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Fact Sheet: Dalmatian

Dog type: utility

History:

- Dalmatians are named after Dalmatia, a region of the former Yugoslavia, where they were bred as hunting dogs from 1750, although they were probably around long before this.
- Dalmatians were popular in the 18th and 19th centuries with British lords and ladies, who used them to run with their carriages and guard the carriages when they stopped.
- During both World Wars and the Vietnam War, Dalmatians were used to guard the camps of US soldiers.

Did you know...?

- Most Dalmatians are born with pure white fur but some new pups have 'patches' - silky areas of black or brown fur.
- They are sometimes called 'the clowns of the dog world' because they are lively and full of fun.
- They are famous for being the 'fire station' dog. In London they worked as 'ratters' killing mice and rats in the fire stations and stables and often ran with the fire engine to a fire.
- Dalmatians are excellent tracking and 'Search and Rescue' dogs.

Dalmatians as pets:

- Very intelligent
- Make good guard dogs
- Like to spend time with people
- Enjoy plenty of exercise