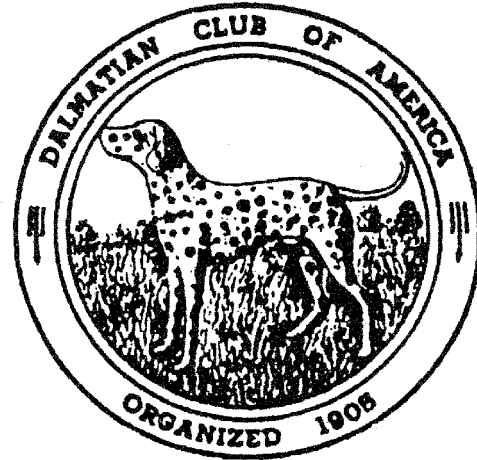


Congratulations

On your  new

DALMATIAN



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

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



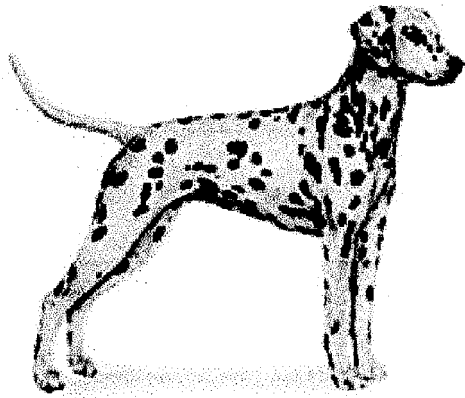
The Dalmatian is clean by nature and has little, if any, "doggy odor". His short coat does shed almost year round, but regular brushing helps to minimize shedding. Bathing is usually unnecessary more than 3 or 4 times a year and is actually to be discouraged as soap and water remove the essential oils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

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

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

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





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

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

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

Recommended Reading

THE OFFICIAL BOOK OF THE DALMATIAN
By The Dalmatian Club of America Inc
\$39.95 + \$5.00 s/h Make checks payable to DCA
Order from: Meg Hennessey, P O Box 632, Elgin, IL 60121-0632

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

THE DALMATIAN
By Anna Katherine Nicholas

THE CARE OF THE DALMATIAN
By Sylvia Howison

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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ORDER FORM

Please send me:

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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