

Utility

Dalmatian

The origins of the breed are debatable as is the name of the breed: there is little evidence that he originated in the Dalmatian coastal region of the Balkans. In the late 18th Century there was a type of white spotted dog known as the Talbot Hound and these dogs were used to accompany horse-drawn carriages and guard the passengers and the cargo. In 1791 Thomas Bewick named this type of dog as the Dalmatian.

In the Regency period 1795-1837 the breed became a status symbol trotting alongside the horse-drawn carriages and those with decorative spotting were highly prized. For this reason he earned the epithet 'the Spotted Coach Dog'. The dogs would also guard the stables at night. The breed was also used to run ahead of horse-drawn fire engines clearing the route for the vehicles.

Breed Group	Utility
Vulnerable Breed	No
Size	Medium
How much exercise?	More than 2 hours per day
Length of coat	Short
How much grooming?	Once a week
Supposedly sheds?	Yes
Town or Country	Either
Type of home	Large House
Minimum garden size	Large
Lifespan	Over 12 Years

Health Information

You may be aware that some breeds of dog and their crosses can be susceptible to inherited disease. Of course you want to be sure that the dog you choose is as healthy as possible, and you would like to know that it has not inherited any undesirable disease-causing genes from its parents. There is some help in that DNA tests for diseases in purebred dogs are available for some conditions in some breeds, but there are not very many such tests just yet! There are also, however, a number of clinical veterinary screening schemes that dog breeders can use to increase the probability of producing healthy puppies.

Details of the various screening schemes, both veterinary and DNA, that are available to breeders in the UK can be found at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/doghealth

Potential dog owners should be aware that, at present, the application of various health screening results to breeding programmes is not always straightforward, and breeders may make choices for various reasons. A responsible breeder though, will always be willing to discuss relevant health issues with you. Breed clubs are often useful sources of breed-specific information.

What Screening is relevant for the Dalmatian?

Kennel Club Assured Breeders must use the following screening schemes for sires and dams BVA/KC

- BAER Programme

Kennel Club Assured Breeders are strongly recommended to use the following screening schemes and/or advice for sires and dams

- BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme
- Bitches under two years not to produce a litter
- Bitches not to produce more than four litters in their lifetime
- Bitches not to produce more than one litter in a twelve month period

The list above is not necessarily comprehensive. Breed clubs and experienced breeders are useful sources of information on health issues in the breed. All breeds have a Breed Health Coordinator.

Breeding Restrictions

The Kennel Club will not accept an application to register a litter when:

- 1) The dam has already whelped 4 litters (as of the 1st January 2012 the limit changed from 6 litters to 4 litters). As of this date the Kennel Club will no longer register any further litters from any bitch which our records show has already whelped 4 litters. Therefore for any litter born on or after the 1st January 2012, the system will automatically check to see how many previous litters the Kennel Club has an account of. Where the number previously recorded is 4 or more, the application will be rejected, or
- 2) The dam has already reached the age of 8 years at the date of whelping, (relief from this restriction may be considered normally provided an application is made prior to the mating, the proposed dam has previously whelped at least one other registered litter, and the application is supported by veterinary evidence as to the suitability of the bitch involved in the proposed whelping), or
- 3) The dam was under one year old at the time of mating, or

- 4) The offspring are the result of any mating between father and daughter, mother and son or brother and sister, save in exceptional circumstances or for scientifically proven welfare reasons, or
- 5) (From 1st January 2012) The dam has already had two litters delivered by caesarean section, save for scientifically proven welfare reasons and this only normally provided the application is made prior to the mating, or
- 6) The dam was not resident at a UK address at the date of whelping.

There are further Kennel Club Rules and Regulations that may prevent a litter from being registered; the full Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are contained in the Kennel Club Year Book.

Breed Specific Breeding Restrictions

It is genetically proven that two liver spotted parents cannot produce black spotted puppies. Therefore with effect from 07 July 2008, the Kennel Club will only accept the registration of liver spotted puppies produced from two liver spotted parents.

Current Registration Colours

- White With Black Spots
- White With Liver Spots

Dalmatian Clubs

Name	Telephone
British Dalmatian Club	01543 490849
Dalmatian Club Of Scotland	01655 331862
North Of England Dalmatian Club	01625 524121
Northern Ireland Dalmatian Club	07517 809916

Dalmatian Rescue Organisations

Name	Telephone
British Dalmatian Welfare	01527 854048
North Of England Dalmatian Club Welfare Service	07941 861654
North of England Dalmatian Club Welfare Service	07941 861654