

Valentine's Day Pet Safety Tips

By ASPCA.org

Each year our poison control experts see a rise in cases around February 14, many involving chocolate or lilies, a flower that's potentially fatal to cats. Valentine's Day can be as much fun for pets as it is for humans—as long as dangerous items are kept out of paws' reach!

Pet-Safe Bouquets

When sending a floral arrangement to someone with a cat, specify that it contain no lilies—and when receiving an arrangement, sift through and remove all dangerous flora. If your pet is suffering from symptoms such as lethargy, vomiting or diarrhea, he may have ingested an offending flower or plant. Use our online toxic and nontoxic plant libraries as visual guides of what shouldn't be in your bouquets.

Forbidden Chocolate

Seasoned pet lovers know that all types of chocolate are potentially life-threatening when ingested by pets. Methylxanthines are caffeine-like stimulants that affect gastrointestinal, neurologic and cardiac function—they can cause vomiting, diarrhea, hyperactivity, seizures and an abnormally elevated heart rate. The high-fat content in lighter chocolates can potentially lead to a life-threatening inflammation of the pancreas. Go ahead and indulge, but don't leave chocolate out for chowhounds to find.

Careful with Cocktails

Spilled wine, a half a glass of champagne or some leftover liquor are nothing to cry over until a curious pet laps them up. Because animals are smaller than humans, a little bit of alcohol can do a lot of harm, causing vomiting, diarrhea, lack of coordination, central nervous system depression, tremors, difficulty breathing, metabolic disturbances and even coma. Potentially fatal respiratory failure can also occur if a large amount is ingested.

Life Is Sweet

So don't let pets near treats sweetened with xylitol. If ingested, gum, candy and other treats that include this sweetener can result in hypoglycemia (a sudden drop in blood sugar). This can cause your pet to suffer depression, loss of coordination and seizures.

Every Rose Has Its Thorn

Don't let pets near roses or other thorny-stemmed flowers. Biting, stepping on or swallowing their sharp, woody spines can cause serious infection if a puncture occurs. De-thorn your roses far away from pets.

Playing with Fire

It's nice to set your evening a-glow with candlelight, but put out the fire when you leave the room. Pawing kittens and nosy pooches can burn themselves or cause a fire by knocking over unattended candles.

Wrap It Up

Gather up tape, ribbons, bows, wrapping paper, cellophane and balloons after presents have been opened—if swallowed, these long, stringy and “fun-to-chew” items can get lodged in your pet's throat or digestive tract, causing her to choke or vomit.

The Furry Gift of Life?

Giving a cuddly puppy or kitten may seem a fitting Valentine's Day gift—however, returning a pet you hadn't planned on is anything but romantic. Companion animals bring with them a lifelong commitment, and choosing a pet for someone else doesn't always turn out right. Those living in the New York City area can let their loved one choose their own cat with a gift certificate to adopt from the ASPCA. If you're not in New York, check your local animal care shelter or take a romantic trip to the shelter together.

February is National Pet Dental Care Month

Does your dog's bad breath keep the two of you from snuggling? Do you wish you could give your dog a breath mint? Contrary to popular belief, "doggy breath" is not normal. In fact, it could be one of the first signs that your furry pal is developing dental disease.

Veterinarians say cats and dogs get bacterial build-up in their mouths just like people. This bacteria can cause tooth decay and lead to chronic pain. They say pet owners should establish a habit of brushing their pet's teeth once a day, starting with making your pet comfortable with letting you move their lips.

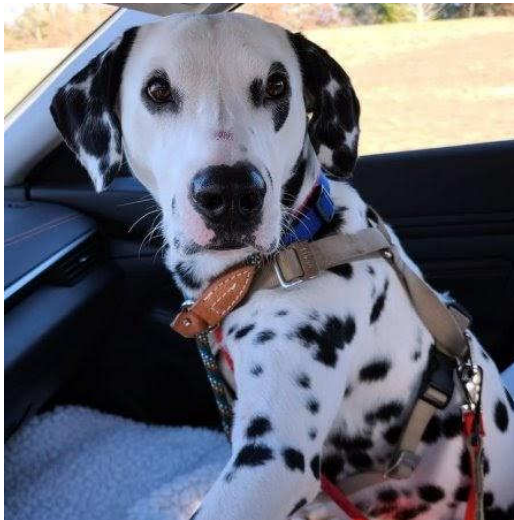
What is dental disease?

Dental disease is a painful condition that occurs when bacteria, plaque, and tartar build up on the teeth and get trapped beneath the gumline. The bacteria can be absorbed into the bloodstream and wreak havoc on other major organs throughout the body.

Here are some facts you need to know so you can be an advocate for your pet's oral (and overall) health:

1. Dental disease begins early in life. By the age of three, most dogs and cats have some degree of dental disease. The early signs of dental disease in pets include bad breath, yellow tartar buildup on the teeth, and red and swollen gums. Early detection of your pet's dental disease is vital. If left untreated, it will progress to cause chronic pain and inflammation. To detect dental disease before it negatively affects your pet's quality of life, AAHA recommends dental evaluations as part of your pet's regular preventive care exam, which should take place at least once a year.
2. Dental disease causes significant, chronic pain in pets. When dental disease is discovered later, after years of tartar, plaque, and bacteria buildup have caused infection, inflammation, and diseased teeth, your pet has already experienced significant, chronic, life-changing pain. But animals are experts at hiding signs of pain, so the pain may go unnoticed by you. Instead, you may see that your pet is increasingly irritable and lethargic and has a decreased appetite—changes you may attribute to your pet's advancing age or other lifestyle factors. But after a proper and thorough dental procedure, many pet owners report the emergence of "a whole new pet"—one who is happier and more active.
3. X-rays are essential for diagnosing dental disease. After examining dental radiographs (X-rays) of cats and dogs with teeth that appeared normal to the naked eye, veterinarians found 27.8% of dogs and 41.7% of cats had diseased teeth. In pets with abnormal-looking teeth, veterinarians found additional diseased teeth in 50% of dogs and 53% of cats.¹
4. Anesthesia makes dental evaluation and treatment safer and less stressful for your pet. During your pet's dental procedure, veterinarians and technicians use sharp, sterilized instruments. Animals don't like to hold still while X-rays are taken and these sharp instruments are used to clean their teeth. Placing your pet under anesthesia during the procedure allows your veterinarian to make a more accurate diagnosis and decrease the chance of complications. Your pet will rest comfortably while the veterinary team safely performs a thorough and proper dental cleaning.
5. Nonanesthetic dentistry is stressful, unsafe, and ineffective. Imagine multiple strangers holding you down and speaking a language you don't understand. They're shining bright lights in your face and inserting sharp, scary instruments into your mouth that pinch and poke. This is what your pet would endure during a nonanesthetic dental procedure. Without anesthesia, it's impossible to obtain X-rays to see what lies beneath your pet's gumline. It is also impossible to safely and effectively clean the teeth using those sharp instruments while the pet is awake.
6. Removing plaque from teeth beneath the gumline is vital. In fact, it's even more important than scaling the portion of the teeth we can see. Bacteria thrive under the gumline, causing infections deep in the tooth root and jaw that can spread throughout the body and affect other organs, such as the heart and kidneys.
7. Your veterinarian may create a personalized pain protocol to keep your pet comfortable. Although your pet will be anesthetized during a tooth extraction, numbing medications will decrease the amount of general anesthetic needed and can last up to eight hours after the procedure, allowing your pet to rest in comfort. Your veterinarian can tailor your pet's prescription pain medication to match the procedure so he'll recover peacefully at home.
8. Homecare is an essential part of taking care of your pet's oral health. Brushing your cat or dog's teeth every day will promote good oral health and prevent potentially expensive surgeries down the road. It's easier than you think: There are even special pet toothpastes flavored like beef, chicken, fish, and peanut butter. (Note: Never use human toothpaste, which can contain ingredients like xylitol that are toxic to animals.) Also, the accumulation of plaque and tartar can be prevented by feeding your pet a special dental diet—food that's specifically designed to help preserve oral health.
9. Not all pet dental products are created equal. If you aren't able to brush your pet's teeth as often as you'd like, consider using other dental products designed to help maintain your pet's oral hygiene. Be sure to look for products approved by the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC). Products that aren't approved by the VOHC, or those that are too hard to bend or break easily—like animal antlers and bones, synthetic bones, and others—can easily fracture your pet's teeth.

Recent Adoptees!



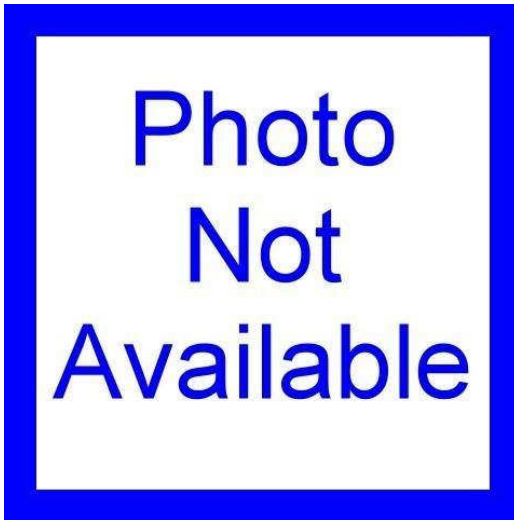
Blaze
New Braunfels, TX



Holly (aka Merry)
Westminster, CO



Jewel
Grand Junction, CO



Marshall (aka Q)
Colorado Springs, CO



Molly Mae
Corpus Christi, TX

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

We are still running drastically behind on Happy Beginnings Stories!! We have adopted more than 60 dogs already in 2020 and only have 9 Happy Beginnings Stories posted to the website. Even those of you who adopted in previous years, if you still haven't submitted your story, it's never too late!

So I am asking everyone, if you have adopted your dog or dogs from Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado and you haven't sent in your story yet...PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE send it in today! We would love to be able to post your story (with pictures) and show the world how your dog is doing in his or her new 'forever' home! Please check out the stories on our website if you need any ideas on what or how to write your dog's story. You can check them out by clicking this link:

https://dalmatianrescueco.org/cgi-bin/dr_happy_beginnings.pl

Please submit your story to karl@dalmatianrescueco.org



National Dog Biscuit Day – February 23

NATIONAL DOG BISCUIT DAY

All dog owners, remember that February 23rd is National Dog Biscuit Day! This day is also observed around the world as International Dog Biscuit Appreciation Day.

Click the play button below to hear why we celebrate National Dog Biscuit Day.

Dog biscuits come in a variety of sizes, shapes, and flavors. They serve to reward man's best friend for good behavior as part of their training. Dog owners may also give a biscuit to show their canine companions just how much they love them, too. Sometimes, dog biscuits serve to deliver vitamins and medicines we may have difficulty getting our pooches to take otherwise. Specialty treats offer dogs and their owners so much to chews from! Even dogs on restricted diets won't have trouble finding a dog biscuit that's gentle on their tummy. Others help keep teeth healthy and fresh, too! What better reward could you ask for?

HOW TO OBSERVE #NationalDogBiscuitDay

Get your canine companion a dog biscuit to celebrate. Go for a walk to burn off any extra calories or explore the varieties available. Maybe you'll find a new treat your furry friend loves. We even have some homemade options to try.

[Peanut Butter and Pumpkin Dog Treats](#)

[Peanut Butter and Banana Dog Biscuits](#)

[Homemade Dog Treats](#)

[Diabetic Dog Treats](#)

[Bacon-Flavored Dog Biscuits](#)

Use #NationalDogBiscuitDay to post on social media.

NATIONAL DOG BISCUIT DAY HISTORY

While National Day Calendar continues to search for the origins of this day, we're going to treat our furry friends to an extra dog biscuit to celebrate. We have no doubt a dog lover created this day, too.

For The Kids



Clifford



Help Us Raise Money While You Shop!!

What's It All About?



AMAZON.SMILE

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado.

To shop at AmazonSmile, simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages. Recurring Subscribe-and-Save purchases and subscription renewals are not currently eligible.

You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding or baby registry, and other account settings are also the same. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select the charitable organization (Dalmatian Rescue) to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Amazon will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation.

You can change your charity any time. Your AmazonSmile purchases after the change count towards your newly selected charity. To change your charity, sign in to smile.amazon.com on your desktop or mobile phone browser and simply select "Change your Charity" in "Your Account." You can choose from over one million eligible 501(c)(3) public charitable organizations. Look for Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado to make us your charity of choice!

KING SOOPERS/CITY MARKET COMMUNITY REWARDS



For Colorado supporters (or anywhere King Soopers or City Market operates), Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado has also enrolled in the King Soopers and City Market Community Rewards Program.

To Use the King Soopers or City Market Community Rewards Program, simply visit the appropriate link below.

For King Soopers Stores - go to <http://www.kingsoopers.com>

For City Market Stores - go to <http://www.citymarket.com>

Once logged in to your King Soopers or City Market account, search for Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado, Inc., either by name or FR415, and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address and a loyalty card.

*Customers must have a registered King Soopers or City Market loyalty card account to link to our organization. If you do not yet have a King Soopers or City Market loyalty card, they are available at the customer service desk at any King Soopers or City Market.

REMEMBER, purchases will not count for our organization until after you have registered your loyalty card (the same card that you use to build fuel points). You must swipe your registered King Soopers or City Market loyalty card or use the phone number that is related to the registered King Soopers or City Market loyalty card when shopping for each purchase to count. This does not affect your fuel points!



Trainer Tips

“Dogs Pay More Attention To Vowels Than We Do”

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One of the things I love about working with dogs is that we still have SO much to learn. Some fascinating studies come up here and there that make me think about what I am currently doing and how I might improve my work with dogs.

In a recent study, it appears that dogs pay more attention to vowels than consonants. Which is pretty much the opposite of humans. You can read the article below – and below that is the link to the abstract of the actual study (if you like more technical language).

<https://www.aaha.org/publications/newstat/articles/2020-11/gooood-dog-why-dogs-like-vowels/?fbclid=IwAR0EV1IdCbGrWnUc3sssRzPTqvu6t-YQgBxH8EHYQb5oufSS-mLhWfY1AjY>

https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10071-020-01436-6?fbclid=IwAR1xwz756T_r5TLrxnPuniXtd4ENZCC5SQuUrSgZhzjLN-B6Fl4R-poGH80

So, if you want your dog to respond better to you, pay attention to the words you use. If your dog's name is Beau and you use “No!” a lot with him, you are probably going to have some confusion.

I used to teach my dogs Down and Bow. I changed Bow to Stretch. Down and Bow sound very similar and the vowels are exactly the same. So by changing the word to something different, I make it much easier for my dog to understand what I am asking for. If I have a dog named Charlie, I should not name my second dog Farley. Too confusing if you want them to respond to THEIR name.

So if you like names that start with the same letter or have similar consonants, that's much less likely to be problematic than those with names that have different consonants but the same vowels.

What cues do you use? Are there any that will be confusing? Too similar? I am going through my list of cues and assessing whether I need to make any changes to better clarify things for my dogs.

Any names or cues that you might want to change now that you know how important the VOWELS are?

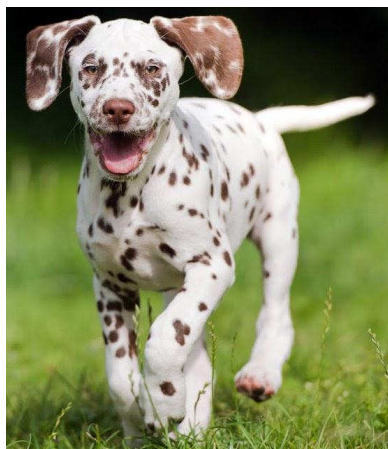
For additional training tips and information, you can read our blog at <https://thelightofdog.com/read/> or find us on Facebook and Twitter.

 <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/>).

*Because we
all need a
little puppy
love!!*



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 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 karl@dalmatianrescueco.org for inclusion in the next issue.

We NEED your participation to make the Reader Recommendations and Tips segment a successful segment. We haven't had anything to include here since November 2019!!

If we don't start getting some suggestions and/or recommendations, I am going to simply remove this segment from the newsletter since it hasn't been useful in over a year!

It is nice to be able to pass along information, tips and suggestions that you have found useful or helpful so that others can benefit as well, but without your participation it doesn't work!

In The "Spot" Light... Our Featured Dalmatians

Bristol

8 Years Old, Black Spayed Female
Reason Available: Owner Surrender
Foster Home: Fort Wayne, IN

Bristol Babe is in northeastern IN, waiting for that super duper home that she knows she deserves! Well, when you are as nice a dog as Bristol then you do deserve the best. Bristol is a bundle of curiosity and affection and she is an adorable 40# Dalmatian Wannabe. Bristol loves it when her belly is rubbed, lying quietly with her legs straight in the air. How cute!! She is generally fine with the foster dogs, but she does prefer the boy dogs. Probably best with only male dogs, although she can be okay with quiet female dogs. On walks she does love to meet new dogs coming along. The neighborhood girls (8-11 yrs) are her favorite young people and they love her too. Her fun time is going to the woods to run. She does have a naturally high prey drive when it comes to wildlife critters and with cats she is unknown. Bristol walks well on the leash and our queen prefers fluffy beds but all she really wants is to be with "mom". Bristol is a very smart girl with PERFECT house manners. She is not a dog toy fanatic and she does not chew what she shouldn't, but she does love tennis balls and will return with them! Our girl is vocal about things outside, as nothing gets by her guarding instinct. One hind leg was injured before we met Bristol but the vet said that it is healed now and it works just fine. Bristol sits for meals or whatever she might want. Good girl! For more information, contact Chris at dalpal@rocketmail.com. Adoption \$300.



Bailey A

6 Years Old, Black Neutered Male
Reason Available: Owner Surrender
Foster Home: Colorado Springs, CO



Originally from a rural shelter and now in Colorado Springs, CO, Bailey is an active 6-7 year old neutered male dog with lots of love to give the right family. He is so sweet! He loves to run and, with a little more training, could run beside a bike. Bailey can be a little reserved when he first meets you, but doesn't take long to warm up. He enjoys walks but really needs to run for more exercise. Bailey can be strong-willed, so continuing obedience training is a must! Bailey is mellow, a cuddler and a kisser, and always wants to be by your side. He is crate trained, has good house manners and likes car rides. There are no birds in the backyard, because he chases them off; he does not do well with cats. Bailey enjoys watching over his family and house from a deck or porch during the day and capturing your bed at night. Bailey needs a home with another dog for company and romping, and at least a 5 ft. fence for security. For more information, contact Jeannine at jeannine@dalmatianrescueco.org. Adoption \$250. You can submit an application for adoption at www.dalmatianrescueco.org.

We still need your Happy Beginnings Stories!!

Over 60 dogs have been adopted in 2020 and we only have 9 stories and now several in 2021 with no stories!

Please help us to get the word out to all adopters from 2020/2021 (or any year, since it's never too late!) to submit their Happy Beginnings Stories.

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 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 karl@dalmatianrescueco.org.

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

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