

# **DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA**

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## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: HISTORICAL PROJECTS  
From: Historian Committee (Cindy Ingalls, Cheryl Steinmetz, Robert Von Mayer)  
Date: September 1997

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One current project For the DCA Historian's Committee is to complete the photographic collection, to the maximum extent possible, of the BOB, WD, WB and BOS winners from our Specialties beginning with 1926. This is to be augmented with the photos of the Futurity and Sweepstakes winners. Largely due to the dedicated efforts of Amy Lipschutz, our previous Historian, the collection is remarkably complete for the dogs from the early years. We do have pictures of about two thirds of the winning Dals. Our first display of these photographs was during the 1997 National Specialty in Detroit, but we need your help to finish to job. Should you have an actual photograph that you could have duplicated it will be greatly appreciated. Even a good Canon color copy of a photo of any of the missing dogs will help. The Committee continues to search old books, old magazines and old specialty catalogs to fill in the voids. The photos that have been mailed in since the '97 Specialty have been a big help. Personal letters will be written to individuals who have been with the breed for many years seeking these missing photos. Please consult your personal collection to see if you may have a photo (especially a DCA photo) of our missing winners including the following:

Bonson Chukker, Cabaret Charivari, Coachmaster's Roadette, Count Shadow, Cress Brook Kingman, Crestview Domino Mischief, Cumberland Patrician, Dame Julia of Pacifica, Dapplewhite Folly, Dash's Shining Star, Dipper, Domino Dan of Fleetwood Farms, Domino The Spur, Dots a Plenty From Birch Dal, Dottidale Cedelia, Drumhille Copper Chancellor, Duke of Gervais, Fine Time From Dalmatia, Four in Hand Blackberry, Four in Hand Fantasy, Four in Hand Spatterdash Fran Beth Adventure, Gambler's Luck, Gladmore Guardsman, Gladmore Horseman, Goworth Grenadier, Hamelot's Magic Maker, Head of the River Carbon Copy, Hollow Hills Dorris, Inkspot of Tattoo, King's Hope of Rabbit Run, Lady Betsy's Little Dutchess, Lady Culpepper of Reigate, Little Slam's Wilder N'ell Babe, Lorbyndale Song Spinner, Master Patrick, Mournful Maid of Tattoo, Pennydale Cameo, Pennydale Cinderella, Penworth Ajewel, Pepper of Velvet Pennies, Princess Dilly of Fairmeadow, Princess Sara, Quaker Acre Phantom Rogue, R Love Apollo, Reigate Angel Chile, Reigate Mimi Jodace 0 the Rain, Reigate Miss Springtime, Reigate Ponder, Roadcoach Chocolate Royal, Roadcoach Phaeton, Roadcoach Racing Colors, Sally Who of Stubbington, Sawyer's Duke, Shuss Boom, Strathglass Buttons, Strathglass Cricket, Tally Ho Hesper, Tally Ho Juanita, Tally Ho Sampson, Tally Ho Sonia, Tapestry of Tattoo, Teetotler of the Walls, Thadan's Treasure of G-T, The Lunatic of Tattoo, Thomdown Rabalette, Tomalyn's Air Cadet, Tomalyn's Ebony, Tomalyn's Smoke Eater, Tuckaway Dotted Swiss, Twill of Tattoo, Valto's Lady of Honor, Wakefield My Fair Lady, Wayfaring Goldenrod, Williamsview Michael, or Zodiac's Snoopy.

Should you have photos of any of these dogs, please contact Cindy Ingalls at 3206 Hustead Rd, Springfield, Ohio 45502-8717 or call 937/324-3535.

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

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The second project is the Best In Show book. Currently 93 Dalmatians have earned Best In Show honors. The DCA Historian's Committee is working with Mr. Walter Johnson, to create a book for publication to show the first 100. The exact format is, as yet, undecided. The book will contain pictures, full pedigrees for up to 10 generations, show records and memories of these dogs. Because of the conscientious efforts of our previous DCA Historians, our collection of Best In Show winners is remarkably complete. We are seeking Best in Show photos, if possible, for the following dogs: Ard Aven Mr. Checkers, Beaumont of Pacifica, Gladmore Guardsman, Roadcoach Post Parade, Rovingdale's Impudent Ingenue, Strathglass Cricket and Willy Overland In The Valley. If you have any photo of these dogs, PLEASE contact Robert Von Mayr at 9488 CR 865, Princeton, Texas 75407 or call him on 972/734-3455. Should you have a favorite photo of your more recent Best In Show winner that you prefer to have used for this publication, please be sure to get a copy of that photo to Robert.

The American Kennel Club has hired a historian/archivist named Geraldine Hayes. She has requested the parent clubs provide AKC with a "wish list" of materials. We will continue to strive to provide her with the materials she has requested. Her list includes:

- 1) a list of officers throughout the history of the Club (this sounds like you could just go to the catalogs for the early specialties and look it up. but many of the early shows were held in conjunction with an All-Breed show and the club officers were not identified);
- 2) information on the Specialty shows ( first show, current specialty number, etc);
- 3) Specialty Show winners;
- 4) Sweeps and futurity winners;
- 5) Obedience /hunting/ field/ agility titles ( for DCA this would have to include Road Trial titles instead of the hunting and field titles);
- 6) Multi-titled dogs;
- 7) List of outstanding sires and dams;
- 8) Club scrapbooks/pictures;
- 9) Prominent breeders who might have additional information or photographs;
- 10) Non-show activities of the club.

As you can see your DCA Historian's Committee will have to turn to YOU to help us fill in the blanks. Individually, many of us have the bits and pieces she has requested. Should you have material that may help us comply with AKC's request we would appreciate hearing from you.

Your current DCA Historian's Committee members are:

Cindy Ingalls, 937/324-3535 3206 Husted Road Springfield, Ohio 45502-8717	Robert Von Mayr 972/734-3455 9488 CR 865 Princeton, Texas 75407	Cheryl Steinmetz 612/591-1577 2001 Lancaster Street Minnetonka, MN 55305-2653
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## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: PET FIRST AID  
From: Membership Education Committee (Sharon Podleski)  
Date: December 1997

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The following is an abstract from Jacquanette Renta's, DVM paper written for the DCA educational program in Olympia, Washington in 1996.

**Assessment:** Be as calm as possible when arriving at the scene involving an injured animal. An injured animal can bite so be prepared to muzzle the dog: slip a leash, belt, rope, a nylon, etc. over the nose and then beneath the jaw. Tie a knot snugly under the jaw, and then tie the ends behind the dog's head where it connects to the neck.

**Evaluate the injuries:** Check for heartbeat, bleeding, breathing, lift the lip and look at the color of the gums. Press the gums to see if the color comes back - if white, the dog possibly is in shock. Once the extent of the injuries has been initially determined, it is time to administer first aid as indicated and then take the dog to the veterinary hospital. You may have to lay the dog on a board or in a blanket to lift the dog into a vehicle for transport. You may have to tie the animal down if he/she is thrashing about.

**CPR:** When an animal's breathing and circulation stops irreversible brain damage can occur within 5-12 minutes. Obvious signs of cardiopulmonary arrest are dilated unresponsive pupils, unconsciousness, no breathing, and no struggling for breath. Begin the first aid "A-B-C's".

**First Aid A:** Place the animal horizontally on its side and extend the neck. Open the mouth and check for an obstruction (a ball, a nut, etc.). Try NOT to use your fingers to remove any obstruction. You may have to use the Heimlich Maneuver to expel an object. Put your hand behind the last rib and to the front of the abdomen - compress 5 - 10 times to dislodge the object. Repeat, if necessary.

**First Aid B:** Breathing: once the airway is clear, pull the dog's tongue out of its mouth and close the teeth over it, breathe shallow puffs into a puppy's nostrils and more forceful blowing for larger dogs. Look for the chest rising and falling. You may have to use the Heimlich Maneuver again; then repeat the nostril breathing technique. If no response, proceed to "C".

**First Aid C:** Chest compressions: small dogs require 1 thumb on 1 side of the chest and fingers on the other side. Compress with one hand. Large dogs require both hands (one on top of the other) and press down behind the dog's elbow on the chest wall. Remember to use a good deal of force, be rhythmic in motion, and relax your arms and hands between compressions. Aim for 100 compressions per minute to ensure blood flow. Count out loud: one and two and three... to fifteen. Give 2 breaths and repeat to the count of fifteen. Perform 3 cycles before checking for a pulse or heartbeat.

When to stop?

1. When the animal starts to breathe on its own and has a normal heartbeat.
2. When the animal is in the vet's care.
3. When CPR has been performed for 60 minutes with no response.

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: PET FIRST AID

From: Membership Education Committee (Sharon Podleski)

Date: December 1997

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**SHOCK:** The common signs are pale gums, rapid breathing, a weak heart rate, glassy-eyed, and has collapsed.

First Aid: stop the bleeding if possible. Wrap the dog in a blanket or jacket and go to the nearest veterinary hospital as the dog can die.

**BURNS:** Apply plenty of ice cold water for 10 minutes. Do not put any ointment or bandage on the burn area – the heat needs to escape, not to be trapped on the skin's surface. You can wrap the animal loosely in a wet sheet (not a blanket or towel) when transporting to the vet.

**POISONINGS:** Signs are panting excessively, foaming at the mouth, collapse, hot to the touch - a temperature of 105 degrees or more. Act immediately, immerse the dog in cold water or run the hose on him. Take the temperature every 5 minutes until it is less than 103 degrees. Cover the dog with a blanket and transport to the vet immediately!

**OTHER:** Hypothermia, broken bones, allergic reactions, paralysis, head trauma, snake bites, inability to urinate, prolonged labor (4 hours) with no puppy, or eclampsia (1 -3 weeks after whelping the bitch may be stiff-legged, stagger about, pant and shiver which all indicates a calcium imbalance) all require swift veterinary attention. You can not treat these situations at home!

**CONCLUSION:** The rule of thumb is to be prepared, don't panic, use first aid if applicable, and get the injured animal to a veterinary facility **ASAP**.

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

## IN CASE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT- HAVE YOU PREPARED FOR YOUR DOG'S CARE?

*Traveling to shows, veterinarian offices, for a romp in the park or any time your dog is traveling in the car, van or motor home there is the possibility an accident will happen.*

*Carrying in your motor vehicle the "In Case of Accident" form, a copy of health records (rabies, allergies, etc.), and a description of the dog can help give your dog the proper care in case of an accident.*

*The Membership Education Committee suggests the following form be used.*

In case of an accident...

In the event that I, \_\_\_\_\_, am incapacitated and unable to make my wishes known regarding my dog(s), please honor the following requests:

\_\_\_\_\_ is to be contacted as soon as possible at the following phone number \_\_\_\_\_ . Call collect and mention my name.

If the above number cannot be reached, contact \_\_\_\_\_ at the following phone number \_\_\_\_\_ All expenses for the dog(s) will be paid by them.

If the dog(s) are not injured, they are to be cared for by the nearest reputable boarding kennel, and be kept in the best possible manner, until such time that arrangements can be made for their transport home.

If the dog(s) are injured, they are to be cared for by the nearest reputable veterinarian. I prefer that my veterinarian, \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ be contacted regarding decisions on the dog(s) care and treatment. If any dog is injured beyond all hope of recovery, that dog is to be humanely euthanized.

Photographs and descriptions of the dog(s) are attached, along with their health records. These dogs are (1) tattooed on the \_\_\_\_\_ or (2) microchipped with this (these) identification number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

The welfare of my dog(s) is my primary consideration.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

## SALES AGREEMENT

The Dalmatian puppy described below is being sold as (encircle number applicable):

1. A potential conformation competition or breeding-quality animal,
2. A potential obedience competition animal,
3. A home companion.

Sex:	Color/Markings:
Date of Whelping:	AKC/Litter Reg.#:
Sire:	Dam:
Buyer:	Telephone:
Address:	
Seller:	Telephone:
Address:	
FOR THE TOTAL PRICE OF \$	

This Dalmatian is guaranteed to be in good health at the time of sale and for 48 hours thereafter. The Buyer will be given a complete record of all inoculations and wormings done prior to sale. Buyer will also be provided with at least a four generation pedigree and properly completed and signed AKC registration papers. It is required that this Dalmatian be examined by the Buyer's veterinarian within 48 hours. Should any serious illness be found at that time, upon written certification from the veterinarian, this Dalmatian may be returned for a refund of the purchase price (the amount of cash actually paid by Buyer to Seller).

### CONDITIONS OF SALE (encircle only those paragraph numbers which apply)

1. The Buyer agrees to provide this Dalmatian with a fenced yard and/or will not permit this Dalmatian to run loose outside its owner's yard. This Dalmatian is to be considered a companion and thus, a house dog which will not be left out in the weather. The Buyer shall never abandon this Dalmatian to an animal shelter or sell it to a research center.

2. It is understood that this Dalmatian is being purchased as a potential show or breeding-quality animal. Buyer agrees to act as Insurer in this respect by following Seller's Instructions on diet, training and grooming. Buyer shall offer this Dalmatian every opportunity of success in the show ring through proper conditioning and presentation including the possible services of a professional handler if deemed necessary.

3. This Dalmatian is guaranteed to be free of hereditary crippling and/or disabling defects visible by 24 months of age. Determination of what constitutes a hereditary defect is to be by the unanimous agreement of two (2) veterinarians agreeable to both parties. One of these veterinarians to be a tenured faculty member of an accredited university veterinary teaching hospital or Board-certified in the applicable specialty. Cost of the opinions are to be assumed by the Buyer. (Encircle one choice of following three (3) options, that choice to be initialed both by Buyer and Seller on lines to left of chosen option:)

a. \_\_\_\_\_ Refund of \_\_\_\_\_ % provided the living Dalmatian and its registration papers are returned to Seller.

b. \_\_\_\_\_ Replace with the next likely available prospect or mutually agreeable animal provided the living Dalmatian and its registration papers are returned to Seller.

c. \_\_\_\_\_ Adjustment (to be filled in at time of sale): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

4. Buyer agrees that this Dalmatian, if a bitch, shall not be serviced by a stud at least before she attains the age of 18 months and her second season. Special agreements concerning breedings are listed at the end of this contract and initialed by both parties. **NO PROGENY OF THIS DALMATIAN SHALL BE SOLD, GIVEN OR TRANSFERRED IN ANY MANNER TO PET SHOPS, IN LITTER LOTS, OR TO PERSONS CONTEMPLATING BREEDING FOR SALE TO COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTORS OF DOGS OR GUARD DOG BUSINESSES.** Therefore, for each Infraction a \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per puppy fine will be paid to the Seller.

5. If Buyer should ever decide that he can no longer keep this Dalmatian for whatever reason, Seller shall have the right of first refusal. Buyer shall offer said Dalmatian to Seller at a price equal to, or less, than that at which it will be sold to the general public. It is clearly stated and understood by the Buyer that returning the Dalmatian with its papers and acceptance by the Seller does not implicitly imply a refund or repurchase by the Seller. The Buyer agrees that any repurchase or refund by the Seller which might be agreed to, will be effected by costs of placing the Dalmatian in another home, retraining and any other costs incurred by the Seller subsequent to the return of the Dalmatian. Therefore, only written offers from the Seller to the Buyer will be honored. Expressly prohibited are any obligations on the Seller by the Buyer based on alleged verbal statements. The "re-purchase" of said Dalmatian and its papers by the Seller automatically voids any controls held by the Buyer.

Said offer shall be made by certified mail, return receipt requested, and Buyer shall not sell the Dalmatian for 15 days after receipt of notice

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

## SALES AGREEMENT (continued)

by Seller, and Seller shall have that 15 days in which to respond to Buyer's sales offer. If Seller does not respond or declines to purchase the Dalmatian, Buyer shall be free at the end of the 15 day waiting period to sell said Dalmatian to another person at not less than the price offered to Seller. Buyer and Seller shall keep each other advised of their current addresses. Buyer may not sell any Dalmatian from which Seller is entitled to puppies or stud service unless legal provisions are made to secure Seller's rights to the stud services or puppies due, or Seller has been paid compensation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per stud service and \$\_\_\_\_\_ per puppy due.

6. Buyer swears he is not acting as an agent in the purchase of this Dalmatian and that he will not sell this Dalmatian to any agent, pet store, guard dog business or research facility. Buyer also agrees this animal will not be used as a guard dog for any business and will not be chained or attack-trained.

7. Special conditions:

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8. ENTIRE AGREEMENT . It is understood and agreed that Buyer by signing this form has read and understands the provisions of this contract. Furthermore, this written agreement constitutes all the conditions of the sale and no verbal statements either before or after the sale will be binding in any way

9. A deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_ reserves said Dalmatian for Buyer until \_\_\_\_\_ at which time Buyer will pay the balance of the purchase price in cash and take delivery of the Dalmatian, or Buyer's deposit will be forfeited and Seller shall be free to sell the Dalmatian to another buyer. The undersigned have read this agreement, understand it, and agree to perform its terms on the day and date written below. This agreement shall not be in effect until both signatures are affixed and deposit has been accepted.

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Signature of Buyer (^)

Date

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Signature of Seller (^)

Date

### ETHICAL GUIDELINES - THE DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

1. To become educated in the fundamentals of owning, breeding and exhibiting dogs.
2. To understand the basic laws of genetics, the standard of the breed and the difference between the correct and incorrect before attempting to breed.
3. To register all breeding stock with the American Kennel Club and to keep accurate records of all matings, litters and pedigrees.
4. To follow good business practices and ethics in breeding contracts and to honor all agreements. Written agreements are encouraged.
5. To transfer puppies only after they have reached at least six weeks of age, to provide at least a three-generation pedigree and to insure that the buyer has the physical facilities to care for a dog.
6. To insure that puppies or adults are never knowingly sold or consigned to pet stores, wholesalers or commercial dealers. To not knowingly supply dogs for raffles, giveaways, prizes or other such projects.
7. To insure that all advertising is factual and not misleading. Never to engage in malicious criticism and to separate fact from fiction before repeating comments heard from others.
8. To adhere to the rules of the AKC while exhibiting, to practice the principles of good sportsmanship and to consider competitors as a challenge, not a threat.
9. To insure that all dogs are provided adequate food, shelter and medical care.
10. To insure that while engaged in the art and science of judging, that the only influence will be the quality of the animals to be judged.
11. To always insure that actions be directed toward the best interests of the Dalmatian Breed, the Dalmatian Club of America and the American Kennel Club.

**Disclaimer**

The Dalmatian Club of America is in no way responsible or liable, financially or otherwise, because of the use of this contract form by its members or by non-members who obtain and use it.

**DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA**  
**STUD SERVICE CONTRACT**

The bitch named:
AKC #:
Owned by:
Address:
Phone:

Is bred to (dog's name):
AKC #:
Owned by:
Address:
Phone:

A stud fee of \$\_\_\_\_\_ will be paid at the time of the first breeding unless previous mutual arrangements have been made between the bitch and stud owners. These arrangements are (To be written in full):

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**CONDITIONS**

1. This contract guarantees the actual mating of the listed dogs and does not guarantee pregnancy or puppies.
2. Veterinarian certification of health and breeding soundness of the bitch including free of worms, negative brucellosis and no vaginal infections.
3. The owner of the bitch is responsible for preventing accidental breeding to another dog. This, and/or the use of a pregnancy preventative shot, will unconditionally void this contract
4. During pregnancy, the owner of the bitch has the sole responsibility for providing a safe and healthy environment for the bitch as well as a healthy and safe environment for whelping and raising the litter. The owner will also provide veterinary care for the bitch and pups as necessary. Failure to do so will void this contract.
5. Should the bitch fail to whelp \_\_\_\_\_ living puppies, one additional service will be given free at the next season of the bitch provided ownership of the bitch and the stud has not transferred. No stud fee will be refunded, in whole or in part. If no pregnancy results from the return mating, this entire agreement is terminated.
6. In the event of a return breeding due to conditions listed in #5; if the stud dog dies or is not available for reasons of health, the stud dog owner will offer another stud dog he/she owns or a refund of half the original stud fee.
7. Papers for each patched puppy will be withheld by the bitch owner until the patched puppy has been neutered and proof thereof is submitted. Or, the patched puppies will be registered under limited registration with the AKC.
8. Deaf puppies will be euthanized by a veterinarian or shall be donated to the DCA deafness research laboratory.

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

## STUD SERVICE CONTRACT

9. Owner of the bitch agrees **NOT TO KNOWINGLY SELL, CONSIGN FOR SALE, GIVE OR OTHERWISE TRANSFER OWNERSHIP OF ANY OR ALL OF SAID PUPPIES TO ANY PERSON ENGAGED IN THE RESALE OF DOGS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC OR ANY RESEARCH LABORATORY** other than mentioned in #8. A fine of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per puppy is payable to owner of the stud dog if there is an infraction of this clause.

10. Special variations (To be written in full. Verbal agreements which conflict with the terms of this contract will not be recognized.):

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11. It is specifically agreed hereby that the owner of the bitch will be liable for all attorneys' and/or legal fees incurred by the owner of the dog to gain performance of the above stated contractual obligations on the part of the owner of the bitch.

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Signature of stud owner (^) Date

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Signature of bitch owner (A) Date

**DISCLAIMER**

The Dalmatian Club of America is in no way responsible or liable, financially or otherwise,  
Because of the use of this contract form by its members, or non-members who obtain and use it.

**(FOR RECORD OF LITTER. NOT PART OF CONTRACT)**

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1st breeding date: \_\_\_\_\_

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2nd breeding date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Whelping date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Bitch whelped                      male puppies and                      female puppies on                      19

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Litter Registration #: \_\_\_\_\_

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Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

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# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: AGILITY GENERAL INFORMATION

From: Agility committee (Carolyn Bolt)

Date: December 1997

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An Agility Trial is a timed performance event at which dogs may earn qualifying scores toward various titles. In these events dogs perform off-lead on obstacle courses resembling a Grand Prix Horse Jumping course. In these programs, dogs begin with a basic level and progress to more complex levels, demonstrating higher degrees of training and cooperation with their handlers. Titles are awarded by a number of organizations including the American Kennel Club (AKC), United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA), North American Dog Agility Council (NAD AC), and the United Kennel Club (UKC).

The Dalmatian is a natural for agility. Since the Dalmatian is the only breed traditionally bred and trained to accompany horses in their varied duties, some Dals actually began agility by running obstacle courses along side their stablemates.

The benefit of agility for baby puppies is immeasurable. Agility is a natural extension of the Dalmatians adaptability to a variety of activities. Dals who begin puppy agility obstacles very early in life may be able to be preconditioned to learn more easily. Puppies exposed to a variety of objects and experiences build a greater degree of learning potential. They are mentally stimulated at a time when learning is instinctually spontaneous. They have better muscle development and are better coordinated, resulting in a greater degree of self-confidence and eagerness for learning.

Obedience dogs and their handlers enjoy having another performance activity. Agility is a great dog and handler team sport. Agility is used as a training diversion for intensively trained obedience dogs, as well as a fun diversion for working service dogs.

Training a dog for the conformation ring is greatly enhanced by agility participation. Many Dais begin their show careers as puppies without ever learning how to learn. Agility is a useful training tool for this as well as a great confidence builder. For a "specials" prospect, during the finishing and maturing period, participation in agility is a alternative performance tool for owners who may be afraid to "mess up" their dog by teaching automatic sits or attention training used in obedience.

Agility is a wonderful way to bring back "burned out" obedience and conformation show dogs.

For most Dalmatian owners their dogs are most importantly their companions and friends. Agility is a fun, shared activity for both dogs and owners who might not otherwise get off the couch.

Agility is for all ages and a great way to meet others in agility training groups.

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: AGILITY GENERAL INFORMATION

From: Agility committee (Carolyn Bolt)

Date: December 1997

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For more information, access the following web sites

The Dog Agility Page - <http://www.dogpatch.org/agility.html>

AgilityL - <http://www.westga.edu/~kkral/agility/>

And contact:

AKC  
Performance Department  
51 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10010

<http://www.teleport.com/~jhaglund/nadachom.html>

<http://www.akc.org/>

NADAC  
HCR 2 Box 277  
St. Maries, ID 83861

USDAA  
P.O. Box 850955  
Richardson, TX 75085-0955

UKC  
100 East Kilgore Road  
Kalamazoo, MI 49002-5584



Lyra through the window jump



Young puppy agility equipment

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: OBEDIENCE GENERAL INFORMATION

From: Obedience Committee (Marie Jenkins)

Date: December 1, 1997

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Obedience training is a great way for a Dalmatian and it's Owner to build a closer bond with one another. The goal of basic training is to have a responsive, well-behaved dog that is enjoyable to have.

First time Dalmatian owners are able to find information on obedience classes from the breeder of their dog, their veterinarian and other dog owners. Training clubs, obedience schools, humane societies and even private instructors offer classes ranging from puppy kindergarten to advanced competition. Anyone owning a Dalmatian will realize that basic training is a must. For many, teaching a Dalmatian to sit, down, come when called and stay off things around the house will be all that is required.

For those who want to do more with their Dalmatian there are obedience trials in which you can enter and receive titles. The AKC titles consist of CD (Companion Dog), CDX (Companion Dog Excellent), UD (Utility Dog), UDX (Utility Dog Excellent) and OTCH (Obedience Trial Champion). Any AKC registered dog may compete in obedience. Dogs with an ILP (Indefinite Listing privilege) may also compete.

The first three titles must be earned in succession. For each title you must earn three qualifying scores (called legs), under three different judges, of at least 170 out of 200 points, including at least 50% of the points allotted to each exercise. You may continue to compete in a class for 60 days after receiving your third qualifying score. Many take advantage of this, for the pressure to qualify for the title is gone. To earn a UDX you must qualify in both Open B and Utility B at 10 trials. This demands great consistency. After completing a UD a dog may start competing for OTCH points from the "B" classes, Open and Utility that is. Obtaining a UDX can be considered a byproduct of achieving an OTCH. As of this writing our breed has only two OTCH'S. There are several dogs knocking on the door though.

Along with obedience titles, exhibitors can work at getting their dogs recognized in several ranking systems. For example there is the Delaney System and Front and Foremost. Our Parent Club keeps track of the Top Spots in obedience, recognizing the Top 10 Dalmatians every year.

I may be reached at (757) 465-5099 if you have any questions regarding the DCA Obedience Committee or obedience in general.

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: OBEDIENCE GENERAL INFORMATION

From: Obedience Committee (Marie Jenkins)

Date: December 1, 1997

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As people get more involved in trailing for obedience trials they are usually in search of continuing educational material. Following is a basic list of sources in which you can either subscribe to or order material from.

Front and Finish  
P.O. Box 333  
Galesburg, IL 61402-0333  
(309) 344-1333  
approx. \$30/yr

Direct Book Service  
P.O. Box 2778  
Wenatchee, WA 98807-2778  
1-800-776-2665

AKC Gazette  
5580 Centerview Dr.  
Raleigh, NC 27690-0643  
(919) 233-9767  
approx. \$30/yr

4-M Enterprises  
1280 Pacific St.  
Union City, CA 94587  
1-800-487-9867

Dog Fancy  
P.O. Box 53264  
Boulder, CO 80322-3264  
1-800-365-4421

Max 200  
114 Beach St., Bldg. 5  
Rockaway, NJ 07866  
1-800-446-2920

Dog World  
P.O. Box 1790  
Peoria, IL 61656  
(309) 682-6626

J & J  
P.O. Box 1517  
Galesburg, IL 61402-9975  
1-800-642-2050

Pauls Obedience Shop  
P.O. Box 767  
Hanover, PA 17331-0767  
1-800-FOR-PAUL

Many will agree that Front and Finish is the leading source for information. Within the magazine you can find seminar information, regional competitions and the latest discussions concerning the rules and regulations. Any literature regarding dogs can be found from Direct Book Service.

In subscribing to the Gazette you will receive information on all dog shows and obedience trials along with topics concerning the dog fancy. Rule books may be ordered direct from the AKC.

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: DALMATIAN ROAD TRIALS

From: Road Trial Committee (Peggy Ann Strupp)

Date: July 1997

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A Dalmatian "Road Trial" is a breed-specific field trial designed to test the ability of a Dalmatian to "run with the horses". For more than three hundred years "coaching" has been the accepted role of the Dalmatian; the only breed of dog traditionally bred and trained to accompany horse-drawn vehicles. In a modern Road Trial, Dalmatians are judged in off-leash obedience exercises while the handler is on horseback, and then must complete a 12.5 or 25 mile endurance test to earn the title of "Road Dog" (12.5 miles: "R.D.") or "Road Dog Excellent" (25 miles: "R.D.X").

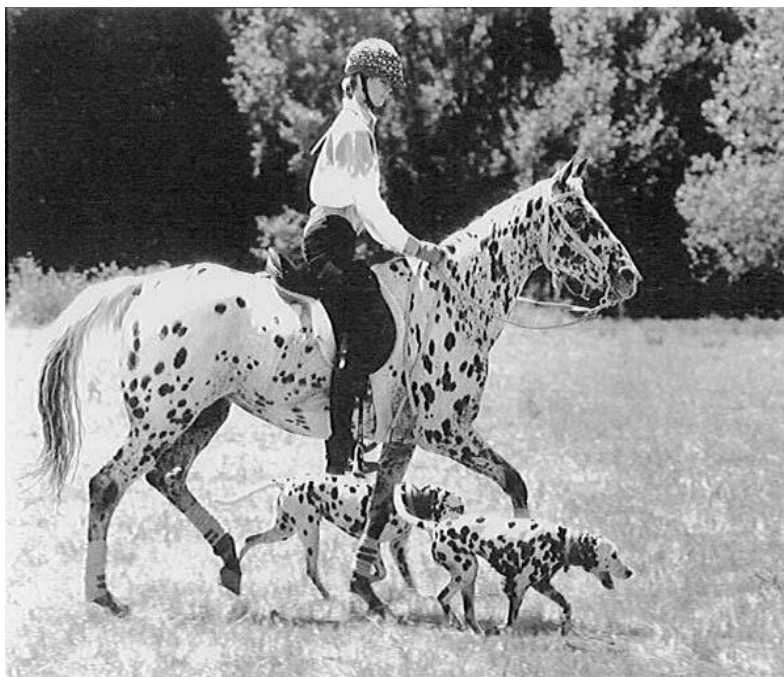
Although the American Kennel Club supports the idea of a Dalmatian field trial, they do not award titles at this time. Road Trials are sanctioned and titles are awarded by the Dalmatian Club of America.

Road Trials were "revived" in 1989. Since then, an average of one trial per year has been held, usually in conjunction with the DCA National show (location varies yearly). The entry fees are \$40 for the First dog on a team; \$30 for each additional dog on the same team (a handler may "run" up to 6 dogs on a team). Rental horses are usually supplied on site by a separate contractor, at a cost of \$125-\$200 for the day, or you may bring your own mount. Handlers may ride horse under saddle, or drive carriage or cart when the trail allows. Teams of up to six dogs are allowed, although most exhibitors compete with only one or two Dals.

At a Road Trial, the dog(s) and horse are first checked by a veterinarian. If they are deemed fit enough to compete, the dog/horse/handler team rides to a judging area. There, the mounted judge conducts and judges the following exercises: HOCK (dog follows horse in hock position for 200 yards), HOCK WITH DISTRACTION (dog remains in hock position as team passes another dog/handler on foot), RECALL (dog is allowed to run free, then commanded by handler to return, or "come"), and STAY (dog is commanded by handler to SIT or DOWN; dog remains in that position for 1 minute). Another judge, the course judge, then conducts and judges the SPEED exercise (horse/handler begin at a canter and increase speed to a gallop for about 100 yards; dog must demonstrate the ability for a fair amount of speed). Each of these "obedience" exercises are judged off-leash, handler on horseback. Each is worth up to 100 points.

The team then continues on a marked trail for the endurance portion of the Trial. The dog is also "vetted-in" at least 2 more times, receiving a final vet score at the finish of up to 100 points. To

Peggy Ann Strupp competes in a Trial with (L) Ch Harmony of Cheshire T. Redrock, CD, RD, RDX and (R) Bell Ringer's Redrock Puccini, CD, RD, RDX



## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

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"qualify", or earn a title, each dog must receive a score of 51-100 points in each of the judging areas, pass each vet check, and complete the trail ride within the allotted time (3 hours for RD, 6 hours for RDX).

A non-profit Road Trial newsletter "Road Trial Ramblings" reports upcoming events and training articles relating to Road Trials. Subscription information may be obtained from the committee chairman. Copies of training articles, which have been written over the years by various authors, are available for \$3 in the US, \$4 in Canada (US Funds). They may be obtained from the chairman.

To receive a copy of the DCA Road Trial Regulations, send a business sized SASE to Linda Myers, 19809 NE 150th Pl., Woodinville, WA 98072. Videos on Road Trials are available for rental from the DCA lending library. Call or write: Cathy Nogar; Rt. 1 box 370-J; Espanola, NM 87532-9705 Ph #: (505) 753-2721. Peggy Ann Strupp is currently the chairman of the DCA Road Trial committee. For more information on Road Trials, the newsletter, or training articles, write her at: 1224 Creed Rd., Soda Springs, ID 83276, or call (208) 547-3077.



Hopi Kachina Soyal Cielo, owned by Hety Brost of NM  
Background: SSC Honkeytonk'n of Santa Fe Colores stable

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: TRACKING GENERAL INFORMATION

From: Tracking Committee (Gayle J. Geiger)

Date: September 1997

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Tracking is a sport in which the Dalmatian's intelligence, independence and determination become apparent. Dalmatians excel at tracking, despite their being classified as a Non-Sporting Dog!

The American Kennel Club describes Tracking as a vigorous, non-competitive outdoor sport.



**Roundhill O'Danny Boy CDX TD**

The purpose of Tracking is to demonstrate the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent. To most dogs, this scenting ability is attained naturally. In teaching tracking, the dog's natural ability is directed to follow a specific scent to the end of the track. Training a dog to track is not as difficult as you may think. The training is almost completely motivational for the dog. Most tracking training utilizes food drops along the track to help keep the dogs nose close to the track and to develop motivation. Eventually, the dog ignores the food and the motivation to track overrides the desire for the food. You don't necessarily have to belong to a club to teach your dog to track - you can train with a group, a partner or by yourself. There is very little expenditure in equipment other than a harness and long line for the dog, some hot dogs (used as food drops to keep the dog on the track!), a few old gloves,

surveyors flags or similar to mark the track, and a good pair of hiking boots for you.

There are currently three Tracking titles awarded by the AKC - the Tracking Dog title/TD, the Tracking Dog Excellent title/TDX and the Variable Surface title/VST. The Tracking Test/TD is the first test a dog must pass to earn a title. The key features of a TD test are the dog's ability to follow a track laid by a person under a variety of conditions and find an article dropped by that person at the end of the track. The TD track is 440 - 500 yards in length with a total of 3 - 5 turns. The scent on the track is 30 minutes to 2 hours old. The article at the end of the track is a glove or wallet. The key feature of a TDX test is to show that the dog can discriminate scent and has the stamina and drive to do so under a variety of conditions. The TDX track is 800 - 1000 yards in length with a total of 5 - 7 turns. The scent of the track is 3 hours to 5 hours old. There are cross tracks laid by 2 different people that intersect the track at two different places. A TDX track has at least two obstacles to challenge the dog and handler. Various types of terrain such as gullies, woods, streams and lightly traveled roads may be used as obstacles. The dog must also find four articles dropped by the tracklayer along the track. The VST test is 600 - 800 yards in length, with 4 - 8 turns over a minimum of three different surfaces, one of which is vegetation and two areas devoid of vegetation such as concrete, gravel or sand. The scent of the track is 3 - 5 hours old. Four different articles must be located.

The Dalmatian's strength, stamina and drive are well suited for tracking. It is a great way to keep you and your Dal in top physical condition and spend time outdoors with your dog. Because tracking is not stressful, it is excellent for building confidence in a young Dal and keeps the older or

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: TRACKING GENERAL INFORMATION

From: Tracking Committee (Gayle J. Geiger)

Date: September 1997

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retired dog active. The thrill of handling your Dal as he/she follows an unseen trail of the tracklayers scent to the glove at the end of the track is unequalled.

The DCA generally sponsors a Tracking Test each year in conjunction with the National Specialty. These events are great way to give our Dalmatians a chance to enter and more than likely participate in a tracking test.

To receive a copy of the AKC Tracking Regulations, write to: The American Kennel Club, 5580 Centerview Drive, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27606-03390 or call 919-233-9780.

For a list of tracking books and videos, please contact: Gayle Geiger, 1191 E. Hookstown Grade Rd., Clinton, PA 15026 or call 412-375-7181.

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: HEARING RESEARCH

From: Study Group on Congenital Deafness (Denise Powell)

Date: September 1997

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Congenital deafness in Dalmatians has been recognized for a long time. The first studies of this condition were published more than 100 years ago. Over the years researchers have observed and documented how the ears of deaf Dalmatians differ from normal ears. The delicate structures of the inner ear of deaf Dalmatians begin to degenerate at birth, resulting in permanent loss of function by three to six weeks of age. Why this degeneration occurs is still a mystery. There seems to be a link between this form of deafness and the pigmentation genes responsible for white in the coat. Congenital deafness is seen in many, but not all, breeds that carry either piebald or merle genes.

Although the occurrence of deafness in Dalmatians has been studied for many years, no clear mode of inheritance has yet been found. Deafness does not appear to be caused by a single dominant gene since deaf puppies result from hearing parents. It does not appear to be a simple recessive disorder as normal puppies can result from two deaf parents, when all should have been deaf if the disorder were recessive. Various theories involving multiple genes have been suggested but none have been proven to date.

What is known is that deafness is clearly linked to the piebald gene that produces the Dalmatians distinctive coat. When the gene is weakly expressed patching occurs and patched Dalmatians have significantly lower deafness rates. On the other hand, blue-eyed Dalmatians, where the gene suppresses the normal brown iris pigment, are more likely to be deaf. It has been argued that deafness is simply a regrettable characteristic of the breed, that selecting for spotted coats, with no patching, has unavoidable consequences. However, there is promising evidence that the incidence of deafness can be greatly reduced by careful effort.

In recent years many Dalmatian breeders have begun using a reliable method of assessing the hearing of litters of puppies. The hearing test known as the brainstem auditory evoked response (BAER) detects electrical activity in the ear and the brain in much the same way as an EKG detects activity of the heart. The procedure takes 10 to 15 minutes. The tester positions electrodes on the head of the dog to record the electrical activity that is produced in response to sound. The sound is a computer generated clicking that is directed into the ear with an earphone. A hearing ear produces a distinctive pattern of peaks and valleys and a deaf ear produces a relatively flat line. Sedation is usually not necessary unless the dog becomes extremely agitated and muscle activity causes unwanted electrical activity to show up on the test. A printout showing the waveform as it was recorded provides a permanent record of the test.

Puppies can be tested as early as five to six weeks of age giving the breeder the opportunity to decide on the disposition of the puppies before they are transferred to permanent homes. The Dalmatian Club of America's ethical guidelines recommend that all totally deaf puppies be humanely euthanized. Totally deaf puppies almost never make good pets. The average pet owner is ill equipped to deal with the special needs of a deaf dog and attempts to do so generally end badly. Through the years, many people who had gotten deaf puppies from other sources have contacted club members for advice. Common problems are: excessive barking by dogs who cannot hear themselves, biting or snapping by dogs who were startled by someone's approach, and children running into the street to save a dog who could neither hear their calls nor the sound of oncoming traffic. Deaf puppies that are

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: HEARING RESEARCH

From: Study Group on Congenital Deafness (Denise Powell)

Date: September 1997

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placed as pets are often euthanized before their second birthday after living sad lives of abuse at the hands of frustrated owners.

The question of what to do with puppies that are unilaterally deaf (hear in one ear) is more difficult. Their behavior is often indistinguishable from that of a normal hearing dog so they can make wonderful pets. They are not, however, good candidates for breeding because they produce significantly higher numbers of deaf puppies than dogs with normal hearing. The offspring of one parent with normal hearing and one unilaterally deaf parent are twice as likely to be deaf (unilaterally or bilaterally) as dogs that are the offspring of two parents with normal hearing. Breedings with that level of risk, if they are done at all, are best left to those with many years of experience and an extensive knowledge of Dalmatians. Fortunately, the majority of Dalmatians have normal hearing and their hearing status can be verified by BAER testing long before breeding decisions are made.

Researchers are continuing their efforts to understand the genetic transmission of deafness. There is a lot of excitement about DNA studies to isolate the gene responsible for pigmentation-related deafness in dogs. A gene for a similar condition in humans and splashed mice has already been identified. This kind of research is painstakingly slow but holds great promise. If they are successful it may lead to the possibility of a blood test for carriers of deafness.

Until such a test is developed, breeding stock can be chosen from individuals with normal hearing who have relatives with predominantly normal hearing. A registry for hereditary, congenital deafness in dogs has been established to help breeders in making their choices. The registry is a database of BAER test results and is maintained by the Institute for Genetic Disease Control in Animals (GDC) located in Davis, California.

One of the purposes of this registry is to provide breeders with more complete information about the family history of individual dogs. Without a central database, information is often difficult or impossible to find. One can generally find out about the hearing status of an individual dog. Often the owner of the dog knows the hearing status of the parents and littermates as well. If the dog has been bred before, the hearing status of the pups is also known. Beyond that, information becomes scarce. Unless you have been breeding for a long time, or are dealing with someone who has, you will be in the dark. The average person who becomes involved in breeding or showing purebred dogs stays involved for five years or less. Longtime breeders are rare and in-depth knowledge of pedigrees is just as rare. The registry can be thought of as a library of information that survives any individual's involvement in the breed. The more information that is gathered the more useful the library will be.

For more information on the hearing registry you can contact Denise Powell, at 2719 Guerneville Road, Santa Rosa, CA 95401 (707) 525-8842 or the Institute for Genetic Disease Control in Animals (GDC) at P.O. Box 222, Davis CA 95617 phone and fax (916) 756-6773.

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: CANINE HIP DYSPLASIA

From: Study Group on Skeletal/Dysplasia (Ray Fitzsimmons)

Date: September 15, 1997

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Dysplasia, fortunately, is not a major plague for the Dalmatian breed. The Orthopedic Foundation for animals calculated that through 1991 just 6.3% of 1036 Dal X-rays studied showed dysplasia, none graded "severe". The breed ranked 72<sup>nd</sup> out of 87 breeds for incidence of dysplasia. By contrast, almost half the St. Bernard breed is dysplastic.

Dysplasia, however, is a serious and crippling disease, and is in the Dalmatian gene pool. The TEXTBOOK FOR SMALL ANIMAL ORTHOPEDICS states: "CHD is a complex disease. It is a concentration of factors from a pool of genetic weaknesses and environmental stresses that fall into a ...pattern of ... degenerative joint disease. The degree ... varies from minute changes in bone structure to total destruction of the hip joint...".

Diagnosis is determined by X-ray of the hips and interpretation by a skilled veterinarian. The OFA will also interpret X-rays and grade the degree of hip excellence or illness, assigning OFA numbers only to dogs over 24 months. For information, write OFA, 2300 Nifong Blvd., Columbia MO 65201.

Since CHD is considered an inherited trait, **DOGS WITH HIP DYSPLASIA SHOULD NOT BE BRED.** Non-use of dysplastic individuals has caused great improvements in many breeds. The OFA suggests 5 guidelines for breeders: (1) Breed only normal dogs to normal dogs. (2) The normal dogs should come from normal parents and grandparents. (3) They should have greater than 75% normal siblings. (4) Choose a normal sire that has a record or producing normal progeny. (5) Choose replacement bitches that have better hip joint conformation than their parents.

For more detail, see the article on CHD in the Spring 1994 Spotter. Developments and updates will be reported as they become available.

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: CANINE HYPOTHYROIDISM

From: Study Group on Hypothyroidism (Nilda Dorini)

Date: November 1997

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## HYPOTHYROIDISM

### What is it?

Hypothyroidism is a relatively common endocrine disease in dogs. It is a condition in which the dog has a deficiency of thyroid hormone in the bloodstream. This is normally caused by the thyroid gland ceasing to function properly. The most common cause of canine thyroid dysfunction is autoimmune thyroiditis (estimated 90% of cases), which tends to clinically manifest itself at 1 to 3 years of age.

### How Is Thyroid Hormone Produced and WHAT Does It Do In The Body?

Thyroid hormone is produced by the thyroid glands which are two small glands located in the neck near the larynx (voice box). The two most important hormones are tetraiodothyronine (thyroxine or T4) and triiodothyronine (T3). These hormones are essential for life and have many effects on body metabolism, growth, and development. The thyroid gland is influenced by hormones produced by two other organs:

- (a) The pituitary gland, located at the base of the skull produces thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH).
- (b) The hypothalamus, a small part of the brain above the pituitary, produces thyrotropin releasing hormone (TRH).

In the healthy dog, thyroid hormone is secreted into the blood stream in steady amounts and it regulates the dog's metabolism. A deficiency of thyroid hormone (called Hypothyroidism) can lead to a slow metabolism while an over abundance of thyroid hormone (called Hyperthyroidism) can lead to an overactive metabolism.

### What causes Hypothyroidism?

- A high percentage of dogs with hypothyroidism are due to the thyroid gland being attacked by the dog's own immune system.
- Exposure to drugs, many medications can adversely affect thyroid function.
- Toxin and chemical preservatives
- Nutritional imbalances or deficiencies.
- Congenital anomalies.
- Heredity
- Bacterial Infection caused by Strep., Staph, or pneumococcus.
- Cumulative stress

### What are the Symptoms?

Dry coat, hair loss often on the tail ("rat tail"), hind quarters or flank that is not a result from scratching, hair thinning over the body, excessive shedding, seborrhea, bacterial skin infection, (skin

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: CANINE HYPOTHYROIDISM

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abnormalities are the most common clinical signs), excessive skin pigmentation, lethargy, excessive sleeping, seeking warm places to curl up, weight gain, muscle or nerve weakness, abnormal heat cycles, absence of heat cycle, short or prolonged heat cycles, silent heat, false pregnancy, infertility, chronic ear infections, seizures, facial puffiness "sad facial expression", sudden changes in temperament.

## **How is Hypothyroidism Diagnosed?**

Hypothyroidism is diagnosed through a blood test. A dog is to be examined by the attending veterinarian and have a serum sample sent to an OFA approved Laboratory for testing. The approved laboratory must be contacted for the appropriate submission form. Sample handling procedure may be submitted to:

Animal Health Diagnostic Laboratory  
Endocrine Diagnostic Section  
P.O. Box 30078  
Lansing, Mi 48909-7576  
OR

Diagnostic Laboratory  
New York State College of Veterinary Medicine  
Cornell University, Upper Tower Rd.  
Ithaca, NY 14851

Other Laboratories will be approved at a later date.

## **What is Certification- Canine Thyroid Registry?**

A certificate and breed registry number will be issued to all dogs to be normal at 12 months of age. It is recommended that re-examination occur at ages 2,3 4, 6, and 8 years of age. Certification will not be possible for dogs under 12 months of age since few dogs are positive at that age. The registry data can be used by breeders in determining which dogs are best for their breeding program. Knowing the status of the dog and the status of the dog's lineage, breeders and genetic counselors can decide which matings are the most appropriate Or reducing the incidence of Hypothyroidism in the offspring.

## **What is T3, T4, TSH, TgAA?**

These are tests that evaluate the thyroid gland function by measuring thyroid hormone concentration in the blood.

- (a) T3 and T4 levels are used as an indicator of thyroid functions.
- (b) cTSH (canine Thyroid Stimulating Hormone) Test, is the current "gold standard" test for measuring thyroid gland function. In this test, T4 concentration in the blood are measured BEFORE and 6 hours AFTER the administration TST-T.

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: CANINE HYPOTHYROIDISM

From: Study Group on Hypothyroidism (Nilda Dorini)

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(c) TgAA (Thyroglobulin Autoantibodies) This procedure is an indication of the presence of the autoimmune process in the dog's thyroid.

## **How is Hypothyroidism Treated?**

- (1) When the blood test results are returned and the diagnosis of hypothyroidism is confirmed, your veterinarian will prescribe a trial dose of thyroid hormone supplement. The product of choice is levothyroxine sodium tablets (Soloxine). This medication must be administered according to your veterinarian's instructions. Blood tests are used periodically to arrive at the proper maintenance dose, and re-checked every six months.
- (2) Avoid unnecessary drugs.
- (3) Avoid Toxins and Chemical preservatives.
- (4) Good nutrition is an essential component of maintaining a healthy immune system. Dr Jean Dodds DVM suggests fresh, home-cooked vegetables with herbs and meats such as lamb, chicken and turkey can be added as supplements.

## **Why should the Thyroid Level be checked once every six months?**

It should be checked every six months because the amount of thyroid hormone produced by the body (the amount of supplement needed) will vary with time, season, other diseases, exercise, age, etc. and periodically there will be the need to change the thyroid hormone dosage to avoid either over-supplementing or under-supplementing.

## **What is Soloxine?**

Levothyroxine Sodium (L-thyroxine).Soloxine, comes in tablet form. It's a synthetic hormone that acts to stimulate metabolism, growth, development. Soloxine is absorbed rapidly from the gastrointestinal tract after oral administration. Indications: Provides thyroid replacement therapy in all conditions of inadequate production of thyroid hormones. Administration: Soloxine tablets may be administered orally or placed in the

It is advisable not to substitute Soloxine with the GENERIC type hormone replacement.

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: CANINE HYPOTHYROIDISM

From: Study Group on Hypothyroidism (Nilda Dorini)

Date: November 1997

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## References:

For those who have access to the Internet, more detailed information on the above Topics is available on the following URLs:

<http://www.rahul.net/hredlus/thyr-lus.htm>

**THYROID TESTING IN DOGS:  
A Reference for Dog Breeders and Owners**

This is the home page of Dr. Karen J. Wolfsheimer, DVM, Ph.D Diplomate, American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine Associate Professor, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA

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<http://www.magma.com/~kuvas/thyroiddisease.htm>

<http://www.golden-retriever.com/dodds.html>

**THYROID DISEASE  
Autoimmune Thyroid Disease: Common Problem of Purebred Dogs.**

by

Dr. Jean Dodds DVM

Hemopet, 938 Stanford St., Santa Monica, California, 90403

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<http://www.prodogs.com/chn/ofa/thyroid.htm>

**OFA CANINE THYROID REGISTRY**

by

Dr. Ray Nachreiner, DVM, Ph.D.

Currently, blood samples may be submitted

<http://www.soloxine.com/solinsrt.htm>

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**SOLOXINE**

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**INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM  
on Canine Hypothyroidism**

This International Conference on Canine Hypothyroidism, was held at the University of California at Davis in August 1996, where all the experts in the field gathered to provide updates on their research and discuss recommendations for testing and future investigations. The symposium was co-sponsored by the Canine Health Foundation, American Kennel Club.

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: CANINE HYPOTHYROIDISM

From: Study Group on Hypothyroidism (Nilda Dorini)

Date: November 1997

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To obtain the very valuable notes on the above symposium write to the following address and ask for the WHITE PAPERS on Canine Hypothyroidism and send \$5.00 US funds to:

Cindy Foust  
AKC/CHF  
251 W. Garfield Rd. Suite 160  
Aurora, Oh 44202

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Other Reference: Dr. Manfred Blum, professor in Clinical Medicine at New York School of Medicine.

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Above information has been submitted by:  
Nilda Dorini  
Zara Dalmatians  
E-mail: [zara@rogers.wave.ca](mailto:zara@rogers.wave.ca)  
Web-site at: <http://home.bc.rogers.wave.ca/zara>

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: SEIZURE DISORDERS

From: Study Group on Seizures (Dr. Anita L. Tate, Marion Mitchell, Jennifer Glaser)

Date: September 20, 1997

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Seizure Disorders are muscle responses to an abnormal nerve-signal burst from the brain. They are a symptom of an underlying neurologic dysfunction. Toxic substances, metabolic or electrolyte abnormalities and/or imbalances cause an uncoordinated firing of the neurons in the cerebrum of the brain, thus, creating seizures ranging from mild “petit-mal” to severe “grand-mal”. Dalmatians, like many other breeds, may have a seizure disorder. There are four basic stages to a seizure:

1. The Prodrome: May precede the seizure by hours or days. It is characterized by changes in mood or behavior.
2. The Aura: Signals the start of a seizure. Nervousness, whining, trembling, salivation, affection, wandering, restlessness, hiding, and apprehension are all signals.
3. The Ictus: The actual seizure. A period of intense physical activity usually lasting 45 seconds to 3 minutes. The dog may lose consciousness and fall to the ground. There may be teeth gnashing, frantic thrashing of limbs, excessive drooling, paddling of feet, or uncontrollable urination.
4. The Postictus: After the seizure, the dog’s body will attempt to re-supply the body’s needs. (The dog may want to eat or drink excessively to re-supply the body’s energy).

**The Cause:** Anything that disrupts normal brain circuitry:

**Idiopathic Epilepsy:** Meaning no known cause and possibly inherited. This is also referred to as Primary Epilepsy. Check history of pedigree and make sure your veterinarian has looked for possible underlying factors.

Seizures caused by other factors are referred to as Secondary Epilepsy.

- Congenital Hypoglycemia “low blood sugar”
- Hypothyroidism “underactive thyroid”
- Infections causing brain damage (such as canine distemper, Cryptococcosis, Toxoplasmosis)
- Ingestion of toxins (such as lead paint chips, insecticides)
- Brain tumors
- Portosystemic shunts: Improperly routed intestinal blood vessels bypass the liver (one of the body’s important waste-product detoxifiers).

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: SEIZURE DISORDERS

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### **Types of Seizures:**

**Mild:** "Petit Mal" - This can be as simple as momentarily staring into space or upward eye movement.

**Moderate:** "Grand Mal" - The dog falls down, loses consciousness and extends its limbs rigidly. Then paddling of limbs, salivation followed by possible loss of control of bladder and bowels. This may occur for 3-5 minutes and is often followed by a period of restlessness, pacing, bumping into objects, and a loss of balance. The dog is conscious but may appear to be blind, deaf, or disoriented. Great care must be taken to avoid injury of the dog.

**Severe:** "Status Epilepticus and Cluster Seizures"

*Status Epilepticus:* A situation in which the dog may lose consciousness for 30 minutes or more and may be life threatening.

*Cluster Seizures:* Multiple seizures within a short period of time and may also be life threatening. It is often difficult to distinguish between the two types and veterinarian assistance is necessary

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: SEIZURE MEDICATIONS AND ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE

From: Study Group on Seizures (Dr. Anita L. Tate, Marion Mitchell,  
Jennifer Glaser)

Date: September 20, 1997

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**MEDICATIONS:** (Listed by trade and generic name)

Phenobarbital  
Phenobarbital and Potassium Bromide  
Primidone (Mysoline)  
Phenytoin (Epanutin)  
Valium (Diazepam)  
Dilantin

Most dogs can be controlled using Phenobarbital and/or Phenobarbital and Potassium Bromide. Both are available from your veterinarian in capsule and liquid form.

Primidone, once commonly used, metabolizes to Phenobarbital in the liver. With prolonged treatment, it has been reported to produce high concentrations of liver enzymes.

Valium, injectable or rectal, is a good choice to halt a cluster seizure or interrupt status epilepticus. Dilantin is currently not recommended for use.

Some common side effects of these drugs include: damage to the liver, ataxia (muscle weakness in the limbs), increased appetite and thirst, and increased urination.

Regardless of the medication utilized, it is important to run frequent blood levels to assure the proper therapeutic range. Also, to avoid compromising the liver, a liver function and bile acid test is suggested twice a year.

**Alternative Medicine:**

Alternative medicine is gaining favor in the treatment of canine epilepsy. Some of the methods used are acupuncture, gold wire and bead implants in the ears and head, Chinese herb's and various homeopathic remedies. Alternative medicine may be used in combination with Phenobarbital or alone. An excellent source of information can be found at <http://www.altvetmed.com/toc.html>

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: HELPFUL HINTS FOR SEIZURE DOG OWNERS

From: Study Group on Seizures (Dr. Anita L. Tate, Marion Mitchell,  
Jennifer Glaser)

Date: September 20, 1997

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Safeguard your dog's space by providing a quiet stable safe environment. When you go out, restrict your dog's access to stairways, pools or anything that might fall on your dog during a seizure. An airline type kennel with generous padding is the safest way. If the dog roams free in a dog room, the purchase of a baby monitor may be helpful.

Post your veterinarian's number and emergency numbers close to the phone for efficient assistance. In the event your dog is lost during the disorientation phase, proper identification is necessary. Microchips, tattoos and medical alert tags are helpful.

## **Handling a Seizure**

Keep your hands away from the dog's mouth. The dog will not swallow its tongue, but may unintentionally bite you. Gently pull the dog by the scruff of its neck away from adjacent dangers (stairs, streets, pools, and fireplaces). If your dog is on a hard surface, a blanket or something soft under the head may help to avoid injury. If convulsions last more than 5 minutes or if several shorten convulsions occur consecutively, get a veterinarian or emergency assistance immediately.

## **Helping your dog after the Seizure**

Following the convulsions, your dog may be completely disoriented and will attempt to restore its body's needs (hunger, thirst, deep sleep, barking, and insecurity). Allow your dog to drink freely, and eat small amounts of food, however, avoid excessive food consumption because it could trigger vomiting. If your dog is pacing or seems disoriented, confine it to a comfortable crate to prevent injury until normal behavior returns. If overheating occurs due to prolonged or multiple seizures, a blowing fan, wet jacket, or cool cloths applied to the feet and abdomen will assist in the cool down. If you have multiple dogs, separation or protection maybe necessary. (A seizing dog can trigger the "pack" instinct in which an injured animal is attacked.) Monitor your other dogs in this situation.

In summary, following the epileptic attack, clinical signs include bumping, restlessness, autonomic discharge and transient blindness. For many owners, this is just as distressing as the actual seizure. Always remain calm - your dog's behavior often reflects your behavior. If your dog is anxious or fearful, sit and comfort it. Now it's your turn to be the companion animal.

Topic: INTERNET RESOURCES

From: Study Group on Seizures (Dr. Anita L. Tate, Marion Mitchell,  
Jennifer Glaser)

Date: September 20, 1997

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**Internet Resources:**

The Epil-K9 list, an All Breed List, provides a forum for more than 300 owners of seizing dogs to discuss the problems of dealing with this disorder. It discusses the different medications, alternative therapies and provides support for seizure dog owners. A veterinarian is also available for guidance.

To join Epil-K9 send an email to.

[LISTSERV@APPLE.EASE.LSOFT.COM](mailto:LISTSERV@APPLE.EASE.LSOFT.COM)

with the following message.

SUBSCRIBE EPIL-K9 <your name>

You will receive a welcome letter and instructions on how to post messages etc.

Other Resources for Canine Epilepsy on the WWW can be found on URL's. The Seizure page on the DCA WWW site [http://www.thedca.org/seizure\\_disorders.html](http://www.thedca.org/seizure_disorders.html)

An excellent Canine Epilepsy FAQ can be found at:

[http://www.zmall.com/pet\\_talk/dog-fags/medical-info/epilepsy.html](http://www.zmall.com/pet_talk/dog-fags/medical-info/epilepsy.html)

A compilation of various epilepsy sites on the WWW

<http://world.std.com/~tolenio/epilepsy.html>

<http://bcf.usc.edu/~thaase/DOT/epilepsy.html>

**INTERNET RESOURCE SUMMARY:**

**Information on Epilepsy in Dalmatians:**

<http://www.rt66.com/~dalcrazy/epilepsy.html> (Marion Mitchell)

**Information concerning Epilepsy in Canines:**

<http://world.std.com/~tolenio/epilepsy.html>

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: DCA SEIZURE SURVEY INFORMATION AND STUDY GROUP MEMBERS

From: Study Group on Seizures (Dr. Anita L. Tate, Marion Mitchell, Jennifer Glaser)

Date: September 20, 1997

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### **DCA Seizure Survey Information:**

For more information on Seizure Disorders in Dalmatians, the Dalmatian Club of America has an ongoing Seizure Survey. We welcome your participation.

**Please help us by completing a Seizure Survey Questionnaire found available on the DCA home page.**

[http://www.thedca.org/seizure\\_survey.html](http://www.thedca.org/seizure_survey.html)

Periodic updates of this survey and seizure information will be published in *The Spotter*.

### **Study Group Members:**

**Dr. Anita L. Tate**  
Tateland Dalmatians  
1467 Douglass Road  
Huntsville, AL 35806  
Ph. 205-430-0038  
[LAEB57A@prodigy.com](mailto:LAEB57A@prodigy.com)

**Marion Mitchell**  
185 Rim Road  
Los Alamos, NM 87544  
Ph. 505-662-3323  
[dalcrazy@rt66.com](mailto:dalcrazy@rt66.com)

**Jennifer Johnson Glaser**  
Shadowrun Dalmatians  
6311 S.W. 130 Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33330  
[ShadowRun1@WEBCV.NET](mailto:ShadowRun1@WEBCV.NET)

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

## SEIZURE SURVEY

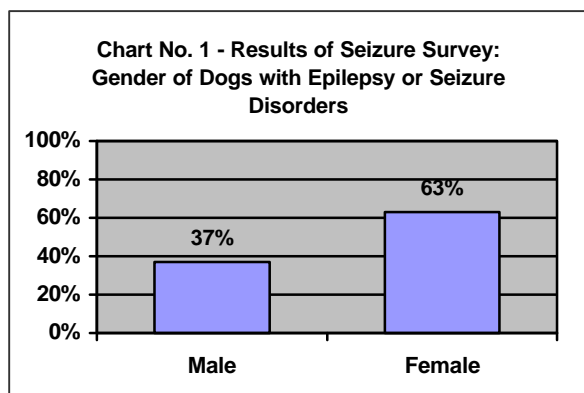
Anita L. Tate, DMD - Study Group on Seizures  
Research Committee, Dalmatian Club of America

This is a report from the "Survey on Seizure Disorders" conducted by the DCA Study Group on Seizures. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT READERS OF THIS ARTICLE AND ITS EARLY RESULTS REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING:**

- They are reports from only a limited number of Dalmatian owners and breeders responding to the Survey questionnaire;
- As such, they may - or may not - be directly related to, in general, seizure disorders or epilepsy;
- Please remember percentages were computed from only the responses to the Survey. The statistics most definitely **SHOULD NOT** be projected to that of the general Dalmatian population! This article is **NOT** intended nor should be regarded as a generalized percentage report of seizure disorders in the breed.

Thanks to the Spotter editorial staff, the Survey questionnaire had been published in two issues: Winter/Spring 1994-95 and Fall 1995 issues. As of May 1996 and the writing of this article, a total of 108 surveys had been returned.

### GENDER OF DOG WITH EPILEPSY OR SEIZURE DISORDERS



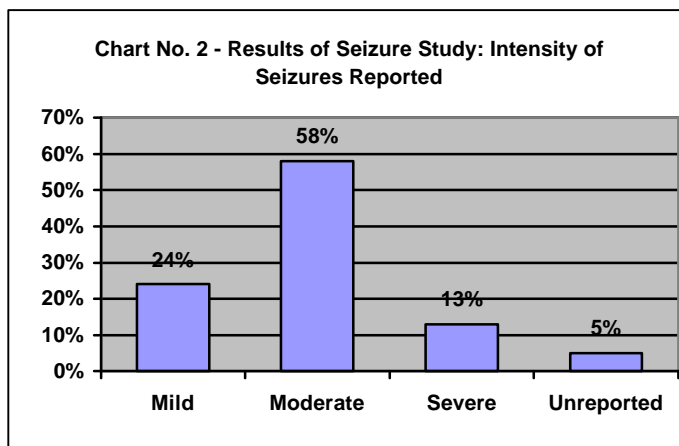
### AGE RANGE OF DOG WITH EPILEPSY OR SEIZURE DISORDERS

Ages range from 2 months to 14 years.

### BREED OF DOG WITH EPILEPSY OR SEIZURE DISORDERS

Information was requested exclusively of Dalmatians.

### SEVERITY OF SEIZURES

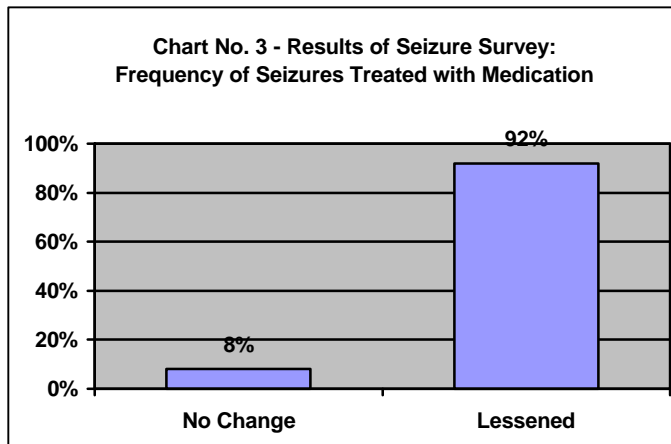


### FREQUENCY OF SEIZURES - UNTREATED

A number of respondents failed to answer this question. Of those who did, the reported frequencies were as follows (in dogs untreated with medications).

- Multiple - 2 to 7 seizures daily
- 1 daily
- 2 daily
- 1 weekly
- 2 weekly
- 3 weekly
- 5 weekly
- 1 monthly
- 2 monthly
- 1 every two months
- 1 every three months
- 2 per year

### FREQUENCY OF SEIZURES - TREATED



# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Of those dogs reported responsive to anti-seizure medications, the extent of their response ranged as follows:

Multiple seizures, daily activity	Improved to no seizure activity
Multiple seizures, daily monthly	Improved to 2 seizures, monthly
Multiple seizures, daily yearly	Improved to 2 seizures, yearly
Two seizures daily	Improved to 2 monthly
One seizure, monthly	Improved to 1 seizure per six months
One seizure, per six months	Improved to no seizure activity
Remainder	No improvement with medication

## MEDICATION REPORTED AS HELPFUL

- Diazepam ("Valium")
- Dilantin
- Phenobarbital
- Phenobarbital + Potassium Bromide
- Primidone

## DOSAGES OF MEDICATIONS

### Diazepam ("Valium")

Dosages not reported.

### Dilantin

100 mg. twice daily

### Phenobarbital

Available in tablets of 1/4 grain to 15 mg. Total daily dosage ranged from 30 mg. to 180 mg. as follows:

- 15 mg. (1/4 grain) twice daily (total = 30 mg.)
- 30 mg. (1/2 grain) twice daily (total = 60 mg.)
- 30 mg. (1/2 grain) three times daily (total = 90 mg.)
- 60 mg. (1 grain) twice daily (total = 120 mg.)
- 60 mg. (1 grain) three times daily (total = 180 mg.)
- 60 mg. (1 grain) four times daily (total = 240 mg.)

### Phenobarbital + Potassium Bromide (KBr)

Four respondents reported medication had to be increased because the dog developed a tolerance to the drug.

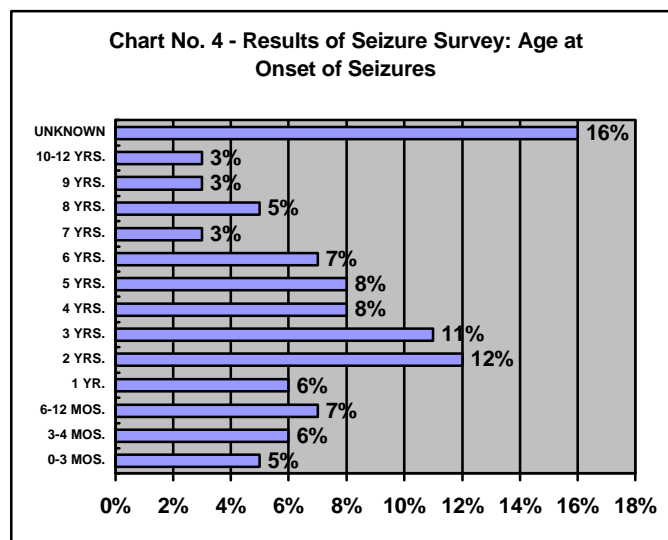
- 60 mg. (1 grain) + 600 mg. KBr once daily
- 120 mg. (2 grains) + 600 mg. KBr once daily
- 120 mg. (2 grains) + 600 mg. KBr twice daily

### Primidone

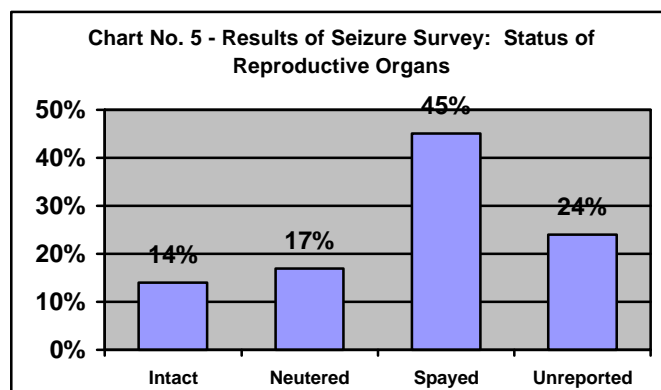
Available in tablets of 250 mg. or 500 mg. Total daily dosage ranged from 250 mg. to 1,500 mg., as follows:

- 250 mg. once daily
- 250 mg. three times daily
- 500 mg. three times daily

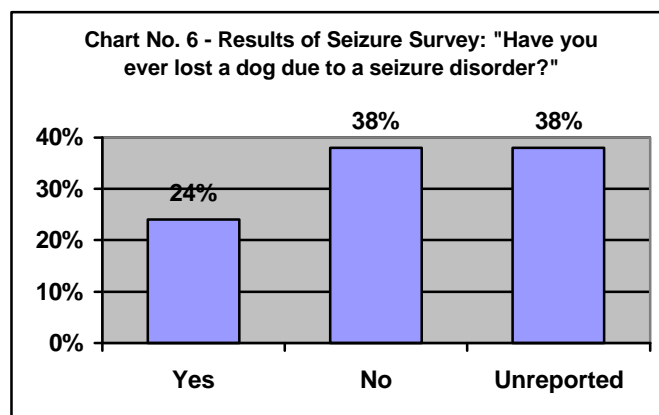
## AGE OF ONSET OF SEIZURE ACTIVITY



## STATUS OF REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

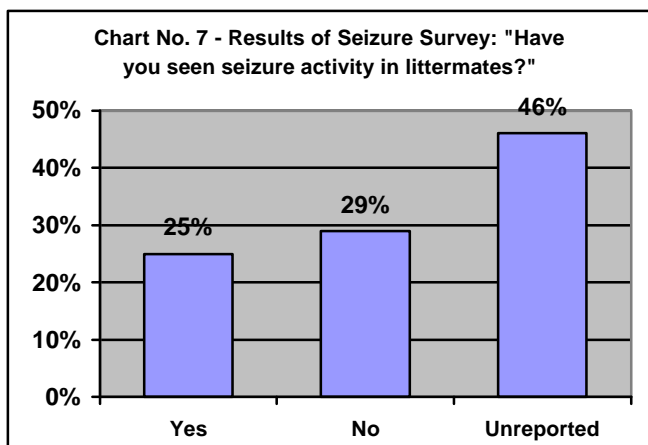


## DOGS LOST DUE TO A SEIZURE DISORDER?



# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

## SEIZURE ACTIVITY IN LITTERMATES?



### MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS AND INFORMATION

Numbers cited with the respondents' comments are the number of questionnaires returned. Please remember the quoted statements are from individual Dalmatian fanciers and may - or -may not - be pertinent to seizure disorders in general!

"The sire had a seizure disorder."  
(reported by 17 respondents; noted among different litters and different pedigrees)  
(An increased incidence of seizure activity in female progeny was reported from a sire having a history of seizure activity).

"The dam had a seizure disorder."  
(reported by 3 respondents)

"Seizure activity in a bitch directly related to her being in season."  
(reported by 12 different respondents)

"Onset occurred following whelping of puppies and continued thereafter for the life of the dam."  
(Hormonal influence? Hypoglycemia? Electrolyte deficiency?)

"Old Age."

"Hypothyroidism" (Underactive thyroid)  
(reported by 9 different respondents)

"Hypoglycemia" (low blood sugar)  
(reported by 4 different respondents)

"Renal failure" (kidney failure)

"Water deprivation in young puppies creating a seizure disorder"  
(This has similarly been reported in pig populations.)

Seizure activity following the use of Heartguard (heart worm preventative)

### ONGOING SURVEY

If you have not completed a survey and wish to provide information on seizure disorders, please request questionnaires from:

Anita L. Tate, DMD  
DCA Study Group on Seizures  
1467 Douglass Road  
Huntsville AL 35806  
Home Tel. (205) 430-0038  
EMail: laeb57a@prodigy.com

It is hoped this report will be followed periodically with updates as additional questionnaires continue to be returned, plus with more information on seizure disorders.

(Many, many thanks to the time volunteered by Carroll H. Weiss to design the graphs that accompany this report. It is hoped that their visual impact will help you understand the statistics gathered.)

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

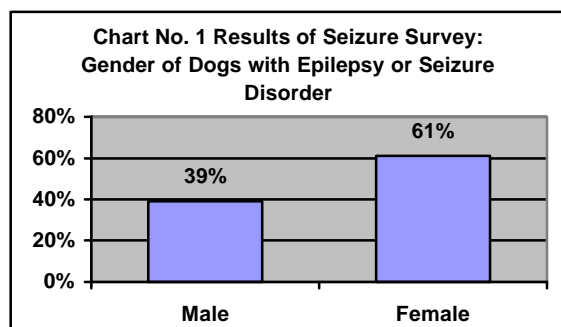
## SEIZURE SURVEY UPDATE YEAR END 1997

Anita Tate DMD, Marion Mitchell, Jennifer Johnson Glaser  
Dalmatian Club of America Study Group on Seizure Disorders

This is a report from the Survey on Seizure Disorders conducted by the DCA Study Group on Seizures. **IT IS IMPORTANT THAT READERS OF THIS ARTICLE AND ITS EARLY RESULTS REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING:**

- They are reports from only a limited number of Dalmatian owners and breeders responding to the Survey questionnaire;
- As such, they may, or may not, be directly related to, seizure disorders or epilepsy;
- Please remember the percentages were computed from only the responses to the Survey. The statistics most definitely **SHOULD NOT** be projected to that of the general Dalmatian population. This article is **NOT** intended nor should be regarded as a generalized percentage report of seizure disorders in the breed.

Thanks to the **Spotter** editorial staff, the Survey questionnaire was published in two issues: Winter/Spring 1994-95 and Fall 1995. As of May 1996, a total of 108 surveys had been returned. As of December 1997 and the writing of this article a total of 49 new surveys have been returned for a total of 157.



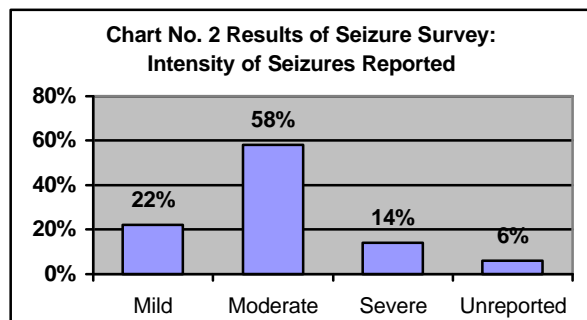
### AGE RANGE OF DOG WITH EPILEPSY OR SEIZURE DISORDERS

Ages range from 2 months to 14 years. The mean average age range was 2-3 years. A life span of 8-14 years was frequently reported.

### BREED OF DOG WITH EPILEPSY OR SEIZURE DISORDERS

Information requested exclusively of purebred Dalmatians. 1997 Survey included pet owners and non-DCA members. 1996 Survey included DCA and Regional Dalmatian Specialty Club Members.

### SEVERITY OF SEIZURES



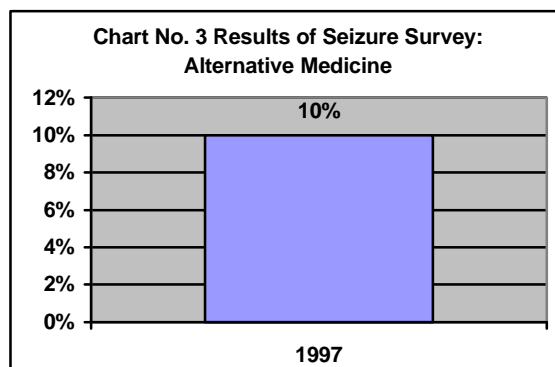
### FREQUENCY OF SEIZURES - UNTREATED

This refers to the number of times a dog has a seizure in a given period without medication given.

A number of respondents failed to answer this question. Of those who did the reported frequencies were as follows (in dogs untreated with medications).

Multiple - 2-12 seizures daily	1 monthly
1 daily	2 monthly
2 daily	1 every two months
4 daily	1 every three months
1 weekly	1 per year
2 weekly	2 per year
3 weekly	

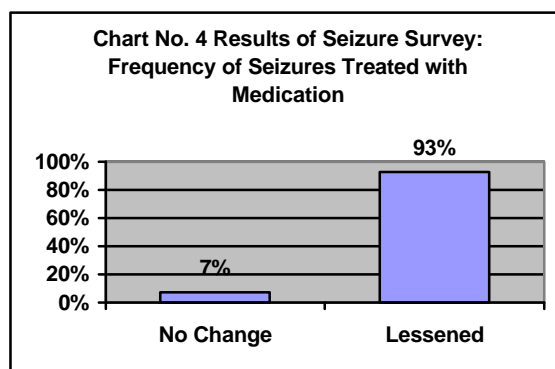
### ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE



Alternative Medicine is gaining favor in the treatment of canine epilepsy. Some of the methods used are acupuncture, gold wire implants in the ears and gold bead implants in the head and body, Chinese herbs, various Homeopathic Remedies and Flower Essences.

5 surveys reported the utilization of Alternative Medicine such as acupuncture and Chinese herbs.

### FREQUENCY OF SEIZURES TREATED



This refers to the number of times a dog has a seizure in a given period with medication given.

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Of those dogs reported responsive to anti-seizure medications the extent of their responses ranged as follows:  
 Multiple seizures, daily - Improved to no seizure activity  
 Multiple seizures, daily - Improved to 2 seizures, monthly  
 Multiple seizures, daily - Improved to 2 seizures yearly  
 Two seizures, daily - Improved to 2 monthly  
 One seizure daily - Improved to 1 seizure per six months  
 One seizure, per six months - Improved to no seizure activity  
 Remainder - No improvement with medications

## MEDICATIONS REPORTED AS HELPFUL

\*Please Note: An emphasis must be placed on individual drug titration per dog. (The dose must be adjusted properly for your dog.)

- Diazepam (Valium)
- Dilantin
- Phenobarbital
- Phenobarbital + Potassium Bromide
- Primadone (Mysoline)

## DOSAGES OF MEDICATIONS

### Diazepam (Valium)

Dosages not reported. Usually given to break status epilepticus or cluster seizures.

### Dilantin

100 mg. twice daily. \*Since other drug options are available, Dilantin (1997) is currently not recommended for use.

### Phenobarbital

Available in tablets of 1/4 grain to 15 mg.  
 Total daily dosage ranged from 30 mg. to 240 mg. as follows:

- 15 mg. (1/4 grain) twice daily (total = 30 mg.)
- 30 mg. (1/2 grain) twice daily (total = 60 mg.)
- 30 mg. (1/2 grain) three times daily (total = 90 mg.)
- 60 mg. (1 grain) twice daily (total = 120 mg.)
- 60 mg. (1 grain) three times daily (total 180 mg.)
- 60 mg. (1 grain) four times daily (total = 240 mg.)

### Phenobarbital + Potassium Bromide (KBr)

(KBr is available in capsule and liquid form)  
 Four respondents reported medication had to be increased because the dog had developed a tolerance to the drug.  
 60 mg. (1 grain) + 600 mg. KBr once daily  
 120 mg. (2 grains) + 600 mg. KBr twice daily

### Primadone

Available in tablets of 250 mg. or 500 mg.  
 Total daily dosage ranged from 250 mg. to 1,500 mg. as follows:  
 250 mg. once daily  
 250 mg. three times daily  
 500 mg. three times daily

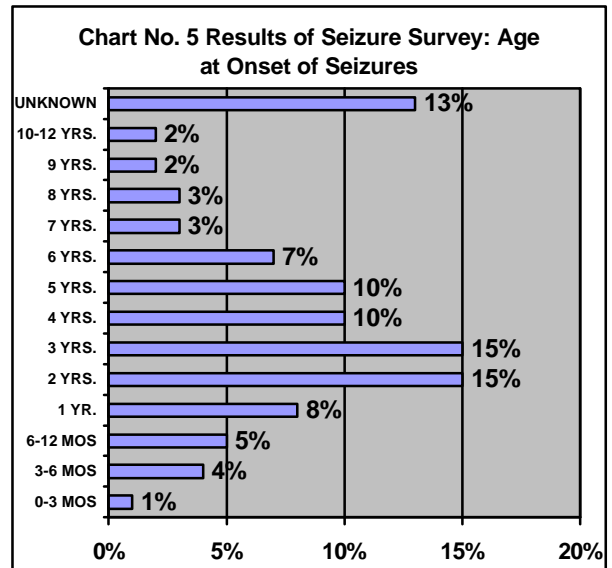
## Comments from 1997 Survey

1997 Survey reports Primadone and Phenobarbital as the most frequent medication utilized in seizure control.

1997 Survey reported that most dogs can be controlled using Phenobarbital and/or Phenobarbital and Potassium Bromide.

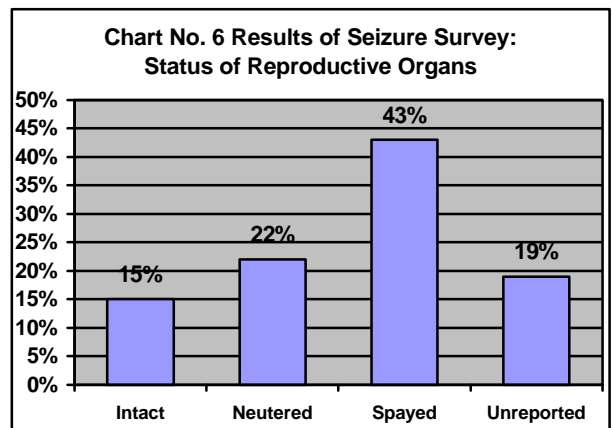
1997 3 surveys reported Bromide toxicity (excessive Bromide build-up in the blood stream creating an overdose effect.

## AGE OF ONSET OF SEIZURE ACTIVITY



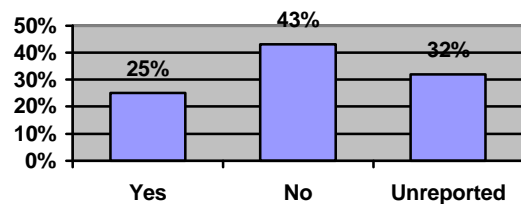
is refers to the age the dog started haing seizures. 1997 most frequent age of onset was 2.5 to 3 years.

## STATUS OF REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS



## DOGS LOST TO SEIZURE DISORDER

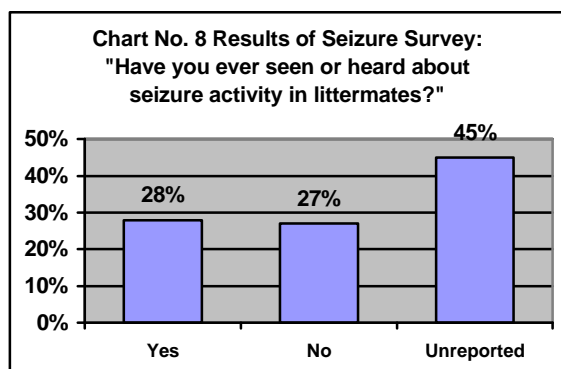
**Chart No. 7 Results of Seizure Study: "Have you ever lost a dog to a seizure disorder?"**



This question DID NOT consider euthanasia as a seizure control choice.

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

## SEIZURE ACTIVITY IN LITTERMATES



In the 1997 Survey, 31 (63%) reported they were lacking knowledge regarding seizure activity in littermates due to the following reasons:

- The purchase of an older dog and no contacts with littermates.
- A rescued dog
- Little or no contact with the breeder

### MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS AND INFORMATION

Numbers cited with the respondents' comments are the number of questionnaires returned. Please remember the quoted statements are from individual Dalmatian fanciers and may or may not be pertinent to seizure disorders in general!

"The sire had a seizure disorder"

(reported by 17 respondents; noted among different litters and different pedigrees)

(An increased incidence of seizure activity in female progeny was reported from a sire having a history of seizure activity)

"The dam had a seizure"

(reported by 8 respondents)

"Seizure activity in a bitch directly related to her being in season"

(reported by 12 different respondents)

"Onset occurred following whelping puppies and continued thereafter for the life of the dam."

(Hormonal influence? Hypoglycemia? Electrolyte deficiency?)

"Old age"

It was noted that seizure activity increases with age.

"Hypoglycemia" (low blood sugar)

"Renal Failure" (kidney failure)

"Water deprivation in young puppies creating a seizure disorder"

(This has similarly been reported in pig populations)

"Seizure activity following the use of Heartguard " (heart worm preventative)

### THE SEIZURE SURVEY IS ONGOING

All survey information is confidential.

If you have not completed a survey and wish to provide information on seizure disorders, please fill out the questionnaire which can be found at the DCA Home Page [http://www.thedca.org/seizure\\_survey.html](http://www.thedca.org/seizure_survey.html)

or request a paper questionnaire from either Marion Mitchell or Anita Tate.

Anita Tate, DMD  
DCA Study Group on  
Seizure Disorders  
11680 Maple Forest Drive  
Alpharetta, GA 30005  
Home Phone 770-740-0723  
Email: [laeb57a@prodigy.com](mailto:laeb57a@prodigy.com)

Marion Mitchell  
DCA Study Group on  
Seizure Disorders  
185 Rim Road  
Los Alamos, NM 87544  
Home Phone 505-662-3323  
Email: [dalcrazy@rt66.com](mailto:dalcrazy@rt66.com)

### SPECIAL REQUEST FOR OWNERS OF SEIZING DOGS WITH KNOWN SEIZURE ACTIVITY IN OTHER LITTERMATES

We are looking for owners of seizing Dalmatians, interested in the future participation of their dog in a genetic research study on Seizure Disorders.

For more information, contact Dr. Anita Tate tel # 770-740-0723

### INTERNET RESOURCES

The Epil-K9 List, an All Breed List, provides a forum for more than 450 owners of seizing dogs, to discuss the problems of dealing with this disorder. Different medication, alternative medications, problems faced with owning a seizing dog are some of the topics discussed. The list also provides emotional support which is essential when dealing with this disorder. A veterinarian is also available for guidance.

To join Epil-K9 send an email to [LISTSERV@APPLE.EASE.LSOFT.COM](mailto:LISTSERV@APPLE.EASE.LSOFT.COM) with the following message SUBSCRIBE EPIL-K9 <your name>. You will receive confirmation of your subscription and a welcome letter on how to post messages.

Other resources for canine epilepsy on the WWW can be found as follows:

Seizure Disorders in Dalmatians:

[http://www.thedca.org/seizure\\_disorders.html](http://www.thedca.org/seizure_disorders.html)

The 1997 Seizure Survey update:

[http://www.thedca.org/seizure\\_97.html](http://www.thedca.org/seizure_97.html)

Helpful Hints for Owners of Seizing Dalmatians:

[http://www.thedca.org/seizure\\_owner.html](http://www.thedca.org/seizure_owner.html)

Information on Epilepsy in Canines:

<http://world.std.com/~tolenio/epilepsy.html>

Epilepsy FAQ

<http://www.k9web.com/dog-faqs/medical/epilepsy.html>

Epilepsy Article by Dr. Todd L. Woods:

<http://www.teleport.com/~aatuk/epilepsy.htm>

Information on Epilepsy in Dalmatians (Marion Mitchell):

<http://www.rt66.com/~dalcrazy/epilepsy.html>

It is hoped that this report will be followed periodically with updates as additional questionnaires continue to be returned with more information on seizure disorders.

Many thanks to the time volunteered by Marion Mitchell to design the graphs that accompany this report. It is hoped that their visual impact will help you understand the statistics gathered.

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: SKIN AND COAT DISORDERS IN DALMATIANS

From: Study Group on Skin and Allergic Disorders (Suzanne Hughes, DVM)

Date: September 28, 1997

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The initial topic for consideration by the DCA study group on Skin & Allergic Disorders is that all-too-common and frustrating syndrome referred to by *fanciers* as “Dal crud”. I will discuss this topic specifically as it relates to dogs being actively campaigned in conformation or obedience.

A typical scenario may be the following: Your promising dog has a flawless coat while running in the backyard at home and swimming in scummy ponds. He may even tolerate a flea or two. He is groomed and shampooed on Thursday for the weekend shows. By Saturday, bumps begin appearing, usually on the top of the dog’s head and/or along his back. Left unchecked the bumps spread and often become very itchy (pruritic). A significant proportion of these lesions, interestingly, may not itch but still progress as follows. Each bump is actually an inflamed hair follicle that oozes a bit of serum, which may be noticed only as it dries in the form of scabs. Within a few days, hair loss occurs at the site of each bump. Eventually the coat looks moth-eaten. Additionally, white hairs take on a pinkish—bronze cast at the sites of the original bumps. At this stage itching is variable.

What is the cause (etiology) of this skin disorder-? How do we treat it? More importantly, how can we prevent it? Is this what is referred to as the “Dalmatian Bronzing Syndrome”? Does the “Dalmatian Bronzing Syndrome” really exist as a diagnostic entity? The answers to most of these questions are relatively straightforward. Let us address these issues in sequence leaving the question of cause for last.

- The bumps are actually hive-like reactions that occur at individual hair follicles;
- When inflammation of the follicles (folliculitis) occurs, we see secondary infection (superficial pyoderma) by *Staphylococcus intermedius*, which is one of the normal bacterial flora found on all dogs’ skin;
- By-products of bacterial life cycles can cause intense itching in the skin, aggravating the initial itchiness;
- Hair loss (alopecia) is a result of folliculitis stopping the growth of hair;
- Remaining hairs are stained by pigments called porphyrins in the serum which ooze out during the inflammatory process;
- The final and lasting result of all this is the “bronzed” appearance of the coat. The discolored hairs are permanently stained and little can be done to whiten a coat so affected. Of course this bronzing occurs just as frequently in colored coats but is not as apparent. The central issue of this disorder, however, remains to be addressed: Why do the hive-like reactions occur in the first place? The answers are many:

1 **Allergy.** A large majority of Dalmatians exhibiting these signs are allergic. Many scientific surveys statistically list our beloved breed as one of the most commonly represented allergic purebreds, based on repeatedly positive skin tests to assorted substances known to cause allergic reactions (allergens). These allergens may be inhaled as in the case of airborne pollens, molds, etc.; ingested as with food allergens; injected as with flea saliva; or merely contacted as with local irritants coming

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: SKIN AND COAT DISORDERS IN DALMATIANS

From: Study Group on Skin and Allergic Disorders (Suzanne Hughes, DVM)

Date: September 28, 1997

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in contact with the skin.

- 2 **Stress.** Add to allergy the physiological stress associated with travel, excitement, change in routine and diet (all that baiting!). Biologically, stress is associated with an increase in production of steroid hormones called glucocorticoids. Normally, glucocorticoids allow dogs to meet the special needs of stressful situations, but they may also have the unfortunate effect of decreasing the “barrier function” of normal canine skin. When inflammation already exists, the glucocorticoid response may permit bacteria, normally kept in check on the skin to flourish.
- 3 **Humidity and Heat.** Veterinary dermatologists consider changes in humidity and temperature also to be significant factors in the onset of these hive-like reactions. These changes may be associated with the ambient or skin environment, such as:
  - a. climatic differences between home and the show site;
  - b. drying of the skin;
  - c. occlusion of pores in the skin by special grooming products.

It has been suggested that the non-itchy form of this disorder is more directly related to these environmental conditions than to allergies.

## PREVENTION

Veterinary dermatologists are convinced that flea and inhalant allergies in dogs are hereditary. Certainly the best preventative medicine is to eliminate affected dogs from the breeding population. Some conscientious breeders have had great success in establishing lines with consistently good coats by simply avoiding the breeding of visibly affected dogs who exhibit chronically troublesome coats.

There is less agreement, on the other hand, about the hereditary nature of food allergies in dogs. As guardians of the Dalmatian breed, we must plan our breedings for general good health as carefully as we plan for that dynamite puppy that will knock their socks off at the next DCA!

For those of us who have not quite accomplished “coat-nirvana” in our breeding programs, a little forethought and care may allow us to avert an impending coat disaster. A quick review of the situation allows us to enumerate potential problems and then formulate solutions:

1. We have a more or less allergic dog;
2. We groom this dog with whitening shampoos that strip natural protective oils from skin and coat;
3. We travel, exposing him to unfamiliar allergens and possibly fleas;
4. Change in daily routine produces physiological stress and subsequently a somewhat suppressed immune response;

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: SKIN AND COAT DISORDERS IN DALMATIANS

From: Study Group on Skin and Allergic Disorders (Suzanne Hughes, DVM)

Date: September 28, 1997

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5. Using bait alters the normal diet and may negatively affect those dogs who have a component of food allergy as part of their problem.

The following preventative measures have generally proven effective and safe with no long-term contraindications or negative side effects.

For the past few years veterinary dermatologists have been prescribing fatty acid supplementation for those dogs shown to be allergic. Fatty acids act as immunomodulators, anti-inflammatory agents, and are especially important in helping the body maintain the integrity of skin as barrier to infectious agents. Other beneficial side effects include optimum hair growth and luster. Although debate continues as to the ideal ratios of specific fatty acids, most dermatologists agree these supplements should contain a combination of vegetable and fish oils. Recent data suggests these supplements should be administered at two to three times the manufacturer's recommended dose. (Note that some dogs will develop diarrhea if given doses higher than the recommended one.) Another important note: the effects of fatty acid supplementation will not become apparent for four to eight weeks and so should be part of long-term nutritional support. I recommend supplementation for the dog's entire show career, and in some cases, for its entire life. Fatty acids may not entirely prevent episodes of "the crud", but they allow the skin to function optimally under adverse circumstances.

Fatty acids have recently been shown in allergic dogs to act synergistically with antihistamines by helping to block the initial reaction to offending allergens. In several studies, dogs receiving both fatty acid supplements and antihistamines responded better with fewer, less severe bouts of itching and secondary skin infections than did those receiving either compound alone. Additionally, all dogs continuously receiving antihistamines responded better than those treated only when scratching was observed.

For breeders, this translates to a prevention protocol as follows: Several days prior to an anticipated allergic challenge (dog show), begin preventative antihistamine therapy and continue it until you return home. I usually choose to prescribe chlorpheniramine maleate (Chlor-Trimeton) as a first-line antihistamine. This is an inexpensive antihistamine available without a prescription that tends to produce less drowsiness than many others. (For those dogs experiencing dullness after they receive their antihistamine, wait until after showing to dose them. Duration of activity is short, so this effect should be inapparent by the next morning.)

Individual response to specific antihistamines is variable so do not despair if your initial choice is ineffective. Other potentially effective choices include diphenhydramine (Benadryl), clemastine (Tavist), and hydroxyzine (Atarax).

The rest of the prevention protocol involves common sense management:

- KEEP DALMATIANS FREE OF FLEAS.
- Use hypoallergenic shampoos, alternating with antibacterial shampoos if necessary. Do not bathe them too frequently.

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: SKIN AND COAT DISORDERS IN DALMATIANS

From: Study Group on Skin and Allergic Disorders (Suzanne Hughes, DVM)

Date: September 28, 1997

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- Avoid baits known to induce allergic reactions. These foodstuffs will vary from dog to dog and may require extensive trial and error to identify. When possible use a single source protein bait such as all-turkey hotdogs as opposed to organ meat products.

Remember that no studies have been published which have examined large groups of allergic Dalmatians. Anecdotal evidence gathered from dermatologists in academic and referral centers is compatible with published statistics of allergic dogs: Approximately 10% have food allergies and 90% have inhalant allergies.

## TREATMENT

If your dog begins to “bump up” despite your best efforts or in lieu of preventative measures, then aggressive treatment is necessary to save some coat for the next couple of show circuits. Topical treatment with benzoyl peroxide or chlorhexidine shampoos act to cleanse the skin, removing superficial bacteria. Under these circumstances, it may be necessary to bathe weekly, following with a hypoallergenic oatmeal creme rinse to prevent excessive drying of the skin and compromise of the skin barrier.

Systemic antibiotics are always indicated in cases of folliculitis. Unfortunately, skin needs to be treated for three to four weeks even in uncomplicated cases. If response is not noted within seven to ten days of antibiotic therapy, reevaluation of the antibiotic being used is warranted. Antibiotics chosen as first line therapeutic agents should be those known to be effective against *Staphylococcus intermedius*. Both prescriptions by veterinarians and response by bacteria to antibiotics vary regionally but appropriate choices include oxacillin, cephalexin, ormetaprimulfas and in some instances, amoxicillin with clavulanic acid. It is vitally important that appropriate treatment regimens are followed conscientiously.

For recurrent pyodermas that cannot be controlled by preventative measures outlined above, your veterinarian should recommend further workup to definitively rule in or out allergies, endocrine disorders, seborrhea, *Staphylococcal* hypersensitivity or rarely, immunocompromise.

## THE DALMATIAN BRONZING SYNDROME

I mentioned this “syndrome” earlier when discussing the bronze staining of white hairs by serum pigments. The bronzed Dal typically appears to have a broad stripe of pinkish-bronzed coat along the topline often including the head. Close examination of the hair shafts reveals staining from the skin to varying levels of the hair shafts. Early reports attempted to link this staining to other Dalmatian health problems including urinary urate crystals, dietary allergies, protein intolerance, demodicosis, and sarcoptic mange, and to call this collection of disorders the “Dalmatian Bronzing Syndrome”. Dermatologists are skeptical that this is a syndrome definitely associated with these other maladies or unique to Dalmatians. Most believe instead that it is the natural result of follicular inflammation described previously. Obviously, white-coated breeds will exhibit the staining most dramatically.

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: FATTY ACIDS REVISITED

From: Study Group on Skin and Allergic Disorders (Suzanne Hughes, DVM)

Date: September 28, 1997

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Veterinary dermatologists have been recommending fatty acid supplementation for several dermatologic conditions in dogs for more than 12 years. Studies are ongoing and investigators are far from a consensus as to the optimum ratio of omega-6 and omega-3 fatty acids for specific conditions, but some facts are becoming more generally accepted.

Dr. Lowell Ackerman, DVM, Ph.D. reviewed and summarized the issues at the 1997 North American Veterinary Conference. Omega-3 fatty acids are derivatives of linolenic acid and are considered anti-inflammatory. The most important of this group is eicosapentanoic acid (EPA) found in marine fish oils. Omega-6 fatty acids are derived from linoleic acid and cause the release of prostaglandin E1 (PGE1), which inhibits mediators of inflammation. This class of fatty acids is most commonly found in vegetable oils.

It appears fatty acids are most beneficial in dogs suffering from atopy, or inhalant allergies. Seborrhea and some immune-mediated diseases, such as systemic lupus erythematosus are other indications for fatty acid supplementation. Multiple studies have shown that these products may significantly improve the clinical presentation in 20% of atopic dogs. One recent study cited a 56% improvement, or decrease, in skin inflammation associated with inhalant allergies when dogs were supplemented with high doses of EPA. These dogs showed greater control of inflammation than itching. New diets have been formulated along these guidelines and may be beneficial to some atopic dogs.

Potentially the most exciting news for breeders is the use of fatty acids as preventative therapy in breeding stock. The theory is presented as follows: PGE1 is required for normal maturation of T-helper cells in newborn pups. A defect in T-helper cell maturation may play a role in atopy, or the expression of inhalant allergies in dogs. Atopic dams presumably have less PGE1 because they are T-helper cell compromised and therefore offspring are prone to allergies. If, however, fatty acids that increase PGE1 (omega-6's found in vegetable oil) are supplemented to the dam during the last month of pregnancy and all of lactation we may actually be able to decrease the problems in allergy prone puppies before they ever exhibit clinical signs of atopy.

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: DEMODICOSIS

From: Study Group on Skin and Allergic Disorders (Suzanne Hughes, DVM)

Date: September 28, 1997

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Demodex canis is a mite that lives naturally in the hair follicles of many mammalian species. In normal dogs small numbers of Demodex mites live unobtrusively as part of the host's normal fauna. Demodicosis is the condition resulting from a proliferation of these mites. Veterinarians categorize demodicosis as localized or generalized.

Dogs affected with localized demodicosis have one or more small patches of hair loss, often on the head or forelimbs. These lesions may be reddened and slightly scaly and may or may not be itchy. Localized demodicosis usually occurs in dogs between three and twelve months of age. Onset often accompanies puberty. While owners and some veterinarians are anxious to treat any dog presenting with localized demodicosis, rarely is this justified. Greater than 90% of these cases resolve spontaneously within four to eight weeks and almost never recur.

Generalized demodicosis is a much more severe and potentially life threatening disease. Lesions appear over much of the dog's body, often associated with deep bacterial infections. This form of

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: DEMODICOSIS

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demodicosis is universally thought to be associated with a genetic predisposition to a specific type of immunodeficiency. Adult onset can be associated with cancer or other life threatening disease. Treatment is extended and often must be continued for life since relapses are quite common.

Amitraz (in the form of a dip) is currently the only FDA approved effective product for treatment of demodicosis and should be reserved for the generalized form of this disease. Indiscriminate use of this agent for speeding elimination of mild localized demodicosis increases the risk of developing resistant mites.

In the recent past owners were routinely counseled by veterinarians to spay or neuter any dog affected with either form of demodicosis. It is now generally accepted that while certain breeds are predisposed to demodicosis, any dog can break out with the localized form and need not necessarily be removed from a well-conceived breeding program. Certainly, those dogs affected with the generalized form should be spayed or neutered.

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: DALMATIAN STONE-FORMING: GENERAL PREVENTATIVES

From: Study Group on Urinary Stones (Carroll H. Weiss)

Date: October, 1996

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### GENERAL PREVENTATIVE GUIDELINES FOR STONE-FORMING DALMATIANS

- Have your vet perform a routine, inexpensive urinalysis periodically. If centrifuging spins out sediment from the urine specimen, send it for assay only to one of the two urinary stone centers in the United States. (Minnesota Urolith Center does not charge.)
- Obtain “fresh” urine in a clean, chemically-inert container (glass, plastic) for vet’s testing. Do not obtain sample after Dal has recently urinated when the bladder may have been flushed of crystals or small stones. Instead, obtain specimen either first thing in AM, before feeding (after urine has sat unemptied in the bladder overnight) or after dog has not urinated for at least four to five hours. Deliver urine to vet as soon as possible after collecting - do not refrigerate.
- ONE MAJOR GOAL OF PREVENTION IS TO MAINTAIN A PLATEAU OF NORMAL URINARY PH 7.0. Dipstick fresh urine frequently and keep a diary of pH readings.

If the pH goes below 7.0 (into the acidic area of 6.5 or less) and stays there over the course of several dipstickings, consider reevaluating the Dal’s diet/drugs and consult with your vet for additives to alkalinize the metabolizing of current food formulation.

If the pH goes above 7.0 (into the alkaline area of 7.5 or higher) and stays there over the course of several dipstickings, contact your vet to rule out a possible urinary infection

- Stone-formers should drink - unrestricted - only distilled water for their entire lives. This form of water is available in any’ supermarket where bottled water is stocked and is not expensive. Make sure labeling specifies “distilled water,” not merely “drinking,” not “filtered” nor “purified.” (Filters on your water faucets or supply’ will not purify the water to the extent that distilled water will.)
- Formation of abnormal crystals and stones occurs in stagnant urine. Let the Dalmatian urinate as frequently as possible (at least every 4-5 hrs.) so that the bladder is flushed of crystals before they progress into stones

Topic: DALMATIAN STONE-FORMING: FREE & OTHER PUBLICATIONS

From: Study Group on Urinary Stones (Carroll H. Weiss)

Date: July, 1997

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### **TEACHING PUBLICATIONS ON DALMATIAN URINARY STONE-FORMING**

1. A small brochure summarizing information on Dalmatian stone-forming (including preventative and emergency procedures) is available free-of-charge so long as a stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope is sent. This brochure is not copyrighted and may be freely duplicated.
2. The second edition of "A Primer on Dalmatian Stone-Forming", an elaborate information package of over 60 pages on the subject, is available for breeders, owners and their vets. New to edition two are:
  - A wallchart for Dalmatians' veterinarians showing microscopic appearance of abnormal urinary crystals,
  - Updated 15 year statistics on almost 3,000 Dalmatian stones,
  - A section discussing recipes of home-cooked anti-stone food formulations.

Out-of-pocket reimbursement, including domestic U. S. postage, is:  
Non-DCA members @ U.S. \$10.00 - DCA members @ U.S. \$7.50.

Please make checks payable to:  
Carroll H. Weiss  
Study Group on Urinary Stones  
DCA Research Committee  
8290 N.W. 26th Place  
Sunrise FL 33322-2951  
U.S.A

Further information: E-mail [carroll@sunset.net](mailto:carroll@sunset.net)

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: DALMATIAN STONE-FORMING: INFORMATION ARTICLES ON INTERNET

From: Study Group on Urinary Stones (Carroll H. Weiss)

Date: July, 1997

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### **New Article Added to the Internet Information Series About Dalmatian Urinary Stone-Forming**

A retrospective survey of almost 3,000 Dalmatian urinary stones has been added to the DCA website, effective July 1997, through the generosity of the DCA Communications Committee, especially the yeoman work of Brooks Holland, DCA member and Dalmatian breeder. The web pages permit downloading and printout in a choice of formats for filing or sharing with the veterinarians treating the stone-forming Dalmatian:

“Urinary Stone-Forming in Dalmatians and Other Dogs:”

[http://www.thedca.org/dal\\_book.html](http://www.thedca.org/dal_book.html)

“General Preventatives for Stone-Forming Dalmatians”

<http://www.thedca.org/genlprev.html>

“Emergency Procedures for Obstructed Stone-Forming Dalmatians”

<http://www.thedca.org/emergency.html>

“Fallacy of ‘Low Protein’ vs. ‘High Protein’ in Stone-Formers’ Diets”

<http://www.thedca.org/fallacy.html>

Tabulation of Purine-Yielding Foods

<http://www.thedca.org/purines.html>

DCA Teaching Seminar by Joseph Bartges, DVM, PhD

<http://www.thedca.org/seminar.html>

“Dipsticking to Monitor Stone-Forming Dalmatians”

<http://www.thedca.org/dipstick.html>

“Fifteen Years’ Data of Almost 3,000 Dalmatian Stones”

<http://www.thedca.org/stonecharts.html>

(Links updated 3/99)

(End, July 1997 Bulletin)

Topic: DALMATIAN STONE-FORMING: EMERGENCY PROCEDURES, OBSTRUCTION

From: Study Group on Urinary Stones (Carroll H. Weiss)

Date: July, 1997

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### **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES: DALMATIAN CANNOT PASS URINE ("URINARY OBSTRUCTION")**

- RUSH DOG TO YOUR VETERINARIAN OR EMERGENCY CLINIC! Obstruction of the urinary pathway quickly reaches life-threatening status within 24 to 72 hours as urine backs up into the body system instead of being expelled. It is not unknown for bladders to burst as urine continues to collect!
- Have dammed-up urine easily but immediately removed from bladder either by "cystocentesis" or by catheterization. This may have to be done several times while diagnosis and treatment are being evaluated. Draining urine "buys time."
- Have the type of stone identified by urinalysis: abnormal urinary crystals are apparent and identifiable under an office microscope. Urates form in acidic urine (pH below 7.0). Struvite known as "infection" crystals/stones form in alkaline urine (pH above 7.0). Their treatment is different!
- Have size of the stones confirmed by x-ray but remind veterinarian the most commonly-seen urate stones in Dalmatians may not visualize under normal x-ray procedures. Urates require skillful "indirect radiography" to be visualized in situ.
- Non-surgical clearing of the obstruction can be often accomplished by "uropropulsion" whereby, under anesthesia, the stones are flushed back up into the bladder. This sometimes must be done two to three times, also under anesthesia, before a free urinary stream is sustained. If stones quickly move down and constantly re-obstruct after short periods of time, then bladder surgery may be unavoidable to restore normal urinary flow. Request "Isoflurane" for the anesthetic if surgery is unavoidable. "Urethrostomy" is not "bladder surgery!" It is a surgical creation of a false urinary opening generally at the base of the scrotal sacs and should be considered A LAST RESORT after all other anti-stone procedures have failed. It should be performed only by an experienced surgeon, preferably one who is "Board certified."
- Have Dalmatian started on antibiotics for existing urinary infection or to prevent the onset of one. A bacteriology culture including "antibiotic discing" may point to the most effective antibiotic for the species of bacteria inducing the infection.
- Shift the stone-former to distilled water, only.
- Rush either stones passed or catheterized or removed surgically - or sediment centrifuging out during urinalysis - to one of the two urinary stone centers listed to confirm assay by electron micrography, chromatography and other highly specialized testing procedures. (Minnesota Urolith Center does not charge.)

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: DALMATIAN STONE-FORMING: DIPSTICKING STONE-FORMERS

From: Study Group on Urinary Stones (Carroll H. Weiss)

Date: July, 1997

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### DIPSTICKING TO MONITOR STONE-FORMERS & THEIR DIETS

Remember high school chemistry when litmus paper revealed if a solution was either acid or alkaline? Modern dipsticks from your vet or drug store are "super" litmus paper. They are simple to use by the Dal's owner and show exact degrees of urinary pH.

A quick dip into a dog's urine before feeding will indicate if the pH is acidic (how much below the normal of 7.0) or alkaline (how much above the normal of 7.0). With a program of regular dipsticking and keeping a diary of the results, any Dalmatian can be tracked to detect when and how long it is producing abnormal and unstable urine, often much before abnormal crystals progress into stone formation.

Dipsticking is best done first thing in the A.M. before feeding and after the Dalmatian has been indoors overnight when urine has accumulated in the bladder over the course of many hours. Some very conscientious owners dipstick also a few hours after feeding to monitor any difference in pH between fasting urine and the pH a few hours after the Dal has digested its meal.

All Dalmatians are born with a tendency to acidic urine in which the occurrence and growth of abnormal urate crystals and stones thrive. The success of preventative anti-urate diets and drugs thus can be monitored by dipsticking and treatment regimens modified if the pH continues to be undesirably acidic.

Some dogfood formulations produce an acidic urine and dipsticking will also help to reveal those that do and therefore which should be avoided for stone-forming Dalmatians.

Dipsticks, also known as "chemstrips," can be purchased from your veterinarian or drug store. If those sources do not stock them, look in the yellow pages of your telephone directory under "Medical Supply Companies."

<b>NORMAL DALMATIAN URINARY pH IS BETWEEN 6.5 AND 7.0</b>
<b>ACIDIC URINE IS BELOW pH 7.0 (down to 5.0 or 6.0, for example)</b>
<b>ALKALINE URINE IS ABOVE pH 7.0 (up to 8.0 or 8.5, for example)</b>

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: DALMATIAN STONE-FORMING: HEART PROBLEM WITH LONG-TERM DIETS

From: Study Group on Urinary Stones (Carroll H. Weiss)

Date: July, 1997

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### **Caution Suggested for Stone-Forming Dalmatians on Long-Term, Very Low-Protein Diets**

Extremely isolated reports of a certain type of heart problem in a few Dalmatians are being reported nationally. The condition is called "cardiomyopathy" or "cardiac myopathy." It is being seen in Dalmatians who have been fed very low-protein diets for long periods of time because they were urinary stone-formers. [ADDENDUM: this now has been published. Urge your vets to read: "Idiopathic Dilated Cardiomyopathy in Dalmatians: Nine Cases (1990-1995)" by Lisa M. Freeman, DVM, PhD, and coauthors in Journal of the American Veterinary Medicine Association, volume 209, pp. 1592-1596 (Nov. 1)1996.]

Immediate research to explore the relationship of diet to the heart problem was started by veterinary academic centers including those which specialize in canine stone-forming. Preliminary findings suggest that a dietary deficiency of one or both of two amino acids may perhaps be factors in the strange onset of the heart symptoms. They are "taurine" and "carnitine." Taurine deficiency has been known by veterinarians to be associated with cardiomyopathy in cats but rarely if ever in dogs. Because of the small number of reports, it cannot be positively or even probably concluded at this time that diet, alone, is responsible. Other coincidental factors have yet to be finally evaluated such as for example, heart problems in the breedline

Stone-forming Dalmatians being successfully maintained symptom-free on home-cooked low-protein diets or on prescription anti-urate food formulations should not be shifted from their food regimens. (As of April 1995, Hills Prescription Foods added taurine to both dry and canned versions of their u/d® formulation.) For stone-formers on any anti-urate, low-protein food formulation including home-cooked ones, daily supplementation with high-protein but low purine-yielding foods such as hard boiled eggs may be considered unless the dog is allergic to them.

The owner of one of the first Dalmatians reported with cardiac myopathy has graciously given her permission to be contacted by anyone wishing to learn of the successful treatment of her afflicted male, Levi, who is being maintained as a frisky "normal" Dalmatian: Mrs. Victoria (Vicki) Emmel, Delta PA, tel. (717) 456-7358.

<p><b>Please consult with your veterinarian if your stone-forming Dalmatian starts to cough uncharacteristically or to show other suspicious symptoms of possible heart problems.</b></p>
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## **DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA**

Topic: DALMATIAN STONE-FORMING: TEACHING VIDEO AVAILABLE

From: Study Group on Urinary Stones (Carroll H. Weiss)

Date: August 1992 Educational Seminar at DCA Specialty

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### **URINARY STONES IN DALMATIANS AND OTHER CANINES**

JOSEPH W. BARTGES, DVM, Ph.D.

Minnesota Urolith Center  
U. of Minn. School of Veterinary Medicine  
St. Paul

Perhaps the single, most informative item for both the owner of a stone-forming Dalmatian and their veterinarian is the videotape of the 1992 DCA lecture by Dr. Joseph Bartges, then of the Minnesota Urinary Stone Center.

Two sections, alone, will be invaluable to the veterinarian:

1. How to microscopically differentiate the many kinds of urinary crystals in stone-forming dogs,
2. How to diagnose from x-rays of different but mimicking urinary stones.

It may be rented from the DCA Lending Library:

Contact:

Mrs. Cathy Nogar  
Route 1 - Box 370J  
Española NM 87532

Telephone (505) 753-2721

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: DALMATIAN STONE-FORMING: TABLE OF PURINE YIELDING FOODS

From: Study Group on Urinary Stones (Carroll H. Weiss)

Date: October 1996

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## Purine-Yielding Foods

### Foods **HIGHEST** In Purines

- Anchovies
- Brains
- Kidney, beef
- Game meats (venison, etc.)
- Gravies
- Herring (including roe)
- Liver (calf or beef)
- Mackerel
- Meat extracts
- Mussels
- Sardines
- Scallops
- Yeast

### Foods **MODERATELY HIGH** In Purines

- Asparagus
- Bacon
- Breads & cereals, whole grain
- Cauliflower
- Eel
- Fish (fresh & saltwater)
- Legumes (kidney beans, navy & lima beans, lentils, peas)
- Meat (beef, lamb, pork, veal)
- Meat soups & broths
- Mushrooms
- Oatmeal

- Peas, green
- Pork (including ham)
- Poultry (chicken, duck, turkey)
- Shellfish (crab, lobster, oysters)
- Spinach
- Tongue
- Tripe
- Wheat germ & bran

### Foods **LOWEST** In Purines

- Beverages (coffee, tea, sodas, cocoa)
- Butter
- Bread & cereal (except whole grain)
- Cheese
- Eggs
- Fats
- Fish roe (including caviar)
- Fruits & fruit juices (avoid citrus to minimize abnormally acidic urinary pH)
- Gelatin
- Milk (including butter, condensed, malted)
- Nuts (including peanut butter)
- Pasta (evaluate sauce ingredients separately)
- Sugars, syrups, sweets
- Vegetables (except those above)
- Vegetable & cream soups (made with acceptable vegetables, but not with beef stock)

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: DALMATIAN STONE-FORMING: WHAT A URINALYSIS CAN REVEAL

From: Study Group on Urinary Stones (Carroll H. Weiss)

Date: Nov/Dec issue of *Transcanadals*  
Newsletter of the Dalmatian Club of Canada

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## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF URINALYSIS by DR. TOM FRISBY

Reprinted from *Transcanadals*, Newsletter of the Dalmatian Club of Canada, Nov/Dec. 1994.

Most of us at one time or another have given a urine sample for analysis such as for an insurance physical. As veterinarians, we take urine samples regularly from our patients as a way of obtaining valuable information regarding not only the urinary system but also many other body systems as well.

Urine is produced by the kidneys and travels down the ureters into the bladder where it is stored. Urine contains the by-products of many metabolic processes that take place in the body. These waste products are then eliminated in the urine.

[Kidneys and ureters make up the upper urinary system. The bladder and urethra make up the lower urinary system.] If you imagine the urine as a river and the flow from the upper through the lower systems as the river bed, the urine will pick up various cells and particles as it travels its way to the outside. The character, as determined by urinalysis, of the various debris in the urine can provide valuable information on the state of the organs it has come from and passed through. Such an analysis of a urine sample is called a "urinalysis" and it really consists of many analytical procedures. For example, the specimen is examined for color, density, acidity and other properties. It can then be spun in a centrifuge to allow the collection of sediment which is examined under a microscope to determine the presence of blood cells, pus, bacteria, cancer cells, crystals etc. Urine may be bacteriologically cultured to identify various

organisms. We can examine it chemically for an even larger number of substances - illicit or otherwise.

Let's now go through some of the more important findings of urinalysis and see what they mean.

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### **Specific Gravity**

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The specific gravity is a simple measure of the kidney's ability to concentrate and/or to dilute urine. A normal healthy kidney has the ability to conserve fluid when it is necessary and to excrete extra fluid when this is needed. Serial checks of specific gravity can help us quantify this ability.

Decreased urine specific gravity, i.e., very watery or dilute urine occurs in certain kidney diseases, in pyometra (a uterine disease), in Cushing's disease (a hormonal disease), in diabetes insipidus (a condition which causes the victim to drink copiously). Very dilute urine also occurs in pets that are on steroid therapy for perhaps a skin disease - they drink more and so they urinate more.

Increased urine specific gravity is caused by fever, dehydrations, vomiting diarrhea and severe hemorrhage. These are all conditions in which the body must conserve as much fluid as possible due to abnormal loss of fluid by other means.

The urine of a dog with diabetes mellitus (sugar diabetes) also has a high specific gravity but this is mainly because of the abnormally high sugar content of the urine.

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### **Urinary pH or Hydrogen Ion Concentration**

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The urine of dogs and cats is normally acidic because their diets are usually of animal origin. An alkaline urine in these animals is commonly the result of cystitis or lower urinary tract obstruction or infection.

# DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: DALMATIAN STONE-FORMING: WHAT A URINALYSIS CAN REVEAL

From: Study Group on Urinary Stones (Carroll H. Weiss)

Date: Nov/Dec issue of *Transcanadals*  
Newsletter of the Dalmatian Club of Canada

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## **Blood**

Normal urine is, for all intents, free of blood although a few red blood cells will always be seen under the microscope. Obvious blood can be from cystitis or from any hemorrhaging condition along the urinary tract such as for example, a tumor or polyp. Of course, a female in estrus will have blood in their urine.

## **White Blood Cells**

Large amounts of white blood cells appear in the urine because of infection. In some cases, the numbers are so large that there is actually pus in the urine (pus is made up of white blood cells).

## **Glucose**

Glucose is not normally found in the urine but may occur from time to time due to benign causes such as excitement, steroid therapy or even excessive carbohydrate intake. Pathologically, it occurs in diabetes mellitus, Cushing's disease, hyperthyroidism, acute kidney disease and acute pancreatitis.

## **Bacteria**

Properly collected, urine is normally sterile. The presence of bacteria indicates cystitis, kidney infection or some other urinary tract infection. To establish the very best antibiotic to use in these conditions, use is made of "culture and sensitivity" testing. The bacteria is grown in the laboratory on a special culture medium and tests are performed to assess the efficacy of various antibiotic agents in preventing such growth, thus enabling us to identify the antibiotic of choice for treating the animal.

## **Crystals**

The presence of large numbers of crystals in urine, particularly that of cats, indicates cystitis

and/or lower urinary tract disease. It is these crystals which help form the plug which are so deadly for the male cat with feline urological syndrome.

## **Bilirubin**

There is always a small amount of bilirubin present in the urine. This is what gives it the characteristic mellow yellow color. Large amounts of bilirubin usually indicate the presence of diseases causing jaundice or icterus such as bile duct obstruction, hepatitis, liver tumors, leptospirosis (a bacterial disease). The urine will be thick and dark orange.

## **Albumin**

Albumin is a protein and is not normally present in urine save for in small amounts during estrus and in times of excessive protein intake or massive exertion. Presence of large amounts can indicate kidney disease or infection, tumor or inflammation of the lower urinary tract.

## **Cells**

A certain amount of cells are always present in normal urine and these are the epithelial or surface lining cells of the various areas and organs that the urine travels through. Large numbers of cells can indicate urinary tract inflammation. The pathologist will look for atypical cells which might indicate neoplasia or cancer.

There are many more tests that can be run on urine and indeed whole textbooks have been devoted to their meanings. I've found that clients in general don't tend to put much credence in urine testings. In their minds it's right up there with stool analyses. Hopefully this information will help you view it in a more optimistic light.

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: DALMATIAN STONE-FORMING: TEN YR. REPORT ON 275 DALMATIANS

From: Study Group on Urinary Stones (Carroll H. Weiss)

Date: July 1993 bulletin to Regional Dalmatian Clubs

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### **Ten-Year Report on 275 Stone-Forming Dalmatians Published in National Veterinary Journal**

All veterinarians treating Dalmatians (stone-formers or not) should be aware of a most impressive published compilation of Dalmatian statistics covering ten years and from 275 Dalmatians. The article appears in the current Sept. 15th, 1993 issue of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medicine Association, volume 203, pages 857-869.

Entitled "Urolithiasis in Dalmatians: 275 Cases (1981-1990)," the outstanding article and extensive statistics were prepared by staff of the Urinary Stone Analysis Laboratory (USAL) and of the Depts. of Medicine, Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine of the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis. Veterinarians wishing reprints should contact Gerald V. Ling, DVM (Professor of Medicine, and Head of the USAL) in the Dept of Medicine at the School of Veterinary Medicine, Davis, CA 95616.

The article notes that prevention of stone forming in Dalmatians known to be creating urate stones includes: 1) diets low in purines, 2) adequate water intake, 3) alkalinizing the urine of urate-forming Dals, 4) control of coexisting urinary infections and 5) daily treatment with allopurinol. Of 19 stones from Dalmatians known to have been treated with allopurinol, "One hundred percent... were found to contain xanthine or other compounds related to...allopurinol [treatment]." This supports Dr. Ling's 1991 published report (and the subject of a previous Study Group bulletin) that overdosage with allopurinol can result in the formation of xanthine, a mineral which can be removed only by surgery and not by diet or other non-surgical methods. The 1991 article emphasized that each stone-forming Dalmatian must be evaluated to individualize their optimum dosage of allopurinol (so that they not be denied the anti-urate action of the drug).

Detailed statistics are reported for 14 bitches and 261 dogs. The article acknowledges "The most widely proposed explanation for the apparent preponderance of urate calculi in males is...[because]...they easily pass through the distensible female urethra, but they tend to lodge in the male urethra as it enters the narrow groove in the os penis." If female vs. male urinary anatomy was the primary explanation, however, the article suggests, "...a preponderance of urate calculi [should be found] in males of all breeds...We found female non-Dalmatians to be twice as likely as male non-Dalmatians to form [urate stones], suggesting there may be as yet undiscovered factors that predispose male Dalmatians to the formation of [urate stones]."

Of the 292 stones reported in the article, 97 percent were from the lower urinary system (bladder, urethra) and only 3 percent from the upper urinary system. The authors caution that the prevalence of stones in the kidneys "...may be higher than realized..." because stone statistics are from those removed by surgery and not by autopsy. Standard x-ray procedures, too, make the detection of stones in the kidneys difficult because urate stones generally require special x-ray techniques to be visualized even in the bladder and urethra.

This Bulletin is merely the "tip of the iceberg" in terms of the spectrum of information derived from this splendid article.

## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: DALMATIAN STONE-FORMING: WORLDWIDE SCIENTIFIC ARTICLES

From: Study Group on Urinary Stones (Carroll H. Weiss)

Date: October 1993 bulletin to Regional Dalmatian Clubs

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### **Worldwide Scientific Articles on Dalmatian Stone-Forming Reviewed & Published in National Veterinary Journal**

Stone-forming in Dalmatians was first reported in 1916 by a Dr. Benedict, and scientific articles have been published throughout the world since then. Now, veterinarians have a concise review of 114 significant English-language ones consolidated in a single issue of a national veterinary journal. The article appears in the July 1st, 1993 issue of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medicine Association, volume 203, pages 96-100.

Entitled "A Literature Review of Urate Urolithiasis in Dalmatian Dogs: Metabolic and Genetic Aspects, Parts I & II" the articles were surveyed and summarized by staff of the Urinary Stone Analysis Laboratory (USAL) and of the Depts. of Medicine, Epidemiology and Preventative Medicine of the School of Veterinary Medicine, University of California, Davis. Veterinarians wishing reprints should contact Gerald V. Ling, DVM (Professor of Medicine, and Head of the USAL) in the Dept. of Medicine at the School of Veterinary Medicine, Davis, CA 95616.

Scientific journals from veterinary and human medicine were included from as far as South Africa and Scandinavia, and from the U.S. and Canada. Articles were extracted from scientific journals, textbooks and proceedings of symposia. They represent definitive information on urinary stone-forming from veterinary medicine, human medicine, surgery, genetics, urology, nephrology and other specialties pertinent to the study of diseases of the urinary system.

Any veterinarian treating Dalmatians (stone-formers or not) should be aware of the consolidated publication of this vast and thorough survey of scientific literature on the subject.

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## DALMATIAN CLUB OF AMERICA

Topic: DALMATIAN STONE-FORMING: OVERDOSAGE WITH ALLOPURINOL

From: Study Group on Urinary Stones (Carroll H. Weiss)

Date: April 1993

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### **Caution Urged for Drug Treatment of Stone—Forming Dals**

Scientific articles in veterinary journals and textbooks are reporting new cautions in giving allopurinol and vitamin C to stone-forming Dalmatians.

For more than a decade, when stones or crystals in Dalmatian urine had been assayed as urate (either ammonium acid urate or uric acid or sodium urate), veterinarians prescribed allopurinol, a highly effective anti-urate medication. It now appears that overdosage with allopurinol may paradoxically create xanthine stones, another form of urates. Xanthine stones cannot be dissolved with diet and drugs (unlike other urates) and, once present, surgery is the only method to remove them.

The report was on 9 Dalmatians and 1 Australian Shepherd and from the California Urinary Stone Analysis Laboratory of the University of California at Davis, by Dr. Gerald Ling and staff. Dr. Ling's group is one of two prominent veterinary medical centers in the United States specializing in urinary stones in small animals.

Dalmatian dosage of the drug was cited to range from 450 mg. of allopurinol daily up to 2,400 mg. The article, published in the June 1991 issue of the Journal of the American Veterinary Medicine Association, discusses procedures by which each dog can be evaluated to individualize the proper amount of allopurinol so that the anti-urate benefit of the drug need not be denied them.

Statistics from the other U.S. center, the Minnesota Urinary Stone Center of Dr. Carl Osborne at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center in St. Paul, show one of the most common urinary stones in Dalmatians is calcium oxalate. Because vitamin C is a precursor of calcium oxalate, Dalmatian fanciers are urged not to give vitamin C to their dogs.