



# • BREED FEATURE • DALMATIAN



## They answered

A.1. We have been breeding Dals since 1985. We had always had horses and wanted a dog that would run along with them. We also wanted an athletic dog that could go running with us.

A.2. The majority of the Dalmatians in the show ring have evenly distributed spotting and are aesthetically pleasing. What is disconcerting is the lack of pigment that some Dalmatians have on their noses and eyes. This has previously been unacceptable and would have not been seen in the show ring and should be heavily penalised when evident. Tri-colours are also being shown which is of concern. Liver spotted dals with orange



Rob & Deborah Harbin

spotting on the points (inside of thighs, under chin, inside of front legs). They should not be seen in the ring. Pigment and colour should be uniform in both blacks & livers. It is a hallmark of the breed. A white base with rich black or liver spots is required.

A.3. These four points should be given equal priority! 1. A Dalmatian is unique in that it is the only spotted dog. 2. Movement is the basis for the function of the breed and a Dalmatian should display the powerful ground covering movement that the standard asks for. It is the concept of Dalmatian movement which is a problem for many judges. Rewarding short stepping, breaking at the pastern and lack of drive in the show ring is disappointing when the yardstick should be dogs that exhibit the long rhythmic stride and an easy sound action that is both effortless and economic. 3. Soundness follows on from movement. If the movement is correct then the conformation should follow suit. Dalmatians are symmetrically balanced dogs with moderate but well angled fore and aft. Add to this a level topline which is held on the move, hard elastic pads and an athletic muscular body and you have a dog that is capable of running with a carriage. 4. Temperament. They should be a dog of good demeanour, anything less is unacceptable and should

be penalised.

A.4. Dalmatians are a distinctively spotted carriage dog. Puppies are born pure white and do not develop their spots until around 2-3 weeks. It is disappointing that there is no mention of spotting or the Dalmatians purpose in the General Appearance or Characteristics section of our Standard.

A.5. Dalmatians can be born with deafness as is common in other dog & cat breeds that are born pure white. Breeders will know by the time pups are 6 weeks old if they have hearing problems. Dalmatians can be susceptible to kidney stones which is more prevalent in some breeding lines than

**“What is disconcerting is the lack of pigment that some Dalmatians have on their noses and eyes. This has previously been unacceptable and would have not been seen in the show ring and should be heavily penalised when evident”**

others. Overall they are relatively free from major health problems and thrive on a plain low protein diet.

A.6. We always recommend that puppies be purchased from a reputable recommended breeder. New puppy owners must have sufficient time to give to the dog as they are a people oriented breed who do not like to be left alone and enjoy family interactions. They need to be trained as a puppy and respond to food and positive training. They also need to realise that a new puppy will be a new family member and can have a life span of 12-14 years.

**Rob & Deborah Harbin  
KRYSTAWAY**

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A.1. (a) I obtained my first Show Dalmatian in Early 1973 & bred my 1st litter in 1977, 3 Dalmatians from this litter became Australian Champions.

A.1. (b) When growing up in Melbourne in the 1940s, I had an Aunt who owned a dairy in Moonee Ponds. Back in those days milk was delivered at night by Horse & Cart. My Aunt also owned a lovely liver spotted Dalmatian named 'Cherry' who accompanied the horses on their nightly delivery rounds & slept in the stables with them. I adored Cherry's sweet biddable nature & beautiful color & markings & vowed that this would be the breed I would eventually own.

A.2. The Extended Breed Standard of the Dalmatian states "Spotting is the

## We asked

**Q.1. How long have you been breeding Dalmatians? Why are they your chosen breed?**

**Q.2. Do you think the majority of Dalmatians in the ring currently display the correct spotting as required by the standard.**

**Q.3. Could you list in order of priority the 5 most important points you think a judge should look for in the Dalmatian?**

**Q.4. If you were able to add a sentence to the Dalmatian breed standard what would it be?**

**Q.5. Does the Dalmatian have any health problems?**

**Q.6. What would your advice be to a potential puppy buyer when looking for a Dalmatian?**

one unique feature of the Dalmatian & is an essential part of the "Breed type" & although conformation should not be sacrificed to spotting alone, the significance of good spotting must not be denigrated or this unique & identifying feature of the breed could be lost." However, there are dogs in the ring today that have good Conformation & Breed Type, also have spotting that is Oversized (blacks) or in the case of livers Undersized Flecks, usually with runs of spots or windows (areas without any spots), but if the pattern of spotting is aesthetically pleasing these markings are acceptable.

**“Spotting is the one unique feature of the Dalmatian & is an essential part of the “Breed type” & although conformation should not be sacrificed to spotting alone, the significance of good spotting must not be denigrated or this unique & identifying feature of the breed could be lost”**

More worrying are Tri- Colours (usually orange on liver, on inside hind legs or on the chest) these markings are quite incorrect & fall under the "other faults of pigmentation" in the standard.

But it should be remembered that - It is almost impossible to breed the Perfectly Spotted, Well balanced, Correctly moving Dalmatian.

A.3. (1) Overall Balance with Good Breed Type.

(2) Physical Co-ordination, Balance & Soundness of Movement, Good Drive & Reach is most essential without any over reaching.

(3) Correct Moderate size, neither Oversized nor Undersized.

(4) Displaying good temperament. Neither Shy nor Aggressive (I love to see a happy wagging tail!)

(5) Pleasing Spotting/Markings with correct full pigment on Eye Rims & Nose.

A.4. No! I think the present standard & its Extension is quite adequate.

A.5. Generally the Dalmatian is a healthy hardy animal - but unfortunately Dalmatians have the same kidney system as Humans, Anthropoid Apes & Pigs & can sometimes develop Kidney Stones & Gravel if fed a diet too high in protein - therefore, a bland diet is essential for them. Deafness used to be a problem. Most breeders nowadays are very aware of this & test their puppies very thoroughly before sending them to their new homes.

A.6. I would advise a potential new Dalmatian puppy buyer to read as many books on the breed as they possibly can to learn as much about our lovely breed & to visit breeding kennels to choose the right puppy for their family, then to keep in touch with the breeder for further advice on caring for their new family member.

**Jan Kirin KIRINDAL**

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A.1. I purchased my first Dalmatian in 1974 and the Instride prefix was registered in 1980 when I bred my first Dalmatian litter which produced a BISS winner in Ch. Instride Step N Time.

Why a Dalmatian? I saw my first Dalmatian at a horse show. It was hard not be impressed by this breed that always stands out in a crowd. The clean, muscular physical structure of a true athlete; the eye catching markings; the intelligent and friendly expression and the outgoing temperament caught my eye immediately. The dog's great affinity with both people and horses also

*Continued on page 66*





The Dalmatian is an ancient breed, dating back to 2000BC, when spotted dogs appeared on Greek and Egyptian wall murals, showing them working with the chariots of ancient Greece, Rome and Egypt. Origins are unknown with the name originating from Dalmatia, Croatia but there is little evidence as to why they were such named other than that they were 'spotted' in the region! Ancient Gypsies (Romani's) were accompanied by the dogs in their wanderings around the world. Over the years Dalmatians have been used as dogs of war, border patrols, cart pullers, sheep herders, hunting dogs, circus performers and, of course, coach dogs. With the breed's introduction to Britain in the 18th century, the Dalmatian became very popular with the aristocracy as an additive to their ornate carriages, especially because of their ability to work alongside and in front of the horses or under the carriage axles. Additionally, their distinctively unique spotted coats were seen as attractive. They were given names such as 'Spotted Dick', 'English Coach Dog' and 'Plum Pudding Dog'. The dogs were adopted in the 1800's by fire departments and it was not an unusual sight to see Dalmatians running through the streets of London to clear the way for the horse-drawn water-wagons. They would help to keep the horses calm as well as protecting the horses. The breed today continues to have a natural affinity with horses and is still the mascot of many fire stations.

Grooming the Dalmatian is a combination of which products, and how to use them for maximised results. For shine begin the bathing with Plush Puppy All Purpose Shampoo with henna (a colourless, no build-up extract) as this is known as the "shine" shampoo. Dilute with water at a ratio of 5:1 for show grooming i.e. 5 parts water to one part shampoo. For Dal-



# GROOMING TO WIN

With PLUSH PUPPY

ly's I tend to spot "paint this on the black or livers spots to intensify the colour. For use on the white areas Plush Puppy Whitening Shampoo well diluted to 5:1 i.e. 5 parts water to one part shampoo. Does not lighten but wonderfully tones for a pearly white finish. Again the balance for this is to give the tonal qualities to the white by removing any unwanted warm/red tones from the white. For the best results on the dirtier white areas and sometimes that "yellowing" look to the coat use Plush Puppy Wonder Blok. This solid form shampoo is the Rolls Royce of stain removal. Just wet and rub the Wonder Blok into the areas needed and allow 5-10 mins to work its magic. I often do this prior to the actual bath.

Your standard also states the coat should be short, hard and dense, sleek and glossy in appearance. No fluffy coats for this dog! So scratch any ideas of using a conditioner as this can tend to fluffiness in a coat texture & will soften the coat. I recommend you keep the focus of shine in mind and instead use the Plush Puppy Seabreeze Oil as a final rinse after shampooing diluting 1 tspn to 1 gal/4lt water. Pour this all over or saturate with a large sponge and work well into the skin and leave in - do not wash out. This also helps keep any scurf at bay and leaves the coat smelling wonderful and with great healthy vigour and shine. It does not make the coat oily.

Personally, I like to blow dry this coat. Cool dryer and blast all the dead hair out. I find this rolls the coat and keeps it regenerating without the holes one associates with coat shedding. He will shed, but it won't be a moth eaten finish - it will be even. Now you have a good even surface



to work with and complying thoroughly with your standards requirements.

Now let the grooming begin - if you thought this was the end of the contribution to show day - you have another thing coming. I believe in the principle of 100 small things to make a great dog rather than any one big thing. I have seen ordinary dogs turned into extraordinary dogs with the right approach and yet they were always good dogs. Unfortunately, no-one else got to see just how good they could be till taken in hand.

Trim the whiskers: this breed looks great with a clean face. Neaten his tuck up with a pair of clippers turned upside down and if you have a wobbly hand, hold your left forefinger and middle finger under the front of the clipper head just behind the blade and, keeping a loose wrist, arc the angle slightly to present a clean silhouette.

Using thinning shears, neaten the point of tail by rounding off. Proceed to neaten also the 2 cowlicks where the 2 hair patterns meet at back of stifle. This dog does call for good musculature and to appear powerfully developed with all that power pack of dog showing under the skin. You don't want to leave any fluffy bits standing out away from the body to detract from the clean line he must present.

Whiten up his whites on show day with a touch of Plush Puppy Cover Up Cream applied thinly with a barely damp piece of kitchen sponge and worked



against the growth of the coat. Apply a dab of chalk block or loose chalk onto a small bristle hairbrush and allow to dry. Brush afterwards for a clean finish. This gives a clean and bright finish to his whites and will within reasonable conditions last all day.

Spritz now with a spray of Plush Puppy Shine & Comb. This does not give a greasy finish but gives a great deal of lustre to the coat. Spray again just before ringtime. I also like a spray of Plush Puppy Odour Muncher for a nice clean smelling dog. It literally deodorises and gives a pleasant fragrance to the dog, negating most odours with ease. I also use it on the dogs bedding mats if I am being flamboyant and frivolous. I can be very frivolous when I am away for a cluster of shows and cannot find time nor facilities for another bathing. Keep on hand Plush Puppy Wonder Wash for those last minute emergencies too as this will clean up the whites, pronto. Just spray, foam with the fingers and towel off.

You can step it up a notch if you are ready for it, with a light dusting of Plush Puppy Pixie Dust. Gee, but I like this stuff. Applied judiciously to your cushion of the Plush Puppy Pure Bristle Brush and brushed through, allowing the powder to settle and the shimmer to stay behind on the surface can look very glamorous. Don't overuse and abuse this stuff. It is not the aim to turn the dog into the glitter fairy - just to make him shine and shimmer for all to see that wonderfully balanced body of a dog all sleek and clean and shiny.

Good handling, good presentation and a good dog - what else can beat that?



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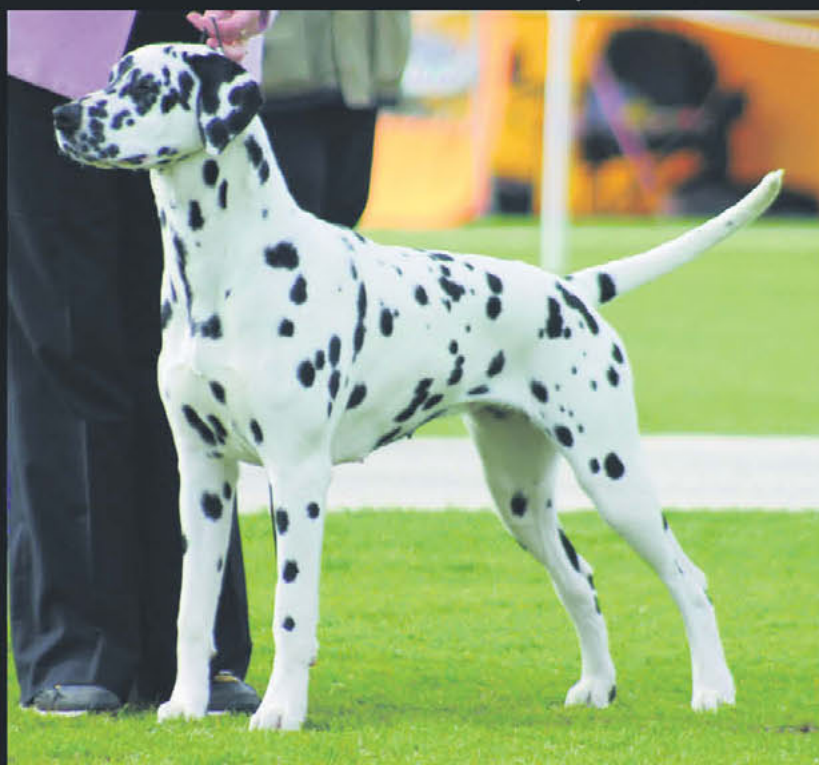


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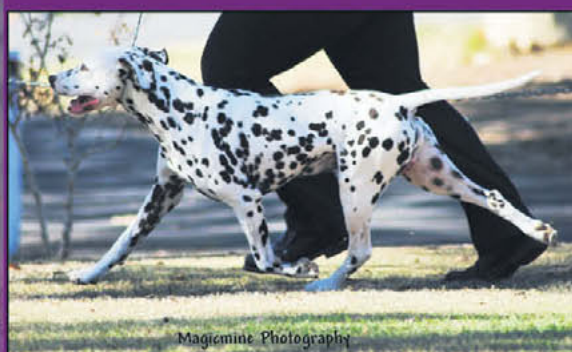
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# They answered

Continued from page 61

impressed. I decided right there and then that this was the dog for me.

The same still impresses me today and after nearly 40 years association with the breed I can't imagine living without a Dalmatian. Although each individual is unique they still have the qualities mentioned above.

A.2. As a general rule I would say yes. However heavier and uncharacteristic spotting is far more widely tolerated in liver Dalmatians than black.

Of concern is a growing number of Dalmatians being exhibited both here and overseas that have missing pigment around the eye rims and considerable missing pigment on the nose.

The dilemma with our breed is o the best conformed versus the best spotted. I would rather a correctly constructed dog built to do its job with acceptable spotting than a perfectly spotted dog whose conformation is lacking.

A.3. The first 2 priorities in judging a Dalmatian cannot be separated:



•Overall balance and symmetry in appearance, construction and conformation: a Dalmatian should be well balanced fore and aft with a well angled shoulder and good turn of stifle with a well-developed second thigh. Too often we see a straight shoulder and over angulated hindquarter. Without balance and symmetry a Dalmatian will not be able to move as required.

•Movement: 'great freedom of movement with a smooth, powerful, rhythmic action with a long stride' speaks for itself. A Dalmatian must move efficiently and cover the ground easily. Confirmation should always be assessed on the move. A correctly conformed Dalmatian will move as the standard requires. On the move the Dalmatian should lower its head and maintain its topline. A good moving dog will cover the ground with ease.

Other Priorities are:

•Strong/Muscular/Elegant: when looking at a Dalmatian the dog should always be strong and muscular. Good

strong bone is essential. A well-constructed Dalmatian will have well developed musculature the same as a thoroughbred horse. Elegant does not mean small. Strong-boned dogs can be elegant. What we don't want to see is a coarse, cloddy animal nor do we want a weedy, slightly framed dog. Again we are back to balance and symmetry.

•Those other things that are essential in the construct of the Dalmatian – deep chest and well sprung ribs with plenty of heart room; all essential for an endurance athlete. Correct feet that are compact, well arched with tough elastic pads are also necessary. All runners need the necessary footwear!! A slight spring in pastern is also essential shock absorber.

•Pigmentation and Spotting: the Dalmatian's essential cosmetic feature, spotting cannot be forgotten. Complete pigmentation of the eye rim and nose is essential. Spotting should be well defined and not run together and the quality of pigmentation in the coat and spotting should be white with black

“Of concern is a growing number of Dalmatians being exhibited both here and overseas that have missing pigment around the eye rims and considerable missing pigment on the nose”

spots (not grey) and liver brown (dark, reddish brown) not orange. Correct pigmentation in the spotted dog is a must. Eye colour should also be considered here but I personally would not penalise a very good dog with a slightly lighter eye if it did not spoil the overall expression.

•Temperament: an outgoing and friendly nature is essential.

A.4. Dalmatians DO NOT run under carriages.

Firstly a Dalmatian is an intelligent dog and it is far safer to run alongside a carriage than under one. Like cars today, carriages come in all sorts of heights with different ground clearances, so what height are we talking about here? I shudder when I hear this quoted as a breed characteristic as most importantly a Dalmatian needs to be able to run efficiently and effectively.

This should be added in the size section of the standard where it states that “overall balance is of prime importance”

A.5. Dalmatians naturally have high uric acid levels. This can be managed with an appropriate diet.

Deafness is not as prevalent as it was in the past and is now well managed by reliable and responsible breeders.

Generally Dalmatians are a healthy breed with a life expectancy of 12 to 14 years. Our eldest here is 14 going on 15 and is still an active and happy old man.

A.6. Ensure that you do your research and that a Dalmatian is the right breed for you.

Always ensure that you purchase from an experienced breeder whose prime interest is in improving the breed and ensuring that their pups go to the right homes. As breeders we insist on meeting prospective owners and do not sell to anyone that we do not think is the right fit for the breed. Be patient and be prepared to wait.

If looking for a show quality puppy or wanting to get into showing, make sure you go along to lots of events and decide what you like and want. You need to be patient and be prepared to serve your apprenticeship as you may be competing against others who have had years of handling experience. Very few of us have ever purchased a world beater as our first dog and have built success over time.

Kerryn Harvey INSTRIDE

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A.1. We first welcomed a Dalmatian into our family over 13 years ago when I purchased a lovely bitch and was encouraged to have a go at showing. I fell in love with the breed decided to breed a litter from my girl so our first litter came along in 2008. I was lucky enough to have breed two litters under the Sarasota prefix before deciding that I would establish my own prefix with the long term goal of producing quality dogs that could not only do us proud in the show ring but display the wonderful temperament and soundness and breed type that we should all strive to have in our Dalmatians.

I was originally attracted to the breed because loved the look of them, they were different and not common in my area at the time, they were active and short coated. I had horses at the time as well as two young children. I had just lost my old dog at 16 years, an adorable Springer Spaniel, and couldn't cope without a dog in the family, but decided that I needed a dog with short hair that was active and happy who could come with me while out riding the horses, get along well with young children and grow up as a member of our family. I instantly fell in love with the Dalmatian nature and particularly their ability to make us laugh, that love has continued to grow with each successive generation of Dalmatians in our kennels.

A.2. There are a few very beautifully spotted dogs gracing the rings at the moment, but many more who I would not

consider ideal.

A.3. First and foremost is should be Breed Type but I have listed my priority in assessing a Dalmatian

1.Balance – is he pleasing to the eye, elegant and well proportioned?

2.Soundness – is he sound in temperament, movement & structure? (could he do what he was originally meant to do?)

3.Movement – smooth, steady and effortless & correct (does he look like he can trot all day?)

4.Temperament – confident, happy and not at all shy

“I would expand on the requirement for ‘Mouth’ to include: A regular and complete scissor bite with the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth (scissor bite) and set square to the jaws with 42 healthy teeth according to dentition formula.”

5.Spotting – does he have the distinctive spotting required in our standard?

A.4. I would expand on the requirement for ‘Mouth’ to include:

A regular and complete scissor bite with the upper teeth closely overlapping the lower teeth (scissor bite) and set square to the jaws with 42 healthy teeth according to dentition formula.

A.5. Urate stones are an issue that requires careful management of diet. Deafness is not uncommon.

Skin problems (usually allergy related) occur frequently and require careful management. Hypothyroidism although not prevalent in our Dalmatians in Australia does occur



A.6. Do your research, speak to as many Dalmatian owners as you can and develop a good relationship with a reputable breeder. A Dalmatian will not suit all families, but if you have the time and the right lifestyle you will have the most wonderful, happy, smiling family member you could imagine.

Alison Tabrett NEILROS





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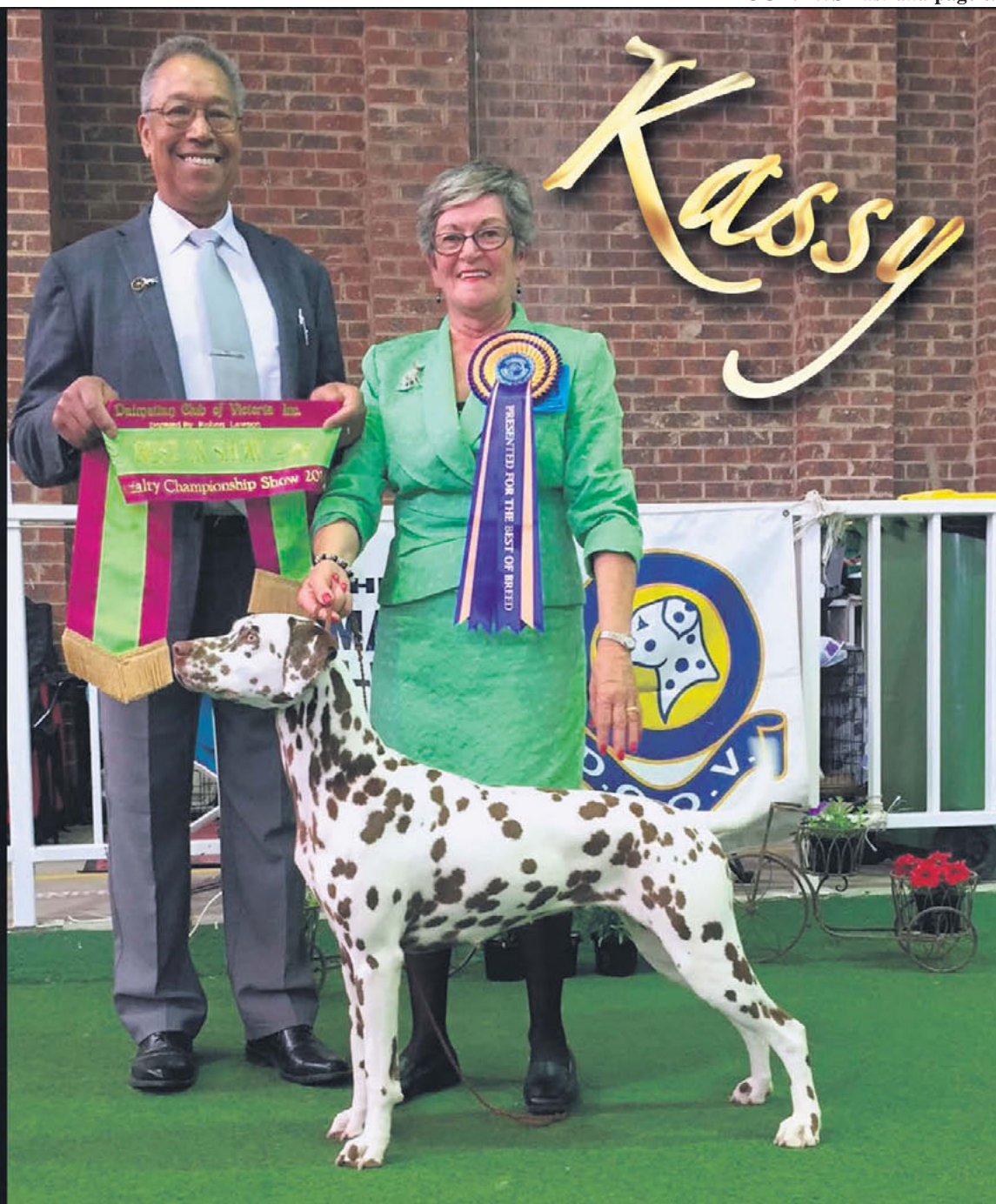
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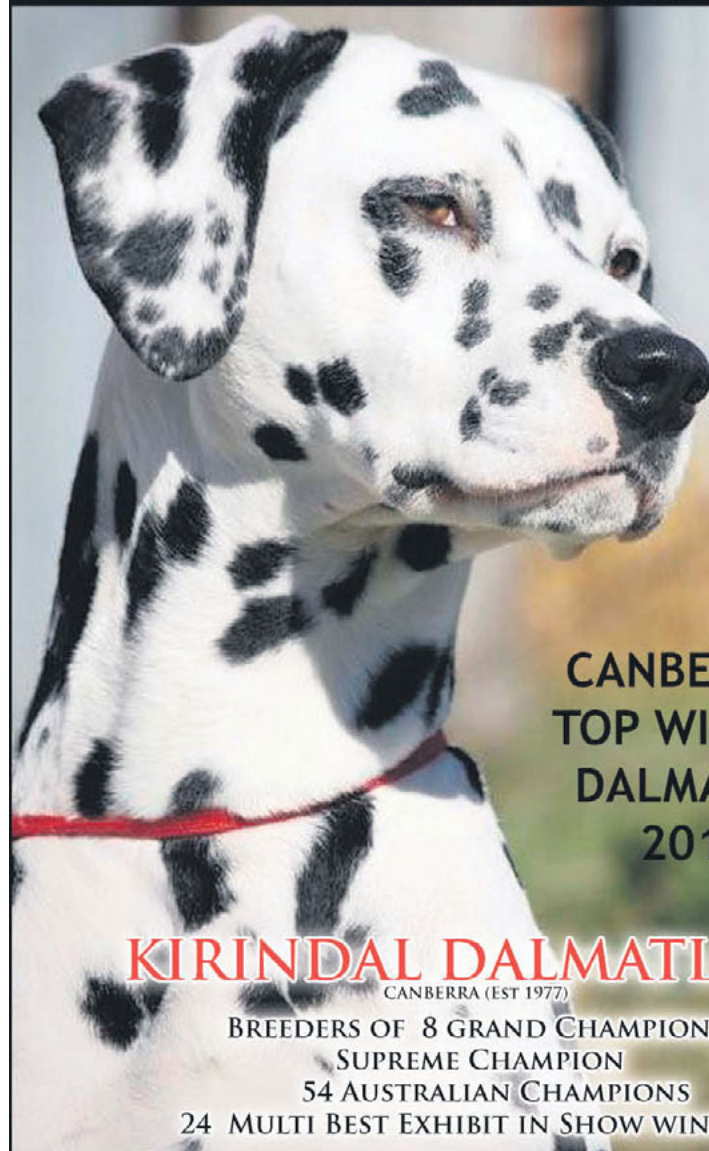
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# The Breed Standard

**General Appearance:**

The Dalmatian should be a balanced, strong, muscular, active dog of good demeanour. Symmetrical in outline, free from coarseness and lumber, capable of great endurance with a fair amount of speed.

**Characteristics:**

(See under General Appearance and Colour.)

**Temperament:** Of good demeanour.

**Head And Skull:**

The head should be of fair length, the skull flat, reasonably broad between the ears but refined, moderately well defined at the temples, i.e. exhibiting a moderate amount of stop; not in one straight line from nose to occiput bone. Entirely free from wrinkle. The muzzle should be long and powerful, never snipy, the lips clean. fitting the jaw moderately close. The nose in the black spotted variety should always be black, in the liver spotted variety always brown.

**Eyes:**

The eyes, set moderately well apart, should be of medium size, round, bright and sparkling, with an intelligent expression, their colour, depending on the marking of the dog; dark in the black spotted, amber in the liver spotted. The rim round the eyes should be complete; black in the black spotted and liver brown in the liver spotted.

**Ears:**

The ears should be set on rather high, of moderate size, rather wide at the base, gradually tapering to a rounded point. Fine in texture, carried close to head. The markings should be well broken up, preferably spotted.

**Mouth:**

The teeth should meet. The upper slightly overlapping the lower (scissor bite).

**Neck:**

The neck should be fairly long, nicely arched, light and tapering. Entirely free from throatiness.

**Forequarters:**

The shoulders should be moderately oblique, clean and muscular. Elbows close to the body. The forelegs perfectly straight with strong round bone down to the feet, with a slight spring at the pastern joint.

**Body:**

The chest should not be too wide but deep and capacious with plenty of lung and heart room. The ribs well sprung, well defined wither, powerful level back, loins strong, clean and muscular, and slightly arched.

**Hindquarters:**

Rounded, muscles clean with well developed second thigh, good turn of stifle and hocks well defined.

**Feet:**

Round, compact, with well arched toes (cat-feet) and round tough elastic pads. Nails black or white in the black spotted variety, in the liver spotted - brown or white.

**Tail:**

In length reaching approximately to the hocks. Strong at the insertion gradually tapering towards the end, it should not be inserted too low or too high, be free from coarseness and carried with a slight upward curve, never curled. Preferably spotted.

**Gait/Movement:**

The Dalmatian should have great freedom of movement. A smooth, powerful rhythmic action with a long stride. Viewed from behind, the legs should move in parallel, the hindlegs tracking the fore. A short stride and paddling action is incorrect.

**Coat:**

The coat should be short, hard and dense, sleek and glossy in appearance.

**Colour:**

The ground colour should be pure white. Black spotted dogs have dense black spots and liver spotted dogs liver-brown spots. They should not run together but be round and well defined, the size of a FIVE to a TWENTY CENT COIN, as well distributed as possible. Spots on the extremities should be smaller than those on the body.

**Sizes:**

Overall balance of prime importance, but the ideal height to be aimed at is:  
Dogs 58-61 cms (23-24 ins.), Bitches 56-58 cms (22-23 ins.).

**Faults:**

Any departure from the foregoing points should be considered a fault and the seriousness with which the fault should be regarded should be in exact proportion to its degree and its effect upon the health and welfare of the dog.  
Blue eyes. Patches. Black and liver spots on the same dog (tricolours). Lemon spots. Bronzing and other faults of pigmentation.

Notes: Male animals should have two apparently normal testicles fully descended into the scrotum.



# Cristabo Dalmatians

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Carla Walsh, Wainuiomata, New Zealand  
PH + 64 4 5641611  
email: cristabo@xtra.co.nz



Bronwen Munro, Blenheim, New Zealand.  
PH + 64 3 5722739  
email: bron.mun@xtra.co.nz