Dalmatians: What a Unique Breed!

Your dog is special! She's your best friend, companion, and a source of unconditional love. Chances are that you chose her because you like Dals and you expected her to have certain traits that would fit your lifestyle:

- Energetic and playful
- Intelligent and easy to train
- Gregarious, extroverted personality
- Protective of family, a good watch dog
- People-oriented and eager to please
- Loyal and loving companion

However, no dog is perfect! You may have also noticed these characteristics:

- Can be rambunctious and rowdy, especially as a younger dog
- Requires vigorous, frequent exercise and space to run
- Exhibits signs of separation anxiety if left alone too much
- Can be aggressive, fearful, or snappy if not socialized properly
- Has a tendency to escape, wander, and roam
- Territorial with larger dogs, especially of the same sex

Is it all worth it? Of course! She's full of personality, and you love her for it! The Dalmatian is an exuberant and fun-loving dog with high exercise needs. She is sensitive to her family and craves human companionship.

The Dalmatian is the only spotted dog breed. Originating in Croatia, in the once-named region of Dalmatia, Dals have a working and sporting heritage. Due to a natural affinity for horses, Dalmatians were often used as carriage dogs and accompanied horse-drawn firefighting wagons in America as well. Dalmatians have great endurance and speed and are quick to protect their families. The Dalmatian is a generally healthy breed with an average lifespan of 12-14 years.

Your Dalmatian's Health

We know that because you care so much about your dog, you want to take good care of her. That is why we have summarized the health concerns we will be discussing with you over the life of your Dalmatian. By knowing about health concerns specific to Dalmatians, we can tailor a preventive health plan to watch for and hopefully prevent some predictable risks.

Many diseases and health conditions are genetic, meaning they are related to your pet's breed. There is a general consensus among canine genetic researchers and veterinary practitioners that the conditions we've described herein have a significant rate of incidence and/or impact in this breed. That does not mean your dog will have these problems; it just means that she is more at risk than other dogs. We will describe the most common issues seen in Dalmatians to give you an idea of what may come up in her future. Of course, we can't cover every possibility here, so always check with us if you notice any unusual signs or symptoms.

This guide contains general health information important to all canines as well as the most important genetic predispositions for Dalmatians. This information helps you and us together plan for your pet's unique medical needs.

Visit Us At: www.vcparker.net
Genetic/DNA Testing

DNA analysis is a rapidly advancing field in healthcare for people and pets. Luckily, technologies exist to screen for hundreds of inherited diseases in pets, just like in people. By screening each pet for as many genetic diseases as possible, we will be better prepared to care for your pet throughout life. This is an important step in caring for your pet because it’s always better to know your pal is at risk for a genetic disease before the problem is untreatable.

In an effort to screen for as many genetically linked diseases as possible, we may recommend the K9Genetics™ Disease Screen to screen for more than 150 genetic mutations that cause disease.

Each K9Genetics™ Disease Screen Screens for

- Over 30 Musculoskeletal Problems
- Over 30 Metabolic Conditions
- Over 30 Eye Conditions
- Over 25 Blood and Clotting Disorders
- Over 10 Immune System Diseases
- Over 10 Urinary Tract Problems
- Over 10 Skin and Hair Conditions
- Cancer
- Dental Disease
- Drug Metabolism
- Heart Problems
- Hormonal Conditions
- Liver/Gastrointestinal Diseases
- Midline Defect
- Neuromuscular Diseases
- Reproduction Problems
- Respiratory Conditions

This one-time test is one of the best decisions you can make for your Dalmation’s medical care.

With less than a few drops of blood, we’ll have a lifetime of information to assist us in providing the very best care of your friend’s unique and individual needs throughout her life!

For more information about genetic testing, visit http://www.k9genetics.com

Your Dalmatian counts on you to take good care of her, and we look forward to working with you to ensure that she lives a long and healthy life. Our goal is to provide the best health care possible: health care that’s based on her breed, lifestyle, and age. Please contact us when you have questions or concerns:

Veterinarian’s name

Phone number

Website

References:
# Puppy to Adolescent Health Care Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Services We’ll Provide</th>
<th>Dalmatian-Specific Problems We’re Looking For</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6–9 weeks</td>
<td>Head-to-tail physical examination, Eye disease screen, Oral health assessment, Internal organ health evaluation, Neurological assessment, Parasite detection/prevention, Vaccinations, Discuss socialization and at-home puppy care</td>
<td>Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Dental alignment, heart murmur, hernia, Entropion and Dermoid, Brachygnathism, Prognathism, and Wry mouth, Laryngeal paralysis, Deafness</td>
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<td>10–13 weeks</td>
<td>Head-to-tail physical examination, Eye disease screen, Oral health assessment, Skin and coat exam, Internal organ health evaluation, Neurological assessment, Blood disorder evaluation, Parasite detection/prevention, Vaccinations, Discuss caring for your dog’s teeth and ears at home</td>
<td>Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Brachygnathism, Prognathism, and Wry mouth, Demodiconis, Laryngeal paralysis, Deafness</td>
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<td>14–16 weeks</td>
<td>Head-to-tail physical examination, Eye disease screen, Oral health assessment, Skin and coat exam, Internal organ health evaluation, Parasite prevention, Vaccinations, Schedule spay/neuter surgery, Discuss obedience and grooming</td>
<td>Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Brachygnathism, Prognathism, and Wry mouth, Demodiconis, Laryngeal paralysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>4–6 months</td>
<td>Head-to-tail physical examination, Eye disease screen, Oral health assessment, Skin and coat exam, Internal organ health evaluation, Bone and joint exam, Blood disorder evaluation, Pre-surgical diagnostics, Spay/neuter surgery, Discuss microchipping</td>
<td>Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Brachygnathism, Prognathism, and Wry mouth, Demodiconis, Laryngeal paralysis, Osteochondritis dissecans (OCD) and Panosteitis</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 months to 1 year</td>
<td>Head-to-tail physical examination, Eye disease screen, Oral health assessment, Skin and coat exam, Bone and joint exam, Parasite prevention, Vaccinations, Discuss lifetime genetic considerations</td>
<td>Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Entropion and Cataracts, Brachygnathism, Prognathism, and Wry mouth, Demodiconis, Allergies, and Sebaceous adenitis, Osteochondritis dissecans (OCD) and Panosteitis</td>
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Puppy to Adolescent: Infant to 17 in People Years

How We’ll Keep Your Dalmatian Healthy
# Adult to Golden Years Health Care Recommendations

## How We'll Keep Your Dalmatian Healthy

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<td><strong>Adult: 18 to 39 in People Years</strong></td>
<td>Head-to-tail physical examination, Eye disease screen, Heart health check, Skin and coat exam, Internal organ health evaluation, Neurological assessment, Parasite prevention, Vaccinations, Discuss behavior and nutrition</td>
<td>Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Cataracts and Glaucoma, Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), Allergies, Sebaceous adenitis and Dalmatian Bronzing Syndrome, Copper hepatopathy, Urolithiasis, and Hyperuricosuria, Epilepsy</td>
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<td><strong>Senior: 40 to 59 in People Years</strong></td>
<td>Head-to-tail physical examination, Eye disease screen, Heart health check, Skin and coat exam, Internal organ health evaluation, Neurological assessment, Parasite prevention, Vaccinations, Discuss mental and physical well-being</td>
<td>Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Cataracts and Glaucoma, Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), Allergies, Sebaceous adenitis and Dalmatian Bronzing Syndrome, Copper hepatopathy, Urolithiasis, and Hyperuricosuria, Epilepsy</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Golden Years: 60+ in People Years</strong></td>
<td>Head-to-tail physical examination, Eye disease screen, Heart health check, Skin and coat exam, Internal organ health evaluation, Neurological assessment, Parasite prevention, Vaccinations, Discuss mental and physical well-being</td>
<td>Breed-specific physical abnormalities plus Cataracts and Glaucoma, Dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), Allergies, Sebaceous adenitis and Dalmatian Bronzing Syndrome, Copper hepatopathy, Urolithiasis, and Hyperuricosuria, Epilepsy</td>
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Note: We recommend twice-a-year examinations so that we may diagnose problems sooner. This approach also gives you the budget-friendly option of spreading preventive testing over two visits rather than one.