



Spotted Copy

*Official newsletter of the Western Reserve
Dalmatian Club for members of Cleveland and
Northeast Ohio. Est.- 1965*

November, 2011

Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the WRDC or of the Editor. Your opinions, suggestions and comments are always welcomed!

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Subscriptions to the Spotted Copy are \$15.00 per year. Subscriptions are free to WRDC Members.

Deadline for December newsletter is 11/24/11

Camera ready copy please.

Next Meeting

Next meeting is at 7pm
on **Saturday, November 19**, at the Strongsville
Fire Station, 11287
Webster Road,
Strongsville, Ohio

**Black & White Elephant
Sale**

Thanksgiving Tips your Dal Will Thank You For

Thanksgiving is here and whether that conjures warm memories of family gathered around a wonderful feast or a nightmare of in-laws that have inundated your house, it is important to remember that pets will be around for the holidays as well.

Thanksgiving is my favorite meal and it isn't hard to imagine how much my dogs would enjoy some of the leftovers of our feast. However, I have to remember that no matter how human-like my pets act, their bodies function differently than that of a human. Their gastrointestinal tracts are not equipped to handle the amount of fat that comes with drippings, stuffing and buttered mashed potatoes.

Most dogs usually eat the same meal every day. Their diets are much less varied than that of a human and adding new foods can result in diarrhea or vomiting, a scenario best avoided. "Also," reminds Dr. Julie Byron, internal medicine veterinarian at the University of Illinois, "many dogs become lactose intolerant as they get older." The rich, creamy fare of Thanksgiving provides a sure way to an upset stomach.

If you must give holiday treats, try to stick to the more bland provisions, such as simple starches like boiled potatoes or non-spiced meats. It is best to avoid anything with a lot of spices in it.

For behavioral reasons, if you want to feed your dog "people food," this should not be done directly from the table. Your pooch, or even your cat, will think that the dinner table means an opportunity for delicious snacks and begging is a tough habit to break.

If your dog gets an upset stomach, give its stomach a rest for a day. A good substitute for your pet's food is bland rice or cooked hamburger. If your pet's upset stomach persists, consult your veterinarian.

Some common ingredients in our traditional Thanksgiving Day feast are toxic to our pets. Garlic and onions are members of the allium family and can cause a blood disorder. This, if given in sufficient amounts, can cause hemolytic anemia in which the red blood cells essentially burst. Red blood cells serve a number of purposes, but perhaps most importantly, transfer oxygen throughout the body to the necessary tissues.

Raisins and grapes are also little known pet toxins; these seemingly harmless treats have been linked to kidney failure. Theobromine, the active ingredient in chocolate, can cause heart complications. Chocolate, when given to dogs, can cause serious heart abnormalities. The more rich the chocolate, the more dangerous it is to your pet. Dark chocolate is worse than milk chocolate, and baker's chocolate can be very serious and a potentially lethal problem for dogs.

There are a number of other random ingredients that can cause problems for your pet, such as macadamia nuts and avocados. For this reason, it is best to err on the side of caution by not feeding your pet human food. It is also important to keep the phone number for the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Hotline nearby--1-888/426-4435.

Many of us buy dog bones for our dogs at the pet store, so it is not too far of a leap to assume that the bones from a turkey carcass or a roast are also safe to give to your dog. However, the danger with bones from your turkey carcass or roast is that they could fracture into pieces and cause an obstruction or tear your pet's gastrointestinal tract. The bottom line for giving thanks to your dog this year is to keep it simple. Though it might seem like a treat to bestow your Thanksgiving table goodies to your favorite pet, keep the leftovers in the fridge and the dog food bowl relatively boring for a healthy holiday overall. For more information about the dangers of feeding your pet foods other than those intended for pets, consult your local vet.

Brookelyn Nitzkin
Information Specialist

The Great Dog Convention



Well, they were all in attendance, every dog in the world.

Straight tailed dogs, bob tailed dogs, dog tails that were curled,
There were Bulldogs and Boxers and Spaniels from Spain,
Some Poodles from France flew in on their own plane.

It was "**The Great Dog Convention**" and every dog on earth was there.

All the lady dogs had lipstick on and ribbons in their hair,

While the younger males were telling tales about how they chased their cars

All the older hounds were buying rounds and smoking big cigars.

Now, when dogs go to conventions, if you never knew before,

They always take their asses off and leave them by the door,
Dogs have their own manners and you know every dog has pride,

And any dog with good taste knows you don't wear your ass inside.

Well, they were all in attendance, every dog in the world

Straight tailed dogs, bob tailed dogs, dog tails that were curled,

There were Dalmatians and Greyhounds and Great Pyrenees,
And all of them Chinese Pugs, they were barking in Chinese.

Well, the dogs got drunk by midnight and they kept on getting higher,
All the lights were dim by 3 am when someone hollered "FIRE!"

Well the dogs all made it out the door, but they had no time to lose,
So they just grabbed any ass they could, they had no time to choose.

Well, now you know the story, of the Dog World's greatest blaze,
And the night they mixed their asses up and went their separate ways,

Now when two dogs greet, on any street, it is a common sight,
To see them sniff each other's tails, looking for the ass that they lost that night!

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Lady Maxine's Book of Quotations



The dog of your boyhood teaches you a great deal about friendship, and love, and death: Old Skip was my brother. They had buried him under our elm tree, they said — yet this wasn't totally true. For he really lay buried in my heart.

Willie Morris

It's no coincidence that man's best friend cannot talk.

Anonymous

Sometimes you panic and find yourself emitting remarks so profoundly inane that you would be embarrassed to say them to your dog. Your dog would look at you and think to itself, "I may lick myself in public, but I'd never say anything as stupid as that."

Dave Barry

A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.

Anonymous

2012 Committees

Awards

Cindy Riggans & Ann Swope

Awards & Holiday Banquet

Cindy Riggans

Historian

Debbie Gotsch

Hospitality

Monthly Member Rotation

Membership

Ann Swope

Programs/Public Education

Barbara Brandon

Puppy Match

Bob Smith

Referral Service

Betty Doyle, Pam Weisman
& Cindy Riggans

Specialty Show

Open

Spotted Copy

Don Gotsch, Editor
Debbie Gotsch, Co-Editor

Sunshine

Debbie Gotsch

Ways & Means

Open

Agility / Road Trial

Linda Lombardi

Birthday Wishes



November, 2011

Zdar n TNG Terminator Three
11/7/2002 - Cindy Riggans

Zdar n TNG D-Trick Jagged Edge
11/7/2002 - Velma Dietrich &
Cindy Riggans

Ch Troika Zdar Twist
11/14/2000 - Cindy Riggans

NON-SPOTTED BIRTHDAYS

Dan & Becky Petite -
November 12, 2005

Don & Debbie Gotsch -
November 20, 1972

Send your birthday/anniversary
information to the editor

Black & Liver & White Auction for November Meeting

Members have expressed a return of the White Elephant Sale for our November program. This auction provides a few laughs and has been known to uncover some treasures. Basically, bring one wrapped Dalmatian or dog related item to the meeting as a donation.

Items are bid on in small increments and the highest bid wins. Mostly a fun hour with some surprise treasures on the auction block. This is a fun raiser for us and our club and will also benefit your Dal related collections. After the auction, bartering can be as much fun as the auction.

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wrdc.ohio@vahoo.com



The Dalmatian is a Distinctly Spotted Dog

With the recent controversy about registering the LUA dogs there has been a lot of conversation about the “essence” of the Dalmatian. The dictionary describes “essence” as essentially, basically, fundamentally, primarily, principally, chiefly, predominantly, substantially; above all, first and foremost; effectively, virtually, to all intents and purposes; intrinsically, inherently. So what would we consider the essence of a Dalmatian? Is it their markings, or their ability to coach?

The standard says it should be both.

The Dalmatian standard describes The Dalmatian as a distinctively spotted dog; poised and alert; strong, muscular and active; free of shyness; intelligent in expression; symmetrical in outline; and without exaggeration or coarseness. Spots are round and well-defined, the more distinct the better. They vary from the size of a dime to the size of a half-dollar. They are pleasingly and evenly distributed. The less the spots intermingle the better. Spots are usually smaller on the head, legs and tail than on the body. Ears are preferably spotted.

Gait

In keeping with the Dalmatian’s historical use as a coach dog, gait and endurance are of great importance. Movement is steady and effortless. Balanced angulation fore and aft combined with powerful muscles and good condition produce smooth, efficient action. There is a powerful drive from the rear coordinated with extended reach in the front. The top line

remains level. Elbows, hocks and feet turn neither in nor out. As the speed of the trot increases, there is a tendency to single track.

“He should move with a steady and effortless gait and have great endurance. There should be extended reach and powerful drive from the rear.”

The standard puts 25 points on “color and markings. If you go to a dog show and look at the Dalmatians in the ring you see a wide variety of types. Tall, short, long, heavy boned, fine boned, long legged, short legged. You see elegant necks and thick necks but the one thing they all have in common are their spots.



Spots make the dog but how many spots make the dog? At our recent national I saw a lot of dogs that should have been considered poorly marked based on the standard.

While color and markings are 25 points, there are still 75 points to apply to other aspects of the breed.

The standard also mentions color and speaks to depth of pigment, so can we say that markings are 12.5 % and color is 12.5%? Do markings then get split again to 6.25% for each side of the dog? And since the Dalmatian is a distinctly spotted dog what does the judge do when a dog is well marked on the non show side but not so great on the show side?

I have seen both extremes; dogs that were almost black, but good moving and very sound being put up for points and perfectly marked dogs that were not able

to reach and drive around a ring also being awarded winners. There is a lot more to a Dalmatian than just pretty spots. 75 points to be exact.



Are judges making their choices based on markings alone or are they looking at the complete package?

Now we certainly can't expect every judge to remember every nuance of the standard but we should expect them to consider more than the spots and to remember that the Dalmatian was bred to be a working dog and that the majority of sporting and working standards talk about reach, drive, balanced level top lines, when the dogs move, elbows and hocks should not turn in or out. Dogs are well balanced and there is a tendency to single track as speed increases.

As breeders we need to ask ourselves, are we looking at the complete picture or are we focusing on just parts of the dog when we choose our pick of the litter. There is no perfect dog but what are we willing to sacrifice?

by Karen McNamara, article first appeared in August, 2011 edition of "E-Dalmatians". Reprinted with permission.



Common Aging Dog Problems

While every dog is an individual, a few age-related maladies seem to strike many dogs. You should of course discuss how they affect your dog - and the best approach to treating them - with your vet, but knowing a little bit about what you're dealing with before you go in is helpful.

Here are just a few old-dog problems, along with some things you can do to help:

1. Stiffness: Your vet can help you determine if the stiffness is because of temporary muscle soreness - say from overdoing it - or the onset of arthritis. Many dogs are worse in cold weather and first thing in the morning. Arthritis is most common in older dogs, and while no cure exists, treatments are available that can make your pet's life comfortable. Your vet may prescribe buffered aspirin, food supplements, or anti-inflammatory medications, all of which your dog may need to take for the rest of their life. For your part, you need to be sure that your pet is not overweight and is kept consistently, but not strenuously, active.

2. Decline of the senses: Deaf and blind dogs do just fine, as long as you do your part to keep them out of any danger their disabilities may cause. Blindness, in particular, is a problem dogs adjust to with an ease that stuns their owners. But consider the following: Dogs don't have to read the newspaper, they don't care about TV, and they count on you to read the ingredients label on a bag of kibble. Sight isn't their primary sense anyway; they put much greater stock in their

sense of smell. After they learn the layout of the land, they rarely bump into things (as long as you don't keep moving the furniture). Handicapped pets should never be allowed off-leash on walks, because they can't see danger and cannot hear your warnings.

Even if your dog is blind, there may be something that you can do. Ask your vet for a referral to a specialist like a veterinary ophthalmologist. Problems such as cataracts may be treatable with medications and surgery.



3. Incontinence: There are many inquiries all of the time from frustrated owners wondering why their older dogs are no longer house-trained - and how they can get them back on track. The first rule you need to remember is any sudden-onset behavior problem to make sure that it's not a health problem, and we can think of no case where this rule is more true than with an older dog who's suddenly starts urinating in the house. Your dog could have an infection or, if she's an older spayed female, she may be suffering from the loss of muscle tone related to a decrease in her hormone levels. Both are treatable; talk to your vet. At a certain age, a little dribbling of urine is practically inevitable, especially while your older dog is sleeping.

4. Lumps and bumps: Benign fatty tumors are very common in older dogs, and the large majority are nothing to worry about. Benign tumors are round and soft, with well-defined edges. You can usually get your fingers nearly around them, and they don't seem well-anchored. Showing them to your vet for a more complete evaluation is important, and you should inform him of any changes in size or shape, especially if they happen rapidly. Your vet might be concerned enough about the size, appearance, or location of a mass to suggest its removal and a biopsy; most bumps, however, are left alone. The best time to check for lumps and bumps? During regular grooming,. Run your hand over every inch of your dog, and don't forget to talk sweetly – they will think it's petting.



Dues are Due

If you have not sent them in to our Treasurer yet, your dues are late. Please send in your membership dues.

Award forms should also be in to Ann or Cindy by now.

M. O. M.

(Meet Our Members)

Hi! We are the Kompier's, Tim, Diane, Johnny, Mitzie and the late Dottie.



As you have probably guessed by now Johnny and Mitzie are our dogs or, as we like to say our kids. Johnny is 4 years old and Mitzie is 3 & ½. I'm retired from the Cleveland Plain Dealer and Diane chooses to keep working a couple days a week. I guess you could say she's semi-retired. We started with Dals in 1997. I came across Dottie, from Madison Ohio. She was by far the best dog we ever had.



Dottie was very obedient and she was so loving to our family. Dottie was never taken to any shows. So that was the beginning of our love for Dalmatians. Unfortunately we lost her shortly after her 10th birthday. Diane and I

were so over whelmed with grief from losing her we knew we had to have another Dal A.S.A.P.

I found Cindy Riggins on the internet less than a week later and she had two male pups left from a litter she had. We got Johnny from Cindy and then joined the W.R.D.C. We got Mitzie about a year later from Bob & Diana Smith.



They were looking for good homes for two of their pups that were rescues. Mitzie was 10 months old when we got her. We just love the breed as pets.

We do not intend to breed them, although I have entered both Johnny and Mitzie in conformation shows and tried to get them to be champions. Johnny never was able to get any points, but sure does have a lot of ribbons. Mitzie has eight points total, including one Major. But for the last 2 years the competition has outdid us. So I kind of retired both dogs. We just love them as pets, and I guess that's all that matters to us. We also love being members of the club, lots of fun things to do, plus we have learned a lot from our guest speakers and our fellow members and friends.

**WESTERN RESERVE
DALMATIAN CLUB
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
October 15, 2011**

Meeting called to order at 8:45 pm.

PROGRAM: Alternative Choices for Pet care. This was presented by Dr. Elaine Hughes, Animal Clinic Northview. Program very interesting and was well presented. Thank you Dr Hughes. And thank you, Barbara for having her present the program.

ROLL CALL: 15 members and two guests.

MINUTES from last meeting dispensed. Motion by Barbara Brandon and seconded by Diane Kompier.

SUNSHINE:

Diana Smith remains out of work due to her back injury.

SPOTTED COPY: Items must be turned in by October 24 due date.

AWARDS: Forms must be turned in by October 31, 2011.

HOLIDAY BANQUET: Cindy will have menu for us to view at the November meeting. The banquet is to be held December 11, 2011.

NOVEMBER MEETING:

Black, White & Liver White Elephant auction

Hospitality: Linda Lombardi and Barb Brandon

Membership: Cindy Chaytor voted to join our club! Congratulations and welcome, Cindy.

SPECIALTY SHOW:

Discussed the possibility of having two shows on Friday. Cindy will talk to Joe H. and the AKC. She will report back to us in November. We also discussed judges for this show.

PUPPY MATCH: Saturday June 16, 2012. Pam Weisman will judge the sweepstakes.

NEW BUSINESS: We need pictures of June.

Election of officers. The new officers for 2012 are as follows:

Don Gotsch President
Bob Smith Vice President
Nancy Abbott Treasurer
Diana Smith Secretary
Cindy Riggins was elected to a two year board member position. It was moved to accept the new slate. Pam Weisman made the motion and Kathy Szomoru seconded the motion.
9:20 pm: Motion to adjourn by Greg B. Seconded by Martha B.

BRAGS:

The Weisman's 'Tex' got a BOB in Aliquippa.
Ann Swope's "Tawny" received WB in Aliquippa
The Sinwald clan were involved with Pet Expo. They won the costume contest.

Respectfully Submitted,

Diana Smith
WRDC Secretary



Presidents Message

On behalf of the entire WRDC membership, I would like to thank fellow members, friends, and the relatives of June Dahn for their kind and generous donations to the club. We plan on dedicating our 2012 August

Specialty Shows in her memory. Thank you notes were sent to all donors.

Now that our elections were held, we have another year to plan our events and continue to work towards providing all members with shows, activities and programs. As always, your ideas for the club are critical to our well being and please offer any suggestions at the meetings.

At the November meeting, I will hand out our original constitution with some revisions that will be high lighted to all members who do not have email.

For all members who do have email, I will send out an electronic copy before the meeting to save on printing costs.

Our Constitution has not been revised since the club came into existence in 1965 and some changes are necessary to keep up with technology and reflect the intentions of the document. We also need approval of the AKC and DCA for any revisions that we agree upon.

Please review the proposed changes over the December-January time period and be ready to discuss at our first meeting of 2012 on February 17.

As of this writing, we have a Puppy Match Chair, Thank you Bob Smith for volunteering. Regarding our other various Committee positions, If anyone would like to join or help someone already listed, I'm sure your offer would be gratefully accepted. As Editor of the "Spotted Copy", I'm always looking for articles and items of interest for our members.

Hope all have a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving.

Don

WRDC 2011 Awards Banquet and Holiday Party

When: Sunday, December 11, 2011, from 1pm to 5pm

Where: **Walthers's Café**
1836 Maple Ave. NE
Canton, Ohio 44075
330-452-0785



Walther's Café is a long established Canton restaurant known for it's roasted chicken dinners and a venue to see NFL players during Hall of Fame week in August.

Menu: Open buffet with roasted chicken, codfish, and rigatoni as main entries. Mashed potatoes, tossed salads and coffee and tea are included. Cash bar.

Cost: Approximately \$20.00 per person.

RSVP: Please confirm your reservations with Cindy Riggans by December 1, 2011

- Members are invited to participate in a \$10.00 gift exchange
- Members are asked to bring deserts to share

Cold Weather Dog Safety Tips

Keeping your dog safe in the cold weather is vitally important as temperatures drop. Adverse weather conditions can put your pet in harm's way if you are not adequately prepared. The following safety tips can keep your precious pet protected during the cold months.

Limit Dog's Exposure To Cold

Let's face it, whether playing in the sunshine or romping in the snow, most dogs love being outside. Dogs get excited to play outside and may want to stay in the cold longer than they should. Frostbite is a grave injury and it should be taken seriously. Allow your pet to go potty and perhaps sniff around the yard, but then bring your pet inside.

Keep Your Dog On Leash

In the winter, dogs can lose their scent if they become lost or

disoriented in a snow storm, so always keep your dog on a dependable dog leash. According to the ASPCA more dogs are lost in the winter than in any other season. Of course, all pets should wear a dog collar (with your phone number written inside) and up-to-date dog ID tags year round.

Don't Leave Your Dog In A Car

During cold winter months, your car's temperature drops dramatically after being turned off. Never leave your dog unattended inside your car, even if just for a few minutes. Your pet might love to travel with you, but they also love to sleep on the couch. Let them stay home, safe and warm. The warm greeting you'll get when you come in from the cold is worth it.

Invest In A Warm Dog Jacket

If you have a small dog, or a big dog that will be outside during

extreme cold conditions, invest in a high quality dog jacket, coat or dog sweater. The extra protection is well worth it. You wouldn't go outside without a coat would you?

Provide A Warm Dog Bed And Dog Blanket

When the temperatures drop, all dogs love to snuggle up in a comfy, cozy dog bed. Providing a warm, soft dog blanket for those cold winter nights is a nice way to make your pet's life a bit more comfortable.

