

# Dog Chatter Magazine

Spring 2024

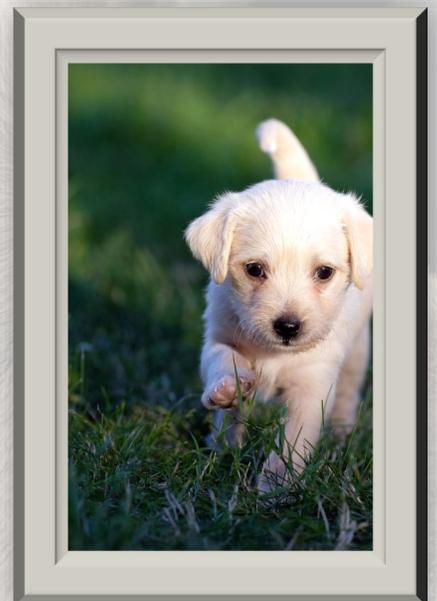


Animals Speak To Those Who Listen

## Random Dog Facts

Did you know that puppies are born blind? It's true! Here are a few more things you might not have known about our canine friends.

- Dogs have sweat glands on the bottom of their paws;
- Your dog's nose is wet, which helps him absorb the scents in his environment;
- Each dog has a "nose print" which is unique to them. It can be used for identification purposes (much like our human fingerprints);
- There are an estimated 900 million dogs in the world, two-thirds of which are homeless (strays). Nearly 76 million of them live in the United States.



←————→  
**Keep your paws clean and your fur shiny.**  
←————→

**Experts believe that dogs experience jealousy, but not guilt.**

### Training Tip: Puppies

**Puppies model the behavior of older dogs, and they are very good at it. Expose your puppy to an older, trained dog. The older dog will show your puppy the ropes, and help you teach him how to behave.**

**It is estimated that over 20 percent of all dogs snore.**

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# You Just Know

*By Goose, Contributing Pawthor*

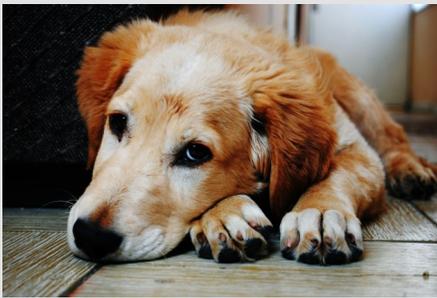


How can humans be sure about finding the right companion? Us dogs can sense things about you before we are ever introduced. We do our best to help you understand what we already know.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

**It's been months** since your beloved Woof! crossed the rainbow bridge. You'll never forget him. He was a special part of your family and cannot be replaced. Still, the time has come to adopt another.

The shelter is full. You walk through the halls seeing one set of eyes after another. They all silently beg to be chosen, but that's not how this works. The canine and the human must choose one another. They continue to bark and wag their tails as you pass by. None stand out...until you see him.



**He lays quietly in the corner, bleeding sadness.**

Lifting his head, you *feel* him sigh heavily.

"What about this one?" you ask the caretaker.

"That's Ben. He's about three years old. Very gentle. A good dog. He runs and plays when he's outside with the other dogs. In here, he seems more sad. He'd make a great pet."

You enter his enclosure, sit down on the floor beside him and wait. After a few minutes, Ben leans over and sniffs you. You pet his head and then wait again. You place a dog treat on the floor in front of his nose. He licks it and then stands up. He lifts his paw in a "shake" position, staring into your eyes as you continue petting his head. Before you can get on your feet, he is wagging his tail excitedly as if to say, "Let's go home".

He's the one. No one has to tell you. You just know.

Dogs can sense changes in the barometric pressure and static electricity. It is believed that this helps them detect approaching storms.

# No Words Needed

By Gypsy, Senior Editor

Us dogs use body signals to communicate most of the time. We also communicate verbally using barks, growls or other vocalizations.



Humans can misinterpret signals and vocalizations.

For example, tail-wagging is frequently misunderstood. Even though knowledge has increased about our species, people still get this wrong.

When I wag my tail, it simply means I have been emotionally stimulated or aroused by something.

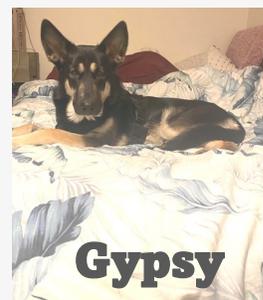
**Maybe I am excited or maybe I'm frustrated.  
It does not always mean I'm happy.**

Observe what is going on around me. Is my tail wagging fast or slow? What position is my tail in? Is it close to the ground or am I holding it higher?

If I'm holding my tail upward, I may be displaying confidence. It might also be aggression. A low-wagging tail might mean I am stressed or even fearful. Dogs tuck their tails between their legs when they are afraid.

A slow or easy sway (back and forth) of my tail could be associated with me feeling relaxed and comfortable in my environment. A fast-wagging tail could mean I am on alert. Something has got my attention and I may be trying to warn you of danger. Or, it might mean something else.

I could go on and on explaining different body signals us canines use to communicate but for the sake of time, let me say this. The way we communicate with our own species and with humans is more complex than humans once thought. We will continue working to train you.



For more information: [Understanding Dog Body Language: Decipher Dogs' Signs & Signals \(akc.org\)](https://www.akc.org/understanding-dog-body-language-decipher-dogs-signs-signals)

- On average, dogs can run about 19 miles per hour
- Dogs can locate where a sound is coming from in a fraction of a second
- A dog's bark is sophisticated, communicating many different things
- Studies have shown that Border Collies are capable of learning up to 200 commands
- Research on the most intelligent dog breeds is ongoing - a hotly debated topic.

# The Dalmatian

By, Jana Brock

Beautiful black and white speckled coats are sure to catch the eye of passers by.

This breed of canine is something to behold. All that fur and personality *must* mean they would make excellent pets for you and your family. But what has the passing of time proven?



**Movies created a fad.  
People went shopping for spots.**

Did you know that a high number of dalmatians have been abandoned or surrendered by their owners? We have Hollywood to thank for that.



Pets and the buying impulse of humans: typically *not* the best combination. Let's face it. Some of these impulse-pet-shopping situations turn out okay but the majority of the time, that is not the case. More often, humans realize their mistake and the animal suffers as a result.

**Inform yourself, then acquire.**

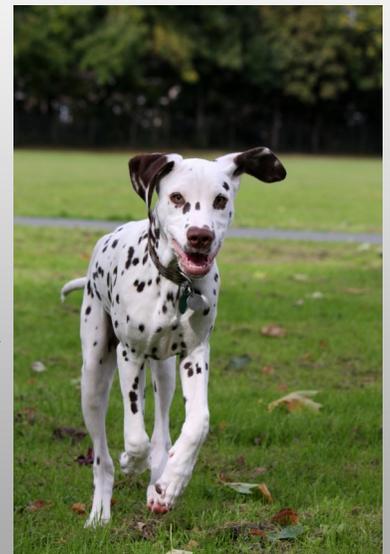
Responsible pet owners consider the needs of the animal. They commit to their pets and do what it takes to give them healthy and happy, long lives. These people educate themselves on pets.

Pets have dietary needs, space and exercise requirements. They need socialization, enrichment, veterinary and other care. Welcoming a pet into your home means you are committing to be a compassionate caretaker and will provide a loving home. Properly cared for pets thrive. They are a blessing to their human owners. They are part of the family.

**All animals have needs specific to their own kind.**

Dogs, for instance, are especially sensitive to how humans behave toward them and around them. They are acutely aware of, and will react to, dangerous or stressful environments.

The same is true of calm, happy environments. Want your pet to be happy and calm? Keep your home low-stress and maintain a positive atmosphere. Calm home = calm dog.



## The Dalmatian (cont'd)



Dalmatians were originally bred to be carriage dogs. Since then, they have been used as fire department mascots, in circuses and in hunting.

They have had other jobs for humans in the past, but today, they are typically used for companionship (pet ownership).

Though the precise origin of the dalmatian is not known, it is believed this breed originated in Austria - specifically, an area named Dalmatia.

### **Dalmatians are high energy dogs.**

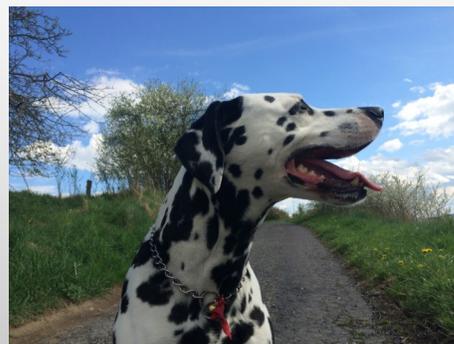
Small living spaces are not adequate for them. As with so many other pets, they do well with children and family members as long as they are treated properly. Some experts advise that they are too energetic to be around very young children or even frail adults.

These dogs are known for their loyalty to human owners and their protective nature. They must have companionship, proper socialization and training so that they do not become aggressive with other people or dogs. They need long walks or access to open spaces where they can safely run each day.

Due to overbreeding and selling, Dalmatians can have health problems, including deafness. These issues can make training and obedience difficult. While many pet owners are not discouraged by these complexities, it is important to know that in those cases, the dog will need extra care and accommodation. Overall, dalmatians are not what Hollywood has portrayed them to be.

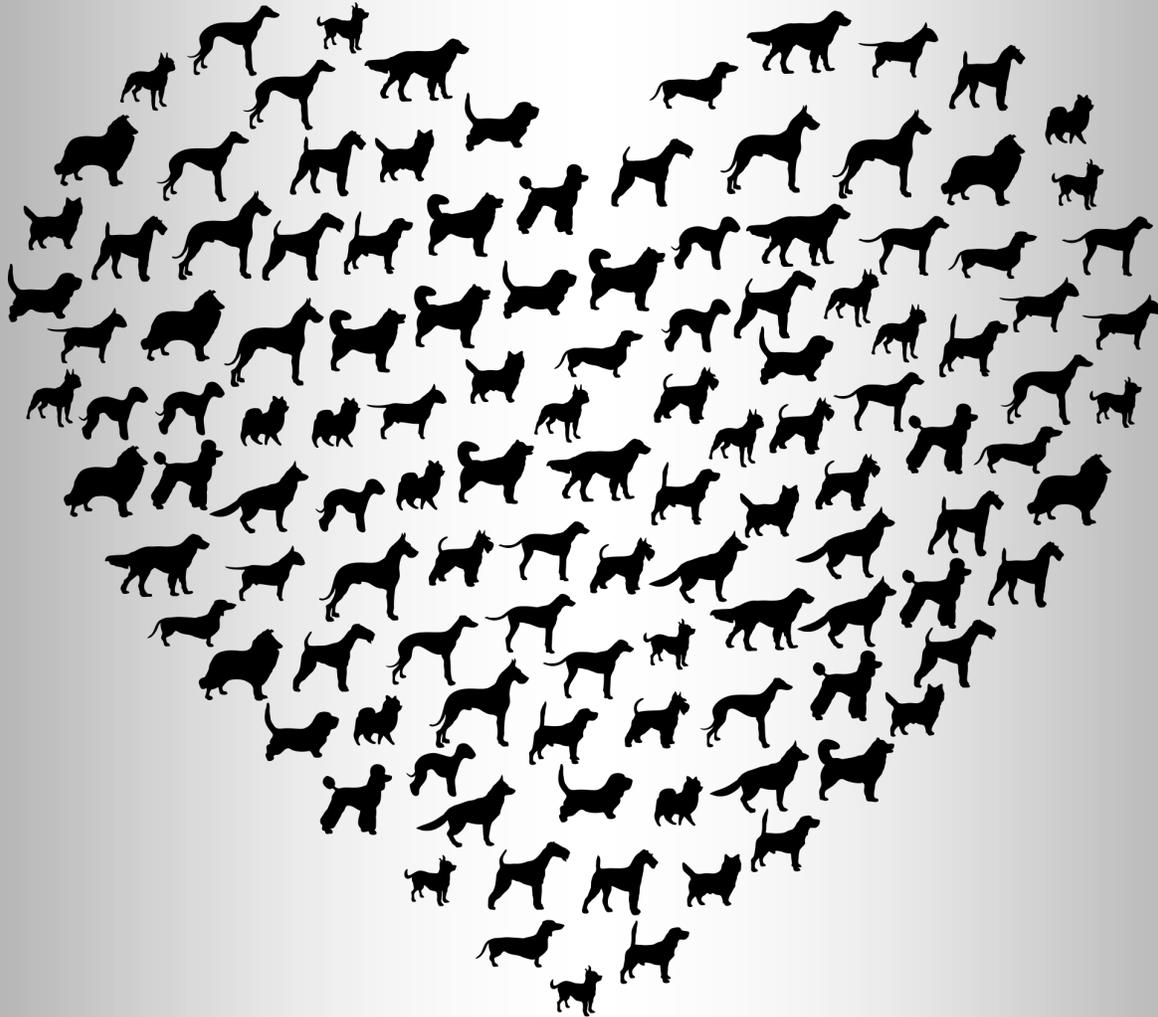
**If your home is a suitable place for one of these beautiful dogs, consider visiting a shelter or rescue facility.**

Learn as much as you can prior to bringing one home. Commit to working with their dominant behaviors and learn from those who have credible information about Dalmatians.



**Dalmatian spots are black or brown.**

# Be Kind To Your Woof!



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Read “*Meeting At the Dog Park*” here: [Meeting At The Dog Park – Pets Write](#)

## Kindness Matters