

## DALMATIAN DIET RECOMMENDATIONS

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ALL Dalmatians have the potential to become urate crystal and/or stone formers during their lifetime. Many Dalmatian breeders feel that in order to keep your Dalmatian from obstructing or having problems urinating you should follow a simple protocol of **HYDRATION**, **DIET**, frequent **URINE ELIMINATION** & **EXERCISE**.

It is absolutely critical that you do the following things:

**HYDRATION**: The amount of water and quality of water your Dalmatian intakes is critical.

**AMOUNT**: It is very important that you put water on your dogs dry kibble when you feed them. This forces the dog to drink more water and thus flush out their systems more thoroughly. I personally add enough water to cover the kibble, yet not make it float. Clean, fresh water should be available to your Dal at all times.

**QUALITY**: The water should not be high in minerals and such that are conducive to stone formation. Many Dalmatian owners only give their Dalmatians filtered or distilled water for their lifetimes. If the quality of your water is not excellent or if you have well water I would suggest you buy a counter top water filter or distiller unit, or give your dog distilled bottled water.

**DIET**: It is important that your new Dalmatian puppy is fed a diet low in purines, not protein. I personally recommend Purina Pro Plan Chicken & Rice or Lamb & Rice, Purina ONE Lamb & Rice or Purina Selects Turkey & Barley. You should never feed a Dalmatian a Beef-based or Liver-based food or treats.

**URINE ELIMINATION**: Frequent urine elimination is a key component in keeping your Dalmatian stone free. It is important that the bladder is relieved or “flushed out” several times during the day. Stones are formed when the urine stays too long in the bladder. It allows for collection of the minerals and particles to lay stagnant and form stones.

**EXERCISE**: If a dog has frequent and regular exercise they will be consuming more water as they get thirsty from the activity and will be eliminating more as they run around. So exercise your Dalmatian often for a happy and healthy dog.