While deafness does occur in the breed, the vast majority of Dalmatians can hear

- ~70% of Dalmatians have bilateral hearing. They hear with both ears.
- ~22% have unilateral hearing. They hear with only one ear.
- ~8% are totally deaf. This unlucky minority do not hear at all.

Note: These statistics are representative of pre-weaned puppies. Total Congenital Deafness (should it occur) is detectable before the puppy begins its eighth week of development (see Ethics #’s 9 & 10).

Careful breeding can produce better than average hearing.

- Select only bilaterally hearing dogs for breeding.
- Choose from lines with the fewest deaf relatives.
- Do not repeat breeding with dogs that produce many deaf pups.
- Favor breeding dogs with brown eyes.

A reliable method for assessing hearing is available.

- Puppies can be tested as early as 5 weeks of age.
- The BAER test method provides a permanent record of a dog’s hearing status.
- If a Dal hears as a pup it will hear as an adult, barring injury, infection or old age.

Dalmatian Club of America members provide the hearing status of dogs for sale or placement.

- Where BAER testing is not available, breeders rely on home testing methods.
- Responsible breeders provide sales agreements and documentation with the hearing status of a puppy.
- The DCA provides breeder referral information to help you find healthy, well-bred puppies.

The DCA has long been committed to improving the overall hearing rate in the Dalmatian.

- DCA sponsored research continues to lead to a better understanding of deafness.
- An open Hearing Registry has been established to maintain a database of BAER test results.
- The purpose of DCA policies regarding deafness are to advance the quality of the breed.

The Dalmatian Club of America

Please submit your comments, requested and suggestions to

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