handsome 94-pound boy has been living a life of leisure (along with four other spotted "siblings") in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for the past nine years.

Enjoy your newsletter -- keep up the good work!

Chris Knight



Reader Recommendations

Hey Beth, Dottie is doing good. Very happy. She is not having any problem with her leg now. The sore is completely gone and she is running up the stairs again. The stuff I put on her leg and knee is called Bigeloil. It has menthol, alcohol, capsicum tincture, juniperberry oil, menthyl salicylate, salicylic acid thymol and purified water in it. Directions for use, for bruises, minor injuries, superficial wounds, pain and stiffness caused by exposure, sprains or strains. Soothes pain from strained muscles, cools and reduces swelling caused by minor arthritis, treats sore knees, tendons and temporary injuries and antiseptic action. For strains or sprains use full strength applying liberally over the affected area and rubbing til dry, repeat as necessary. It seemed to help her leg. Dennis swears it helps his back and legs when he is sore from work. I got it at Poudre Feed. Talk to ya later.

-Ruth D.

Since this comes highly recommended I thought I'd share it. You can buy it in any horse supply business. Here is a link to check for locations: <http://www.absorbine.com/products/musclecare/bigeloil>

- Beth White

Missing Microchip Information

Hello readers, Karl here... I hate to admit it, but I somehow forgot to register two microchips after they were injected into foster dogs. It is REALLY IMPORTANT that we find out which two dogs are implanted with these chips so that I can get them registered right away. PLEASE take a moment and check your dog's collar and see if your YELLOW plastic Home Again tag has one of these numbers on it and then let me know (by emailing me at dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net) if you have one of them:

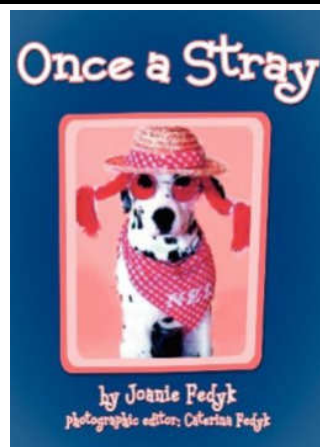
985 121 004 851 159

985 121 007 860 527

Again, my apologies – in advance – to whoever has these microchipped dogs. Please know that we will fix this ASAP!

Counter Surfing Prevention Tips

- #1 Put double sided tape on the edges of the counters. Most dogs do not like to place their paws on it.
 - #2 Place aluminum foil along the countertop, making sure you fold it over the edges to keep it in place. I have also placed aluminum foil over the cushions of furniture. When dogs jump up they do not like the sound of the foil and they sure do not want to chew it!
 - #3 If you have a dog that jumps up on tables, place a very slippery table cloth on the table. Then place objects that will crash to the ground with the table cloth, making lots of noise. Just be sure that the objects are safe and that they will not harm your dog. I have placed bait in the center of the table setting the dog up for a self- correction.
 - #4 Snapper trainers are great. The only problem with them is that they do not cover a wide enough area. Most dogs are too smart and will avoid them the moment they see them.
 - #5 "Leave it" is a great exercise, however, you do have to be present to enforce it.
-



Beth, please share this with your Dalmatian and rescue friends. This book tells the story of a Spotsavers rescue Dal who spent 10 years as a therapy angel, ministering to critically ill children and their families. It is a lovely, uplifting book. Proceeds will help provide home health care to the gravely ill author.

<http://www.amazon.com/Once-Stray-Joanie-Fedyk/dp/1457509229>.

This is a therapy dog like you've never seen!

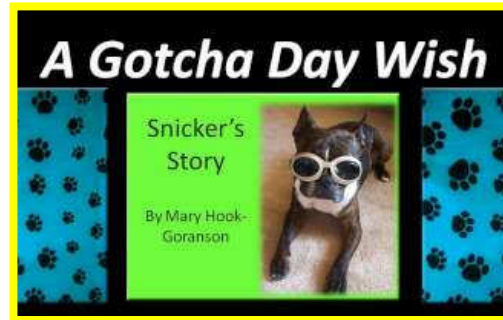
– Janice, Spotsavers St. Louis
Dalmatian Rescue. Second Hand
Spots, First Rate Love

About the book: A young dog, no longer wanted by her owners, is left in a field to fend for herself. Luckily, this small, frightened Dalmatian is found and given a second chance. Once a Stray is the true story of Nel the Dalmatian's rescue and subsequent achievements. Nearly turned down for adoption, a new owner came along and saw something special in her eyes. Nel fulfilled the promise that the new owner had seen in her by flying through one type of training after another, and acing every test. Nel's journey continues as she uses all of these new skills in service to others. Her feats, sometimes amusing, other times amazing, are always heartwarming. Once a Stray, told in simple rhyme, will appeal to animal lovers of all ages. It is a must read for anyone who has ever known a sick child, and everyone who believes in the power of love. Joanie Fedyk began writing children's books when forced into retirement by a progressive disease. Once a Stray is her first published book. Joanie and her daughter, Caterina, have coauthored another eight books awaiting publication.

Join Us for

Don't Kill Bill

A Celebration of Adopted Dogs



You're invited to join our rescue on March 10th at the Lakewood Cultural Center in Lakewood, Colorado, for a night like no other!

Don't Kill Bill is a fun, informative theater experience that incorporates heart-pounding rescue stories and aerial acrobatics to celebrate rescued dogs' resilience and rescuers' compassion.

"The show was INCREDIBLE! An amazing performance with wonderful tales of fostering and adopted dogs." –Mary Manka, American Treibball Association

BONUS Gift Basket & \$500

Donation Drawing: In addition to enjoying this wonderfully unique theater production, you could win a gift basket full of great dog stuff and a \$500 donation for our rescue! You'll get one free drawing ticket at the door and a chance to buy additional tickets during intermission. Drawing ticket sales benefit our rescue.

Show Details:

Saturday, March 10th, 7:00 p.m.

Lakewood Cultural Center, 470 S. Allison Pkwy

\$19 adult, \$15 student/senior

***Last year's show sold out! Buy your tickets today at**

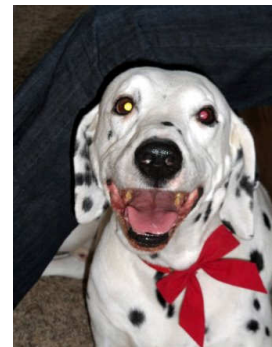
<http://upforpups.org>

Happy Beginning Stories

Dash (aka Rupert)

Meet Dashiell ! What a love bug he is. He came to us as a stray from Pueblo. It always amazes me how anyone can discard such a precious gift.

We have had five Dalmatians bless us, all of them being "disposable" blessings that found us. We thought we couldn't put our hearts through the pain of another loss again. But how could we deny our hearts of the love of another Dal? Anyone that has been so lucky to have a Dalmatian in their lives knows the feeling. So our journey began to bring another crazy, lovable, wonderful Dal into our lives. Quite the journey it was. I found myself looking at the local humane society's website and the Dalmatian Rescue website. I was smitten by one Dal on the Dalmatian website that was in New Mexico. After much conversation with his foster mom, it was a mutual decision that this Dal would not be a good match for our household. So disappointed! But there was another dog in Pueblo that was picked up as a stray that Beth had been trying to get into a foster/permanent home. Rupert - He found us!



Dash in his Christmas finest!

When we were finally able to go get him, which was a story in itself, we were totally in love at first sight. A big ole, clumsy, happy, enthusiastic Dal! Just what our hearts needed! Bringing him home, we live in the Black Forest area of Colorado, the name "Rupert" just didn't seem to be an adequate name for this fun loving guy. Since he is such a dashing looking dog, DASH just had to be his name! Of course, to make him more dignified Dashiell is his formal name.

What a welcome gift he has been to our household. He now lives with his brother, Ollie, two kitties that he absolutely adores, horses that leave him the best tasting presents, and a turtle that he hasn't quite figured out. And what a talker! He is always willing to share some vocal enjoyment with us.

I am so grateful for the work that Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado does. The dedication of all involved amazes me. Everyone that worked so hard to make this happen for us has our deepest thanks. You truly are making a difference in these dogs' lives, but more than that, the people that receive these gifts.

Susie and Ron D.
Colorado Springs, CO

Harper



Manny sitting on a bin

It has been a couple months since I last emailed you, but I just wanted to give you a couple updates on Harper. We LOVE having her. She has been such a wonderful puppy. As you probably know, we haven't gotten a lot of snow in Breckenridge this year so I have been doing a lot of X-country skiing, and Harper loves the trails. She is very obedient and listens well.

The only time it's hard to get her to come to you is when we're leaving the dog park and you can tell she doesn't want to go yet. She gets along with other dogs so well and absolutely loves being around dogs. Our neighbor's dog, Lexie, a big chocolate lab comes to our door and barks when she wants Harper to come out to play, it's very entertaining. She's also found a best friend in our other neighbor's dog, Thor, a big Swiss Mountain dog mix. She goes on her morning walk with Thor daily.

Cody and I moved into our own place, we live on the bottom floor in a lock off of a weekend-warriors house. We've lived here for about three months, and it's really nice because harper can have the house to herself and she loves lounging on our couch. She has become very talkative. In the morning, when she's decided she's up and ready for the day she speaks, not a bark, but in the way that heelers "talk". It cracks us up every morning. Harper has definitely gotten BIG. She is about 45 lbs, very healthy, really active, and super-fast. She loves playing in the snow, which is wonderful because it helps tire her out a little :) How active she is is great because in turn she is also a great

sleepers. She is still eating the Orijen puppy food, and we're about halfway through her last bag until she switches to adult food! I can't believe how fast she all the sudden grew. She's a great medium sized dog.

We haven't had a lot of difficulty training her, she is a very intelligent dog. The only problem we've run into a few times is the chewing. She has plenty of toys and bones, but she'll occasionally chew something that obviously meant for her to chew.

Luckily, it hasn't been really anything important, most recently it was a box of tissues, and the time before that the cover of my book/a few pages- just a few little kinks that we're working on and she seems to be picking up on. All-in-all when people meet her they can't believe she is still a puppy because she is so well behaved. Cody and I think about when we first came to meet Harper and how shy/timid she was and how much that has changed. She loves people, she loves all the attention she can get and gives a LOT of kisses. She is a very affectionate pup still who loves to snuggle with you. Anyways- I just wanted to send you an email (that has gotten longer than I meant it to!) with those couple of updates in case you were curious. I've attached a couple pictures too that I've sent my friends and family over the past couple months, along with a short video of some of Harper's tricks :) Hope all is well with you Paige, thank you again for taking in Miss Harper and letting us bring her home.

Tabitha M.
Sweetwater, TX

In The Doghouse... Our Featured Dalmatians

Sienna



6 Year Old, Liver Spayed Female
Reason Available: Owner Surrender
Foster Home, Albuquerque, NM

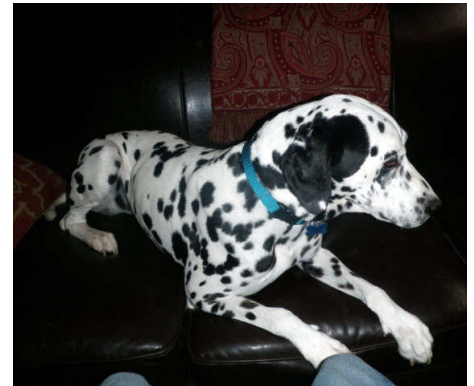
My name is Sienna and I am a lovely female liver-colored (or as I prefer to say, Chocolate-covered) Dalmatian. This means I have delicious brown spots instead of the common black ones. I am a gentle, sweet natured little girl, smaller than most females, but big enough to count. I did nothing to deserve being dropped off at the pound except to have seizures (according to my drop off record). My new foster mama says I was blameless, just had the bad luck to be owned by careless and shallow humans who think their dog family is disposable. My new mama says I am her sweet pea and she is lucky to have me here. And she also says those humans didn't even care enough to take me to a Veterinarian for help, even though I must

have been scared to death. So good riddance... now my luck is improving. I haven't had a seizure here and I have been here since right after Christmas. But if I do, my mama will keep a record of when, length, what was happening at the time, what I did, and how I came out of it. Guess what?? After a seizure, dogs around here get to eat vanilla ice cream! Yup, really!! Kinda makes me not be so scared of seizures any more. And I have found out that lots of people and dogs have seizures. Many manage them without medication. Even if I do need medication, that isn't such a big deal and it is not expensive. We will deal with that as it comes. I am not ever going to be thrown away again. So I am an inside doggie now, on the couch now, and I get to cuddle on the bed with mama and papa in the morning before we all get up. I am learning to snuggle up right next to my people and get lots of ear and belly rubs. Maybe I can even sneak my petite and delicate little wiggle butt over on mama's lap so she can hold me like a baby. Look what I have been missing! I live very nicely with five Dalmatians and four other weird dogs. I am exceptionally polite with everyone I meet. I am also great with my 10 year old human child and 8 month old baby human. I use the dog door like a champ. I eat a grain free diet since there is research that indicates it can help control or get rid of seizures. Mama says I am an all-around wonderful little girl and someone will be lucky to get to have me as a forever furkid. If you'd like to hear more about me, call Lyn @ 505.857.0012. You won't be sorry! I am spayed, microchipped, UTD on all vaccines, and HW negative and in Albuquerque, NM.

Judge

2 Year Old, Black Male
Reason Available: Unknown
Foster Home, Albuquerque, NM

My name was Justice but my Mom calls me Judge. That isn't because I am serious, just that all the other dogs respect me and I am a peace maker. I am two year old and was a stray in NM. Mom likes all her Dalties to be lap dogs and in my case, this is a challenge. She thinks when I am at my proper weight, I will weigh around 60 pounds. That is pretty big, huh! But I won't throw my weight around. I am more a persuader type guy. And I still manage to curl up into a tiny ball and fit myself half on mom's lap. Not sure where the other half goes. So I do great with all the dogs here, even the four pounders – if you can even consider them dogs. I am learning to love sleeping on the couch and soft pillows on the floor. I DON'T like going outside now but mom says that will get better once I trust that I won't be stuck outside any more. She just goes with me and then as soon as she comes in, so do I. I like my dad just fine. He gives very fine ear scratches. So all in all, I am a problem free young man who wants to find humans who will stick with me forever and ever. Can you make a fifteen year commitment to me? I will happily give you my love, attention, and loyalty for the rest of my life. Call my foster mom, Lyn @ 505-857-0012 or email her @ cnsptz101@q.com. Judge will soon be neutered, is UTD on vaccines, HW negative, and microchipped. He is currently in Albuquerque, NM.



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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