

Statement from the Dalmatian Club of America

Once again, Dalmatians will be in the spotlight in November with Disney's release of their new movie, 102 Dalmatians. The Board of Governors and the 1100 members of the Dalmatian Club of America (DCA) understand and appreciate the appeal of these wonderful spotted dogs. Dalmatians are lovable, intelligent and loyal companions. They are devoted to their owners and, above all else, want to be part of the family activities. The Dalmatian is a medium-large, happy, athletic, active breed.

The American Kennel Club encourages prospective owners to research a breed carefully before deciding to make a purchase. The DCA agrees with this idea and urges anyone considering getting a Dalmatian to find out as much as possible about the breed before bringing one into their family. You should contact a DCA member in your area to learn more about Dalmatians, and to help you find a responsible breeder or refer you to an affiliated rescue group.

It is most important to resist the urge to buy any dog on impulse. Owning a dog is a serious responsibility and a long-term commitment, actually adding a new member to the family. Taking the time to learn about Dalmatians before acquiring one is the best way to ensure a long and happy relationship for all.

The Dalmatian Club of America, established in 1905, is an organization of breeders, owners and fanciers who are dedicated to the preservation, improvement, health and welfare of the Dalmatian breed.

Be sure to browse our web site, www.thedca.org for more information about the Dalmatian and the Dalmatian Club of America.

Where to get a Dalmatian

The best source for a Dalmatian puppy or adult is a reputable breeder who is a member of the Dalmatian Club of America or one of its regional clubs, or from an affiliated rescue group. The choice between a puppy and an adult should be guided by your lifestyle, your energy and activity level, and the amount of time you will have to spend with your Dalmatian.

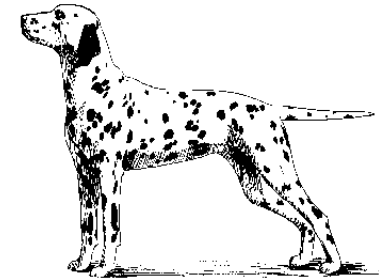
A responsible breeder or rescue group will ask for references, will require an explicit written contract outlining the responsibilities of the new home, and will perform a home check. The breeder or rescue group will always be available to answer questions about training, care, and any other concerns and to make referrals to veterinarians, trainers, and dog clubs.

All dogs will have adjustment periods in new homes. This is the time to bond with your new Dalmatian and to establish behavioral guidelines. Obedience or training classes are strongly encouraged and will help make this adjustment easier.

Responsible dog ownership begins with choosing the right breed of dog for your lifestyle. Make sure you spend time with real Dalmatians. Take as much time as you need to consider your decision.



The DALMATIAN



For more information contact:
The Dalmatian Club of America
www.thedca.org

Corresponding Secretary
2316 McCrary Road
Richmond, TX 77469

Breeder Referral
referrals@thedca.org

Rescue Education (DCARE)
dcare@dog.com
Rescue Hotline 540-349-9022

Membership
widderm@vcss.k12.ca.us

The American Kennel Club
www.akc.org

The Dalmatian Club of America Foundation
www.dcaf.org

For additional rescue resources—
Dalmatian Assistance League/Dalsavers
www.dalsavers.com

What is a Dalmatian like?

Size — preferably 19” to 24” at the shoulders

Weight — 40 to 65 lbs.

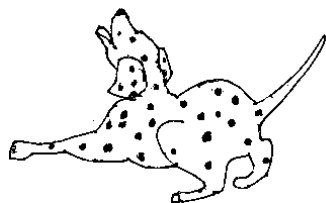
Color — white background with black or liver (dark brown) spots; eyes may be brown and/or blue.

Hair and Coat — short and dense; sheds all year; requires regular brushing

Intelligence — very intelligent and eager to learn if trained consistently with positive reinforcement methods. Many Dalmatians excel in obedience, agility, tracking, and road trials.

Energy Level — very active with lots of stamina; requires regular exercise.

Purpose of Dalmatians — No one is sure where the breed originated. Dalmatians became popular in England and the British isles as coach dogs. They would clear the road of stray animals and also guard the carriages and horses. They served a similar purpose for horse-drawn fire apparatus. When fire engines became mechanized, Dalmatians stayed on as mascots. Today most Dalmatians are family companions.



Health Issues in Dalmatians

There are certain health problems associated with every breed of purebred dog and with mixed breeds. Those of specific concern to Dalmatians are:

Deafness The only accurate way to determine a dog’s hearing status is through Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response (BAER) Testing. The Dalmatian Club of America does not endorse selling or giving away bilaterally deaf puppies. Reputable breeders will supply you with hearing test results.

Bladder Stones The Dalmatian has a unique problem with processing purine-forming proteins, which may cause the formation of bladder stones. Dalmatians should be fed medium or low protein commercial dog food or a diet that is low in purine forming proteins. The DCA website www.thedca.org has a great deal of information on this subject.

Other Issues - Regardless of the breed selected, you may wish to discuss general canine health concerns with your veterinarian, including dysplasia, hypothyroidism, seizures, allergies, and eye problems.

The Dalmatian Club of America Foundation www.dcaf.org, a 501 (c) 3 corporation, sponsors research and education on many important health issues. Donations may be directed to: DCAF Treasurer, 1348 Beulah Park, Lexington, KY 40517. To purchase The Official Book of the Dalmatian, send a check for \$47.95 to DCAF Book, P.O. Box 632, Elgin, IL 60121-0632.



Tips for Success

1. Take the time to learn as much as possible about the Dalmatian before you buy or adopt. Members of the Dalmatian Club of America and affiliated rescue groups will be happy to supply you with information.
2. Try to attend a few dog shows. Dog shows are an excellent place to talk to breeders and to see good representatives of the breed.
3. Always get a written contract from the breeder or rescue group that outlines the responsibilities of both parties. Be prepared to supply references and feel free to ask the breeder or rescue group for references.
4. Plan to take your new Dalmatian to the veterinarian for a thorough examination within two or three days of purchase/adoption.
5. Plan to attend training classes taught with positive reinforcement methods. Observe the classes before registering. Puppies can start classes as young as 10 or 12 weeks.
6. Spay or neuter your Dalmatian to prevent unwanted litters and to reduce the risk of certain behavioral and health problems.
7. Be sure to keep your dog safely confined in a fenced yard, in the house, or on lead. Small children cannot be expected to be responsible for a dog out in public. Training classes will make control of your dog in public a lot easier.
8. Tattoo or microchip your Dalmatian for permanent identification.
9. Dalmatians want and need to be part of the family. Include your Dalmatian in as many family activities as possible. Quality time spent with your Dalmatian will ensure a better relationship.