

## **The British Carriage Dog Society**

The Society was established in July 2006 and exists:

- To preserve the working heritage of the Dalmatian
- To run National Trials
- To encourage common standards for all Carriage Dog Trials
- To offer advice and support

### **The Dalmatian – a carriage dog**

The Dalmatians' role in the UK as a carriage dog began in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The unusual strength in their feet and legs enabled them to run for great distances on rough roads, which together with their affinity with horses, made them ideal carriage dogs. The dogs had to keep pace with the horses and their strong guarding instincts made them useful when travelling and at night at the inns.

### **The National Carriage Dog Trials**

The purpose of the trials is to provide a modern competition through which to demonstrate the Dalmatian's traditional role as a companion to horses and carriages. It is both an endurance and obedience event. All competitors must do a basic obedience test with their Dalmatian, whilst on horseback or on a carriage. The obedience test is followed by a test of endurance. Dalmatians that qualify with both elements earn the titles of Road or Carriage Dog- and even be awarded Bronze, Silver or Gold depending on the distance covered. The Dalmatian's physical condition is also assessed by a Vet at the National Trials and contributes to the Dalmatian's overall score.



Further information may be obtained from the Society's website:

[www.carriagedog.org](http://www.carriagedog.org)

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