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Volume 4 | Issue 1

Winter 2012

NJSRN Life Lines

For the People who Save, Adopt, and Love
Miniature Schnauzers and Schnauzer Mixes



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A Note of Thanks

NJSRN was overwhelmed by the generosity of our friends who responded to our 2011 campaign, "Healing Broken Dogs and Broken Hearts ... NJSRN is the Life Line." You've made it possible for us to continue our mission into 2012. NJSRN is fortunate to have many friends who express their gratitude for the work performed by our organization and its volunteers. Thank you for letting us know you believe in and appreciate the work we do!

Welcome to the NJSRN Family

We are happy to announce that there were 52 adoptions between July 1 and December 31, 2011.

Congratulations to all. We hope your furkid brings you many years of happiness!

Bridget - Tom & Eileen R.
Dobbin - Lisa S.
Max - Cathy W. & Jay L.
Stanley - Adam & Adrienne F.
Andrew - Marie & Roger C.
Asher - Judith & Robert M.
Ava - Pat & Dave R.
Blackjack - Judi & Chris G.
Milton - Catalina P. & William G.
Loralie - Craig & Lydia S.
Keefer - Hillary & Howard A.
Rosey - Christina & Jeff P.
Schatzie - Liz P. & Todd E.
Willis - Jose & Girlie G.
Finn - Bonnie M.
Watson - Carlos & Andrea S.
Ernie - Dick & Ellen A.
Ripley - Pat C.
Angel - Amy & Mark E.
Ernie - Jayne & Joe B.
Cooper - Randi & Nick P.
Riley - Susan & Allan F.
Louie & Winston - Jean & Bob S.
Callie - Ursula R.
Brooklyn - Marissa M. & Steven J.
Luna - Kathleen & Howard G.
Raven - Mimi & Tom C.
Oliver - Dan & Maureen C.
Anna - Rosa & Joe S.

The Training Corner: "Drop It" and the "Collar Grab" Game

Two great exercises that you can practice with your Miniature Schnauzer in just a few minutes each day are the "Drop It" command and the "Collar Grab" game. These are ideal exercises for those annoying commercial breaks while you're watching TV and can be practiced by all members of your household, as well as your friends!

"Drop It"

Does your dog like to steal items he should not have (shoes, socks, paper tissues, remote controls, etc.)? And then play a game of keep away or chase when you try to get it back? If so, you may want to practice "Drop It."

You'll use the "Drop It" command after your dog already has something in his mouth. Think of this command as an exchange or "this for that." If you give me what you have, you get what I have. Here's how to teach "Drop It."

1. Once your dog has one of his toys in his mouth, approach him with a treat and, in a friendly voice, say "Drop It."
2. Take the toy and give him a treat.
3. The key to "Drop It" is to then give him the toy back. This way, your dog is trained into thinking that the "Drop It" command is a fun game!

Practice this only with toys your dog is allowed to have - not with stolen items. The more you practice this command, the more your dog will be willing to give you an item he has in exchange for a treat. Then, when you have a situation where your dog has something you don't want him to have (your good shoe!), he will be willing to hand it over to you without hesitation!

"Collar Grab" Game

Every dog should be comfortable and not react when his collar or harness is grabbed. This is important for both your veterinarian's and groomer's safety, and may be a life-saving command should your Miniature Schnauzer ever get loose and someone tries to grab hold of his collar.

1. While you are touching your dog's collar, give him a high value treat (something he'll really want, like little pieces of chicken hot dog, roast beef, Natural Balance food log, etc.). Repeat three to five times.
2. Once your dog is engaged and looking forward to you touching his collar, you can wrap your fingers around the collar and give the treat while holding the collar. Repeat three to five times.
3. When your dog is comfortable with you holding his collar in your hand, begin to tug slightly on the collar while continuing with the treat rewards.
4. As with all training, correct timing of treats and rewards is very important. Always give the treat while you are touching/holding the collar, not before or after. Your dog should quickly get to the point when he is moving

Rocky - Allison & Patrick R.
Nick - Jim & Gale M.
Alex - Jo Ann B. & Robert H.
Lacey - Laurie D.
Bentley - Jenny & John M.
Lacey - Sonia & William S.
Coco - Frank & Billie Jo S.
Elliot - Brian G. & Carole D.
Sgt. Pepper - Brad S.
Quali - Chris M. & Bob S.
Scott - Bonnie M.
Paula - Georgia & Ira K.
Walter - Sharon L.
Denny - Susan G. & Janice S.
Katie - Joan Garrett
Remy - Ron & Melissa L.
Clues - Veronica & Jay W.
Jimmie J & Kurt - Ruben H.
Oliver & Olivia - Mary Anne & Brad B.
Oliver - Jill R. & Steve A.
Joxter - McTavis McMonkey McBean & Martin the First - Paula & Paul M.

In Memory of our Schnauzer Angels

We say good-bye to these sweet Schnauzer boys and girls that crossed the Rainbow Bridge between August 1 and December 31, 2011. Gone, but never forgotten.

Cassidy - Jeane & Don D. (8/1/11)
Maggie - Sherri, John & Faith R. (8/2/11)
Chico - Allan & Susan F. (8/22/11)
Libby - Kristen E. (9/21/11)
Chloe - Janice & Jim D. (9/29/11)
Isabelle - Andy & Heidi M. (9/29/11)
Rosie - Patrick & Dina S. (10/1/11)
Prince - Grace S. (10/1/11)
Stuart Little - Linda M. (10/10/11)
Zeke - Bob & Lori J. (foster) (10/15/11)
Blaze - Dawn & Ron S. (11/8/11)
Reese - Ray M. & Jill M. (11/10/11)
Cricket - Liz P. & Todd E. (11/11/11)
Casper - Brad S. (11/21/11)
Pudgy - Anne H. (11/26/11)
Bucky - Brad P. (foster) (12/5/11)
Traci - Kristin L. (12/15/11)

Please let us know if your adopted Miniature Schnauzer has crossed the Rainbow Bridge so that we can acknowledge his or her passing. Just e-mail us at info@NJSRN.org.

Book Review

The Other End of the

toward you and, if you hold your hand out, he will push his collar into your hand.

A few training reminders

- Schnauzers are smart and will bore easily if asked repeatedly to do the same thing. Do three to five repetitions and then move on to a different exercise or play a fun game of tug or fetch.
- Rotate through commands your dog already knows, mixing in the new commands to keep him interested.
- Always use an upbeat and friendly voice when training or calling your dog. Keep it fun and NEVER sound harsh. Who wants to listen to a cranky human?

Congratulations to Hailey and Zoe for graduating from obedience class!



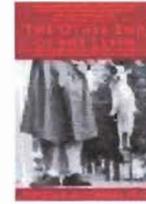
NJSRN knows that taking a class together helped to strengthen the bond between Hailey and her new family members. We suggest that every adopter take his/her new dog to a basic manners class. The dog may be trained already, but he needs to learn to listen to and connect with his new family.

Good Health: Miniature Schnauzers and Dental Health

Ask most any Schnauzer person what physical feature first attracted them to the breed, and the response you're likely to hear is "their beard; they look like little old men." Yes, the long, white, flowing beard is a very distinctive feature of the breed.

But, are you aware that the beard and structure of the Miniature Schnauzer's mouth makes it one of the leading canine candidates

Leash: Why We Do What We Do Around Dogs by Patricia B. McConnell, PhD.



This insightful book shares a revolutionary new perspective on human relationships with dogs, focusing on our behavior in comparison with that of dogs. An Applied Animal Behaviorist and dog trainer with more than 20 years experience, Dr. McConnell looks at humans as just another interesting species, and muses about why we behave the way we do around our dogs, how dogs might interpret our behavior, and how to interact with dogs in ways that bring out the best in our four legged friends.

Learn how dogs and humans share personality types and why most dogs want to live with benevolent leaders rather than "alpha wanna-be's." Dispel the myth to "get dominant" over your dog and why doing so can lead to trouble. Finally understand why "rough and tumble play" can lead to trouble and how to play with your dog in ways that are fun and keep him out of trouble.

Product Review

Dog Puzzles by Nina Ottosson

Miniature Schnauzers are natural born problem solvers; it's what made them so good at their original job of finding and ridding buildings of vermin. In modern times, few of us really have Schnauzers for that purpose, but we can encourage our dogs to hone those natural instincts in a positive way. For the test crew at this home, that happens by having the dogs play with a variety of Nina

for dental disease? The beard contributes to more bacteria in the mouth and this leads to higher tartar and plaque build-up which will eventually lead to gingivitis and periodontal disease. If left untreated, these issues can lead to heart, liver, and kidney disease. That's why it is so important to provide better than average dental care to your little Schnauzer guys and gals. A few things to consider:

- Daily teeth brushing is one of the best things you can do to keep your dog's mouth and body healthy. If possible, keep a doggy toothbrush or finger brush and doggy toothpaste or baking soda in a convenient location where you'll be reminded to brush your dog's teeth. Maybe that location is with your own toothpaste and toothbrush. (Note that baking soda has a high sodium content and may cause health problems for a dog with a heart condition.) If you can't brush them every day, do it at least a few times a week. This writer is the first to admit that daily brushing is a "do as I say, not as I do" scenario because my Schnauzers do not get their teeth brushed daily ... which leads me to the following suggestions ...
- Every Schnauzer loves a good rub-down with the towel after a bath. You can quickly and easily apply some hydrogen peroxide to a clean corner of the towel and then use the towel to wipe your dog's teeth.
- Drinking water additives are an easy way to provide daily dental care. These products help reduce bacteria and result in less tartar and plaque build-up on the teeth as well as fresher breath. This writer keeps gallon jugs of treated water near dog bowls and only fills the bowls with the treated water. You'll find many products available on the market. Though we're not endorsing a particular one, a few to consider are Oxyfresh Pet Oral Hygiene Solution, Virbac C.E.T. Aquadent, Biotene Veterinarian Drinking Water Additive, and BreathaLyser Plus.
- A complementary approach to brushing and water additives is to use oral rinses (similar to mouthwash) such as Virbac C.E.T. Chlorhexidine Rinse, Nolvadent OralCleansing solution, or Ora-Clens Dental Rinse. Simply squirt a little product in the dog's mouth, making certain that the bottle tip does not get contaminated by touching the dog's teeth, gums, or lips.
- Plaque reduction food additives are another easy way to keep your dog's teeth clean. A favorite among some Miniature Schnauzer owners is ProDen PlaqueOff, a kelp-based product that is extremely effective at softening existing plaque and reducing plaque build-up.
- Many Miniature Schnauzer owners have seen that feeding a raw diet keeps their dog's teeth clean and sparkling. Frozen raw diets are available at many local, high quality pet supply stores or can be ordered on-line and shipped directly to your door. Some butchers have also recognized the popularity of raw diets and offer less expensive, high quality products.
- An annual dental cleaning by your veterinarian is a good investment and something that can be done when your dog is having another procedure that requires anesthesia. Some vet offices and groomers are willing to clean a dog's teeth without anesthesia, but they'll need to be confident

Ottosson dog puzzles. When our Schnauzers see the bright yellow boxes being brought out, they start leaping for joy and can hardly wait for the fun to begin.



These wood puzzles are from Sweden and have been available in Europe for a number of years; they're newer in the USA. Nina Ottosson dog toys are designed to stimulate your dog's mind in both a positive and educational manner. These toys are easy to use and specially designed to match your dog's natural movements and instincts.



The puzzles are available in 13 different styles and at various levels of difficulty. Every puzzle can be set to easy (the way to start) and reconfigured to provide greater challenges. Treats are hidden in compartments that are covered with wood blocks and panels that move in channels. The dog must move the blocks and panels to get to the treats. Some puzzles also have multiple layers that rotate around a center pole.

With the increased popularity of the Nina Ottosson brand puzzles, other companies are now offering plastic versions. A word of caution: these toys require human supervision,

that the dog is friendly and comfortable enough to be able to undergo the procedure while awake. You may also find some vets and groomers have ultrasonic cleaning equipment and can clean your dog's teeth when they are in for a grooming appointment.

Always be aware of ongoing bad breath or sensitive gums, which may indicate an abscessed tooth or other problem that requires veterinary care. Poor dental hygiene can lead to high bacteria levels in your dog and result in other health issues, including cardiac problems. Try as you might, just as in humans, dental disease has an element of hereditary predisposition, so you can't eliminate it in every dog.

Dental care is equally important to regular hair brushing and other grooming required by Miniature Schnauzers. Remember ... NEVER use human dental products on your dogs! For additional information on dental health and Miniature Schnauzers, please visit <http://www.schnauzers-rule.com/dog-teeth.html>. They have a great video that shows the proper way to brush a dog's teeth. Keep in mind that the more you brush your dog's teeth, the more comfortable s/he will become with the procedure (and the less of a fight you'll have when you get out the dog toothbrush and toothpaste!).

February is Pet Dental Month and to celebrate, many veterinarians are offering free or discounted dental services. There's no better time to start a dental care program than today - call your vet's office and be sure to stop by your local pet supply store to pick up a dog toothbrush and toothpaste. Happy Brushing!

Special Connections Ruxandra R.

NJSRN wants to acknowledge Ruxandra R., a very special friend to our members and dogs!

"We never intended to have a Miniature Schnauzer pack; it just 'happened!' In fact, when my then fiancé and I walked into the pet store three years ago on my birthday, I didn't know what kind of dog I wanted. We looked at half a dozen puppies before the girl brought me the silver Schnauzer. I was hooked. I took home our pretty princess, Kaidlette, that night but little did we know what we had gotten ourselves into ...

"We enjoyed Kaidlette but knew she needed a companion because we were working so much. That is when we got Ninja, the little terrier terror that loved to chew and get into everything and anything. But we loved her, and the girls got along great. Total: two Schnauzers.

"Another year goes by and my fiancé decided he wanted a male dog. We realized neither of us wanted to go through potty training. We also knew we were stuck on Schnauzers and decided to look into adopting from a rescue. That's when I found NJSRN via Petfinder. We gazed for hours at the available dogs and finally sent in an application. But timing is everything and we decided to delay adoption for six months while we finalized our wedding plans and purchased our house.

so only allow your dog to use them when you are spending quality time with him.

Out and About

You're all invited to join NJSRN from noon to 4 PM on Saturday, March 31, 2012 at West Chester University in West Chester, PA where we'll have a booth at the school's conference "The Human-Animal Bond and Its Impact on Health." The public may also register to attend educational presentations in the morning. The exhibit hall is open to the public and there will be therapy dog training demos at 1 and 3:30 PM.

NJSRN volunteers were seen at a few events during the nice fall weather. There was the Dog Daddy Festival in New Hope, PA and the Malvern Fall Festival in Malvern, PA.



And the most unusual event of them all - Punkin Chunkin in Bridgeville, DE.

"Once we were settled in, I happened to send a donation for Frisky, an older Schnauzer that NJSRN had posted on Petfinder and that captured our hearts with his story. We were immediately contacted about adopting him and agreed to a meet and greet. Sadly things didn't work out, as our girls were too dominant. A few days later Maxwell was suggested; he joined us but had a few rough weeks at our home. Kaidlette wasn't too enthusiastic about the new addition and barely allowed Max to eat a treat, let alone get affection from mommy and daddy. You would never know there had been an issue as they now sleep on top of each other and play tug-of-war. Total: three Schnauzers.

"Then came the request from NJSRN to foster Baby Crystal. She'd been a puppy mill mom and came with a range of problems including not wanting to eat dog food and being afraid of shiny surfaces. A month later, NJSRN found a home for Crystal, but we just couldn't part with her. I cried for an hour thinking we'd have to give her up and my husband walked around with her cradled in his arms, talking to her. Needless to say Baby Crystal joined our family. Total: four Schnauzers. (NJSRN note: and one failed foster!)

"Since then, we have fostered other Schnauzers - including Frack, Raven, and Micah - and we help NJSRN in any way we can. I manage NJSRN's FaceBook page, and my favorite part of that is posting the Happy Endings pictures when a Schnauzer joins its new family. It's so wonderful to see the progression from when dogs come into NJSRN's care to when they find their forever homes. Many times I read their stories and start to tear up wishing I could adopt them, but I know that's not possible and so I do my best to help NJSRN in whatever way I can. We all need to do our best to keep those nubs and tails wagging!"



NJSRN note: We're so glad Ruxandra learned where pet store dogs come from and decided adopting through rescue was the way to go. Very savvy!



NJSRN was joined by Maddie, the Miniature Schnauzer mascot for Maddie's Fund. We thank the Mayor's Alliance of NYC for giving NJSRN the costume, which helps draw attention to NJSRN and our mission to rescue and rehome Miniature Schnauzers and Schnauzer mixes throughout the northeastern United States.

Easy & Healthy Homemade Treats

Schnauzers love their treats and we like making our dogs happy, so most of us have dog treats in the pantry. The question becomes - what treats will you give your pup? Sugar, corn, and fat-laden Milk Bones and Pupperoni? Or a healthy treat you can easily make at home? Here's how you can do the right thing for your dog ... dehydrated fruit and vegetable treats.

Buy an inexpensive food dehydrator (Harbor Freight has one available for about \$25) and food mandolin (Black & Decker outlets often have them for \$10). Buy apples, bananas, or sweet potatoes. Peel and then use the mandolin to make thin slices of the fruit or vegetable of your choice. Arrange on the dehydrator racks, plug in and let dry for 24 - 36 hours. That's all there is to it. The \$35 investment in the equipment will save you hundreds of dollars on dog treats - treats that are healthy and that you can be sure your Schnauzer will love!

Our New Look

You may have noticed that our newsletter has a new look. That's because the NJSRN newsletter editors found a free software

product for publishing and distributing the NJSRN Life Lines. Our layout may not be as fancy as past editions, but the price is right, and the money we save will neuter three dogs that come into our program. We hope you'll agree that our priorities are in the right place.

Ways to Help NJSRN

Even if you cannot adopt a rescued Miniature Schnauzer, you can help NJSRN in its rescue efforts. Are you able to:

- host a yard or bake sale and donate the proceeds to NJSRN?
- identify NJSRN as your charity of choice for [online shopping](#)?
- donate a pet store gift certificate?
- donate a collar, leash, harness, or dog seat belt?
- pay the vet boarding fees for a dog while it recuperates from surgery?
- donate a gift certificate to one of NJSRN's veterinarians? (Contact us at info@njsrn.org for a list of veterinarians who support our rescue program.)
- place an ad for NJSRN in the newsletter of an organization to which you belong, a community bulletin board, or your place of worship?

Can you offer assistance in other ways? E-mail us at info@njsrn.org. Thank you for being a Life Line to save a dog in need!

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