



BRITISH DALMATIAN WELFARE
Registered Charity No 1086519
PROSPECTIVE ADOPTER INFORMATION
www.dalmatianwelfare.co.uk

Thank you for contacting us about adopting one of our rescue/welfare Dalmatians. Below are some points to note about the Breed and Rescued Dalmatians. Please read through and consider carefully before returning your adoption enquiry form.

- We ask lots of questions on the form in order to get a good picture of your lifestyle, your home and your family because we want to match the right dog to you, which will suit you and your family. We try very hard to get it right which is why all your answers to our questions are very important. We do not offer you the 'next dog on the list' for rehoming it does not work like that, dogs come from various back grounds and families - what we want to do is to have a successful rehoming of a dog that matches you and your family circumstances.
- There may be quite a wait or we may already have a suitable Dalmatian for your needs and lifestyle. All dogs are assessed by our volunteers, many of whom have had Dalmatians for years. Most dogs come from lovely homes where they have been well socialised and looked after but due to no fault of their own i.e. relationship breakdown, loss of the family home, change of work patterns or illness or owners death they now need to be rehomed.
- Please remember that some of the dogs come with baggage: training and socialisation issues being the most common. Often dogs are not exercised enough by owners giving them up, so the dog will be over excited, boisterous and may have been starved of normal canine interaction for some time. Some are overweight or are being fed inappropriate foods so these things need to be dealt with when the dog is rehomed with you.
- Most of our Dalmatians remain in their homes until we find new ones unless the dog's welfare is at risk and then it is sometimes temporarily fostered or placed in kennels. **Please note we cannot offer you the opportunity for you and your family to meet the dog (unless it is being fostered/kennelled) before you agree to take it. This is because the dog will still be in its own home with the family who own it, for them it may be very difficult for them to rehome their family pet after having had it for many years. The dog may also be living hundreds of miles away from you and so its not practical.** The rehoming co-ordinator will provide you with photographs and as much information as is possible about the dog before you decide.
- We do ask for a donation for Dalmatian Welfare it is minimum donation £250 and you have to sign an Adoption Contract. We recommend castration/ spaying if not already done. Dalmatian Welfare will refund a sum of between £70 to £100 after the operation on presentation of the vet's bill which should be sent to the Rehoming coordinator. There is no time limit on this offer. We also recommend getting your dog insured – vets bills can be prohibitive –potentially running into thousands of pounds for something serious and particularly if your dog should require treatment for a prolonged period of time such as in old age. So do factor insurance into your cost of owning a dog.
- Dalmatians are powerful muscular animals and need firm reward based training and patience as they are very strong minded. They also need a great deal of exercise to wear them out and need free running in woods and fields and parks not just a walk around the block every day. You can find out much more about our breed on the British Dalmatian Club Website www.britishdalmatianclub.org.uk. Our dedicated Welfare website has pictures of dogs awaiting adoption www.dalmatianwelfare.co.uk.
- Dalmatian short coats continually shed at a steady rate throughout the year but are easy to keep clean. They thrive on human companionship and should not be left alone for longer than 4 hours so please consider your lifestyle when choosing the Dalmatian breed. Please try and do your homework about the breed before you offer to take a dog from us and chat to your vet about the breed so they can advise you as well.
- Finally sometimes things go wrong and this is often because we have not been told everything about the dog that you are going to have or something unforeseen has happened in the matching process. Once a dog is rehomed with you we follow up with phone calls to make sure things are going to plan and discuss any issues that may arise. We have experienced Dalmatian owners on hand who can give advice and come to your home if necessary or we can recommend a behaviourist and help with costs if required. We are only at the end of the phone and always try to sort out any issues so please ring the rehoming coordinator in the first instance.