



# Merry Christmas!!

## *A Letter From The Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado President*

Welcome to the end of 2019. Naturally, it is almost 2020, when we can see the best. Get it, 2020? We can see what we've done right and what has happened in Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado.

We have adopted 74 good dogs, so far, in 2019. We don't just find good dogs, but we place good dogs in good homes, too. Our dogs make families happy and families make the dogs happy too. Well over 100 dogs came our way in the last year. Dogs from Texas, the western states and many of the southern and middle states too. We're busy all over the place. Thanks to Sondra Fuller in AL and Tena Price in TX, we are pretty much covered! They are both amazing Angels!

Colorado has fewer dogs needing help these days, and far fewer Dalmatian purebreds too. While we are labeled Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, DRC has come to be the largest Dalmatian and Dalmatian Wannabe (mix) rescue in the country. Sadly, many regional Dalmatian rescues have folded, but we are still kicking!

In 2019, we have seen much larger veterinary bills than earlier years. We have treated approximately 11 dogs for heartworm, which is all too common in the South. We have had to treat cancer, urinary complications, viral and bacterial infections, broken bones, etc. Quite sadly, we lost one of our dogs to a bad virus and at great cost but did save the other dogs. We have restructured a paw that had lost its toes due to an accident. After 28 vet visits and 7 months on a leash, the young man is running at will with nary a concern about the old injury. We have rescued many starved, mangy dogs that no one cared for or about in southern TX. While we cannot save all the dogs that need our help, we surely work hard on those that we can.

Dr. Price (Tena to you) has micromanaged many TX dogs through their diagnosis, treatment and healing, No one can get more out of a vet's office than Tena or get better healing either! She has a second sense about health and medical treatment. If you are not doing your job to the fullest, whether you be a vet's office or a foster parent, you'll be hearing from her! Thanks to Tena, many, many dogs have found new and wonderful and healthy lives. We are blessed to have her working with us!

While Sondra Fuller (Sandy to many of us) lives in Alabama, she is a HUGE presence in the eastern and midwestern states. Sandy has the knack of matching dog and adopter time and time again. She knows when a dog is about to lose its home and she gets fosters or adoptive homes like no one's business. She too is such an important part of DRC and we couldn't do it without Sandy. Despite the health challenges she has been facing this past year, Sandy is still there for the dogs and for DRC and we can't say thanks enough.

DRC is blessed with some very generous people who foster, fundraise, transport and keep me mindful of what I'm supposed to do. Jeannine Holt has taken the reins of the Treasurer position, gotten our books in order and is working on an imminent fund raiser for DRC. She has also been amazing at finding local foster homes when we need them. Jamie Boening has worked hard on our auctions and the current one so far has raised \$5000+ for DRC. She also reserves "spots" on Channel 9 TV to help us adopt more of the dogs we have. And Channel 9 really helps! Karen Mellis is always there when a lonely or ill little waif needs a warm bed and some lovin'. Carol Nesland is keeping our records straight and transferring microchips, which is a big job considering how slow many of us work and how many dogs we've adopted.

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We are blessed to have many foster homes in TX. I want to personally thank Charles in Houston for ALLLLL that he does for dogs that come his way. We try to not leave him piled with too many needy dogs, but sometimes it happens. With a kind heart, a great sense of humor, and, I suppose, great resignation, Charles has continued to help DRC. For that we are thankful! Lynn is our go-to "kennel" in south TX. She delights in helping dogs learn how to be nice companions. She also teaches them how to use dog doors and you ought to see her new Agility set up for the dogs to learn on and enjoy! Lisa Wilson has worked with several very hard fosters for us. She is dedicated to the hilt! Mary Francis lost her home to foster dogs long ago and she doesn't complain! She never says no and is there for our neediest. Victoria is on hand, too, to help Tena with our pups. Karl continues as our Newsletter Editor, that fab rag you get every month. What a nice rag it is too! I know that I'm missing many people who work hard for our spotted breed. I apologize if I forgot anyone!

We have asked Santa to give you each a new "puppy" for the Holiday. Will you play along, and let me know which of our current foster dogs you'd like to sponsor and work on for its new home and new future? It's a great game that hopefully gets lots of new homes!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone affected with Spotted Fever. Yes, it is contagious!

*Beth White*

President

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado

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# GIVING TUESDAY

**December 3, 2019**

We are all bombarded with pleas for help every year at this time. Your support of Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado is our inspiration to continue rescuing and rehoming the many dogs that come into our care each year. Without your generous support, we could not keep up this work. We are very grateful that you trust us to spend your donations wisely and efficiently to keep the "spots" safe and healthy for new families who will love them forever.

Medical care costs use up nearly 80% of our available funds. You have risen to the occasion when we have needed extra for seriously ill dogs, and contributed regularly to our medical fund to keep our dogs vaccinated and spayed or neutered prior to going to their new families. It seems like the stream of Dalmatians needing saving never ends – we have seen so many purebreds this year in need of rescue and even more "wannabes" who are wonderful, loving pets in need of permanent homes. You are the ones who make this possible – day in and day out, year in and year out! Without your help, Dalmatian Rescue would not have had the funds to care for our charges.

GivingTuesday is a worldwide philanthropic effort to cultivate giving to various nonprofits. All funds generated by Dalmatian Rescue through Giving Tuesday will go to medical care for our foster Dalmatians. The needs of our dogs never stop! Please consider a donation, of any size, towards these needs by going to our website at <http://www.dalmatianrescueco.org>. Should you wish to, you can also set up a monthly gift at this same site. And, if you miss GivingTuesday, you can still give at any time. Just mark your contribution or check with "GivingTuesday," and we'll make sure it gets to the right place. Thank you!

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## *39 Christmas Safety Tips for Dog Owners*

Christmas is a fun time of year, and sometimes we get so swept up in the preparations and celebrations that we forget that we need to take precautions to ensure that it is also a safe time of year for our pups. So with that in mind, here are 39 Christmas Safety Tips to help your pup celebrate safely.

### Décor and Decorations

1. Avoid using candles - Use flameless LED candles instead. Lit candles can easily be knocked over by pets causing burns or fires.
2. Don't use holly, poinsettia or mistletoe - These are all poisonous to your dog if ingested. It's safest to stick with artificial plants instead!
3. Anchor your Christmas tree - Anchor your Christmas tree securely so it doesn't fall on your pup while they are playing or running around the house.
4. Avoid silver icicle strands or tinsel - Dogs and cats are both attracted to playing with and eating it and it can cause vomiting and obstructions.
5. Get a faux tree - An artificial Christmas tree is healthier for your dog, because it doesn't drop sharp needles that can be ingested. Real trees can also harbor pests, parasites and mites. If you have to have a real tree, make sure that you regularly clean up all stray needles from the floor and treat it for pests before bringing it indoors.
6. Avoid glass or breakable Christmas tree ornaments - If these ornaments fall or break, your dog can easily eat the pieces causing internal bleeding and organ damage. This is one of the most important dog safety tips that you can follow this holiday season.
7. Don't decorate with edible decorations - Don't decorate with edible decorations even if you're placing them out of reach. Edible decorations like popcorn garlands, etc. can encourage dogs to jump and climb to get tasty snacks. Plus, if these decorations are threaded, the thread can cause internal complications when ingested and cause stomach upset in dogs.
8. Consider not decorating the bottom section of the tree - If you have a young dog or a dog unfamiliar with Christmas trees consider leaving the bottom section of the tree bare. This will prevent your dog from being enticed by easy to reach lights or decorations.
9. Consider blocking off your Christmas tree - If your dog shows a particular interest in your tree consider blocking it off by using a pet gate.
10. Don't let your dog drink water out of the Christmas tree stand - The water in your Christmas tree stand is stagnant and it can contain bacteria or other "nasties" that will make your dog sick.
11. Keep wiring and extension cords out of reach - Playing pups can get tangled in wiring, but younger pets can also bite into wires or pull items off shelves causing shock electrocution, crushing, or even death. This isn't just one of the best dog Christmas safety tips, it could save your pet's life!
12. Keep wrapped gifts and wrapping paper out of reach - Wrapping paper can attract dogs and when eaten it can cause blockages, stomach upset, or even poisoning depending on the paper composition.
13. Don't overwhelm your dog with festive decorations - Dogs are creatures of habit and too many decorations at once or too many loud and obnoxious decorations can put your dog on edge. If you like to have many decorations in your home, introduce them a little at a time.

### Food

14. Keep chocolate out of reach - Chocolate is a popular stocking stuffer or gift over the holidays, but make sure to keep it out of reach of your pet at all times! Chocolate contains theobromine, which can cause organ damage or failure.
  15. Keep alcoholic drinks out of reach - Alcohol and pets don't mix, so keep all alcoholic drinks out of reach of your pets ALWAYS. This isn't just one of the best dog Christmas safety tips, it's a tip that you need to follow year round! In minimum quantities, alcohol can cause vomiting, diarrhea, confusion, and labored breathing. In significant quantities, alcohol can cause death.
  16. Don't Give Table Scraps - A lot of the foods we eat at Christmas time are high in fat and can cause a condition called pancreatitis in pets, according to veterinarians. Pancreatitis is extremely uncomfortable and can be dangerous to your pet's health. You should also skip those table scraps to avoid packing unhealthy weight on your dog!
  17. Know what makes for a safe meal - If you enjoy making your dog a part of the Christmas meal just make sure that you feed them safe food – white meat without skin, dog-safe veggies, and plain rice is a great place to start. Here on Top Dog Tips, we've got plenty of great and healthy homemade dog food recipes with videos and instructions on how to make them tasty and safe for your pet.
  18. Don't give your dog bones - Cooked bones are easily splintered and can cause dental damage and internal perforations or blockages. Never give your dog any household bones, stick with raw lamb marrow bones instead.
  19. Keep an eye on that dough - This is one of the dog Christmas safety tips that most pet owners don't think about. If you're going to be baking bread or baked goods, make sure to keep that dough out of reach. Dogs are easily tempted to eat dough, but when ingested it will expand in their stomach causing discomfort, bloating, or more serious complications.
  20. Wash pans right away or put them completely out of reach - Pans (particularly those used for meat) are tempting and can invite your dog to jump up to lick them clean. This can cause burns to the mouth or more serious conditions if hot pans or hot fats from pans fall onto your dog.
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## Gifts

21. Choose edible gifts wisely - When choosing treats and edible gifts for your dog know what you are buying. Buy treats that are made in reputable countries with healthy ingredients from companies that have not had recent recalls.
22. Know your dog's habits when buying toys - When you choose toys for your dog know their playing habits. For example, if you have a heavy chewer, don't choose a toy that they will tear apart and possibly swallow pieces of.
23. Stick with toys made for dogs - It can be tempting to buy kids toys for your dog, but one of the most important dog Christmas safety tips is to stick with toys that are made for dogs. Human toys can contain substances that are toxic to dogs, not designed for chewing or have pieces that can be pulled off and swallowed easily.
24. Don't gift pets - As much as you love your dog, don't assume someone else loves dogs as much or are able to financially commit to a dog at this point in their life. Pets never make good gifts!
25. Choose size appropriate toys - Make sure that the toys you pick up for your dog are appropriate for their size to avoid choking or dental damage due to toys that are too small or too large.
26. Research your gifts - Some pet products and toys on the market have serious flaws that can cause illness, physical damage or even death to your dog. Research all toys before buying them to make sure that what you buy is safe!
27. Keep an eye on dogs interacting with other pets - If you have multiple dogs be wary when giving gifts or special treats. Even dogs that love each other dearly can become territorial or aggressive over "special" items. It's best to give both dogs the same items or to separate dogs when giving them items over the holidays.

## Gatherings

28. Educate your guests - When you hold a gathering in your home make sure everyone knows that you have a dog, so they can be prepared. Some guests may have allergies and need medication, others may have phobias and choose not to come, and some may choose not to bring young children with allergies.
  29. If your dog is roaming around the house... - Be sure that everyone at your gathering is aware that your dog is roaming the house, so they know not to leave outside doors open. One of the easiest dog Christmas safety tips to follow. All you have to do is chat with your guest, which you're going to be doing anyway!
  30. If people will be drinking heavily, isolate your dog - Drunk people lack the necessary judgment and ability to interact with animals. They can be loud and scary to your dog and they can get handsy and cross boundaries causing your dog to snap. If guests will be getting drunk, isolate your dog away from guests for everyone's safety.
  31. Know when to keep your dog isolated - If you are holding a gathering and your dog is afraid of strangers, has shown any signs of aggression in the past, is new to your home or does not do well with groups of people, keep your dog in an isolated room of the house. Make sure partygoers know not to go into this room.
  32. Temper noise - If your dog doesn't do well with loud noises, consider putting them into boarding on the night of your party. In lieu of boarding, you can also keep the noise level down or isolate your dog in a quiet room of the house.
  33. Don't serve dangerous party snacks - Undoubtedly someone will try to sneak a snack to your dog during the party. Keep your dog safe by making sure that all snacks served don't contain toxic-to-dog ingredients.
  34. Prepare for accidents - This is one of the easiest dog Christmas safety tips. If your dog urinates when they get excited, consider keeping them isolated or having them meet guests safely outdoors first. You may also want to put down some potty pads just for this occasion.
  35. If other dogs will be present, introduce them outdoors first - If other dogs will be at your gathering and your dog is not familiar with them, have them both meet outside first. Dogs can be territorial over their homes and their people, meeting on neutral territory first helps with a neutral introduction.
  36. Keep older pets comfortable - A dog that was very sociable in their youth isn't always as sociable in their senior years. Older dogs are easily bothered, easily startled, easily overwhelmed, and sometimes experiencing pain; these things can contribute to snapping or uneasiness. If you have an older dog, isolate them to a safe and calm area of the home during your gathering.
  37. Monitor entrances in poor weather - If there is snow or ice outside know that ice melting chemicals and salt can be tracked into the house on guest's shoes. These chemicals are toxic to your dog if they are licked so have guests take off shoes to keep floors chemical free.
  38. Be wary of children - If there will be children at your gathering, make sure that they are familiar with dogs and how to interact with them. Also, know how your dog interacts with children. If your dog has never met children before or the child has never interacted with dogs before, a party is not the best time for a first meeting. If this is the case isolate your dog because gatherings are overstimulating and children are easily left to their own devices.
  39. Keep to your normal schedule as much as possible - This is one of the most important dog Christmas safety tips. Dogs thrive on schedule, so it's important to maintain their regular feeding, walking, and sleeping schedule even during holiday gatherings. Deviation from schedule can cause changes in appetite, depression, anxiety, changes in bathroom habits, or health changes.
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*Merry Christmas  
from our Pack to Yours!*

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## Recent Adoptees!



**Millie Mae**  
Wellington, CO

Photo  
Not  
Available

**Autumn3**  
Sioux Falls, SD

## Attention Adopters!!!

If you haven't already submitted your Happy Beginnings story, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE take some time to do it now! Yes, I am begging. We really would like to have your stories on the website and make you a star here in the NewSpots!! What are you waiting for? Submit your stories and a new photograph of your fur kid(s), and yourself if you want, to me today!

[DalmatianRescueOfCO@comcast.net](mailto:DalmatianRescueOfCO@comcast.net)



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# *Cold Weather Tips For Dogs*

By Jason Carr, Former Pet Health Network Editor-in-Chief



Despite the popular misconception, fur alone is not enough to protect dogs from the elements. The fact is that, much like people, dogs have varying degrees of tolerance when it comes to temperature extremes. Even the hardiest breeds are susceptible to hypothermia and frostbite. Dr. Jason Nicholas from [thepreventivevet.com](http://thepreventivevet.com) warns, "With hypothermia we worry about depressed temperatures affecting the normal function of the central nervous system (brain), as well as the pet's ability to effectively circulate blood and breath. It's this impaired ability to circulate blood (and thus deliver heat to the periphery of the body), as well as other factors, that can contribute to the development of frostbite. Pets can die from hypothermia and those that suffer from frostbite will deal with pain and may lose affected body parts." Luckily, hypothermia and frostbite can be easy to avoid by taking a few precautions:

## Talk to your vet about cold weather protection

Some medical conditions will worsen when it gets colder out, "one of the main ones would be arthritis," according to Dr. Jason Nicholas. Arthritis might worsen in the cold months "because of the direct effect of the cold [which can cause] increased stiffness, and because the cold frequently brings icy/slippery streets and sidewalks." Before it gets to be wintertime your dog should have a checkup. Having your dog checked by a veterinarian can help ensure that problems don't worsen when the temperature drops. This visit is also your best opportunity to ask your veterinarian about winter care.

## Know your dog's cold tolerance

Although all dogs are at risk in the cold weather, some are better equipped to handle it than others. Huskies and other breeds from cold climates are certainly going to be more comfortable than other dogs, such as the Italian Greyhounds, when wading through a winter wonderland. Also consider that old, young, wet dogs or dogs with thinner coats are at a greater risk of getting hypothermia and/or frostbite.

## Take shorter walks with your dogs

Winter is a great time to get closer to your pets. They want to be inside with you where it's warm. Short, frequent walks are preferable to extended walks during this time of year. After that, it should be right back inside to clean the snow and ice from between their toes. This isn't to say that you should stop exercising your dog when it gets cold outside. The winter is the perfect time to enter your dog into daycare so that he can burn off excess energy in a safe and social place. Don't forget about playtime at home either. Most dogs would love to chase a plush toy through the hallways.

## Beware poisons

Antifreeze is a common cold weather poison but not the only one to be aware of: road salt and rodent poisons are also used with greater frequency during this time of year. Even if you don't use any of those products, an unsupervised pet could easily wander into a neighbor's yard and find them.

Dogs may also lick their paws after a walk. Every time you come inside with your dog you should dry his feet thoroughly with a towel to be sure he has not tracked in any dangerous chemicals. Also check him over for any injuries to the paws: cracks, cuts, or scrapes. These kinds of injuries can cause pain and lameness. Use pet friendly deicing products on steps, walkways and driveways.

## Keep your dog on a leash

Because dogs rely heavily on a strong sense of smell to figure out where they are, they can easily be lost during winter storms. Snow covering the ground will make their surroundings less familiar. Keeping your dog on a leash at all times – especially during winter storms – can help stop your dog from becoming lost. You may also ask your veterinarian about microchipping, just in case.

## Try clothing layers for warmth

For small dogs in particular, sweaters are not a joke, they're actually very important during the cold weather. Small dogs have a larger surface area for their body weight and benefit greatly not only from a warm shirt but also from booties. Former Editor-in-Chief for Pet Health Network, Jane Harrell, confirms that dog clothing is no laughing matter. "My adopted Italian Greyhound, Fiona,

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doesn't love the winter cold so I bundle her up in a sweater, a winter jacket, leg warmers, a neck warmer and am looking into getting booties to help her weather the Maine winter." If you do get booties for your dog, Dr. Nicholas urges that you make sure they're well-fitted and have good grip to prevent causing slips and falls.

### Don't leave your dog inside of a parked car

This rule is also important during the summer; a parked car can quickly amplify the effects of extreme weather. During the winter it can act as an icebox and trap cold air inside.

### Groom cautiously

It's important to walk a fine line when grooming your dog during the winter.

Taking too much hair off will mean he has less to keep him warm; leaving too much on will make brushing more difficult and could lead to matted hair. Ask your veterinarian how often he recommends grooming based on your breed of dog.

### Be sure your dog has choices when it comes time to go to bed

He should have comfortable spots in both hotter and cooler regions of the house. This will allow him to move around at night if he's uncomfortable.

### Dogs should always have access to water, even when outside

Never use a metal water dish outside in cold weather because your dog's tongue can get stuck! (Think of the flagpole when you were a kid.) You can also consider purchasing a heated water dish (normally used for feral cats) so that your dog doesn't have to drink frigid water or be challenged to get enough to drink from a frozen water source.

Your dog will also need to eat more during the winter because it takes more energy to keep warm; however, don't make the mistake of feeding too much. Obesity carries health concerns of its own.

By following these precautions and seeking advice from your veterinarian you can give your dog a safe and happy winter season. Enjoy!

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## *Picky Eaters? How To Get Your Dog To Eat*

When [overweight cats](#) and [overweight dogs](#) are so plentiful, it's hard to believe that some pets are picky eaters. Especially with dogs being known for eating basically everything under the sun, are there really any animals that refuse to eat their meals? Believe it or not, these pets do exist! In fact, it's a common problem for pet owners and we're here to help. Here's how to get your dog or cat to eat.

### How to Get Your Dog to Eat

Before you tackle how to get your dog to eat, you must first pinpoint why exactly they're refusing their food. And this might require the help of a veterinarian. If your vet does thorough diagnostic testing and determines that your pet is simply a picky eater, then you can try these tips:

- Stop feeding your dog as many treats and scraps of people food. Eating too much of these foods will cause your pet to reject their dog food.
  - Have your dog exercise before mealtime by going on a nice long walk.
  - Try using bowls or feeders that are different heights. The current feeders or bowls that you use might be uncomfortable for your dog.
  - Place a few pieces of food next to your dog's food bowl.
  - Feed your pet on the same schedule each day. Make sure they are fed at the same time every day, once in the morning and once at night. You can also try feeding them a third meal at lunchtime.
  - If your dog normally eats with other animals in your home, try feeding them alone.
  - Switch up the type of food you feed your dog. For instance, try wet food if you normally feed your pooch kibble. Mix in a little bit of the new food into their old food instead of transitioning them to the new food all at once. Transitioning to a new food too quickly can cause [diarrhea](#).
  - Try puzzles and slow feeders. These toys turn mealtime into a fun game for your pup.
  - Have your dog perform a command and then feed them as a reward.
  - Pour some low-sodium, plain chicken broth on your dog's food.
  - Make sure your dog's kibble isn't stale!
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To Use the King Soopers or City Market Community Rewards Program, simply visit the appropriate link below.

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# *How To Host Guests Who Have A Fear Of Dogs*

From [Michelson Found Animals](#)

To pet lovers, a fear of dogs and cats can seem like a silly phobia. Hey, animals are part of the family — they share our bed, eat our food (sometimes) and are otherwise omnipresent in our homes.

Not so for people who have anxiety towards animals, or dogs and cats in particular. A fear of animals can develop at any time, and is usually triggered after a frightening incident, like a bite from a dog or a scratch from a cat. It can also come from just being unused to animals. Some people have never spent time around cats and dogs, and therefore aren't familiar with their nonverbal cues and behavior.

So, it's coming to be holiday time and guests will be arriving soon. How do you handle guests who have a fear of animals? A few simple precautions and preparations can make life easier for you, your guests, and your pets.

## Introductions and Explanations are Key

If you're aware that your guests have a fear of animals, make sure that your dog or cat is in another room when your guest first enters your home. The last thing you want is your guest to be bombarded by your overly-friendly Doberman who delights in meeting new people. Let your guests settle in and then introduce your furry family member once they've relaxed. Keep your pet(s) close to you and read your guest's body language as you make the introduction.

It's also key to explain your pet's quirks to people who may not understand animal behavior. Simple phrases such as, "He always bares his teeth when we're about to feed him" or "She always barks at the mail carrier" will assure your guest that your pet's behavior has nothing to do with them and is just a normal part of life with your pet!

## Double Down on Training Your Pet and Empower your Guests

Any guests with a fear of animals will not want your pets to jump on them or generally share space with them. Even guests who do not have a fear of dogs or cats do not always appreciate being jumped on, licked, or sitting upon furniture with a pet on it. Training your pet not to jump up on people and to listen when you tell them to stay off the furniture is simply good pet ownership etiquette, which can be worked on whether you have guests coming into town or not!

While you shouldn't allow your guests to be jumped on by your dog, teach them how to react if he or she does. Instead of petting them politely, tell your guests to turn your back on the dog, which is how you signal to him or her, "Hey, I'm not reinforcing this bad behavior." Teaching your guest how to react in certain situations will empower them to feel they have control over their environment and avoid a serious situation, like them hitting or kicking your animal out of fear.

## Exercise Away Your Pet's Energy

If you walk your dog regularly every day, you know they'll give you a hard time if that scheduled walk is missed. A lot of exercise before company comes over will help to calm your dog, keeping them docile and less excitable around guests. A long hike or a trip to the dog park can be the perfect activity to wear out your pup and keep them chilled out while your guests are around. While cats are less outgoing than dogs and unlikely to approach a guest with a fear of animals, plan on exercising your cat too. Grab that laser pointer or feather toy and give your cat a little extra play. Let your guest watch playtime if they're comfortable. They may even see that your feline isn't that ferocious, just towards his or her toys!

## Consider Separation Time

Depending on the degree of your guest's fear of animals, consider separating your human friends from your furry friends during gatherings. Use baby gates in the main areas of the house to give your dog its own space to eat, play, or sleep while still giving them a feeling of being nearby where you can see them. Use a dog run or fenced-in area to give them extra outdoor time. If necessary, you may need to confine your cat or dog to a crate or closed room. Be sure to check on them regularly, give them frequent potty breaks, and plenty of fresh water.

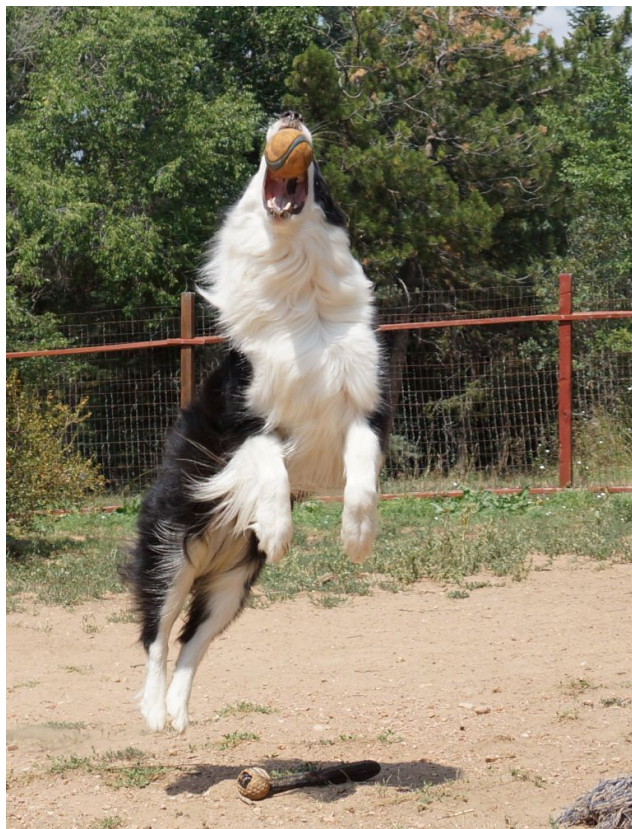
Having guests come and stay is never easy, and hosting folks who are hesitant around your pet is an added challenge. Exercising a little compassion, understanding and education will make the process easier for host and guest alike. And who knows? Maybe after a few days with Fritz or Cuddles, your guests' fears may be assuaged enough to where they don't mind animal companionship. Turning them into straight up animal lovers is unlikely – but at least you're changing fears and attitudes, one visit at a time.



## Trainer Tips

### “Zooka’s New Game: Full Contact Fetch”

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Does your pup have a favorite game? [Tug](#)? Wrestling? Fetch? Chase?

Zooka LOVES to wrestle. Preferably with like-minded individuals who can handle some rough and tumble play. That usually means larger breed energetic pups of similar age or adolescent dogs who still have lots of energy.

While wrestling is his clear favorite, he has started to enjoy playing Fetch as well. Balls, frisbees or any toys with a rope handle that you can swing are favorites of his.

Often I hear students say that their dogs love to play Fetch. But they don't give the toy up. Hmm. I hate to point out that it's not really Fetch if they don't bring it back!

Zooka actually is pretty good at bringing it back. And he often is actually very good at dropping it so I can throw it again.

Now when some dogs do bring the toy back, they sometimes drop the toy too far away. So you have to walk over to pick it up.

And some dogs will grab it before you can pick it up. Those dogs like to play Keep Away, not Fetch. Another fun game, to be sure. For them, anyway.

Zooka does not have a problem with bringing it back. As I said, he's actually pretty good at it. And he's good at bringing it in VERY close.

That's where the “full contact” part of the Fetch game comes in. He will often return with it and RUN STRAIGHT INTO ME with the toy in his mouth.

I do have to give him credit for coming in close.

Now, I need to teach him “not quite SO close!” to prevent me from being injured. When he was younger, he would bring it right up to me and jump in my lap if I were sitting on the ground or crouched down.

Not a big problem when your young puppy weighs 15 pounds.

A bigger problem when your much larger pup is closer to 40 pounds now!

So, this all goes back to that thing I ask my clients with puppies: What are your [RULES OF PLAY](#)?

Clearly, when I laid out the Rules for Fetch, I did not think to include what the rule was about being TOO CLOSE. (I had only considered if you did not bring it close enough.)

So, Zooka is helping me to further clarify my RULES FOR FETCH.

Thanks, buddy. Keep me on my toes. I appreciate it. Not always in the moment. But generally, I appreciate it.

Do you have clear Rules of Play? Does your pup know them?

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

 <https://thelightofdog.com/>

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

<https://thelightofdog.com/>).

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***“The World Through Dexter’s Eyes***  
***- The Foibles of a Too Big, Deaf Dalmatian and the Power of Love”***

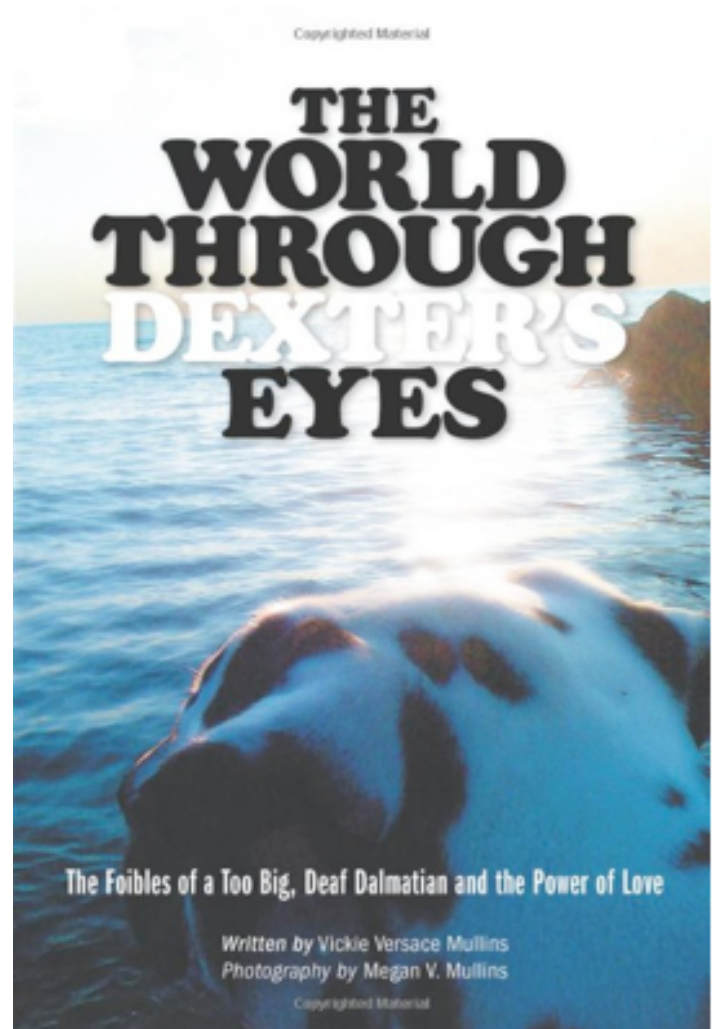
Dexter comes into the world with many problems, and he turns his family’s life upside down. Outside and lonely, he pulls the siding off the house, destroys the back door, chews up the cable wires and wood patio furniture. Inside, he does more of the same. He appears to not be trainable, so out of frustration, Mom contacts a dog whisperer who tells her Dexter died in a storm in a past life. And when he could not find his family on the other side, he grabbed the first body back, into the world, to try again.

There is something very familiar about this story to Mom. Then again, maybe she just feels sorry for the poor deaf guy. Whatever, Mom has tremendous compassion towards Dexter, and there was never such a bond between master and dog; one so strong, he telepathically conveys his story, to her.

This book is funny, sad, sweet and deep and a little inverted as it is from Dexter’s point of view. For all his antics, he is redeemed as all he wants to do on this earth is love. And it isn’t until he and Mom figure out the riddle the dog whisperer presented to them, that Dexter becomes the dog he was meant to be. Then miracles happen; grannies die, daughters go away to school, marriages fall apart, but love prevails.

**About the author**

Vickie Versace Mullins is a bubbly spirit who prefers laughing through life rather than all the other alternatives. She has a B.A. in English Literature from Cleveland State University in Cleveland, Ohio. She is a poet, and Dexter’s story is her first attempt at prose. She has published poems in various local literary magazines. She lives with her family in Cleveland, Ohio.



*“The World Through Dexter’s Eyes ~ The Foibles of a Too Big, Deaf Dalmatian and the Power of Love” by Victoria Mullins, is a book we should all read to understand deafness and how it is not the worst thing. There are many sites on-line to order the book and a portion of the proceeds are most generously donated to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado. Thank you, Victoria!*  
– Beth White

What a delightful read and clearly written from the heart. This is a true story as told to us through the eyes of Dexter, a deaf Dalmatian who, as it turns out, is a larger-than-life character in more ways than one. This author’s ability to entertain us when sharing our lives with a beloved pet, cannot be understated as she makes it so easy for us to make connections. Whether there is a pet in your life or not, Dexter’s story will warm your heart and you will catch yourself chuckling out loud at his exploits as well as at the vulnerability of mankind when it comes to life with a pet. You come to realize that what one person deems useless will make another person’s life perfect. And, as if that is not enough, this author has kindly donated proceeds from the book to Dalmatian and animal rescue, so you are passively doing a good deed when you read it... Clearly, this is a win-win situation and a story to ass to your “must read” list. - Michelle Winner

***Please help support Dalmatian Rescue and get yourself (and a friend)***  
***this really great book!***

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## *Bits & Pieces*

### ***Advertising in NewSpots! is FREE!!!***

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 about 700 people of the new editions of NewSpots! That's a lot of word of mouth and print advertising for FREE!

Simply contact the editor, Karl Schill, at [dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net](mailto: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 closest 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!

### *Reader Recommendations and Tips*

This is where we share recommendations and tips from and for our readers. Our newsletter is read by as many as 1800 people each month. That number constantly increases as we have more adopters and adopters recommend it to their friends and family as well. So, go ahead... share your tips and recommendations. Please send along any information you want to share with others, like products that you would recommend, dog toys, great pet insurance, good vets (or bad ones to avoid as well), etc. Is there anything you wish someone had told you about that you have found? Pass it along. Send your ideas, recommendations and tips to Karl at [dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net](mailto:dalmatianrescueofco@comcast.net) for inclusion in the next issue.

***Sadly, we have no reader  
recommendations to share  
with you this month.***

## *In The Doghouse...Our Featured Dalmatians*

### *Dutchess*

**2 Years Old, Black Spayed Female**  
**Reason Available: Stray**  
**Foster Home: Lexington, NC**

Dutchess is a lovely, spirited two-yr old dal mix from a South Carolina shelter where she was the star of the doggie day care play groups! She is a happy, happy spirited young girl who loves her foster siblings & Dad! She is crate trained, housebroken, up to date on vaccinations and microchipped. She loves everyone she has ever met, whether that be 2 or 4 legs!! Dutchess deserves a forever family of her own who will love & care for her forever. For additional information, please contact [sandy@dalmatianrescueco.org](mailto:sandy@dalmatianrescueco.org). Donation is \$250.00



### *Xena*

**3 Years Old, Black Spayed Female**  
**Reason Available: Stray**  
**Foster Home: Concordia, MO**

**Xena has been in foster for nearly three years! All she wants for Christmas is to find her forever family. Please help her out by either adopting her or referring her to your friends and family. Let's find this cutie a home of her own!!**

Xena Warrior Princess Dog, or Xena for short, was taken into animal control as a stray. Xena was severely underweight, covered in fleas and heartworm positive at that time. If you want a companion with lots of personality, this is the girl for you! Xena is good in the house, does like to sit on the furniture at times and will check out the countertops and she is crate trained. Xena gets along well with other dogs, but she has not been around cats. She could be okay but we just don't know. Xena also does well in the yard because she doesn't dig or try to climb or jump the fence. She enjoys the sun and the space. For more information contact Jon at [js86bacon@gmail.com](mailto:js86bacon@gmail.com). Adoption \$300.



***Unfortunately, we have  
no Happy Beginnings  
Stories to share with  
you this month.***

**It's never too late to see your story in print!**

If you have adopted your pup from us, regardless of when, and have not submitted their Happy Beginnings story yet, please do it now while it's fresh on your mind.

**These stories are the “pay” that fosters get for all their hard work!**

### *About Us*

NewSpots! is published and released on the first calendar day of the month. The deadline for submissions for future issues of NewSpots! is the 25<sup>th</sup> 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 [karl@dalmatianrescueco.org](mailto:karl@dalmatianrescueco.org).

Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) Non-profit organization. Donations are tax deductible!

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Website: <http://www.dalmatianrescueco.org>

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