



Spot News

Chicagoland Dalmatian Club
Volume 56 NO 9 Est. 1953

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NEXT MEETING
September 11, 2010
General Membership 7:00 p.m.
Board Meeting 6:30 p.m.
For Your Canine
NEW LOCATION
1975 Cornell
Melrose Park, IL

SPOT NEWS IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR CDC MEMBERS AND WELCOMES SIGNED LETTERS & ADVERTISING.
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SPOT NEWS DEADLINE
15TH OF THE MONTH
send to: **SPOT NEWS C/O Susan Buse**
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Save the Dates:

September 12—Ice Cream Social

Dec 5 – Christmas Party

Fun Match—TBA

Tracking Demonstration—TBA

NEW MEETING LOCATION

For Your Canine has moved:

For Your Canine

1975 Cornell

Melrose Park, IL

CHICAGOLAND DALMATIAN CLUB

AUGUST PROGRAM

The Chicagoland Dalmatian Club met on August 14, 2010 at For Your Canine in Schiller Park. There was no regular meeting. The program for the evening was presented by Drs. Jason and Joann Randall, veterinarians from Woodstock Animal Hospital who spoke about what kinds of things dog owners can do themselves and what needs to be seen by a vet. They talked about keeping an emergency first aid kit for the dog and being sure that medications (both prescription and over the counter) are up-to-date. There were a number of guests from other dog clubs who had been invited to attend.

Nominations for awards (Sportsmanship, Service to Dogs, Member of the Year) and nomination letters for the office of president should be in the hands of the corresponding secretary prior to the beginning of the September meeting.



You scream, I scream, we all scream for ICE CREAM!



Come join CDC for our annual
Ice Cream Social and help us say
good-bye summer!

September 11th at 7:00pm

Bring your favorite ice cream topping
and a **friend!**

CDC will supply the ice cream.

For Your Canine is Moving!

Yes, as of September 1st
the address will be



For Your Canine
1975 Cornell
Melrose Park, IL



It is less than 10 minutes away from the Schiller Park location.
Between Armitage and North just east of Mannheim

**Come join us,
see old friends, make new friends
enjoy an Ice Cream Sundae
and tour For Your Canine's new facility!**

For any questions, contact Susan Olsen 773-973-2908
or borderlvr@sbcglobal.net

National Pet Fire Safety Day was July 15

Promote pet fire safety in your community

An estimated 500,000 pets are affected annually by home fires, and a new data analysis by the National Fire Protection Association shows that nearly 1,000 house fires each year are accidentally started by the homeowners' pets. The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) is joining ADT Security Services and the American Kennel Club (AKC) for the third annual National Pet Fire Safety Day on July 15 to spread awareness about how to prevent pets from starting home fires and keep pets safe in the event of an emergency.

"Not many pet owners realize that their pet can actually be the cause of a devastating fire," said AKC spokesperson Lisa Peterson. "Simple preventative measures, such as flameless candles and removing stove knobs when leaving the house, can mean the difference between life and death for your four-legged friends."

Chris and Kay Wardlow of Oklahoma know that all too well. Their curious dog Lucy was home alone and spied a cake on the stove top. As Lucy tried to get a taste, her paw accidentally hit the stove knob and turned on the gas burner that was under the cake pan. Within minutes, the house was filled with smoke, triggering the Wardlow's ADT monitored smoke detector. Firefighters were called to the scene and Lucy was rescued.

"Planning for unexpected emergencies like home fires and taking these precautions are an integral part of responsible dog ownership," Peterson said.

Fire departments across the country are encouraged to utilize Pet Fire Safety Day on July 15 to spread pet fire safety messages in your community. The following tips can be used to help educate pet owners on how to prevent their beloved pet from starting a fire, as well as how to keep their pets safe.

Prevent your pet from starting fires

- a.. Extinguish open flames - Pets are generally curious and will investigate cooking appliances, candles, or even a fire in your fireplace. Ensure your pet is not left unattended around an open flame and make sure to thoroughly extinguish any open flame before leaving your home.
- b.. Remove stove knobs - Be sure to remove stove knobs or protect them with covers before leaving the house - a stove or cook top is the number one piece of equipment involved in your pet starting a fire.
- c.. Invest in flameless candles - These candles contain a light bulb rather than an open flame, and take the danger out of your pet knocking over a candle. Cats are notorious for starting fires when their tails turn over lit candles.

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d.. Beware of water bowls on wooden decks - Do not leave a glass water bowl for your pet outside on a wooden deck. The sun's rays when filtered through the glass and water can actually heat up and ignite the wooden deck beneath it. Choose stainless steel or ceramic bowls instead.

e.. Pet proof the home - Take a walk around your home and look for areas where pets might start fires inadvertently, such as loose wires and other potential hazards.

Keep your pets safe

a.. Keep pets near entrances when away from home - When leaving pets home alone, keep them in areas or rooms near entrances where firefighters can easily find them.

b.. Secure young pets - Especially with young puppies, keep them confined away from potential fire-starting hazards when you are away from home, such as in crates or behind baby gates in secure areas.

c.. Practice escape routes with pets - Keep collars and leashes at the ready in case you have to evacuate quickly with your pet or firefighters need to rescue your pet.

d.. Consider using monitored smoke detection services - As an added layer of protection beyond battery-operated smoke alarms, smoke detectors connected to a monitoring center help save pets who can't escape when left home alone.

e.. Affix a pet alert window cling - Write down the number of pets inside your house and attach the static cling to a front window. This critical information saves rescuers time when locating your pets. Make sure to keep the number of pets listed on them updated.

The NVFC has a listing of fire departments across the nation where pet owners can obtain a free pet alert window cling as part of National Pet Fire Safety Day. Visit www.nvfc.org/windowclings to find a location near you. The clings are also free online at www.adt.com/pets and will be available this September at your local AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day. This year's flagship event will be held in Raleigh on September 24. Visit <http://www.akc.org/clubs/rdod/> for more information on an event near you.

The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) represents the interests of the volunteer fire, EMS, and rescue services. The NVFC serves as the voice of the volunteer in the national arena and provides invaluable tools, resources, programs, and advocacy for first responders across the nation. Learn more at www.nvfc.org.

The United States Fire Administration recommends everyone should have a comprehensive fire protection plan that includes smoke alarms, residential sprinklers, and practicing a home fire escape plan.



GOT NEWS???

Forward it on to:
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"It's funny how dogs know the inside of folks better than other folks do, isn't it?"

--Eleanor H. Porter

To Be a Dog's Best Friend You Must Learn to Run Like a Wolf

To be a dog's best friend you must pretend to be a dog. No, you don't have to run at thirty miles an hour, eat from a dish on the floor or lift your leg on a tree. All you must do is feign canine behavior.

Dogs view us as other dogs because we are in their lives from the day they are born. A human imprint is being established within a new puppy before they ever open their eyes. Though law prohibits puppies from being sold before eight weeks of age, the smells and sounds of people are having a great impact on them from day one. Dogs are very social creatures and have traits driven by pack hierarchy. Eight weeks is generally viewed as optimum for a surrogate mother, namely you, to take over the responsibilities of the natural mother. At this early age an existing pecking order has already been established among the littermates. Many of these instincts are similar to human social structure and some of the main reasons why our domestic canines and people live together so well. It is easy to attribute certain behavior as human when in actuality it is most likely canine in origin. Licks, for example, to humans are almost always referred to as kisses and easily thought of as communicating affection. For the puppy, licking is an instinctual response to hunger. When directed toward the mouth, licking prompts the mother to regurgitate part of her meal. Fortunately, puppy chow handles this chore for us.

Dogs mature at much faster rates than humans. Forget the old adage of seven dog years for every one of ours. If that were the case, at a year of age, a dog might be regarded as a toddler, which would be totally incorrect. At only six months of age, most dogs are in mid adolescence. Try to tell a human teenager to "Go to school" if they had never done so before. What kind of response do you think you'll get? It might be said at this point that if a dog had no human contact within the first six months of its life, never would it be able to adjust to living with humans.

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THE DOG DISH

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Let's backtrack a bit and establish where our domestic dogs come from. Each and every domestic dog can trace its roots to the wolf. There may be a very small amount of Red Fox, African Wild Dog, Dingo, or Coyote in a number of different breeds but the main thing to remember is that essentially all of our contemporary dog's ancestors were wolves. Certainly there are enormous differences in both appearance and behavior of today's dogs, which was accomplished through human control of the breeding process. Even though the centuries of breeding produced such diversity as Chihuahuas and Mastiffs, if we understand wolf traits we can get a better understanding of how our own dogs perceive us.

Wolves have learned, most likely through trial and error, that there is strength in numbers. The pack will venture out singly or in pairs, within their territory, during the summer months when food is plentiful. Winter months require them to reunite as sustenance becomes scarce and they need each other to hunt larger prey. Each member has a purpose to fulfill whether it be leading, flanking, tagging, tracking or staying behind to guard the pups. Mind you, wolves are not the nefarious, bloodthirsty and savage animals that earlier authors might have you believe. In fact there is only one documented case that suggests a human death by wolf attack. I say suggests because there is doubt among experts that the single animal involved was a pure wolf. An average weight for a wolf is approximately sixty-five pounds whereas the canine involved in this 19th century case weighed in well over 125 pounds. Experts believe it was a hybrid because of the tendency for wolfs that breed with domestic dogs to somehow turn out much larger than either parent. Just remember that wolves do not kill for fun, sport or revenge. Humans however, with their superior intellect, can lay no such claim. Wolves only hunt for survival and take the path of least resistance, which is prey that is very weak or very old. The culling of a less than healthy animal actually strengthens the herd upon which they hunt. Each wolf performs a purpose for the betterment of the whole. If there were no direction or discipline chaos would prevail, thus there must be a leader of the pack.

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THE DOG DISH

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The leader or Alpha is the strongest, most intelligent wolf within the pack. There is an Alpha male and Alpha female. The Alphas are the ones that install order and discipline amongst the other members. They are the front line of defense, lead the hunt, eat first, appoint puppy-sitters and the only ones within the pack to copulate. An alpha female is usually more aggressive and independent than the male. She will sometimes groom a pup to be her next successor and this pup may be allowed all alpha freedoms of food and territory. She accomplishes this by correcting other members of the pack for disciplining her pup.

Very often in our households when we empower our puppies as if they were human children, they quickly grow into dogs that feel no limits or bounds. All these privileges amount to a puppy perceiving the world with an Alpha mentality. Who does an Alpha want to please? Not one person.

The Alpha wants you to please them. How many of our dogs do you see training the humans? They don't come when called, snap or snarl when someone gets to close the their food, demand to be petted, jump on everyone they meet, steel the thanksgiving turkey off the dining room table and the list goes on. The point is, to be a dogs best friend, you must run the pack similar to an Alpha wolf and not merely a litter mate. The only tool our dogs have available to correct us is with their mouths. Unfortunately there are thousands of dogs across this county shipped off to the animal shelter each day deemed "Uncontrollable vicious animals" when they were merely trying to institute order and discipline within their perceived pack. You must lead the pack. If you show your dog leadership and direction he or she will follow. If your dog shows aggression towards other animals, or worse other people, you must let your dog know that it is your job as Alpha to defend the pack. A happy dog is a dog that belongs to a pack with a strong leader.

To be the lead wolf in your dogs world you must instill order, direction and discipline within the pack. When you give your dog a directed purpose in life, such as obedience training, you will set up the perception your dog has of you. Through proper reward and correction, you teach them that there are rules, limits, and purposes of life. Once you establish yourself as the Alpha wolf you will naturally and instinctively be your dog's best friend.

Original content provided by David Vanne

<http://www.treemail.us>



Until next month ... Happy tails to you! JodyLynn





SPOT NEWS

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