Hearing 101

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 it's 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