



GATEWAY FARM

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YOUR HUA DALMATIAN PUPPY

CONGRATULATIONS!!! We hope that you will enjoy your Dal as much as we have enjoyed ours over the years. Dalmatians are a great breed; fun, active, clean, sweet and intelligent, although a bit rambunctious at times. Your puppy is a HUA (canine high uric acid) puppy, like 99.9% of all Dalmatians, world-wide.

We would like to make a few suggestions to help you get started with this new and important addition to your family.

1. Crying. Your puppy will be lonely for the first few nights and will probably cry. It may break your heart (and interrupt your sleep), but the best thing to do is to ignore him. The pup will learn that nighttime is sleep time and adjust to your schedule within a few days. We suggest that you tell your closest neighbors about your newest addition and warn them of the possible (probable) nighttime symphony. One good technique is to start your new puppy out by having him sleep in a crate next to your bed. They seem comforted by their people's presence and will usually cry when they need to potty – also, this is helpful with housebreaking.
2. Feeding. We have been feeding your pup Purina Pro Plan Chicken and Rice Puppy Food soaked in warm water. The food is available at PetCo and other pet food stores. I order mine online at Chewy.com. You can gradually switch to 100% of any high quality puppy food until about 6 months, and then we recommend that you gradually switch your puppy to any high quality adult kibble, such as Purina Pro Plan Lamb (or Chicken) and Rice **Adult** food. By the time your puppy is about six months old, he should be eating only the adult food. We feed an 8-week-old pup three times a day, about 1/2 cup of kibble per meal. We gradually increase the quantity, taking into account the amount of food the pup needs to maintain a good trim weight. The "correct" amount of food will vary widely from dog to dog -- one of our dogs maintains weight on just two cups per day while another needs 4 cups per day. Do not allow your Dalmatian to get chubby – it's not good for him at any time, and especially during his growth periods.

VERY IMPORTANT. Your Dalmatian's kibble should be fed with plenty of water. We suggest that the food actually be floated in water. **NEVER feed your Dalmatian meat products or organ foods.** It is important to have clean water available for your dog at all times. Some people have had much success with a "lick-it" attachment to an outside hose bib and their dogs seem to love it. Have water available both inside and outside. It is also important that your Dal is able to eventually get outside to the potty area. Preferably, the pup always has access to outside. Doggie doors are great! Water availability and access to urinate are especially important since Dalmatians always have crystals present in their urine and can form stones.

3. Medical History. Your pup has been thoroughly examined by a Vet shortly after birth when his dewclaws were removed, and again in conjunction with his BAER testing and microchipping. Your pup has been hearing tested using the Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response method, and a copy of the trace is included in your Puppy Packet. A DNA sample from your puppy has been analyzed at UC Davis to confirm the HUA status and a copy of that report is also included. Pups have been dewormed at 5 and 7 weeks, but we suggest that you take a fecal sample to your Vet at your first or second visit to be sure your

puppy is clear of worms. Pups received their first puppy shot (DAPPv) at 8 weeks. The Rabies shot is generally scheduled at 3-4 months of age. We suggest that you take your pup to a Vet and schedule the balance of the shots per your Vet's recommendation. Many Vets are transitioning to a new inoculation protocol that calls for one puppy shot after 8 weeks of age, a second after 11 to 12 weeks of age, and the third at about 14 - 16 weeks. Boosters are then given only every two or three years. Be sure to ask the Vet any questions you might have. We think that it is important to build a good rapport with your Vet; ours has always been very helpful and we can call on him anytime.

4. Microchipping. For your dog's safety and recovery if lost or stolen, your puppy has been microchipped and his unique electronic number is included in your puppy packet. Your puppy can now be enrolled in any lost animal recovery database. AKC Reunite Lost & Found is the most commonly used program, and we have paid for your puppy's enrolment in this program, along with your contact information.
5. Crate Training. We suggest that you purchase a crate for your puppy as soon as possible. We have had good luck with wire crates with a divider so you can start out small and enlarge as your puppy grows. Being confined to his crate during the night will greatly aid in housebreaking and a crate-trained dog makes traveling with your pet a pleasure. Remember that until the pup is over 10-12 weeks old, he cannot last the night in his crate, and will have to be let out. We always make going into the crate a positive experience by giving the dog a small treat.
6. Sleeping. Pups need a lot of rest. Actively play with them but let them rest and be alone when they seem tired. The pup needs "his space" and his bed or crate should be off-limits to all and should always be the dog's refuge.
7. Socializing/Training/Discipline. We've done as much as we can to properly expose your pup to new and interesting things, being handled, and meeting lots of people. Now it's your turn to continue your pup's training and socializing. Give your puppy a week or so to get used to you and it's new environment before you show him off to your friends and neighbors. After he has adjusted you can introduce him to new people and places. Be careful where you take him and be aware of the Parvo virus (which can kill unprotected dogs) when socializing your puppy. Puppy immunities are pretty strong after 3 complete sets of shots. We also strongly suggest you enroll your pup in a puppy kindergarten class and/or a basic obedience class as soon as your puppy is the right age and has the required shots. Most puppy kindergarten classes accept a puppy after the second shot. **SIGN UP NOW!** Obedience training creates a bond of love, respect, and trust that will last a lifetime!

Pups will do damage when left alone. We recommend that when they are left, you leave them where they can't hurt themselves or any of your belongings. They should always have a number of their own toys -- Nylabones, hard rubber chew toys, etc.

If you have children in or about your home, teach them to respect and handle a puppy properly. Puppies are living, breathing beings and cannot be treated like dolls or stuffed animals. Gentleness is a must. Most puppy injuries occur from being dropped so don't let children pick up your puppy. Instruct them to sit on the floor and the puppy can then sit in their lap. This is safer for the pup and the child.

8. Housebreaking. We have never had a problem and always have our pups trained within two weeks. It is best if you can anticipate when the pup has to relieve himself. First of all, always take him out after he has napped. He usually will have to go. Also, shortly after meals. When they sniff an area and walk around in a circle, take the dog out; when he relieves himself, **praise him.** Say "good dog," make a big deal about his accomplishments. If you catch him in the act indoors whisk him up and say "outside"; then take him out so that he knows what you mean and can put the pattern together. Remember to praise the dog when he does what you want.

9. Books. Two excellent reference books are The Art of Raising A Puppy and How To Be Your Dog's Best Friend, both written by The Monks of New Skete. A good general book on the breed is The Dalmatian, by Anna K. Nicholas. The best breed-specific book is a new book by the Dalmatian Club of America titled The Official Book of the Dalmatian. Both of these books may be of interest since many of your pup's ancestors are pictured. I have also included an excellent book called How to Raise A Puppy You Can Live With in your puppy packet.
10. Warning. **Never** leave dogs in a car on a hot day (even with the windows partially open). We always look for shade if we must leave the dog in the car. Some states have laws that forbid you to ever leave a dog in the car unattended!
11. Last, but not least, LOVE YOUR PUPPY! Puppies are very much like small children; they have short attention spans and need to be educated.

Necessary things:

Food and water dishes-- Remember, your Dalmatian will need access to water at all times.

Adjustable collar

Leash

Harness, especially while they are young

Toenail trimmers (and Quickstop in case you miss)

Toys—Nylabones, hard rubber balls, kongs, rope tugs, etc. Dals can be hard on toys ☺

Crate—For housebreaking, traveling, and “home space.” Be careful what you put in the crate. Some toys and bedding can be dangerous if ingested

If you bought a pet quality pup, you should have your female spayed after her first season. Boys should be neutered at 20-24 months due to new recommendations by the Dalmatian Club of America. It is best to wait until the male urinary tract to be completely developed due to the formation of stones. If you purchased a show dog, they need to stay intact to be shown.

Your pup will be registered with the American Kennel Club (AKC) so he is eligible to compete in all AKC performance events. If you do not plan on breeding or showing your Dalmatian, he/she should be neutered or spayed. A dog having a disqualifying show fault should be neutered/spayed. Many vets and shelters neuter young; however, we suggest keeping him/her intact until he is at least over one year old. This gives the puppy a chance to fully develop, both sexually and physically. Some vets spay females after their first season and that is acceptable.

If you ever have any questions, please feel free to call at any time. Good luck and please stay in touch.