

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB • FOUNDED 1884

LITTER CERTIFICATE

BREEDER ~ TINA GAY & PEGGY COPELAND
WHELP DATE ~ SEPTEMBER 20, 2012
AKC LITTER NUMBER ~ NP326159
BREED ~ DALMATIAN
TOTAL NUMBER IN LITTER ~ 9

Sire HISPOT'S CAUSE FOR APPLAUSE
NP16576103 (11-12)



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

Dam OBX SHOOTIN THE BREEZE WITH
STARWOOD
NP24648506 (12-12)

TUCKAWAY INDIAN RUN
NM83129103 (06-03)

HISPOT'S XHILLIRATION
NM90279701 (07-04)

STARWOOD'S TWIST AND SHOUT
NP16295801 (03-10)

STARWOOD'S WILLOW BY THE SEA
NP13285104 (03-10)

TUCKAWAY AUGUSTA
NT680694 (01-92)

TCJ TUCKAWAY GLEN ABBEY
NM74821901 (10-99)

ALFREDRICH ALL THAT RODEO
NM49565701 (04-94)

FIVE ALARM N HISPOT SMAC DAB
NM72626504 (07-01)

LAUREL'S WHAT THE DR ORDERED
NP09982304 (08-07)

STARWOOD'S I DID IT MY WAY
NP04156001 (08-07)

STARWOOD'S MACK O' MILLION
NP06809301 (09-06)

STARWOOD'S HOPE FLOATS
NM90125301 (09-06)

Breeze

GRCH OBX SHOOTIN THE BREEZE WITH STARWOOD

CH Starwood's Twist And Shout  & Ch Starwood's Willow By The Sea RN 

Registration: NP24648506 (AKC) **Sire:** NP16295801

Breed: DALMATIAN **Dam:** NP13285104

Sex: F ***Titles:** GRCH

Color: WHITE & BLACK **CHIC #:** 80370

Birthdate: Oct 20 2009

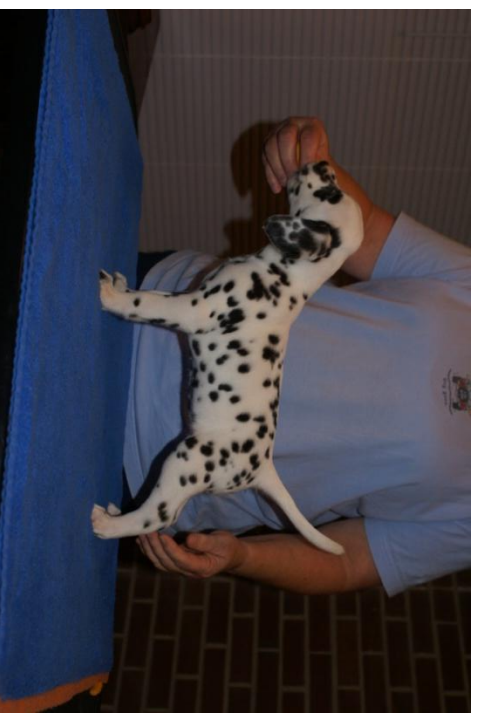
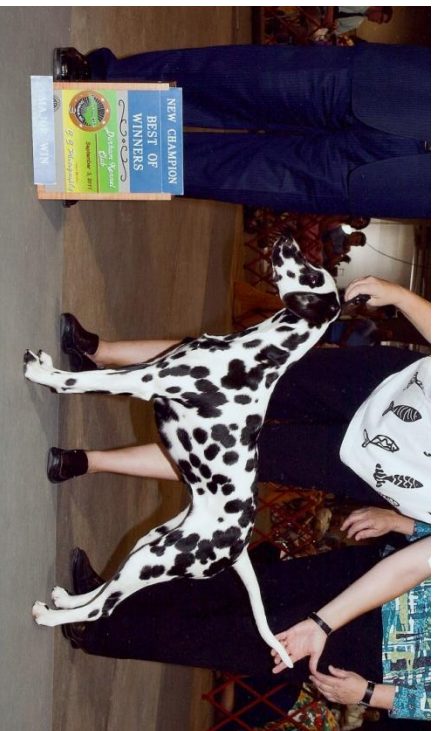
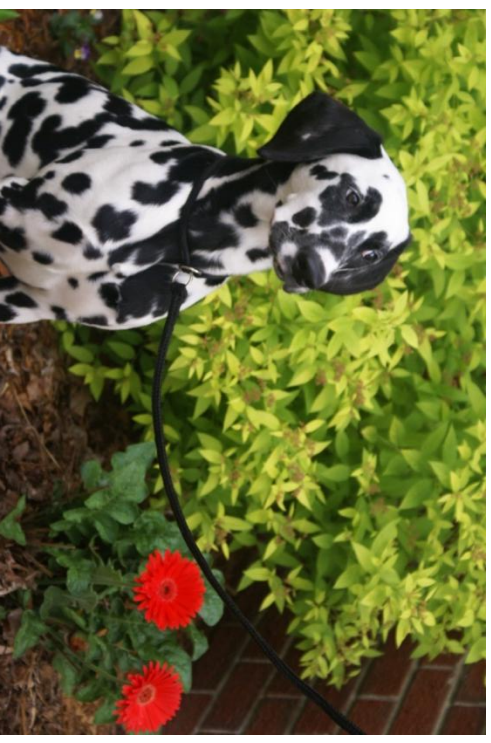


OFA Number	Registry	Test/Film Date	Report Date	Age	Final Conclusion
DM-DNA-692/B	DNA DATA BANK	Mar 30 2010	Apr 7 2010	5	DNA Sample Donated for Canine Health Research
DM-BR2172/1F-VPI TEST	BAER HEARING	Dec 1 2009	Apr 20 2010	1	HEARING (NORMAL)
					TESTED: 11: CERF Breeder's Option Code(s): D3a-Iris, persistent pupillary membranes-- iris to iris
DM-352575	CERF	May 1 2011	May 1 2011	19	NORMAL
DM-TH316/18F-VPI	THYROID	May 1 2011	May 19 2011	18	NORMAL
DM-DE3/26F-VPI	DENTITION DATABASE	Jan 16 2012	Jan 23 2012	26	FULL DENTITION
DM-PA14/28F/S-VPI	PATELLA	Mar 15 2012	Mar 19 2012	28	NORMAL - SPECIALIST
DM-3316G28F-VPI	HIPS	Mar 15 2012	Mar 26 2012	28	GOOD
DM-EL311F28-VPI	ELBOW	Mar 15 2012	Mar 26 2012	28	NORMAL
DM-DM26/29F-VPI	DEGENERATIVE MYELOPATHY	Mar 13 2012	Apr 3 2012	29	NORMAL
LDI=.35; RDI=.39	PENNHIP HIPS	Mar 15 2012	Apr 30 2012	28	LDI=.35; RDI=.39





[Pedigree for Breeze-3-2-12.htm](#)



AKC MBISS GCH/UKC MBIS BISS GRCH/In't CH

HiSpot's Cause for Applause "Bravo"

Registration: NP16576103 Sire: NM83129
(AKC) 103
Breed: DALMATIAN Dam: NM90279
701
Sex: M *Titles: CH
Color: WHITE & CHIC # 65308
BLACK :
Birthdate: Mar 1 2007 Addtl.
Reg. #









OFA Number	Registry	Test/Film Date	Report Date	Age	Final Conclusion			
DM-CA17/17M/C-VPI	CARDIAC	Aug 22 2008	Sep 3 2008	17	NORMAL - CARDIOLOGIST DNA Sample Donated for Canine Health			
DM-DNA-660/B	DNA DATA BANK	Apr 6 2010	Apr 7 2010	37	Research			
DM-TH241/37M-VPI	THYROID	Apr 4 2010	Apr 26 2010	37	NORMAL			
DM-3137G37M-VPI	HIPS	Apr 26 2010	May 11 2010	37	GOOD			
DM-EL259M37-VPI	ELBOW	Apr 26 2010	May 11 2010	37	NORMAL			
DM-BR2207/1M-VPI	BAER HEARING TEST	Apr 21 2007	May 25 2010	1	HEARING (NORMAL)			
DM-837	CERF	Jul 25 2010	Jul 25 2010	40	TESTED: 08,10			
Sire/Dam	Registration	Birthdate	Sex	Relation	HIPS	BAER HEARING TEST	DNA DATA BANK	CERF

TUCKAWAY INDIAN RUN NM83129103 Jun 18 1999 M Sire DM- 2365E30M-PI DM- 613/B DM- 391
2595G42F-PI
HISPOT'S XHILLIRATION NM90279701 Jan 25 2001 F Dam DM- 2595G42F-PI DM- 2595G42F-PI DM- 1113
F-PI



Alynda Evans

Pedigree for MBISS GrCH, UKC MBIS BISS GrCH/In't CH HiSpot's Cause for Applause x GrCH OBX Shootin The Breeze With Starw

OBX Puppy Breeze & Bravo	<p>Bravo</p>  <p>MBISS GrCH, UKC MBIS BISS GrCH/In't CH <u>HiSpot's Cause for Applause</u></p> <p>NP165761/03 White & Black OFA37G OFEL37</p>	<p>BISS  ROMX</p> <p>CH Tuckaway Indian Run NM831291/03 06-03 White & Black OFA30E AKC DNA #V30961 ROMX 2006 Top Twenty Winner</p>	<p>BISS, BISS ROMX CH Fireman's Freckled Friend NS753102 07-84 White & Black - OFA65G</p>	<p>BIS, BISS ROMX CH Fireman's Freckled Friend NS753102 07-84 White & Black - OFA65G</p>	<p>CH Count Miguel Of Tuckaway ROMX NS173840 04-76 Diamond D's Dot To Dot NS442639 05-8</p>
			<p>CH Bottoms Up Sentimentl Journey NT340576 10-90 White & Liver</p>	<p>CH Tuckaway Bottoms Up Gusto CD NS670642 04-83 ROMX CH Bottoms Up Somebody Special NT071425 11-87 ROM</p>	<p>CH Count Miguel Of Tuckaway ROMX NS173840 04-76 CH Sunkist Singalong NS666260 11-86 ROM CH Evomacks Tsar Of Carlsbad NS637000 02-82 (Canada) ROMX Alfredrich Danskin Dancer NS740402 (Canada)</p>
			<p>CH TCJ Tuckaway Glen Abbey NM748219/01 10-99 (Canada) White & Black</p>	<p>BIS, BISS ROMX CH Prince Harts NM734890/01 12-97 (Canada) White & Black - OFA53G AKC DNA #V128450</p>	
				<p>CH Tcj's Bullet Proof NM334079/01 (Canada) White & Black</p>	
	<p>Breeze</p>  <p>GrCH OBX Shootin The Breeze With Starwood, TDI CGC</p> <p>NP246485/06 White & Black Whelped: Oct 20,2009 BAER Bilateral, Thyroid: Normal Hip OFA -Good</p>	<p>"Oliver" </p> <p>CH STARWOOD'S TWIST AND SHOUT, CGC Chic # 71260 NP162958/01 (3-07) White & Liver Brown</p>	<p>BISS CH Alfredrich All That Rodeo NM495657/01 04-94 (Canada) White & Black AKC DNA #V14197</p>	<p>CH Alfredrich Handsome Tall'n Dark NS991751 03-86 (Canada) White & Black</p>	
			<p>BISS CH Five Alarm N Hispot Smac Dab NM726265/04 07-01 White & Black OFA65G AKC DNA #P20328</p>	<p>Alfredrich Fantastica NT060500 (Canada) White & Blac</p>	
				<p>CH Five Alarm Bonafido NT024281 09-87 White & Black -AKC DNA #P20325</p>	
				<p>CH Five Alarm Alas N Alac NM439610/03 08-97 White & Blac</p>	
	<p>"Willow" </p> <p>CH STARWOOD'S WILLOW BY THE SEA, RA, CGC Chic # 71258 NP13285104 White & Black</p>	<p>"Mack" </p> <p>CH STARWOOD'S MACK O'MILLION RN NP06809301 White & Liver Brown</p>	<p>"Luke" BISS CH LAUREL'S WHAT THE DR ORDERED CDX RN CC NP099823/04 (08-07) White & Liver Brown</p>	<p>CH LAUREL'S ATLANTIS BRONZE JAGUAR NM11954/04 (06-98) White & Liver Brown</p>	<p>CH CHELSEA'S MAMBO KING NM536169/08 (07/95) White & Black STONEBRIDGE SIMPLICITY NM4496271/01 (10-96)</p>
			<p>"Frankie" STARWOOD'S I DID IT MY WAY NP041560/07 (09-01) Black & White</p>	<p>LAUREL ATLS GABRIELLE'S GOLD NM919195/02 (10/05) White & Liver Brown</p>	<p>CH TUKAWAY AUGUSTA ROMX NT680694 (01-92) White & Black CH LAUREL'S ATLANTIS HOT RUMAKI NM746144/04 (04-01) White & Liver Brown</p>
				<p>CH STARWOOD'S UNFORGETABLE NM901253/02 (01-04) White & Black</p>	<p>BIS/BISS CH STARWOOD'S PRIDE OF ATLANTIS NM720409/05 White & Black CH STARWOOD'S LUCK OF THE IRISH ROM NM786582/03 (07-01) White & Liver Brown</p>
				<p>CH STARWOOD'S SPIRIT OF ATLANTIS NM720409/07 (09-01) White & Black</p>	<p>CH RANGER OF STARWOOD NM437051/01 (06-97) White & Black CH ATLANTIS SUNDAY BEST NM437051/01 (06-97) White & Black</p>
				<p>TCJ RIGHT ON TARGET NM69923801 White & Black</p>	<p>CH AVALON TAYLORMADE BY PAISLEY NM26310407 CH TCJ'S BULLET PROOF NM33407901</p>
				<p>CH STARWOOD'S LUCK O'THE IRISH NM78658203 White & Liver Brown</p>	<p>CH KALES WRINKLE IN TIME CD NA NAJ NM49104805 CRICKET OF STARWOOD NM57024102</p>
			<p>"Hope" CH STARWOOD'S HOPE FLOATS NM90125301 OFA28G White & Black</p>	<p>"DEACON" BIS/BISS CH STARWOOD'S PRIDE OF ATLANTIS NM720409/05 White & Black</p>	<p>CH RANGER OF STARWOOD NM287128/08 CH ATLANTIS SUNDAY BEST NM437051/01 CH KALES WRINKLE IN TIME CD NA NAJ NM49104805 CRICKET OF STARWOOD NM57024102</p>
				<p>CH STARWOOD'S LUCK O'THE IRISH NM78658203 White & Liver Brown</p>	

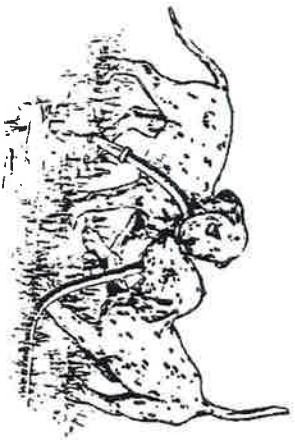
Congratulations

On your new



Congratulations on your recent acquisition of a Dalmatian! It is a fun loving, people-oriented breed, which enjoys basking in the love and attention of their owners. The Dalmatian Club of America (DCA) would like to help you enjoy your new Dalmatian to the fullest by providing you with some basic information.

The Dalmatian is a medium large (19 - 24 inches at the shoulders), smooth coated breed of working and sporting heritage, suitable as a family pet or performance animal. His spots, his most unique feature, are either black or chocolate brown, which is properly termed "liver".



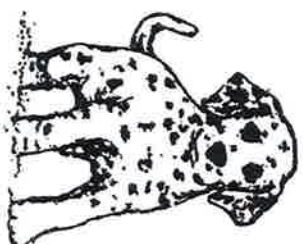
The Dalmatian is clean by nature and has little, if any, "doggy odor". His short coat does shed almost year round, but regular brushing helps to minimize shedding. Bathing is usually unnecessary more than 3 or 4 times a year and is actually to be discouraged as soap and water remove the essential oils needed to prevent the coat from being dry and can set up other coat problems. The toenails should be trimmed back (just to the hooked tip) once a week so they don't grow too long. Your Dalmatian's teeth should be checked annually when his yearly vaccinations are given.



Regular veterinary care, yearly vaccinations and proper diet are essential to maintaining your dog's good health. A peculiarity intrinsic to the Dalmatian is the tendency to form urinary stones. This occurs in some male Dalmatians and occasionally in females. Constant availability of fresh water and frequent opportunity to urinate are very important. If your dog has trouble urinating or if you see blood in the urine, contact your veterinarian. Dalmatians do not require a special diet for this unless the problem is present.

Genetic health is a concern of all responsible breeders. Congenital total deafness occurs in about 8% and deafness in one ear in about 22% of all Dalmatians. Dogs that hear in one ear can lead a normal life and be satisfactory pets. You should have received Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response (BAER) test results from your breeder. If not, please consider having your dog's hearing tested as soon as possible.

The Dalmatian Club of America Ethical Guidelines encourages members to test all puppies and to humanely euthanize any totally deaf dogs. While this may sound cruel, it is really more humane than sending a deaf dog into a family where it may bite if startled, will be much more difficult to train and could cause heartbreak later in many ways.





The DCA strongly encourages you to spay or neuter your new Dalmatian at an age recommended by your veterinarian. Most responsible breeders require this by selling their pet Dalmatians with spay/neuter contracts. There are several good reasons to spay or neuter:

Altered Dalmatians live longer and usually are healthier than unaltered ones.

Females that are spayed before the arrival of the first heat season are less likely to run the risk of mammary or uterine tumors and infections.

Neutered males have no risk of testicular cancer and have a much lower chance of prostate problems. Generally, neutered males are calmer and will be more tolerant of other dogs, especially if the surgery is completed at a young age (approximately 1 year).

Altering will not change the basic personality or disposition of your Dalmatian. It will also not make your dog lazy or fat. Fat dogs are caused by an increase in calories and decrease in exercise; just like in people.

Your new Dalmatian can be a delightful addition to your life. One way to insure this is to take the time to train your dog in at least the basics of obedience. This training is most effective when dog and owner learn together in a professional training class. The commands sit, down, stay, heel and come provide your dog with the skills needed to be

a happy and well behaved member of the family. Many people begin training their Dalmatian for better citizenship and end up happily involved in competition obedience as the agile and intelligent Dalmatian displays such pleasure in the activities.

Protect and enjoy your new Dalmatian. His is the only love money can buy.

For more information about the Dalmatian or the Dalmatian Club of America visit our web site at <http://www.thedca.org>.

Recommended Reading

THE OFFICIAL BOOK OF THE DALMATIAN
By The Dalmatian Club of America Inc
\$39.95 + \$5.00 s/h Make checks payable to DCA

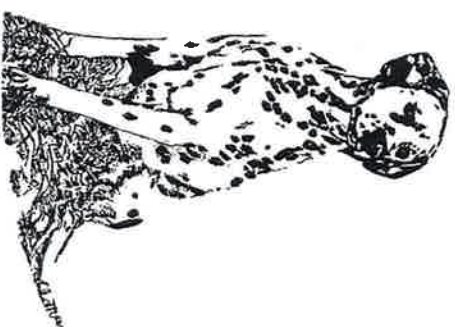
Order from: Meg Hennessey, P O Box 632, Elgin, IL 60121-0632

DALMATIAN: COACH DOG, FIREHOUSE DOG
By Alfred and Esmeralda Treen

THE DALMATIAN
By Anna Katherine Nicholas

THE CARE OF THE DALMATIAN
By Sylvia Howison

AN OWNERS' GUIDE TO A HAPPY, HEALTHY PET DALMATIAN
By Patii and Rod Strand



OZC304 (03/01)

ORDER FORM

Please send me:

- ☐ The packet of general information on the Dalmatian.
☐ Information about the DCA

All materials can be downloaded from our website: <http://www.thedca.org>

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail order form to: **Mrs. Sharon Boyd, DCA Secretary**
2316 McCrary Road
Richmond, TX 77469-9696

The Rule of Seven

By Pat Schaap



By the time a puppy is 7 weeks old, it should have:

- *Been on 7 different surfaces; Carpet, concrete, wood, vinyl, grass, dirt, gravel, woodchips, etc.;**
- * Played with 7 different types of objects: big balls, small balls, soft fabric toys, fuzzy toys, squeaky toys, paper or cardboard items, metal items, wooden items, milk jugs, etc.;**
- * Been in 7 different locations with accompanying sounds: front yard, back yard, basement, kitchen, car, garage, laundry room, bathroom, crate, kennel, etc.;**
- *Met and played with 7 new people, include children and older adults;**
- *Been exposed to 7 challenges; climb on a box, climb off a box, go through a tunnel, climb steps, go down steps, climb over obstacles, play hide and seek, go in and out a doorway with a step up or down, run around a fence;**
- * Eaten from 7 different containers: metal, plastic, cardboard, paper, china, pie plate, frying pan, etc.;**
- * Eaten in 7 different locations: crate, yard, kitchen, basement, laundry room, bathroom, playpen, etc.**

Dalmatian Club of America

COMPILATION OF DALMATIAN FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why are they known as “Firehouse Dogs”

The Dalmatian breed is very old, with somewhat obscure origins, but Dals have always had a strong affinity with horses. When fire departments began, their fire wagons were horse-drawn. Dalmatians cleared the path for the horses to travel. At the fire, where there is always a lot of commotion and confusion, the Dalmatians would be there to help calm the horses and to be their mascots. Although horses are no longer seen in the modern firehouse, the Dalmatian may still be there.

2. Are Dalmatians a good breed for a family with children?

Dalmatians are a wonderful breed for a family with children. They are medium-sized, sturdy enough to tolerate children's horseplay, yet not so big as to be over powering. As with any dog, small children need to be educated about their pets likes and dislikes, and the dog should be trained to have proper behavior, especially around small children. It is important to purchase your puppy from a reputable breeder who has socialized the puppies with children, teenagers, and adults.

3. Are Dalmatians easy to train?

Dalmatians are intelligent and strongly desire to please their owners. With positive reinforcement techniques and consistently setting limits for appropriate behavior, the Dalmatian quickly learns to be an excellent canine citizen. Training classes are highly recommended for any dog, helping the owner learn how to train their new dog.

4. Do Dalmatians tend to be “hyper”?

Properly bred and raised Dalmatians are usually not “hyper.” Dalmatians do have high energy levels, as they have historically been bred to trot all day with the horse and carriage. Dalmatians should have daily physical exercise to help maintain their health and happiness.

5. How many spots should a Dalmatian have?

No two Dalmatians are spotted identically, thus adding to their uniqueness. For a show Dalmatian the number of spots is not as important as their evenness of distribution. The AKC standard describes the ideal Dalmatian, preferring spots ranging in size from a dime to a half dollar, pleasingly and evenly distributed. An exceptionally heavily marked or sparsely marked Dalmatian may be less preferred in the show ring, but that in no way diminishes their value as a loving family companion.

6. Are liver Dalmatians rare? More valuable? More expensive?

Liver-spotted Dalmatians are less common than black spotted Dalmatians, as recessive genes cause the liver color. Liver Dalmatians are not more valuable nor more expensive, but they frequently attract lots of attention.

7. What health problems do Dalmatians have?

A well-bred Dalmatian is a generally healthy dog requiring little special care. Dalmatians do have a unique uric acid metabolism, with high levels of uric acid excretion in their urine, which can make kidney and bladder stone formation a possibility. By paying attention to the dog's diet and providing plentiful water, the knowledgeable owner can usually prevent serious problems. In the rare severe cases of stones, established medical treatments are available.

8. What about deafness in Dalmatians?

A small percentage of Dalmatians born are born deaf in both ears. These dogs should never become a health problem for anyone, as the responsible breeder should have them euthanized before they are old enough to leave the litter. Dalmatians who are deaf in only one ear make perfectly good pets, but are generally inappropriate for breeding. The hearing status of any Dalmatian puppy should be documented by BAER (Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response) testing, which is highly reliable and usually done in the puppy's second month of life.

9. How can I tell if a breeder is responsible?

The chances are, a responsible breeder will be a member of the Dalmatian Club of America, abiding by their code of ethics, and also be a member of a local Dalmatian Club or an all-breed dog club. The

responsible breeder will supply detailed education and guidance about the breed, but will furthermore likely ask the prospective buyers many questions about the puppy's prospective home and family environment. The responsible breeder will have a written sales contract with a health guarantee, a four or five generation pedigree, and the shot and worming records of the pup. Of course, the litter should be AKC registered, and companion animals will usually have a limited registration or spay/neuter contract. Responsible breeders are very careful where they place their pups and keep in contact with the buyers for many years.

10. How can I find a responsible breeder near me?

The Dalmatian Club of America has a national breeder referral service that can be found on our web site at www.thedca.org or telephone 708/687-5447. The American Kennel Club also has a breeder referral program at their web site www.akc.org.

11. Why do responsible breeders require spay/neuter?

Responsible breeders require spaying or neutering of companion animals because they do not want to see the indiscriminate or uninformed breeding of Dalmatians, which could lead to a degradation of the breed's quality and reputation. Only the top quality show specimens should be considered for breeding, and the rest of the litter should be spayed or neutered. Spayed or neutered dogs make wonderful pets, and the owner never has to worry about a female coming in season or the male becoming an unintentional father.

12. What testing and evaluations should be done on puppies?

All reputable breeders will have done hearing testing of the puppies and both parents. The parents and ancestors also frequently have had general canine screening tests, such as OFA, CHIC, CERF, thyroid, etc. The breeder will have assessed the puppies' temperaments to best match each one to its future environment.

13. Should I expect or demand a written contract?

Yes, a written contract is expected of a responsible breeder. This includes the A bill of sale, "the health guarantee, a statement about AKC papers, and any spay/neuter requirements.

14. Should I buy a dog from a pet shop?

No reputable breeder will sell puppies through a pet shop. Pet shops tend to get their dogs from puppy mills, which are large commercial breeding establishments which cannot possibly give the personal care to properly raise and socialize a litter and provide long-term guidance to every owner. Pet shop puppies should certainly be avoided.

15. Should Dalmatians be kept on a special diet?

Because of the Dalmatians high uric acid excretion, they should not have an excessive amount of protein in their diet. Commercial dog foods are usually well tolerated, but extra proteins, such as meat and table scraps, should be avoided.

16. Are older Dalmatians good to acquire?

Older Dalmatians can make wonderful pets. There may be a period of adjustment to a new home, but they quickly bond with their new owners and learn their new routines and environment. Acquiring an older Dal has the advantage of avoiding the sometimes-challenging puppy stages of chewing and housebreaking.

17. What is "Rescue" and is that a good way to get a Dalmatian?

Some Dalmatians who are no longer wanted by their owners become "Rescue" Dalmatians. Dedicated volunteers try to find a better home environment for the abandoned dog. While not every "Rescue" dog is appropriate for every environment, and some dogs with severe health or temperament problems would not be suitable for any placement, "Rescue" provides a wonderful opportunity to acquire a loving Dalmatian who needs a better home.

18. How can I find out more about Dalmatians?

There are many books on Dalmatians, the foremost being "The Official Book of the Dalmatian" by the Dalmatian Club of America. The web site of the Dalmatian Club of America, www.thedca.org is full of valuable information about the Dalmatian and the Club. Go to a dog show in your area and meet the Dalmatian fanciers and breeders there. Feel free to ask questions and get to meet some of the Dais in person. The web site of the American Kennel Club www.akc.org also has a wide variety of canine information.

19. How can I purchase the DCA Dalmatian Book? For more information about the book click here: [The Official Book of the Dalmatian.](#)

The Dalmatian Club of America

Bibliography of Suggested Reading Matter

1. The Official Book Of The Dalmatian

The Dalmatian Club Of America

T.F.H. Publications, (1997)

2. All About Dalmatians

Kathy McCoubrey

Alpine Publications (2004)

3. The Dalmatian:

An owners guide to a Happy Healthy Pet

Patti and Rod Strand

Howell Book House, (1995)

4. The New Dalmatian

Alfred & Esmeralda Treen

Howell Book House, (1992)

5. The Dalmatian

Anna Katherine Nicholas

T.F.H. Publications, (1986)

6. The Dalmatian

Eleanor Frankling

Howell Book House, (1971)

7. Expert Obedience Training for Dogs

Winifred Gibson Strickland

MacMillan Company, (1972)

8. The Complete Book of Dog Obedience

Blache Saunders

Howell Book House, (1974)

9. How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With

Rutherford & Neil

10. Understanding Your Dog

Dr. Michael Fox

Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, (1972)

11. Dog Owners Veterinary Handbook

Delbert Carlson & James Griffin

Howell Book House, (1980)

12. Family Dog

Richard A. Walters

D. P. Hutton & Co., Inc., (1963)

13. The Complete Dog Book

Official Publication of the American Kennel Club

Howell book House, (1979)

14. Junior Showmanship from Hand to Lead:

The complete handbook for Junior Handlers

Mary A. Miller

Alpine Publications, (1994)

Dalmatian History

There is no "O" in Dalmatian and there is no evidence that the breed originated in Dalmatia! This statement just serves to illustrate how much is unknown about the Dalmatian's origin. We do know that it is a very old breed, having come through many centuries virtually unchanged. Spotted dogs have appeared in Europe, Asia, and Africa. They have been found painted on walls of tombs running behind Egyptian chariots and mentioned in letters written in the mid-1500s from a poet named Jurij Dalmatin to a Bohemian duchess. A fresco in the Spanish Chapel of Santa Maria Novella in Florence, Italy painted around 1360 shows a spotted dog of the Dalmatian type. The Dominican order of friars who support this church wear white habits with black overcapes. The church came to be represented symbolically in the art of the day by a black and white dog, particularly during the time of the Inquisition, which was overseen by the order of the Dominicans. Is it too much of a stretch to think that Dominican could become Dalmatian and thus the name of the dog? Spotted dogs frequently accompanied bands of Romany people, or gypsies, as they wandered from India throughout Europe and on to England. Could that be how some Dalmatians acquired the talent for stealing and hiding treats and toys, still prevalent in some members of the breed to this day? Or was there another religious connection to the breed's name? Priests wear a vestment, a tunic-type garment with sleeves, which has come to be called a Dalmatic, because early ones were made of the wool from sheep from the mountains of Dalmatia. As the church's power increased in the world, the Dalmatic became more ornate and later ones from the time can be seen at the Vatican on display that are made of ermine - a white fur with black flecks or spots through it. All deacons and officiating bishops in the western Catholic church wear the Dalmatic, as do the kings and queens of England upon their coronation. And it is the English that have given him a myriad of nicknames - the English Coach Dog, the Carriage Dog, the Plum Pudding Dog, the Fire House Dog, the Spotted Dick - though the breed has been credited with a dozen nationalities and as many native names.

The duties the Dalmatian has performed are as varied as his reputed ancestors. He has been a dog of war, a sentinel on the borders of Dalmatia and Croatia. He has been employed as a draft dog and as a shepherd. He is excellent on rats and vermin. He is well-known for his heroic performances as a fire-apparatus follower and as a firehouse mascot. As a sporting dog he has been used as a bird dog, a trail hound, a retriever and in packs for boar and stag hunting. His retentive memory has made him one of the most dependable performers in circuses and on the stage. Down through the years, his intelligence and willingness have qualified him for virtually every role that useful dogs are called upon to perform.

But most important among his talents has been his status as the original, one and only coaching dog. There is no end of proof, centuries old, among history that shows the Dalmatian, early ones with ears entirely cropped away and wearing padlocked or brass-studded collars, plying his trade as follower and guardian of the horse-drawn vehicle. His affinity for horses remains a basic instinct to this day and it is fascinating indeed to watch an adolescent fall in behind a horse and cart in perfect position or trot just beside the shoulder of a horse upon his initial introduction, as if he had been doing it all his life, which, of course, his ancestors have! He is physically fitted for road work; speed and endurance blended perfectly in his make-up. His gait has beauty of motion and swiftness and he has the strength, vitality and fortitude to keep going gaily until journey's end. There is no dog more picturesque than this spotted fellow with his slick white coat gaily decorated with clearly defined round spots of jet black or deep brown (in the liver variety). He does not look like any other breed, for his markings are peculiarly his own. The Dalmatian is first of all a gentleman, a quiet chap and the ideal guard dog, distinguishing nicely between barkings for fun or with purpose. He is sensible, dependable and courteous toward strangers, but he is not everyone's dog - he has a fine sense of distinction as to whom he belongs. He is all ready for sport or the show ring just as nature made him, requiring no cropping, docking, stripping or artifices of any sort. His flashy spottings are the culmination of ages of careful breeding. At birth, however, the pigment is only in the skin and the hair is pure white, the color having to grow into the hair and begins to appear at about two weeks of age. The first Dalmatian was registered with the American Kennel Club in 1888 and the breed's parent club, the Dalmatian Club of America, was founded in 1905.

AKC MEET THE BREEDS®: Dalmatian



The only spotted breed, the Dalmatian is alert and active, possessing great endurance, speed and intelligence. Their working and sporting heritage makes them suitable as both a family pet or performance animal, and they are often found in the show, obedience and agility rings, or galloping alongside a horse as a coach dog in "road trials." Their short coat is white with black or liver (brown) spots.

A Look Back

Spotted dogs have appeared throughout history in Europe, Asia, and Africa, credited with a dozen nationalities and as many native names. The dog we know today as the Dalmatian has been a dog of war, a draft dog, shepherd, ratter, fire-apparatus follower, firehouse mascot, bird dog, trail hound and retriever. Most importantly, he is the original and only coaching dog. His affinity for horses remains a basic instinct to this day and the breed is a natural follower and guardian of the horse-drawn vehicle.

Right Breed for You?

The fun-loving, people-oriented Dalmatian thrives in a family environment. They are a high-energy breed and require daily exercise on leash or within a fenced area. The breed's short coat sheds almost year round, but regular brushing helps minimize the shedding.

If you are considering purchasing a **Dalmatian puppy**, [learn more here](#).

- Non-Sporting Group; AKC recognized in 1888.
- Ranging in size from 19 to 23 inches tall at the shoulder.
- Coach dog; guardian.

© The American Kennel Club, Inc.

Dalmatian Breed Standard

Non-Sporting Group

General Appearance

The Dalmatian is a distinctively spotted dog; poised and alert; strong, muscular and active; free of shyness; intelligent in expression; symmetrical in outline; and without exaggeration or coarseness. The Dalmatian is capable of great endurance, combined with fair amount of speed. Deviations from the described ideal should be penalized in direct proportion to the degree of the deviation.

Size, Proportion, Substance

Desirable height at the withers is between 19 and 23 inches. Undersize or oversize is a fault. Any dog or bitch over 24 inches at the withers is disqualified. The overall length of the body from the forechest to the buttocks is approximately equal to the height at the withers. The Dalmatian has good substance and is strong and sturdy in bone, but never coarse.

Head

The head is in balance with the overall dog. It is of fair length and is free of loose skin. The Dalmatian's **expression** is alert and intelligent, indicating a stable and outgoing temperament. The **eyes** are set moderately well apart, are medium sized and somewhat rounded in appearance, and are set well into the skull. Eye color is brown or blue, or any combination thereof; the darker the better and usually darker in black-spotted than in liver-spotted dogs. Abnormal position of the eyelids or eyelashes (ectropion, entropion, trichiasis) is a major fault. Incomplete pigmentation of the eye rims is a major fault. The **ears** are of moderate size, proportionately wide at the base and gradually tapering to a rounded tip. They are set rather high, and are carried close to the head, and are thin and fine in texture. When the Dalmatian is alert, the top of the ear is level with the top of the skull and the tip of the ear reaches to the bottom line of the cheek. The top of the skull is flat with a slight vertical furrow and is approximately as wide as it is long. The **stop** is moderately well defined. The cheeks blend smoothly into a powerful **muzzle**; the top of which is level and parallel to the top of the skull. The muzzle and the top of the skull are about equal in length. The **nose** is completely pigmented on the leather, black in black-spotted dogs and brown in liver-spotted dogs. Incomplete nose pigmentation is a major fault. The **lips** are clean and close fitting. The teeth meet in a **scissors bite**. Overshot or undershot bites are disqualifications.

Neck, Topline, Body

The **neck** is nicely arched, fairly long, free from throatiness, and blends smoothly into the shoulders. The **topline** is smooth. The **chest** is deep, capacious and of moderate width, having good spring of rib without being barrel shaped. The brisket reaches to the elbow. The underline of the rib cage curves gradually into a moderate tuck-up. The **back** is level and strong. The **loin** is short, muscular and slightly arched. The flanks narrow through the loin. The **croup** is nearly level with the back. The **tail** is a natural extension of the topline. It is not inserted too low down. It is strong at the insertion and tapers to the tip, which reaches to the hock. It is never docked. The tail is carried with a slight upward curve but should never curl over the back. Ring tails and low-set tails are faults.

Forequarters

The **shoulders** are smoothly muscled and well laid back. The **upper arm** is approximately equal in length to the shoulder blade and joins it at an angle sufficient to insure that the foot falls under the shoulder. The **elbows** are close to the body. The **legs** are straight, strong and sturdy in bone. There is a slight angle at the **pastern** denoting flexibility.

Hindquarters

The **hindquarters** are powerful, having smooth, yet well defined muscles. The **stifle** is well bent. The **hocks** are well let down. When the Dalmatian is standing, the hind legs, viewed from the rear, are parallel to each other from the point of the hock to the heel of the pad. Cowhocks are a major fault.

Feet

Feet are very important. Both front and rear feet are round and compact with thick, elastic pads and well arched toes. Flat feet are a major fault. Toenails are black and/or white in black-spotted dogs and brown and/or white in liver-spotted dogs. Dewclaws may be removed.

Coat

The **coat** is short, dense, fine and close fitting. It is neither woolly nor silky. It is sleek, glossy and healthy in appearance.

Color and Markings

Color and markings and their overall appearance are very important points to be evaluated. The ground color is pure white. In black-spotted dogs the spots are dense black. In liver-spotted dogs the spots are liver brown. Any color markings other than black or liver are disqualified. **Spots** are round and well-defined, the more distinct the better. They vary from the size of a dime to the size of a half-dollar. They are pleasingly and evenly distributed. The less the spots intermingle the better. Spots are usually smaller on the head, legs and tail than on the body. Ears are preferably spotted. **Tri-color**(which occurs rarely in this breed) is a disqualification. It consists of tan markings found on the head, neck, chest, leg or tail of a black- or liver-spotted dog. Bronzing of black spots, and fading and/or darkening of liver spots due to environmental conditions or normal processes of coat change are not tri-coloration. **Patches** are a disqualification. A patch is a solid mass of black or liver hair containing no white hair. It is appreciably larger than a normal sized spot. Patches are a dense, brilliant color with sharply defined, smooth edges. Patches are present at birth. Large color masses formed by intermingled or overlapping spots are not patches. Such masses should indicate individual spots by uneven edges and/or white hairs scattered throughout the mass.

Gait

In keeping with the Dalmatian's historical use as a coach dog, gait and endurance are of great importance. Movement is steady and effortless. Balanced angulation fore and aft combined with powerful muscles and good condition produce smooth, efficient action. There is a powerful drive from the rear coordinated with extended reach in the front. The topline remains level. Elbows, hocks and feet turn neither in nor out. As the speed of the trot increases, there is a tendency to single track.

Temperament

Temperament is stable and outgoing, yet dignified. Shyness is a major fault.

Scale of Points

General Appearance	5
Size, proportion, substance	10
Head	10
Neck, topline, body	10
Forequarters	5
Hindquarters	5
Feet	5
Coat	5
Color and markings	25
Gait	10
Temperament	<u>10</u>
Total	100

Disqualifications

*Any dog or bitch over 24 inches at the withers
Overshot or undershot bite.
Any color markings other than black or liver.
Tri-color
Patches*

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Dog resources

Dog products:

www.dog.com

www.fosterandsmith.com

www.petedge.com

www.naturesfarmacy.com (supplements)

www.thedca.org

Crates: I recommend crate training to all my owners. Get a crate that will be large enough for your adult dog, which is usually a 36" crate in length or sometimes the 42" for larger dogs. You can also get for some models a divider that allows you to restrict the crate size while the pup is small, to help w/ potty training.

Put plenty of bedding in the crate, and you may want to get a stainless steel water bucket for in there.

The suitcase collapse style crates are most handy in case you have to travel with them.

There are also many new soft side crates, but be careful with these w/ puppies who may chew them!

With your wire style crate, get a sheet or cover and put over the whole crate to make it have a "cave" feel to your dog. You may want to feed your dog in the crate. You are not using the crate as a discipline tool, but rather it is to become your dogs "safe place" of their very own in your home.

Our dogs eat in their crates and then rest 20-30 minutes after eating. They should not run or exercise shortly after eating.



FEEDING AND GENERAL GUIDELINES

FEEDING YOUR DALMATIAN

Below, I have listed recommended food options you can use on your Dalmatian.

Your puppy to date has been eating "Purina Pro Plan" Original chicken and rice formula puppy food. Another food I have sometimes mixed with this that you may like is Avoderm chicken and brown rice puppy food made by Breeders choice. I will give you some of what your pup has been eating to start them on at home.

If you do want to make a change, do so very gradually so as not to disrupt the gentle system. This is the food program the pups are on right now in more detail. They are eating 2-3 small meals per day.

Breakfast/AM: About 1/3 cup of the dry food blend, with water, and add to it 1 T. of plain or vanilla yogurt, and every other day, a T of pumpkin. Pumpkin and yogurt by themselves without dry food are good choices if the pup gets the runs. Another good item to have on hand for the runs is plain cooked oatmeal.

You can also use occasionally Meyers Goats milk, it comes in a can and it can be mixed with water, on a 50/50 basis. I weaned the puppies using the goats milk product and it is very good for skin and coat.

You can probably freeze the mixed milk since you will be using a little at a time. Again, if you use the goats milk just do it a few times a week as a variation. Avoid cows milk. Goats milk is more digestible for dogs.

Lunch: About the same amount dry or a little less. with water. At this meal I add some pedigree puppy canned food (lamb and rice) or the adult pedigree chicken and rice mashed food. About a T. and mix that in. At this meal I add the Ultrazyme vitamin powdered supplement and every other day I use Norwegian kelp supplement instead of the vitamin..

Dinner: (best if given by not later than 7 pm). A very light meal. Only $\frac{1}{4}$ cup or less of dry food and maybe just a bit of meat or yogurt. Keep the nite meal lighter.

NOTE: Since I cook for my adult dogs, you if you decide to do this could begin now at this age adding a bit of a cooked mix to the dry food diet. See Jonis chix Mix recipe at the end of the paper.
Mix this of course w/ water.

I do also will begin giving the pups that remain here some raw meat beginning at about 10-12 weeks of age. I start them out on raw chicken wings or a small or cut in half turkey neck. They would get these 2-3 times per week and when these are given they are given by themselves with nothing added, as a meal. See BARF diet page for more information about raw feeding.

Food cycle suggestions for the pup are:

8 weeks to 3 months of age: As described above,, if your pup looks too lean at the waist, or is "sausage shaped", (overweight) adjust your quantity. Your pup has his own metabolism so you need to adjust him or her accordingly. A little underweight is better than a fat puppy or dog! You should see a defined tuck up on the dog.

3-6 months of age: Feed 2 times per day, starting at around 3 months, and give a snack at midday, maybe a pup biscuit at bedtime. Or raw veggies and fruits cut up, like apples, carrots, cantaloupe, watermelon. NO grapes or citrus.

Quantity of dry is typically 3 cups per day at 6 months of age. You need to monitor the intake to be sure with the exercise level of your pup that the intake is right for the pup.

Please be sure to keep your pup slim! Overweight is hard on bone development and is bad for both pups and larger dogs.

Do not refer to the recommended feeding amounts on dog food bags. They generally recommend amounts that are way too much to keep your dog athletic, trim and in good overall condition.

or at around 4-5 months
Beginning at about 7-8 months, you can begin the gradual transition to your adult food, by blending it into the pup food. Contrary to many beliefs, and to what dog food manufacturers will tell you, young dogs do not need to be on puppy food until 1 year of age. I transition all my pups to adult food by the time they are ~~9 to 10~~ *5 to 6* mos. of age.

Transition to adult food:

Mix in your adult food slowly into what you have been feeding the pup.

My adults usually get yogurt in the morning and sometimes oatmeal or yogurt, and pumpkin also occasionally as part of the AM meal. Any of the additional items are mixed with the dry food and water.

In the evening, I give the kibble mixed with either canned meat (use chicken based products predominantly, or Tonis cooked chix mix or occasionally Bil Jac frozen meat.

I also use a partial raw diet on the adult dogs. I start giving puppies raw chicken wings at not sooner than 12-14 weeks of

age. I rotate in the raw diet into the kibble plan. On the days the dogs eat raw, they eat raw for both meals that day.

For the raw bones component, I buy from a very good meat market large 40 lb boxes of fresh, not frozen raw meaty chicken backs. Sometimes I use turkey necks. I subdivide the box into smaller bag packets and keep them in the freezer. I defrost them naturally (no microwaving allowed) and give the males 2 large backs and the girls get one large back for one of the meals on the raw day.

For the other meal that day I use a pre-packaged raw loaf or a bagged pre-prepared raw mixture I buy from a company who makes this food over in Marietta Georgia.

I feed "raw" about 3-4 days per week depending on what food I have in stock. So sometimes it does vary a bit.

Supplements: I supplement the evening meals at least every other day (kibble days) w/ a multi vitamin powder, currently I am using Ultimate by Natures Pharmacy,. I also like NUPRO powdered supplement for dogs.

I also use powdered Norwegian kelp and add a scoop of that to the evening meal on the off day.

Kelp is excellent for dals, it helps support digestion, a healthy thyroid and is good for their skin and coat.

I also supplement with fish oil tablets 3 times per week for skin and coat.

Snacks!

Don't forget your veggie and fruit snacks.

I use apples, carrots, bananas, watermelon, cantalope, I don't give citrus or grapes. Broccoli is pretty high in purines so not much of that is good. Sweet potatoes are GREAT, and I sometimes add those into my chixMix. Squashes, green beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, celery... sometimes I cook up a bunch of mashed sweet potatoes prepared with goats milk (diluted if you use the canned kind, as it is very rich straight out of the can).

Avoid citrus, grapes, raisins and of course chocolate which is toxic to dogs.

Purchased snacks: Look for ones that don't have too much stuff in them. I keep these pretty simple, I buy large boxes of biscuits made by a company called The happy hound. Others that I like are those made by Bil Jac, Purina, and Old Mother Hubbard.

For training treats I try to stick with those made from chicken or lamb, although I do like Biljac train treats too.

Health Information: General

There are articles on the DCA website (www.thedca.org) about all kinds of health topics including uric acid formation in Dalmatians and stone forming considerations. Males are more prone to these issues than the girls are, but most issues with stone formation are avoidable if you are careful with a dals diet. The short description of the problem is that Dalmatians do not process excessive proteins/purines very well.

So you want to watch the protein type and levels in the diet you feed.

I have a copy of a DCA article on this issue and a list of foods organized by purine level so you know which ones to avoid in general.

Estimated adult food dry quantity amount is 3-4 cups daily.. It does vary depending on metabolism and size of your dog. I have had some very active males eat up to 6 cups of food a day. For a larger male, go with at least 4 cups of dry food daily and watch the weight results and make changes based on what you I look at the dogs every day and see how their weight looks and make quantity adjustments as appropriate for each dog to maintain optimum weight and conditioning.

Most of my adults (bitches) do great on 2 ½ to 3 cups dry per day supplemented with my cooked concoction, and also w/ raw meaty bones on the days I feed raw as prescribed here..

BARF Diet: what is it and how can I learn more about it?

The BARF or raw diet came about from an Australian vet named Ian Billinghurst and he has a full weight site and many articles about the BARF diet and has several books on this topic. There are now many other websites that have taken off shoot approaches on how to properly feed raw so there is tons of new data and products in the world of BARF that have come on the scene and can be worth investing some time in to research and consider.

The plan I use here is what is often referred to as modified BARF since I do feed kibble based diet on some days and RAW on others.

Adult dog food Product comments:

My adults currently eat today Purina proplan chicken and rice adult food. I previously was using a blend of this food with Pedigree's small crunchy bites to make a more economical blend. I have recently (as of October 2008) discontinued use of Pedigree foods and am using only now Purina Pro Plan chicken and rice original adult, now re-blended into the shaved chicken formulation. It is working well at this time.

I have done some testing on some premium food products here at Starwood. Some of the foods I have personal experience with include NUTRO, AVODERM, chicken soup for the pet lover, and Eukenuba. I can share my experiences with these foods with you upon request.

What I currently recommend is what I am feeding as stated above and throughout this document.

For those on a tight budget, I would recommend Pedigree small crunchy bites as a base kibble.

We use
Purina Pro Plan
Chicken and Rice
"All life stages"
Our dogs did not do
as well on the
shredded blend.

When you read the pedigree label, you may feel alarmed because it says it has meat byproduct in it, as well as grains and chicken. but the overall protein of this food is 21%, much lower than many other foods. It is true that the ability of the dal to metabolize proteins/purines is more about the digestibility of the protein source itself.

However, from my experience using pedigree, I have not had or experienced allergy and coat problems on my dogs, and that inexpensive brand has proven to work well.

My recent discontinuation of this product had to do with a Mars company dog food recall problem of late, which has raised some questions in my mind about the manufacturing process controls with the company.

Until I get some answers from Pedigree on this question, my recommendation to use Purina if at all possible will stand..

I mentioned earlier about how I supplement the dry food with canned pedigree, BILJAC, and Jonis ChixMix, plus the meals where the dogs eat raw meaty bones.

With the above methods and the cooked food, I create for them a varied diet. By supplementing w/ the vitamin, & kelp I have been able to maintain proper weight and wonderful coats on my dals, and almost no allergies.

Foods I do not recommend do include Science diet, (please do not listen to your vet who will try to tell you to feed your dog science diet! Every dal person I have worked with who uses it has had weight management issues with this food. Vets get paid to recommend to it and it is not a food I endorse for Dalmatians.

Other foods I do not recommend are: Ol Roy, Regular Purina, or Beneful by Purina. I do not recommend foods that have a lamb base, many people do not realize that lamb has a higher purine level than either turkey or chicken which are both more moderate in purines.

Always give plenty of fresh water at all times. Dals are big drinkers.

Use filtered water, or even distilled water. Feed your dog from stainless steel bowls and use stainless steel for drinking water also. It is easiest to keep these kind of containers clean and disinfected.

Also, very important for them to have plenty of exercise, and regularity of voiding. Excessively long periods of crating of dals can contribute to bladder back up and be an initiator of stone formation issues.

Get your dog if possible on a regular daily schedule and stick to it, this will help you with your pup potty training for sure.

They do best when they have regularity in their routine...

Veterinarian Needs

Check with your vet. Any questions or concerns email me Tina

1. Complete your puppy shot series w/ your vet according to dates written on health card. Do not give Lepto until 12 weeks. Shots are to be given every 3 weeks, I have noted the due dates on your puppy health card.
2. Your puppy had the first shot at 6 weeks of age and 2 days. *Your vet will let you know*
3. Heartworm: Your pup pack has your first heartworm pill in it. *Give you a puppy kit*
4. Keep your dog on prevention consistently. Some people do not keep this up (in northern states) in winter and then they put their dogs back on heartworm in spring. I recommend continual maintenance on heartworm prevention. Most heartworm preventatives are also protecting against worms and parasites. *I gave a worm Heartgard on 12/1*
5. Do use flea, tick and prevention products. I recommend Frontline Plus, although I have heard good reports about BIOspot also, but it is not waterproof as is Frontline Plus.
6. Once puppy shot series is done, the dog can get annual vaccinations. There is new information though that suggests that the vaccination needs of our animals are not necessarily to be annual anymore. I have attached a copy of the review I saw recently on this subject and recommend you do your own research and I will keep you posted of what kind of regimen I decide on as far as a change from annuals in the routine here at starwood.

For dremels, these are available at sites like petedge.com and dog.com; or you can buy a simple, 2 speed battery operated dremel w/ a charger for around \$20 at Walmart that will work just fine.

Bathing: One of the worst things you can do is bathe your pup or dog too frequently. Many people do not realize this and set themselves up for coat problems from overbathing. I do not recommend bathing more than once a month or even less. As an example, My dogs here, except those in the show ring, are only bathed about every 3-4 months. Get a good conditioning shampoo, or a puppy formulated one. For puppies, Johnson baby shampoo works great too!

There are also waterless shampoos for quick clean up that you can keep on hand.

Weekly Maintenance: I recommend that you do the following once per week w/ your pup or dog.

- *Dremel the nails back

- *Clean out the ears (I use a cotton swab and witch hazel to clean in the ear) *Use a rubber smoothing or basic brush on the coat and then, optionally, use a light moisturizing coat spray. Fortunately, Dalmatians are easy to maintain with their short coats.

Very true!
Our dog get
very few
bathes. we
bath a
couple
months.
I use a
rubber brush
several times
a week to keep
loose hair out.
Daily fish oil
tablet and food
added to food
keeps coat healthy.

THOUGHTS ON FEEDING YOUR DALMATIAN

By Beth White, Melody Kennels/COLORADO

STARWOOD NOTES: *BETH WHITE has been in our breed for many years and is very sound in her breed understanding and depth of knowledge. . My recommended feeding regimen at starwood is consistent with Beth's comments in this article, my own experiences with the dogs produced at starwood have been similar to beth'. I do recommend the raw food regimen in addition to several kibble choices that I recommend only if their protein basis is a single source of either chicken or turkey.. I only recommend foods for my dalamntian owners that have proven out to deliver for me and the dogs I have bred consistency in results on many dogs. Using a single source protein based food is one of the keys to my food program recommendations, and as already stated, that protein source should be either chicken or turkey for Dalmatians.*

Joni Shoup, Starwood Dalmatians, EST. 1990

We generically recommend for most Dalmatians foods with the protein source of chicken and turkey, with protein levels in the range of 20-24%. No one food is good for all dogs, but with this range it should cover most dogs. Rather than the protein level, the source of the protein is what is important. Chicken and turkey are the lowest in purines.

If a Dalmatian has urinary problems then it usually means that he can't break down purines in his diet. Beef is highest in purines so we recommend the other protein sources. We also suggest that Dalmatians (again, most dogs) be fed scraps as a healthy addition to their "balanced" diet. It is interesting to note that all foods, from Walmart's Old Roy to the most expensive foods on the market state "nutritionally complete" or "balanced". Ever wonder why pet foods are considered balanced but human food isn't?

Scraps help make the dog's diet more complete. One of the worst things that has happened to modern pets is modern dog food....but that is another story. When we used to slop the hogs and slop the dogs, we didn't have hip dysplasia or many of the other more modern structural problems. Our convenient dog foods are an improvement in many ways, but they are not complete or balanced. Scraps are also "tasty" and fun for the dog.

Veterinarians began recommending not feeding human food when the average pet was found to be too fat. Moving from the farm to the city and from work to retirement caused many pets to loose their shape. Feeding too many scraps isn't good if it adds weight to dog, but there are just too many nutrients that go down the drain or in the trash that are helpful and useful to our pets. Modern dog foods are not always the best source of nutrients (from a source of diseased livestock possibly, etc.). The foods are also shipped long distances and sit on the shelf sometimes for months, are exposed to heat, etc. All this contributes to reduction in the quality and quantity of nutrients within the food fed to our pets.

There is a growing movement of feeding dogs raw diets, with great health results. For more information, search for Bones and Raw Food diet (BARF), or authors Billingshurst or Pitcairn, who have excellent books on the subject, on the web. Another great resource for dog owners is The Whole Dog Journal. Call 1-800-829-

9165 for a trial copy.

Some dogs (Dalmatians included) can't tolerate ethoxyquin. It is best to feed a food without this preservative. Dalmatians (all dogs even) should always be fed with water added to their food. It need not be soaked, but served like milk on a bowl of cereal. Ask yourself why we add milk to a bowl of grain. It is easier to eat that way. But, with a Dalmatian, there is the added benefit of the dog taking in a larger quantity of water than normal (in order to get to his food) and he flushes his kidneys twice a day. This is good for the kidneys.

All dogs should be fed twice a day. Fortunately, most people have gotten away from feeding only once a day. Livestock is fed twice a day and we eat three times. Once a day simply isn't enough. We don't recommend free feeding because it isn't practical if water is added to the food. If not eaten immediately, it becomes soggy and then either spoils or is wasted. Besides, food exposed to the air loses more of its nutritional potency.

When a Dalmatian has urinary stones the old method, prior to modern commercial kidney diets, was to feed rice and vegetables (cooked with oil, bacon grease, salt, herbs of all sorts for flavor, etc.). Cottage cheese can also be added. Commercial kidney foods are fine, but they are usually not very palatable and often expensive.

Rice and vegetables are healthy and any Dalmatian can live on them and look great. Nothing gets fat on rice! When I prepared this diet for a dog that I once kept, I cooked the rice with various types of oils (Olive, safflower, corn, etc.) and threw in whatever herbs and seasonings I had on the shelf. I also added potatoes, green beans, and many other vegetables (other than broccoli since it is high in purines). The rice concoction was quite tasty and I usually sampled it too! A vitamin/mineral supplement was also added.

Dogs fed rice and vegetables usually hold their weight quite well. The owner, however, must remember to feed more than he would feed commercial dog food. The good thing is that most dogs actually love rice and vegetables, when herbs and spices and oils are added during cooking. Most of the time this method only requires cooking twice a week. Cook large batches and refrigerate what isn't fed. Warm cold rice concoction and water in the microwave slowly. When traveling, obviously, it would be better to take commercial kidney foods.

For non-chronic stone formers, but dogs with gravel or sediment in need of veterinary treatment, it is always best to follow your veterinarians advice. But, once the urine has attained a normal pH, attempt to start the dog back onto a quality commercial food. Often a dog's system has been corrected and by feeding low purines and lots of water, he can return to commercial foods. Make sure that the food is **WELL WATERED**.

One manner of managing elevated pH in the urine is to use baking soda. If the urine is becoming acidic and/or the dog is possibly showing red skin under the armpits, on the tummy and wherever the hair is short, it can usually be helped by a weekly regiment of baking soda. Serve the average sized Dalmatian 1/4 tsp. of baking soda one time a day mixed in the wetted dog food. Do this for one week once a month, if needed. This procedure usually keeps dogs on the edge from going on into further problems. It also helps keep the grass green in backyards too!

When taking a urine sample to the veterinarian for testing, make sure that the

sample is not refrigerated, but read as soon as possible after collection. Cold and time can affect urine readings. The urine should also be the first pee of the day so that it is concentrated.

Experience has shown that if a Dalmatian is fed a quality diet, with fruits and vegetables and water added, and twice a day....he is not likely to have urinary problems. Also, about 40% of the time urine might show sediment... simply because they are Dalmatians. Unless there are accompanying health symptoms, this should not necessarily be a reason for treatment. Sediment should be monitored, but that alone doesn't necessarily warrant a change in diet or treatment. Adding water to the food and/or baking soda will likely do the trick. Veterinarians sometimes can be very concerned about sediment in a Dalmatian's urine, and yet the dog displays no health problems. Chances are the next urine sample may not have sediment. Use the above suggestions for feed and water and the dog will likely be fine.

There are many "normal" Dalmatians that can be fed a beef based food. You just won't know which dog could develop stones until it is too late. So, it is best to feed all Dalmatians as described above. My husband and I have had a house full of Dalmatians since 1965 and we have never had a kidney or bladder stone. We add water and feed chicken!