



Save the Dalmatians & Others Canine Rescue, Inc.

## GIVE YOUR DALMATIAN A CHANCE

You've reached your breaking point. Your cute spot now weighs 60 pounds and is shredding everything in your house and yard. You secretly think "he has to go!" **But go where?**

Pounds, shelters and even some Dalmatian Rescues have more Dals needing homes than there are homes available for placement. With a rescue, it could take months before your Dal can be placed in a new home. The pound or shelter will most likely euthanize your Dal because they simply don't have room. **So, what's the answer? Give your Dalmatian a chance!**

By utilizing the following five steps as a guide, you can have a well-behaved Dalmatian member of your family.

- 1) Many behavioral problems are made worse by hormones. If your Dal is not already spayed or neutered, have your veterinarian do so. This also helps control the already over-burdened pet population.
- 2) Enroll in "doggy school" or obedience class immediately. Most pet stores offer affordable classes; and if you prefer one-on-one training, there are many local options available through research on the internet.
  - a) But enrolling in class isn't enough! You must diligently work on your homework!!! Whatever amount of time the canine instructors recommend for practice should be adhered to. Dals are **extraordinarily** intelligent and learn quickly, especially with repetition and motivational techniques (using treats and lavish praise).
  - b) There are also many great books that can help you with training. Let your fingers do the walking on the internet.
- 3) Exercise your Dalmatian every day. If you're a jogger, take him/her along; have him/her run alongside you on a bike ride; or take him/her to a **fenced in** dog park where he can run, and play fetch or frisbee. Bonus - you'll get exercise too, which can only improve your health!
- 4) Include your Dalmatian in your indoor activities. He/she can lay in his/her dog bed with some chew toys or curl up beside you while you watch TV. It's not hard to meet a Dalmatian's attention needs this way. Another great way to get some quality time in with your Dal is to let him/her sleep on your bed with you. Dalmatians love to cuddle and keep you warm.
- 5) Lastly, an important consideration in Dal misbehavior is diet. This is both as it relates to energy level and to stone forming potential (this is a larger problem with the average Dal owner than deafness). Often our inquiries lead us to find that the destructive Dal's diet is 5-7 cups of dog food per day (way too much); and the food they are eating contains both high proteins and high purines in content. With a dietary change which is in smaller and more appropriate quantity, as well as changing the food to something lower in purines (lamb & rice, etc.) the Dal usually settles down in a week to ten days.

If you implement the above changes you should notice improvement in your Dalmatian's behavior.

There is no magic pill! **It takes time and dedication on your part** to execute on the five-step program. However, you will be repaid amply with Dalmatian adoration.

Don't give up on your Dal; give him another chance! You'll be glad you did!

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