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Our Vision

Every Schnauzer a home,
one adoption at a time.

MSRH Mission Statement

Within the organization's scope and reach, MSRH is dedicated to rescuing every abandoned or lost Miniature Schnauzer that we can and migrating them to a loving forever home.

Behind the Scenes

In the interim period, between rescue and adoption, our all volunteer team provides temporary homes in a safe and loving environment while we search for an adoptive home that is the right match for each Schnauzer. We never forget that most adopters see only a snapshot of our overall organization. As such, we strive to ensure a perfect experience to give that snapshot exceptional clarity. Every perfect adoption experience requires a network of committed volunteers, veterinarians, partners, loving foster families and friends who pay the love forward with gifts of time, talent, and treasure. We want every Schnauzer to have a home. At MSRH, we make it happen . . . one adoption at a time.



Volume 9, Issue 1

First Quarter 2017



Pool Safety for your Schnauzer

This isn't a scare tactic on our part - Dogs drown!

By Kimberly Hackler, MSRH Volunteer

Some various groups have collected relevant data on the subject.

- Jules Benson, DVM, Vice President of Veterinary Services with Petplan Pet Insurance reports that about 1 of every 34,000 submitted insurance claims are related to a pet's drowning or near-drowning.
- Cynthia Jones, DVM, a shelter veterinarian for the Humane Society of North Texas in Fort Worth, reports dealing with 2-3 water-related pet fatalities, and lots of water-related injuries, every summer in her former career as a private practice veterinarian.
- Pool maintenance professionals have stories of entering clients' homes, only to discover a dog clinging to life on the edge of the pool – or worse.

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Pool Safety For Your Schnauzer continued from Page 1

Preventative Measures can Save Lives

Generally speaking, Miniature Schnauzers do not like the water, although there are certainly exceptions. If your Schnauzer is one of the exceptions, swimming is great fun and exercise and may be helpful for other things, such as rehabilitation and arthritic joints. Though your pooch may be eager to splash into the pool on a hot summer day, there should be set limitations; especially for dogs of certain ages or medical conditions.

Senior dogs are more likely to suffer from arthritis, vision loss, seizures and a host of other health issues that may require your special attention around the pool or prohibit them from swimming altogether.

Overweight dogs tire quickly. Start slowly and gradually increase the amount of time your dog swims. Be sure to check with your veterinarian first and be careful not to overdo it.

Dogs that have mostly sedentary lives can easily get too much of a good thing. Dogs, like people, experience muscle soreness and stiffness, and you must be willing to look out for their best interests.

Dogs need to be in good cardiovascular shape in order to have the endurance to swim for any length of time; otherwise they will easily get exhausted and drown. A novice swimmer may tire in less than five minutes and start getting desperate. A desperate dog may be prone to biting or nipping in fear if you attempt to touch them. Err on the side of caution and give them breaks often.

If you have multiple dogs, each should be very well trained before they are allowed to swim together.

Even dogs who love the water often need to be forced to take a break. Always be on the lookout for signs of fatigue (such as when a dog's rear end starts to ride lower in the water as he's swimming) or over-stimulation (in water-loving dogs, this is often a wide-eyed, frenetic pace).

You should always consult with your veterinarian to confirm your dog is healthy enough before allowing him/her to swim.

Pool Training & Other Considerations

While there are many effective ways to ensure your pet's safety when near a pool, the most important precautionary measure is adequate supervision. Just like with children, leaving them unattended around a pool can lead to unnecessary injury (#1). This, along with teaching Fido how to swim and correctly exit the water (#3 & #4), can keep the pool area a fun and safe environment.

1. Supervise Dogs As If They Were Small Children. The same pool safety rules that apply to children also apply to dogs. Just like you hear that kids will silently drown in a pool, even when surrounded by a group of people, a dog will silently slip under water and drown if you aren't being vigilant. So, someone needs to be assigned to be a dog's supervisor when the dog is allowed into the pool area. And if the supervisor leaves the pool area, the dog needs to be out of the water and out of the pool area, too, even if it is for just a few minutes. And just like kids can get too tired, so can dogs. So, you have to learn their stamina level. Keep an eye on how well they are swimming and when they've had enough. Guests need to be told when the dog has had enough, and to not toss a toy again in the water for the dog to retrieve.

2. Control your dog's access to the pool. Never let your dog in the vicinity of a pool unattended. Don't get distracted and keep a close eye on them when they're outside. Closing any doggy door while you aren't home is imperative. When you don't want your dog to go in the pool at all, using a barrier to block access to the steps effectively announces to your dogs that the pool is temporarily closed. This ties into #4 below.

3. Swimming lessons. While some may scoff at the idea of specialty swimming lessons for pets, it's a valuable skill that can mean the difference between life and death. Enlist the help of a professional dog trainer so that the skills are properly taught and your pooch's fear of the water isn't increased. It is going to be important to complete your dog's obedience lessons before you enroll your dog in formal dog swimming classes.

A novice dog should never be thrown in the water to force them to swim, have a fetch toy tossed in the water for them to either get or refuse to get, or be encouraged to just jump in without anyone thinking in advance if the dog is ready. A common misconception is that all dogs can "dog paddle" and keep themselves afloat in the water. Inexperienced (or panicked) swimmers

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Pool Safety For Your Schnauzer continued from Page 2

often concentrate their efforts on the front legs, forgetting to fire up the back end. Front-end-only swimming uses a tremendous amount of energy and is ineffective. As a result, dogs end up near-vertical in the water, with lots of splashing.

Dogs that have never gone swimming don't know how to swim. They do have some genetic programming to paddle the water if they fall in, but that isn't the same thing as knowing how to swim. Thus, all dogs need to be properly introduced to water. Reluctant swimmers require great care and patience when working in and around water. Just because your dog will never voluntarily go for a swim, doesn't mean he gets to skip the safety lesson. When teaching a pet to be safe in the pool, it's absolutely imperative that you take your time and establish your dog's trust. Above all else, never throw your dog into the water to let him "figure it out on his own." Not only can this damage your relationship with your dog, a panicked dog is in survival mode, not learning mode.

4. Entrance/Exit Training. It's vitally important to teach your dog to confidently find and use the pool steps to enter and exit your pool so he/she can get out easily should they accidentally fall in. Even accomplished swimmers can drown while trying unsuccessfully to claw their way out from the edge of the pool. Obese, geriatric, blind, partially-blind, and small dogs are especially at risk because of the added physical challenges associated with trying to climb out at the edge if not properly trained. Sight-impaired dogs cannot simply be let out at night to do their "business", not see the edge of the pool, fall in, and between it being dark and the dog not having good vision, they can drown before you know it.

A ramp or set of pet stairs may be necessary for Schnauzers that are on the small end of the breed size. You can also consider placing a landscaping brick or two on the top pool step to make it a shorter climb out (or in) for your dog.

For training and a constant reference point, mark the steps area with an easy-to-spot visual, such as a large potted plant or orange cones. It can help the dog orient and find the way out, especially if he/she is panicking. If your dog falls in and he/she is scared and turning around trying to figure out how to get out, he/she has to spot that one thing to know where the steps are and safely exit the pool. Additionally, teaching your dog to only enter the pool at a specific spot – such as via the steps – not only reinforces its value, but can also prevent the dog from leaping into the pool and landing on unsuspecting swimmers.

Physically place the dog on the steps, while leashed, and patiently encourage him/her to venture out and explore the pool. As the dog begins swimming, the leash allows you to redirect your dog back toward the steps if he/she tries to climb out along the side. Patience and repetition helps condition the dog to return to the steps or other "safe" area.

Another option used is to back-chain a safe pool exit by establishing the steps as the most valuable spot in the pool through a strong reward history, carrying the dog into the water, and having him swim to the steps from different points in the pool.

It's best to avoid helping your dog out at the side of the pool because they'll likely remember that, and you want it to be clear to the dog that the only way out is at the steps.

5. Recall Training. Your dog should be thoroughly trained to instantly return to you upon demand. This is also important in a large body of water with an enthusiastic swimmer/fetch addict. Recall training should include water-based and opposite direction (facing away from you) at a minimum. Having two recall cues should be established with your dog; the second is only for emergencies and should be 100% effective, in all conditions.

6. Pup Pool Etiquette. Just like kids need to be taught that running games on and around water are unsafe, it's important to teach your dog to remain calm when others are swimming. Many dogs want to excitedly race around the exterior of the pool, barking madly while their favorite humans take a dip. This can be dangerous in the heat and do damage to his/her pads and nails. When you want some dog-free pool time, consider confining your dog indoors where he/she can't see the pool activity and give them a safe treat/entertainment toy.

7. Hot Tubs. They're not for your dog! They can't handle the heat and bodily injury or death may occur. Be sure to keep covers on hot tubs when not in use.

8. Don't Drink the Water. The natural summer heat intensifies near water, so you need keep your pup hydrated. This includes not allowing your dog to drink a lot of pool water. The typical chlorine pool could be quite irritating to the gastrointestinal tract and could cause some electrolyte issues if enough is consumed. Saltwater pools, although not as salty as seawater, can also

Pool Safety For Your Schnauzer continued from Page 3

cause electrolyte problems if enough is consumed. Dogs need a separate water bowl in the pool area filled/re-filled regularly with fresh drinking water.

9. Dog Toys. Toys should always be put away when you aren't playing with your dog. You don't want a dog to be tempted to jump in the water without your supervision. Loose toys on the pool deck are also a tripping/falling hazard. Have a storage area for all pool toys, both human and dog.

10. Unintentional Pup Pedicures and Burned Foot Pads. Dogs can quickly wear their nails down to the point of bleeding as they excitedly race around the pool's exterior. It's important to keep an eye on the pads of their feet as well. Repeated launching from the pool steps can tear up paw pads, especially on dogs that spend most of their time on grass. Hot concrete & stone decking can tear up or severely burn their pads.

11. Move the Vacuum! Pool vacuums can be dangerous for dogs to play with and they can get tangled or trapped behind the floating pipe. All of that should be moved out of the way before a dog is put into the pool to swim.

12. Post-swim Spa Treatments. Be sure to rinse off your dog after each pool encounter. Chlorine and other pool chemicals can dry out a dog's coat and skin. Be mindful of areas that tend to remain damp, such as the ears or the area under the collar. Ear infections and hot spots are common in water-loving dogs.

13. Watch for Heat Stroke. Once a dog starts panting, owners need to look at the gums and tongue color. If the gums start getting dark pink, you need to stop (Note: Being able to recognize the dark pink nature of your dog's tongue and gums requires that you are familiar with the "normal" pink color. Every dog is different. Be sure to learn what's "normal" for your individual dogs.). Dogs really have no other form of getting rid of heat other than panting. It causes heat to be lost through the evaporation of saliva in their mouth and on their tongue. Bring your dog inside immediately and provide fresh water.

If your dog goes overboard on activity, he/she may be falling victim to heat stroke. Some signs to watch for include a staggering gait and an overall "drunken" appearance. In this case, it's strongly suggested that you seek medical attention immediately. While in route, wet towels along the back of the neck, groin and armpit areas (sites of major blood vessels), with a fan blowing over them, is one of the best ways to begin cooling the dog. As with people, avoid the "old wives tale" remedy of total submersion in ice water, as it creates too much shock to the system.

Training the Humans

Everyone should be informed that it is dangerous to get a dog too excited, and running around the pool area is prohibited.

1. Have a Plan – Accidents Happen. Think ahead about what you'd do if you had to rescue a pet from the water. Every dog home should have a dog first aid kit, and those who are supervising the dog need to know where it is. All involved should have your veterinarian's contact information and know the location of the nearest emergency vet.

2. Make Sure You Tell Everyone The Safety Rules. Your entire family should clearly understand the "dos" and "don'ts" with the dog(s), but your guests should be informed before they enter the pool area, as well. The people who will be around the water need to be trained so as to manage the dog(s) properly.

3. Never Leave a Person in Charge that isn't a Strong Swimmer. Have a human life jacket readily available so you can react quickly. You should NEVER have a non-swimmer supervise the dog around, or in, the pool. If your dog is endangered, someone needs to be able to jump in and save your dog.

4. People Food is for People. Poolside barbeques are great fun, but during all the festivities, your dog's safety should be a top-priority, as well. Food will be around, plentiful, and accessible from well-meaning folks. However, some foods aren't safe for your Schnauzer, so make it clear that table food cannot be fed to your canine child.

5. Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation or "CPR". It's one of those things it's better to know and not need, than to need and not know. It is a combination of chest compression and artificial respiration. It is normally used when you cannot feel or hear the dog's heartbeat. Once the dog stops breathing, the heart will go into cardiac arrest and cease beating. Being able to properly administer artificial respiration and CPR on a dog is vital should your dog accidentally drown in your pool.

Before performing this procedure please keep in mind that CPR has its own risks. Please consult with your veterinarian as to the best sources for canine CPR training.

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Pool Safety For Your Schnauzer continued from Page 4

Tools for the Pool

1. Canine Life Jackets. Helps keep them afloat and can help anxious swimmers relax enough to paddle with all four legs. They also reduce the chance that the dog goes into survival mode, and helps make him/her more receptive to learning. As a dog gets the hang of using his front and back ends in unison, the body evens out and splashing becomes minimal. A life jacket helps provide an added layer of safety during water play. Make sure it fits well and is comfortable for your dog. Otherwise, he/she will constantly be trying to get it off. Caveat: Don't rely on the life vest so much that you leave your dog unattended.
2. Pool Alarms. New, high tech detection devices and pool alarms should be installed: motion detector lights; water motion detection alarms to notify you if the dog is in the pool with no one around; security cameras; web cameras which you can log into from your phone or computer when away from the home. You can even purchase collar alarms for dogs which will notify you if your dog falls in the water or is submerged.
3. Fencing. Installing a fence around your pool can provide another layer of protection. Open gates can be prevented by installing spring-loaded gates that automatically close by themselves.

Pool Design & Considerations

1. Floating Pool Covers are a No-No. Floating covers are extremely dangerous in homes with children and pets. Countless dogs, even accomplished swimmers, have lost their lives following an unexpected tumble into a covered pool. Falling underneath or even on top of a floating cover is extremely disorienting, and it becomes almost impossible for the dog to find his way out. Invest in a safety cover, which fits over the entire pool and is anchored in place to create a physical barrier between the water and those around the pool.
2. Pool Drains. Unsafe underwater suction drains have caused drownings, and newer laws require them to be of a different design. Such a drain could also kill a dog that likes to swim to the bottom of the pool to retrieve toys. Please have your pool inspected if it's older to ensure your drains are current with code.
3. Decking Materials. Certain pool surfaces and pool decks can be damaged by a dog's pads and nails.
4. Consider landscaping risks. A good landscape design is a necessity, so think about safety. Some plants are poisonous or will attract bees. [See MSRH handout from the ASCPA: Poison Plants-Cats and Dogs]. Planted pots can fall over if bumped into, not only pouring all that dirt into your pool, but also becoming a tripping / falling hazard. It is also important to use pet safe fertilizers and pest control products. Dogs may dig in planters and consume dangerous chemicals in the process, so look into organic solutions, and consult with your veterinarian about poisoning risks.

It's not pleasant to imagine an emergency spoiling your summer pool fun, but a little pre-planning and diligent training will keep you and your Schnauzer(s) enjoying the water with less risk of incident.

Sources:

Sam Basso. www.SamtheDogTrainer.com

The Whole Dog Journal

Bark Post

American Kennel Club ("AKC")

DID YOU KNOW YOUR EMPLOYER MAY MATCH YOUR DONATIONS TO MSRH?

Many corporations match donations made by employees to a wide range of nonprofits to support employee charitable giving and to extend corporate philanthropy. Many nonprofits, like MSRH, miss out on revenue simply because many donors are unaware of their employer's gift matching programs.

To find out if your employer will match your donations to MSRH (double them), go to the following link:

<http://www.msrh.org/matching-gifts>

If your employer matches, and you are currently giving \$50 per month, for example, MSRH will then start receiving \$100 per month.

OPEN VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

GRANT WRITER

Do you have grant writing experience? MSRH is looking for a volunteer to analyze our organization for grant competitive qualities to help us qualify for foundation grants. Once any corrective actions have been taken to improve our competitiveness, then the grant writer would research grant opportunities and prepare applications to include a budget and budget narrative. Other MSRH volunteers will work with the Grant Writer to help gather required information for applications. Time required for this position will vary. If you are interested, please email volunteercoordinator@msrh.org or call (281) 336-1163 and leave a message.

NEED FOSTER HOMES EXPERIENCED WITH TREATING DOGS FOR HEART- WORMS:

If you are knowledgeable and experienced with heartworm treatment, have a quiet home environment, and time for required visits to the vet, we want to talk to you. Please email volunteercoordinator@msrh.org or call (281) 336-1163 and leave a message.

**WILLING TO LEARN HOW TO CARE FOR DOGS
GOING THRU HEARTWORM TREATMENT? WE'LL
TRAIN YOU!**

April 25 is Pet Parents' Day

First Quarter 2017 ADOPTION STATISTICS

MONTH	INTAKES	ADOPTIONS	TOTAL IN RESCUE*
January	32	25	38
February	17	24	33
March	30	21	50
Total	79	70	

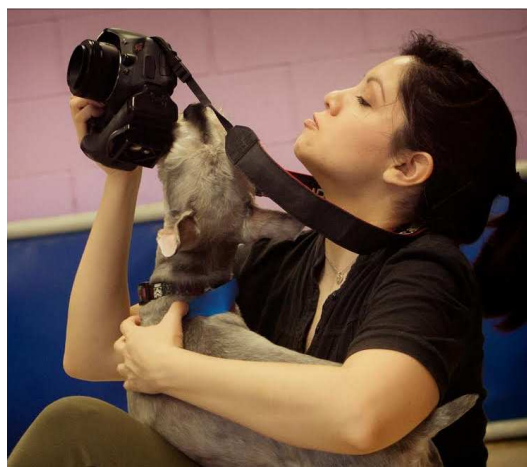
MEET OUR MSRH PHOTOGRAPHERS!!!

If you've ever tried to get a good photo of your dog, you know it isn't easy. Dogs are not known for their posing skills. But, getting a really good photo of each of our rescues is extremely important towards generating interest from potential adopters. For a couple of years now, Linda Sutton has come to most of our Meet & Greets to photo the dogs for the website. She also photos the dogs with their new adoptive parents. However, Linda has recently retired and will be leaving Houston soon. She has introduced us to Alida Bonifaz, who will take over this very vital task for MSRH.

We wish Linda very best wishes in her retirement, although we will definitely miss her, and we gratefully welcome Alida to the MSRH team. We look forward to seeing her at the Meet & Greets and getting to know her.



Linda Sutton



Alida Bonifaz

DEAR SOPHIE: I've Got These Itchy, Scaly Bare Spots! Help!

Dear Sophie:

I've got these red, scaly bare spots on my body that are awfully itchy. They started showing up not too long after I came back from my first trip to the groomer (I am just a kid). I'm wondering if you could explain what this is and help me get rid of it.

Sincerely,

Ringo Von Wormsky

Dear Ringo:

Sounds like you've got a case of ringworm. Ringworm is a fungus most prevalent in hot, humid climates like we have here on the Gulf Coast, but interestingly, most cases show up in the fall and winter. Spores from infected animals can be shed into the environment and live over 18 months. However, most healthy adult dogs have some resistance to ringworm and never develop symptoms from the fungus, even though they may have spores on their coats. Young dogs like you are the ones most often affected, along with older dogs that have a suppressed immune system from other diseases. You seem to have classic symptoms. Lesions most often appear on the head, but they can also occur on the legs, feet, or tail.

The disease can be diagnosed through several different methods. One way is through the use of a specialized black

light called a Wood's Lamp. Several species of ringworm fungus will have a fluorescent glow when exposed to a Wood's Lamp, but not all species of ringworm fluoresce. The most accurate way to identify a ringworm infection is by collecting scales and crust from a lesion and performing a culture. Your veterinarian can easily perform this routine culture.

Most small isolated lesions on healthy dogs and puppies will heal on their own within 4 months, but in severe cases, there are several treatments that can be used. For isolated lesions, the hair around each lesion should be clipped down close to the skin taking care not to irritate the skin, because this could cause the infection to spread. The lesions can then be treated topically with an antifungal ointment twice daily, such as miconazole, Lotrimin, or 1% chlorhexidine. For more severe or generalized lesions, in addition to hair clipping and topical ointment, there are antifungal shampoos and dips that will help, such as 0.5% chlorhexidine shampoo, 2% miconazole shampoo, ketoconazole shampoo, lime sulphur dip, or 2% chlorhexidine solution that should be applied every 2 to 4 days.

There are some oral antifungal agents, namely Griseofulvin, ketoconazole, and itraconazole. They have to be given over several months under the supervision of a veterinarian. So, if none of the topical remedies work for you, I suggest you see your veterinarian about these

oral meds.

Since ringworm is generally not a problem for most healthy dogs, there are currently no vaccines for the prevention of ringworm for dogs. Grooming and boarding facilities, as well as dog shows and veterinary clinics can be a source of infection. The clipped hair, clippers, and any grooming instruments that come into contact with an infected animal will harbor the spores and must be heat or chemically sterilized before being used on any other animal. If you picked up your case of ringworm not long after returning from the groomer, I would seriously question their hygiene practices before returning there, if at all.

Ringworm can be transmitted between you and your human family members, by the way. Any human in your family that may have a suppressed immune system, such as those with HIV or AIDS, or those undergoing chemotherapy, may be especially vulnerable. Humans should wear gloves when handling you until you are cured and wash their hands well afterwards.

Sincerely,
Sophie



Hope begins in the dark, the stubborn hope that if you just show up and do the right thing, the dawn will come.

—Anne Lamott

WAYS TO GIVE TO MSRH WITHOUT SPENDING ONE EXTRA PENNY!

When you shop at Kroger—Got a Kroger Rewards card?

Go to: www.krogercommunityrewards.com. Follow the instructions to register. You'll need your Plus card number, but if you don't have your card, call (800) 576-4377 and select Option 4 to get it. Once registered, log on to your account. There will be a place for you to enter MSRH's Non-Profit Organization (NPO) number, which is **80020**. If done correctly, you'll see 'Miniature Schnauzer Rescue of Houston' on the right side of your Account Summary Page. When you shop, you'll also see 'Miniature Schnauzer Rescue of Houston' on the bottom of your grocery receipt.

When you shop at Randall's—If you have a Randall's Remarkable Card, go to the Customer Service Desk and ask to participate in their Good Neighbor Program. They'll give you a form to complete where you will provide your Remarkable Card number and our charity number, which is **11942**. Once you do that, they'll link your card with our charity number in their system. Thereafter, a portion of your grocery bill will be donated to MSRH.

When you purchase NuVet Labs vitamins and joint therapy—We understand that not everyone purchases these products for their dog, but NuVet guarantees that their products can eliminate most ailments, such as allergies, skin and coat problems, scratching, itching, biting, hot spots, arthritis and joint problems, etc. These products are not available to the general public without this order code: **52564**. A portion of your purchase is donated to MSRH. Call (800) 474-7044 or order online at www.nuvetlabs.com.

When you purchase products through Amazon—nearly everybody these days makes purchases from Amazon. Now there is a way to have 0.5% of your purchase (excluding shipping and taxes) donated to MSRH. Just go to www.smile.amazon.com. Once you're on this website, you'll be given a chance to select a charity. Type in 'Miniature Schnauzer Rescue of Houston'. Then, you'll be redirected to the regular Amazon website where you log on with your usual username and password and start shopping.

When you buy or sell a home—Robin Slack with RE/MAX has agreed to donate 20% of her commissions to MSRH for any clients who are our volunteers, donors, or adopters. So, if you are ready to buy a home or sell one, call Robin direct at (713) 540-7553 or email robin@sellinghouston.com and tell her MSRH sent you.

When you purchase medications for your pets—for every purchase you make through Pet Rescue RX, a licensed veterinary pharmacy, Pet Rescue RX will donate 100% of their profits after they pay their bills, employees, and overhead costs. When you register at www.petrescuex.com, you will be asked to complete information about your pets, your veterinarian, and the rescue group you wish to receive donations (Miniature Schnauzer Rescue of Houston). If your order is for prescription-only medications, such as Trifexis, Comfortis, Heartgard, etc., Pet Rescue RX will contact your veterinarian to get his/her approval.

Just about every time you shop online—go to www.igive.com/rMsg3U to register. Then, install the iGive button on your browser bar by following the instructions. You'll see the little orange flower icon on your browser once you're done. Then, every time you shop, click on this icon first. Select the store you're wanting and you'll be re-directed there to start shopping like you always do. All your favorites are there, like Chico's, Bed, Bath & Beyond, Apple Store, Petco, PetSmart, Ulta, Shoebuy, Macy's, etc. The store will donate a portion of your purchase to MSRH (each store has their own percentage amount that they donate).

When your beloved pet crosses the Rainbow Bridge—If cremation is your choice, go to www.liveoakpetservices.com. We service the Houston and surrounding area and exclusively Texas A & M Veterinary Teaching Hospital, The Houston SPCA, North Houston Veterinary Specialists, and Animeals on Wheels. We will donate 20% of the fee you pay us to MSRH, so if you choose to use our services for your pet, please let us know that your pet was adopted through or was a foster of MSRH.

If you want your pet's photo converted into an oil painting—go to www.timelessartsoncanvas.com. Click on 'Commissioned Art Agreement and Ordering Details' for more information. The artist, Astrid, will donate 10% of the painting cost, excluding tax and shipping, to MSRH, so be sure to tell her you were referred by us.

HAPPY TAILS

Kersta (formerly Jewel)

New mom, Janet, writes: "It's been about a year since we adopted Kersta (formerly Jewel). I thought I would share some recent photos of her. I tried to post them on Facebook, but had some problems.

As you can see she is thriving, and she brings so much joy to my mom. She takes several walks each day, and most days she has a play date with her new friend, Elvis. Elvis was adopted from the Bay Area Pet Rescue about a month ago.

Thank you so very much for all that you do!"



Kersta patrolling for squirrels.



Ella lounging in her new home.

Ella

New Dad, Frank, writes: "We had three miniature schnauzers before Ella. The first, Jenny, we got while in Oregon in 1987. We lived near a family that had a schnauzer, Popi, who would come to our house to visit. She was a love and would hug you when picked up. My wife, Ann, was ill and my sons and I found an eight-week old miniature at a farm in the country and brought her home for Ann. Love at first sight. Jenny lived for 16 years, the last few were not good years for her. We moved back to Texas and in 2003 adopted two miniatures from MSR, Josie and Murdoch. We picked them up from their foster in the Woodlands. Josie died in 2014 and Murdoch last August. We missed them terribly and debated getting another dog. Thankfully we registered with MSR and found our Ella. She is a love, very sweet and calm. She is easy to train and has already learned sit/stay/come/go for a walk/go outside."

Missy

New Mom, Gwen, writes: "My Missy is PERFECT for me. Such a sweet fun doggie! She loves to play fetch. She is just adorable. I'm working on training her to be house trained with the bell system. I'm going to take her to my vet for a full physical, hopefully tomorrow. There is redness around one of her eyes, hopefully we can get some cream for it. She rests after endless fetching right by my side. She's choosing my bed in my room to sleep. That's just fine with me. She was terrified of the stairs, but yesterday she mastered going up (VERY SMART GIRL). We will work on going down. I think she's so happy to be an INSIDE dog and get so much attention. She has cheered me up so much (from losing my Cotton). I'm falling in love with her, hard! She's having a ton of gas. I'm wondering if her family actually gave her the lams food, but I'm converting her very slowly to Nature Select. You know I know she's mine. When I heard that the black spots on each side were coyote mauling, TWICE, I knew she was the one (I have many scars, too!) I'm so glad I stayed as long as I did or I would have missed her! Just like you said, right dog, right timing. I'm so thrilled with her. Thank you so much for dealing with my CONSTANT communication, hehe . . ."



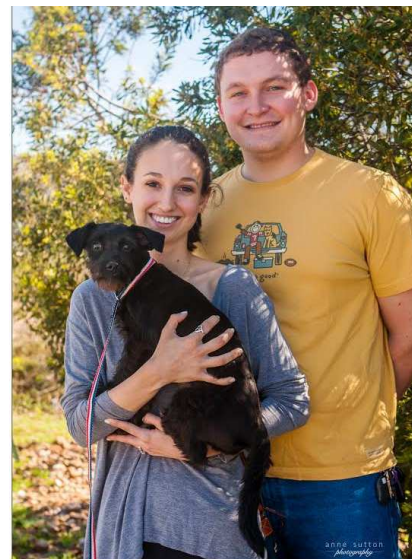
Missy, an "Inside Girl".

Continued on Page 11

HAPPY TAILS continued from Page 12

Ivy

New mom, Jessica, writes: "We are just loving having Ivy. She is just so sweet and a blast to have around."



Ivy with new parents, Jessica & Michael



Lucky with new dads, George & Steve.

Lucky (formerly Peanut)

New dad, George, writes: "Peanut (renamed Lucky) has been a perfect dream so far. Our other dog seems to enjoy playing with him, and we have had no issues at all. Both dogs engage in some healthy sparing for top dog/ position etc. but nothing unhealthy.

Thanks again for all you do."

Rex (formerly Tonto)

New dad, Steve, writes: "I just wanted to thank you for your love & kindness for our 4 legged friends – MSRH is truly an amazing organization & the care you folks give to, as far as I'm concerned, one of God's most precious gifts just can't be praised enough. Tonto has already become a wonderful friend & companion as they always do. I'm doing my best to be worthy of his devotion."



Rex all comfy for the ride to his new home in Colorado.

HAPPY TAILS continued from Page 13



Wally (left) with his new 'bro', Barkley

Wally

New mom, Janelle, writes: "Don and I want you to know how happy we have been with Wally. He has fit in to our lives so well. Barkley and he get along well, and sometimes they chase and play wrestle. They sleep in the same crate and happily ride in the back seat in the car.

Wally has such a happy, cheerful, upbeat nature. He has a "crazy dog dance" that he does with the garden hose.....he screeches and runs in and out of the water....our only self-bathing dog!

I wanted to share this photo of Wally (on left) and Barkley taken by our neighbor when she was dog-sitting them. It's in our neighborhood, but the photo angle makes it look like "Wally and Barkley Go to Disneyland!"

A month or so after we had Wally I took him in to have his teeth cleaned because he had really bad breath. Turned out that most of his top and bottom incisors were so loose they were about to fall out. His gums had deep pockets of infection. Once he had his teeth out, his gums sewed up and a round of antibiotics, he was an even more energetic dog than before. In addition, the profuse and smelly discharge from his eyes (which I thought was awfully abundant "sleep") vanished. He must have had severely infected sinuses.

So, we hope he is good for quite awhile.

Thanks so much for all your help in placing Wally with us."

Gracie Lou (formerly Courtney)

Mom, Barbara, writes: "Our precious Gracie Lou was adopted from MSRH in 2015, and she was a godsend to my husband as his health declined. Since his death, she has become my companion and angel. I am so happy to be able to contribute to the care of other schnauzers who, like Gracie, (Courtney before adoption) come into your care with diverse medical issues.

God bless you all!"



Gracie Lou with her parents, Barbara and Jim

BOOK OF THE MONTH

“Dogs and Their People: Photos and Stories of Life With a Four-Legged Love”

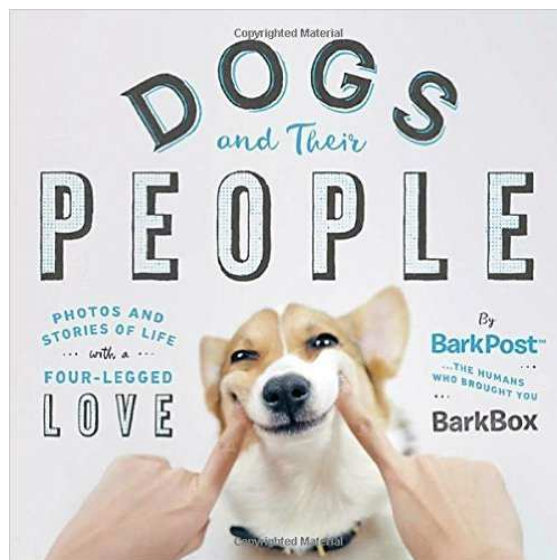
By Barkpost

From the humans that brought you Barkbox (and Barkpost and Barkshop) finally comes “Dogs and Their People”.

Bark & Co. has tapped the humans at Barkpost, the company’s publishing arm, to put into words and photographs the first official Bark-Book, capturing the depth, spirit, and power of the extraordinary bond between humans and their pups.

Mostly community-sourced filled with never-before-told anecdotes, stories, photos, and intimate insights, “Dogs and Their People” spotlights over 200 unique remarkable dogs. Some are celebrity dogs, while others are just making their debut; some will make your heart ache, while others will make it soar; and others simply look really dapper in color. All bring to life and celebrate the crazy, consuming, insatiable love we feel for the World’s Ultimate Best Friend in a book that is perfect for dog lovers everywhere.

This book, published October 18, 2016, may be purchased on Amazon in Kindle edition for \$12.99 or hardcover for \$14.70. As of this writing, it has received 85 reviews, with 95% of them being 5-star.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bark & Company is a company dedicated to the happiness of dogs everywhere. BarkPost, the company’s publishing arm that has grown into one of the largest dog media properties online, helps dogs share their stories with the world through their enormously popular blog.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, MAY 6—JUNE 3—JULY 1

(Every First Saturday of each month)

KRISER'S HEIGHTS MEET & GREET

Where: 250 W. 20th Street
Houston, Texas 77008
(The Heights area)
Kriser's phone: (713) 239-0058
Time: 10AM to 1PM
Chair: Linda Brown
Tel: (281) 336-1163

SATURDAY, APRIL 15—MAY 20—JUNE 17

(Every Third Saturday of each month)

KENNEL CLUB MEET & GREET

Where: 9040 Highway 6 North
Houston, Texas 77095-2303
(Between Hwy 290 and West Road)
Kennel Club phone: (281) 809-7748
Website: www.kennelclubhouston.com
Time: 10AM to 1PM
Chairs: Hanne Ozolins and Brenda Kennedy
Tel: (281) 336-1163

REMEMBER—NO ONSITE ADOPTIONS!

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ADOPTING, PLEASE COMPLETE AN ONLINE ADOPTION APPLICATION IN ADVANCE AT:
WWW.MSRH.ORG/ADOPTION-FORM/ OR CALL (281) 336-1163.

Continued on page 7

UPCOMING EVENTS continued from Page 14

**SATURDAY, APRIL 8
RESCUE EVENT**

Where: District 249 Sports Bar
23238 State Highway 249
Tomball, Texas 77375
District 249's phone: (713) 239-0058
Time: 2PM to 6 PM
Chair: Mona Harris
Tel: (281) 336-1163

Contact Mona if you would like to help with this event.

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY, MAY 13 & 14
HOUSTON PET EXPO**

Where: NRG Center
Houston, TX 77054
Website: <http://houstonpetexpo.com>
Time: Saturday 10AM to 5PM, Sunday 11AM to 4PM
Chair: Mona Harris
Tel: (281) 336-1163

Your pets are welcome, but must be on a fixed (not retractable) leash and must have proof of vaccinations.

Contact Mona if you would like to help man our booth.

SAVE THESE DATES (more info in next newsletter):

*** Houston World Series of Dog Shows
July 19-23**

*** Austin Pet Expo
August 19-20**

Note: We will not participate in 'Puppies For Breakfast' this year due to a scheduling conflict.



Beautiful Brianna enjoying the pretty flowers.

If you are interested in meeting me, complete an online no-obligation Adoption Form and ask for me, Brianna. An adoption counselor will put you in touch with my foster mom for more information. If you would like to meet me in person, arrangements will be made.

Adoption Fee: \$250

Featured Pet—Brianna

Hello World! My name is Brianna. I am a 7-year old , 15 lb. female Miniature Schnauzer with natural ears and a docked tail. My coat is a beautiful shade of white. I am playful and love laying outside in the sunshine. I am leash and crate trained. I like other dogs, but can be a little bossy. This shouldn't be a problem, though, unless the other dog(s) don't like to share your lap. I wouldn't mind being an only dog either (wouldn't have to share my food—I'm a bit food aggressive). If you have been alone and without a home like I was, good food is hard to come by, so you want to protect it. When I came to MSRH in October 2016, I had heartworms and bladder stones. Thanks to MSRH, I have been cleared of these issues, so now I am healthy and ready for a forever home. Speaking of food, meal time is my favorite time of the day. I start bouncing up and down and begin eating my food as it is put into my bowl. I am on a special food to prevent those nasty bladder stones/infections from coming back, and I should stay on that food for the rest of my life. My ideal home would be with someone who is home during the day and/or who has a doggy door, so I can go in and out to pee regularly.

From the Editor

Dear Readers:

I'm sure you noticed that we have a few events coming up in addition to Meet & Greets with the spring and summer seasons on the horizon. We'd love to have you volunteer to help man our booth at these events if you can. It's always fun and a great way to get to know other MSRH volunteers.

Many thanks to Kimberly Hackler for writing our feature article this month. Kimberly is a relatively new volunteer for MSRH. Not only does she do an excellent job of writing, she also has been a big help doing home visits in the Montgomery, Magnolia, The Woodlands, and Spring areas.

If you have good writing skills and would like to write an article for our newsletter, we encourage you to do so. The article can cover any number of topics including pet care, pet safety, a rescue story, etc. Just contact me at linda@msrh.org. We will appreciate your contribution.

With spring and summer coming up, I'm sure many of you will be tackling gardening chores. Remember to take precautions to keep your pets and young children from getting into fertilizers, insecticides, and fungicides. Be sure to check the labels for safety precautions



Linda with Gertie Sutton

Until next time,

Linda