

Spring Pet Safety Tips

By ASPCA.org

Spring has sprung, and with the change of season, our thoughts turn to Easter celebrations, spring cleaning and much-needed home improvement projects. Before you embark on seasonal chores or outdoor revelry, take inventory of potential springtime hazards for your furry friends.

***If you suspect your pet may have come in contact with or ingested a potentially poisonous substance, contact your local veterinarian or the [ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center](#) immediately at (888) 426-4435.**

Easter Treats and Decorations

Keep lilies and candy in check—chocolate goodies are toxic to cats and dogs, and all true lilies can be fatal if ingested by cats. And be mindful, kitties love to nibble on colorful plastic grass, which can lead to an obstructed digestive tract, severe vomiting and dehydration. Moreover, while live bunnies, chicks and other festive animals are adorable, resist the urge to buy them—these cute babies grow up fast and often require specialized care!

Screen Yourself

Many pet parents welcome the breezy days of spring by opening their windows. Unfortunately, they also unknowingly put their pets at risk—especially cats, who are apt to jump or fall through unscreened windows. Be sure to install snug and sturdy screens in all of your windows.

Buckle Up!

While most dogs love to feel the wind on their furry faces, allowing them to ride in the beds of pick-up trucks or stick their heads out of moving-car windows is dangerous. Flying debris and insects can cause inner ear or eye injuries and lung infections, and abrupt stops or turns can cause major injury, or worse! Pets riding in cars should always be secured in a crate or wearing a seatbelt harness designed especially for them.

Spring Cleaning

Spring cleaning is a time-honored tradition in many households, but be sure to keep all cleaners and chemicals out of your pets' way! Almost all cleaning products, even all natural ones, contain chemicals that may be harmful to pets. The key to using them safely is to read and follow label directions for proper use and storage. Please visit our [Poisonous Household Products](#) page for more information.

Home Improvement 101

Products such as paints, mineral spirits and solvents can be toxic to your pets and cause severe irritation or chemical burns. Carefully read all labels to see if the product is safe to use around your furry friends. Also, be cautious of physical hazards, including nails, staples, insulation, blades and power tools. It may be wise to confine your dog or cat to a designated pet-friendly room during home improvement projects.

Let Your Garden Grow—With Care

Pet parents, take care—fertilizers, insecticides and herbicides keep our plants and lawns healthy and green, but their ingredients may be dangerous if your pet ingests them. Always store these products in out-of-the-way places and follow label instructions carefully. Many popular springtime plants—including rhododendron and azaleas—are also highly toxic to pets and can prove fatal if eaten. Check out [our full list](#)—of toxic and non-toxic plants for your home and garden.

Ah-Ah-Achoo!

Like us, pets can be allergic to foods, dust, plants and pollens. Allergic reactions in dogs and cats can cause itching, minor sniffing and sneezing, or life-threatening anaphylactic shock to insect bites and stings. If you suspect your pet has a springtime allergy, please visit your veterinarian as soon as possible.

Pesky Little Critters

April showers bring May flowers—and an onslaught of bugs! Make sure your pet is on year-round heartworm preventive medication, as well as a flea and tick control program. Ask your doctor to recommend a plan designed specifically for your pet. Please visit our [Fleas and Ticks](#) page for more information.

Out and About

Warmer weather means more trips to the park, longer walks and more chances for your pet to wander off! Make sure your dog or cat has a microchip for identification and wears a tag imprinted with your home address, cell phone and any other relevant contact information.

ID Tag Recommendations

At Dalmatian Rescue of Colorado we recommend your dog's identification tags contain your dog's name and your last name, at least two phone numbers (and at least one should be a cell phone number), and the words "Needs Meds - Reward". The last one is designed to appeal to people's sense of compassion or greed. People are most likely to call and return a pet if they think the dog might need life saving medications (compassion) or they think they will get a cash reward (greed). The reward doesn't necessarily have to be cash... but since you don't specify cash reward, they won't know that!



Rattlesnake Season Is Coming

Read below to learn how to identify rattlesnakes, where you might find them and what to do if you or your dog has been bitten.

Where will I see rattlesnakes?

Rattlesnakes like rocky outcroppings, grasslands, rocky stream crossings and ledges. They den in prairie dog burrows, rock crevices or caves.

You might see them on trails, most likely stretched across the trail to soak up warmth. It's likely they're in grasses and other vegetation beside a trail, a good reason to stay on the beaten path.

When am I likely to see rattlesnakes?

Rattlesnakes are active from early spring (as early as late March) through mid-fall and hibernate in winter.

They are more active in spring, shortly after emerging from hibernation, so you might see a flurry of activity on the trails through May.

In summer, rattlesnakes are not likely to be seen in great numbers but might be seen individually in their typical habitat, which can range up to two miles. Mornings and evenings are common times to see rattlesnakes out of their dens since temperatures are cooler.

In fall, you might see another flurry of activity as the rattlesnakes seek a warm place to hibernate for the winter.

What is the difference between a rattlesnake and a bull snake?

If you can't see the rattle, there are several other identifying features:

- Rattlesnakes have a chunky body with a blunt tail; bull snakes have a long, lithe body and pointed tail (with no rattle), though both snakes can make a rattling sound.
- Rattlesnakes have a white stripe pattern on the face; bull snakes have a black stripe over the eyes.
- Rattlesnakes have a wide head and narrow neck; bull snakes have heads and neck that are the same width.
- Rattlesnakes have eyes that are vertical slits; bull snakes have round pupils.

What do I do if I encounter a rattlesnake?

If you see a rattlesnake coiled and/or rattling, that means it's agitated. Keep your distance. Leave it alone. Rattlesnakes can strike at a distance of two-thirds of their total body length.

Wait for the snake to leave the trail. They are afraid of you, and prairie rattlesnakes, most commonly found in Northern Colorado, are the least aggressive rattlesnake.

If the snake is going across the trail, stand still and wait for the snake to move away. Snakes do not see well, but they perceive sudden movement as a threat.

What do I do if I've been bitten?

If you or a member of your hiking party is bitten, look for swelling and large, bloody or dark-colored blisters forming in the bite area. Either of these symptoms means the bite was venomous. Some bites are dry, with no venom injected.

Call 911. Getting to a hospital as soon as possible is your main priority. Time is of the essence. Deaths due to snake bites often involve cases of elderly patients and delayed hospital care.

Keep the patient as calm as you can and gently immobilize the bitten limb, if possible, with an improvised splint. Don't tie it too tight, however. You don't want to reduce blood flow.

Remove all jewelry, watches and any other constricting clothing near the affected area in case of swelling.

Do not ice, use a tourniquet, try to suck out the venom (it doesn't work), or try to catch and kill the snake.

There are three venomous snakes in Colorado, according to Colorado Parks and Wildlife; prairie rattlesnakes, massasauga rattlesnakes, and midget-faded rattlesnakes.

What about my pet?

Dogs are more likely to die from rattlesnake bites than humans due to the difference in body weight.

Keep dogs on a tight leash if you're in rattlesnake country. Dogs roaming free are more likely to be bitten by rattlesnakes than

leashed dogs, and more than likely will be bitten on the nose or face from sniffing the ground.

What do you do if you're hiking with your dog, and a rattlesnake bites your dog?

Dr. French Aguirre-Wong of Golden Paws Animal Hospital in Golden offers the following tips:

1) Remove yourself and your dog from danger.

Freeze in place until you locate the snake, and then calmly and quietly back yourself and your dog away and to safety. Put at least 5 feet between you and the snake. Don't try to catch, provoke or kill the snake.

2) Clean the wound.

Calm your dog and clean the wound with soap and water, and use antibiotic ointment, if you have it. Rattlesnakes tend to bite dogs on the face, chest or front leg. Don't use a venom extractor; your dog's hair will prevent a good seal from forming.

3) Return to your car as quickly as possible.

If you and your dog are out on the trail, you might be a long distance from where you parked. Try to limit your dog's physical exertion on the way back. If your dog is small, pick them up and carry them to your vehicle. If you have a big dog, they should be able to walk back themselves.

4) Take your dog to an animal hospital immediately.

Don't wait. Take your dog to a veterinarian. If your dog gets bit on a weekend, find a 24/7 emergency animal hospital. The dog needs treatment that will include doses of anti-venom, post-bite observation and hospitalization.

5) What if your dog is vaccinated?

You can have your dog vaccinated against rattlesnake venom. It's a yearly vaccine that helps your dog create antibodies to kick-start the body's process of defending itself in case of a bite. Even if your dog is vaccinated, you still need to seek immediate treatment for them. The vaccine decreases pain from the bite, the amount of antivenom required and the length of hospitalization.



Prairie Rattlesnake



Massasauga Rattlesnake



Midget-Faded Rattlesnake

Recent Adoptees!



SNOOP

Snoop
Lexington, SC



OLIVER

Oliver
Arnold, MO



Poppi
Paducah, KY

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

Daylight Saving Time Starts on Mar 14th

Daylight Saving Time begins in 2021 on **Sunday, March 14**, when clocks will “spring forward” one hour and we lose an hour of sleep overnight. Most people set their clocks ahead when they go to bed so that they aren't late on Sunday. Don't forget to set yours!





NATIONAL K9 Veterans DAY - March 13th

March 13th recognizes National K9 Veterans Day and the dedicated K9 units who've served since World War II. A lot of things changed after the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. We rationed oil, leather, and rubber. The military drafted men into service. Women rolled up their sleeves and built war supplies. And dogs were called to duty. During the first world war, the United States took notice of the European use of canines as sentries, message carriers, and several other functions.

A private citizen, Mrs. Alene Erlanger initiated a program called Dogs for Defense. Along with the American Kennel Club and a handful of breeders, the group aimed to train the dogs for military use. By November of 1942, the military prepared the first Dogs for Defense for duty in North Africa. While at first, they were gun shy, they proved to be well trained. As the war progressed, Dogs for Defense was unable to keep up with the demand, and the Remount Branch, Service Installations Divisions took over the training of the dogs.

Over the years, the military, police, and rescue have developed a variety of training methods for K9 units. Their training is tailored to meet the demands of the job, and each animal and handler carries out his or her duties to the fullest.

HOW TO OBSERVE #NationalK9VeteransDay

Recognize a K9 veteran. Learn more about their service, history, and training. Attend a ceremony honoring the working dogs in military units and working dogs across the country. Use #NationalK9VeteransDay to post on social media.

NATIONAL K9 VETERANS DAY HISTORY

National K9 Veterans Day is celebrated on March 13th on the official birthday of the US Army K9 Corps, which was formed in 1942. Joseph White, a retired military working dog trainer, originated the idea for the day.

For The Kids



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

“Separation Anxiety”

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Question

I think my dog has separation anxiety. My neighbors hear him barking and howling when I am gone, and he is destructive in the house. What can I do if I am not there to deal with these behaviors?

The Trainer Answers

Separation anxiety can be a difficult and frustrating issue to handle. First we need to determine if your dog is suffering from separation anxiety or something else. In many cases, the dogs are really suffering from other issues, such as boredom.

How do you tell the difference? Look at the clues. What exactly happens while you are gone? Where? When – immediately after you depart or later? How often – every time you leave? The answers will help you determine whether your dog truly suffers from separation anxiety.

If your dog suffers from separation anxiety or separation distress, you will most likely see the signs every time you leave, no matter for how long. You will often see signs of anxiety even before you leave, when your dog picks up on your departure cues such as putting on your shoes, picking up your car keys, etc. If destruction occurs, it will almost always be directed toward escape routes such as at or around doorways and windows.

If it is separation anxiety, we can take steps to help your dog overcome his anxiety. First, departures and arrivals should be low key. It will not resolve the issue but will help your dog to understand being separated is not such a big deal. Never scold or punish your dog for anxiety-related destructive or annoying behaviors. Quietly clean up any messes.

If your dog has trouble being apart from you when you're home, start by working on a “stay” or “wait” cue, until he will stay when you are out of sight but still in the house. For all your dog knows, when you step out of sight you might never return. He doesn't know how to cope with being alone for even a short period of time.

Find something that your dog really likes, such as a chewing bone or a Kong toy stuffed with some of his favorite treats. Start to pair one of his favorite things with your departures, so he has something to look forward to when you leave. Start this in small increments, not when we are leaving for the entire day. Don't proceed too quickly.

Find ways to prevent stressful responses when you must leave. Can your dog spend the workday with a neighbor or at doggie daycare? Our goal is to prevent the dog from experiencing separation anxiety while you are helping him to overcome his anxieties. You might also consider using something like Rescue Remedy or a DAP diffuser to help your dog to relax so you can start a behavior modification program. In severe cases, discuss medication possibilities with your vet.

Dogs with separation anxiety are insecure. One way to help a dog become more secure in his own skin and feel more secure that his human family will take care of him is to implement some training.. If your dog suffers from more than a mild case of separation anxiety, seek professional help.

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/>).

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

Xena

9 Years Old, Black Spayed Female
 Reason Available: Owner Surrender
 Foster Home: Concordia, MO

*****URGENT*****

Poor Xena has been in foster since February 2017! She desperately is seeking a home of her own to relax and enjoy her golden years. Please consider adopting her yourself or let your friends and family know about her and maybe they will be her forever family!

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. Adoption \$300.



Casper

3 Years Old, Black Neutered Male
 Reason Available: Owner Surrender
 Foster Home: Denver, CO

Meet Casper, the friendly ghost...dog. This gorgeous, blue-eyed boy is 3 years old and built for fun! The best home for Casper would have a large yard and another energetic dog to play with. He loves to run and could easily learn to play fetch. He is fine with dog-savvy cats and has excellent house manners. Casper is also a wonderful cuddler, who will sleep as close to you as physically possible. He will need leash training and socialization before interacting with dogs outside the home. Despite his light coloring, his hearing is fine. For more information contact Karen at hikingdal@gmail.com. Adoption \$300.



We still need your Happy Beginnings Stories!!

We have had several adoptions in 2021 but have received no Happy Beginnings Stories submitted!

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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