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Dear Prospective New Puppy Owner:

Thank you for expressing interest in a TNG Dalmatian!! Whether you are primarily interested in a companion dog, or are considering an obedience, conformation, show, or breeding animal, we would like to provide the following general information about the breed.

### **DALMATIANS**

The adult Dalmatian is a distinctive and strikingly handsome animal who is sure to attract attention wherever he/she goes. Although popularized by the Disney movie **101 Dalmatians**, the breed traces its ancestry to the earliest Pointers and Danes (arguably). Originally as coaching dogs, their duties were to guard the stable and to run with the carriage protecting both it and the horses. As such, you will find the Dalmatian to possess considerable stamina and to be capable of a wide variety of physical feats. The Dalmatian temperament has been characterized as the 'clown of canines'. Generally, they are highly intelligent and wonderfully loyal companions.

There is hardly anything more attractive than a new Dalmatian puppy, except perhaps a litter of Dal pups! All breeds have both positive and negative points, however, which you should consider and be prepared to deal with on the arrival of your new pup.

1] Dalmatians SHED, as do all smooth coated breeds. Dalmatian hair is stiff and abundant. It can get on your clothes and work into the fabric. While it is easy to sweep or vacuum, it is hard to brush off. If you do mind the hair, or vacuuming a bit often, you may be unhappy with a Dal. Alternatively, you may learn to just leave that favorite navy blue jacket at the office!

2] Dalmatians are ACTIVE, especially during puppy hood (which lasts about 18 months). You will need a fenced yard, or the time and energy to take the puppy for long walks/runs. A Dalmatian that is confined and not properly exercised will get barky, hyperactive and nervous acting (sure signs of frustration).

3] Dalmatians are highly SOCIAL and need to feel like part of the family. The Dal does not develop properly either in temperament or conformation if kept isolated at all times from family life. However, they do adjust well to work schedules and 'quiet time' alone. Dalmatians are VERY smart and can adapt to almost any routine.

4] All Dalmatians require basic OBEDIENCE training (e.g. Sit, Down, Off, Stay, etc.). They need to know the rules of the household right from the start. If you do not function as the pack leader, the Dalmatian will gladly step right in and perform that role. Since they can be stubborn and are smart enough to quickly learn what they can (or can't) get away with, you could have a problem child on your hands.

## **DALMATIANS (cont'd)**

5] Dalmatians are great CLOWNS and can prove themselves to be both entertaining and exasperating. You need to have a sense of humor to enjoy the Dalmatian, because Dals themselves have a sense of humor. You should not expect rigid, 100% obedient, robotic behavior.

### **ON THE POSITIVE SIDE....**

Dalmatians are wonderful, intelligent, loyal companions, excellent family dogs, very clean and have almost no 'doggie' odor. They rarely drool or bark. Dalmatians are generally easy to house train. They are natural, sensible watchdogs with a good sense of property and territory. They are easy keepers and relatively inexpensive to maintain. Dalmatians are quite hearty and healthy. They love to ride in the car, swim, run, ride with bikes on a leash, or run along with horses or a jogger. They are very sensitive to human moods and do their best to cheer up a family member when they are having a gloomy day. They are a great deal of fun for the whole family and will quickly become a member of your family.

Any Dalmatian owner will be glad to tell you that this is THE BEST breed there is! If after reading this the Dalmatian sounds like the right dog for you, we would like to recommend and encourage additional reading material:

THE OFFICIAL BOOK OF THE DALMATIAN  
by the Dalmatian Club of America  
TFH Publications, Inc.  
(The most complete and authoritative Dal reference book)

The New Dalmatian Coach Dog Firehouse Dog  
Alfred and Esmeralda Treen  
(The classic Dal book)

The Dalmatian  
Anna Katherine Nicholas  
(Great history of foundation kennels)

Good Owners, Great Dogs  
Brian Kilcommons  
(A training manual for humans and their canine companions)