



Miniature Schnauzer  
Rescue of Houston, Inc.  
www.MSRH.org



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## HEARTWORM DISEASE

**An Ounce of Prevention Beats A Pound Of Cure**

**By Norma Bennett Woolf**

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### MSRH Mission Statement

Miniature Schnauzer Rescue of Houston, Inc. is an all volunteer, donation sponsored, non-profit organization dedicated to the overwhelming task of saving the lives of abused, abandoned or unwanted Miniature Schnauzers who, through no fault of their own, have lost their homes. Many of these dogs come to us healthy. However, some are sick, injured, or abused. They come from shelters, off the streets, from owners who, for whatever reason, can no longer care for them, and from puppy mills, where they have never felt the loving security of a home. Our goal is that they will never have to feel unwanted or unloved again.

Once considered a parasite of southern climates, the heartworm (*Dirofilaria immitis*) is now recognized as a major, global pest affecting dogs, cats, wolves, coyotes, foxes, and some other animals. From its discovery in dogs more than a century ago and the documentation in cats in the 1920s, researchers have devised diagnostic tests, preventives and treatments, but the disease has spread to all 50 states. According to the Heartworm Society, the highest infection rates occur in dogs (not maintained on heartworm preventive) within 150 miles of the Atlantic and Gulf coasts and along the Mississippi River and its major tributaries. Other areas with large mosquito populations also have a high rate of infestation.

To jog the concern of clients, veterinary clinics may display a preserved heart infected with heartworm in a jar and hang posters about heartworm life cycles in examining rooms, but seeing is not necessarily believing; although clients can view the infested heart loaded with long, spaghetti-like worms every time they visit, many gamble that their dogs will never be bitten by an infected mosquito.

Heartworm prevention is simple. It involves a blood draw to determine whether the parasite is present and regular dosing with preventive medication. Heartworm infestation is dangerous; untreated dogs die and treated dogs

go through weeks of discomfort while the worms are killed and expelled from their bodies.

### The Parasite

Parasites go through several life stages before emergence as adults and often need at least two hosts to complete the cycle. In heartworms, a mosquito serves as the intermediate host for the larval stage of the worm, also known as the microfilariae. The mosquito ingests the larva when it bites an infected dog and deposits its cargo in an uninfected dog when seeking another blood meal. The microfilariae burrow into the dog and undergo several changes to reach adult form, then travel to the right side of the heart through a vein and await the opportunity to reproduce. Adult heartworms can reach 12 inches in length and can remain in the dog's heart for several years.

Dogs can have some microfilariae in their blood and worms in their lungs without manifesting the disease. Once the number of worms exceeds a certain number based on the size and activity level of the dog, however, the adult worms move to the heart and symptoms begin to occur. Very active dogs may experience symptoms with lower numbers of worms than couch-potato dogs.

The time lag between the initial infestation of microfilariae and reproduction by adult worms living in the heart is six to seven months in dogs.

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## HEARTWORM DISEASE Continued from Page 1

Female heartworms bear live young—thousands of them in a day. These young—the microfilariae—circulate in the bloodstream for as long as three years, waiting to hitch a ride in a bloodsucking mosquito. They undergo changes in the mosquito that prepare them to infect a dog, and they transfer back to the original host species the next time the mosquito bites. The process of change in the mosquito takes about 10 days in warm climates, but can take six weeks in colder temperatures.

The worms grow and multiply, infesting the chambers on the right side of the heart and the arteries in the lungs. They can also lodge in the veins of the liver and the veins entering the heart. The first sign of heartworm infestation may not manifest for a year after infestation, and even then the soft cough that increases with exercise may be dismissed as unimportant by the owner. But the cough worsens and the dog may actually faint from exertion; he tires easily, is weak and listless, loses weight and condition, and may cough up blood. Breathing becomes more difficult as the disease progresses. The progression is traumatic: the dog's quality of life diminishes drastically and he can no longer retrieve a Frisbee or take a long walk in the park without respiratory distress. Congestive heart failure ensues, and the once active, outgoing pet is in grave danger.

### Epidemiology

Heartworm disease is present on every continent except Antarctica<sup>1</sup>. It occurs where these four factors are found:

- A susceptible host population
- A stable reservoir of the disease
- A stable population of vector species
- A climate that supports the parasite's life cycle

Dogs are considered the definitive host<sup>2</sup> for the parasite; even though the disease is not transmitted directly from one dog to another, untreated dogs provide a stable reservoir for the disease. Mosquitoes of several different species are the vectors (intermediate host for the developing microfilariae). Development of the microfilariae in the mosquito requires a temperature at or above 80 degrees Fahrenheit for about two weeks. No larval development takes place in the mosquito below 57 degrees F.

### Testing

Heartworms can be detected by blood test. The filtration test finds microfilariae in the blood; the occult test locates adult worms in the heart. Many veterinarians prefer to do both tests as the absence of microfilariae in the blood does not necessarily mean that there are no adult worms in the heart. Both tests are done with a single blood draw, preferably in the early spring before daily temperatures warm above 57 degrees F.

Radiographs (X-rays) can also detect the presence of adult heartworms in the heart and lungs.

### Treatment

If a blood test or the onset of symptoms alert owner and veterinarian to the presence of this devastating parasite, treatment is possible and successful if the disease has not progressed too far. The first step is to

evaluate the dog and treat any secondary problems of heart failure or liver or kidney failure insufficiency, so that he can withstand the treatment. The next step is to kill the adult worms with an arsenic compound. Veterinarians now have access to a Immiticide<sup>3</sup>, a new compound that has fewer side effects than the previous drug and is safer for dogs with more severe infestations.

The treatment is administered in two doses each day for two days, followed by several weeks of inactivity to give the dog's system a chance to absorb the dead worms. Exertion can cause the dead worms to dislodge, travel to the lungs, and cause death.

At least three to four weeks after the administration of the drug to kill the adult worms, further treatment to kill the microfilariae is needed. The dog is dosed daily for a week, then the blood test is repeated. If microfilariae are still present, the dose can be increased. Follow-up studies should be done in a year.

Surgical removal of the adult heartworms is possible and may be indicated in advanced cases with heart involvement.

### Prevention

Prevention doses come in oral and topical versions and are only available from a veterinarian. Diethylcarbamazine is given daily; Ivermectin (Heartguard<sup>3</sup>), Milbmycin (Interceptor<sup>4</sup>), and Moxidectin (Proheart<sup>5</sup>) are given monthly; Selamectin (Revolution<sup>6</sup>) is a new preventive applied topically. Some of these drugs also kill other parasitic

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## HEARTWORM DISEASE Continued from Page 2

worms, and Revolution also acts against fleas, ticks, and mites.

Moxidectin (Proheart®) and Proheart® 6,<sup>5</sup>) is a potent preventive compound available in a six-month sustained release injection administered by veterinarians or a monthly oral dosage form.

Many veterinarians recommend and many owners use a year-round heartworm prevention program to guard

against the occasional mosquito flying about in areas with mild winters. If Fido has already had his yearly checkup, call your veterinarian to schedule a heartworm check. If he's due for yearly vaccination, be sure to include a heartworm check in the visit.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup> University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine parasitology 4001; course synopsis available on the internet at [http://cal.vet.upenn.edu/merial/hrtworm/hw\\_3](http://cal.vet.upenn.edu/merial/hrtworm/hw_3)

<sup>2</sup> The American Heartworm Society, <http://www.heartwormsociety.org/>

<sup>3</sup> Immiticide and Heartguard are registered trademarks of Merial Limited.

<sup>4</sup> Interceptor is a registered trademark of Novartis Animal Health

<sup>5</sup> ProHeart is a trademark of Fort Dodge Animal Health

<sup>6</sup> Revolution is a registered trademark of Pfizer, Inc.

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## Dear Sophie

I come from a family of champions. My pedigree can be traced to the prestigious Von Snicker-Scooter Schnauzer Farms in Europe. I have been trained by Old World Masters and have impeccable manners. However, the strangest experience occurred not too long ago at the most inopportune time.

My humans were having a cocktail party. All was going well, and I was doing what I do best—socializing with the guests. Then it happened. I sat down on the floor with back legs extended forward and front feet planted firmly into the carpet. Neither looking to the right or the left, off I went dragging my posterior across the room.

"She" almost fainted. "He" choked on his Martini olive, and I was quickly whisked off to another room. Although I must say this felt good, it was completely humiliating and inexcusable behavior. With someone of my social status, this can never happen again.

What happened to me? I had no control. It was if I was possessed.

Should I call a priest or a veterinarian? With great anticipation, I await your reply.

Sincerely,

Angus Von Scooter

Dear Angus:

While what happened to you is very distasteful to humans, it has nothing to do with your manners or breeding. In fact, it may have everything to do with a possible impaction, infection, or abscess of your anal glands. Your anal glands are located on each side of and slightly below the anal opening, at the 4 o'clock and 8 o'clock positions. A tiny duct or tube leads under the skin to an opening directly beside the anus.

All predators, whether they are dogs or cats in the wild or skunks in your backyard, have anal glands. They just use them differently. Skunks discharge the secretion as a defense mechanism, while dogs use it primarily for territorial marking or as a form of communication. In dogs and cats, every time a stool is passed, it should put enough pressure on the anal glands that some of the secretion is deposited on the surface of the

stool to tell who has been in the neighborhood, just by sniffing the stools they find. This should explain all the butt sniffing to the humans, because each dog's scent is unique.

When glands become impacted, a vet, a groomer, or your Mom or Dad must express them for you. The vet can show your parents how to do this. The procedure should empty the glands of all material. It needs to be done to relieve your discomfort and also because allowing you to continue to scoot across the floor may injure your anal glands. With recurrent impactions, a high fiber diet is often recommended, because a bulkier stool should put more pressure on the anal glands to express naturally. Abscessed anal glands must be lanced by a vet, and antibiotics are usually given for 7 to 14 days thereafter. Recurrent abscesses may call for surgical removal of the anal glands.

Sincerely,

Sophie



## Volunteer Spotlight — Ann Neal & Nan Whomes

### Ann Neal

Hi Everyone! My name is Ann Neal. I have been involved with MSRH since the Fall of 2003. After sending in a Christmas donation to MSRH that year, I received a call from Karen Coleman. Karen wanted to say thanks, then asked if I was in need of help in finding a home, and of course, could I foster? I certainly wanted to do both! Having moved back to Houston, I was renting until I could purchase a home. Karen's husband Mike, who is a realtor, helped me relocate back in the same area I had lived in before. He donated a portion of his proceeds from the sale to the Schnauzer cause.

I started fostering shortly after signing papers on my home. As of this date, I believe about 20 rescues have come through my door and into my heart. I know it is small potatoes compared to others, but I do my best getting the little ones on track and ready for their Forever Homes. I love working with Schnauzers. They are so people oriented, and I love their independent attitudes! It is hard to see them go, but I know the homes they go to are "Just Right" for them. I also love hearing back from those families that have adopted from me. My own Schnauzer, Emily, and I have adopted two rescues. Un-



Ann on left with Emily & Heidi Ho and Nan on right with Holly & Bella

fortunately, one has passed away, but we love our little tripod, Heidi Marie, otherwise known as Heidi Ho.

I have done a lot of volunteer work in the past few years since my husband's death. I worked with the elderly as an ombudsman for those that could not speak for themselves. I also mentored a boy who was mentally challenged. Both were great learning experiences for me. I feel proud to be a volunteer and part of the MSRH association. I see nothing but loving and caring hearts here, and it just feels good to be part of it all.

### Nan Whomes

My name is Nan Whomes. I have been involved with MSRH for about 3 years. My sister, Ann, has had Schnauzers for many years, so I was familiar with the breed. I adopted Holly when my

husband was in the hospital after receiving a liver transplant. With special permission, he met Holly outside of the hospital and approved of the adoption. We already had a Yorkie named Megan. Megan and Holly were together for a short time before Megan left us in 2006 for the Rainbow Bridge at the ripe old age of 15.

I had no plans to take in another dog but then "Fate" stepped in, and we fell in love with Bella. I just wanted to foster this one, but "lo and behold" when I brought her home, I had to adopt her, as well. She was so beautiful, and her eyes seemed to take hold of me. I do not know how her family could have given her up, but I am so glad that we have her now.

I am a "Tagalong" for MSRH and go with Ann on doctor visits, and we also pick up dogs from other volunteers in our organization. We have seen many come and go, and sometimes it is really hard to see them go. The last one, Lizzie Bea, was such a beauty. Ann has a way with the dogs that come in for rescue, and they bond with her instantly. She has difficulty in letting them go, as well, but understands that going to a good "Forever Home" allows her to take another into her home for future adoption.

### Total Raised From Fundraisers January Thru May 2009:

\* \* \* \$10,649 \* \* \*

Animal Tales \$145	+	Dog Wash \$5,100	+	Garage Sale \$1,200	+	T-Shirts \$1,814+	+	Spring Bark \$1,168	+	Kroger \$1,222
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## Many Thanks To Our May Transport Volunteers!

MUCH APPRECIATION GOES TO: **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Phoenix at Harris Co. AC on 5/02; Tag team **Waleska Ghini/Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Travis Austin at Town Lake (Austin) AC on 5/05; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Bella Rose at Harris Co. AC on 5/07; Tag team **Gail Wilson/Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Venus at Town Lake AC on 5/08; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Milo at Harris Co. AC on 5/09; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Noah (stray) on 5/09; Tag team **Kathy Perkins/Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Angel (stray) on 5/09; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Max, Mimi & Sassy from a Cleveland breeder on 5/11; **Carol with Sheltie Rescue** for picking up Wendy from a Fayetteville breeder on 5/12; **Wendy Velez-Rodriguez** for picking up Putter (owner surrender) on 5/14; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Whitney for Harris Co. AC on 5/15; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Ellie (owner surrender) on 5/17; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Bailey from BARC on 5/18; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Farrah, Meadow & Ryan from Montgomery Co AC on 5/19; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Zach (stray) on 5/20; Tag team **Wendy Velez-Rodriguez/Herb Hays** for picking up Dany, Maddie & Pepe from a Pearsall breeder on 5/20; Tag team **Gail Wilson/Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Lincoln from Town Lake AC on 5/22; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Redmond from CAPS on 5/22; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Audi, Peyton & Richey from BARC on 5/24; Tag team **Linda Love/Sherry Eitel** for picking up Patton (stray) on 5/26; **Herb Hays** for picking up Trixi (owner surrender) on 5/26; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Mack (stray) on 5/27; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Amy from BARC on 5/27; Tag team **Wendy Velez-Rodriguez/Susan & Dave Srulowitz/Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Ace from San Antonio Animal Care Services on 5/28; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Dayton from Harris Co. AC on 5/29; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Callie & Maeve from Montgomery Co. AC on 5/30; **Dana & Rick Armes** for picking up Claire at Stafford AC on 5/30; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Lenny (owner surrender) on 5/30.

## APRIL & MAY INTAKES & ADOPTIONS

Month	Intakes	Adoptions	Foster Pool (+/-)
April	26	12	+14
May	38	16	+22

As you can see, our foster pool still continues to grow. Not one single month this year have adoptions exceeded intakes. In the past, we have taken in dogs that are not purebred Miniature Schnauzers. In fact, just last month our Featured Pet, Sable, was a Wire Hair Fox Terrier—not one drop of Schnauzer blood. We took Sable in, because her own breed rescue group was so overwhelmed that they could not take her, and we wanted to help. We are proud to say that Sable has been adopted and now lives with her new forever family!

However, [the day we have always dreaded has finally come. MSRH has had to turn the first Miniature Schnauzer in a shelter away](#), and MSRH has always been the best hope any lost or abandoned Miniature Schnauzer has had in the eastern half of Texas, and many times beyond. This happened on June 5, and it has been designated as "Black Friday", the saddest day in our 9-1/2 year history—and we have had some mighty sad days (as well as some mighty joyful ones, too)! Since that day, we have had the following volunteers step up to the plate to serve as foster parents: **Deborah McKerall, Gloria Ewert, Jeanette Sumruld, Ann Neal, Susan Singleton, Gina Nero, Laura Virgadamo, Jean Dooling, Bea Alfonso, Lynette Cutrer, Paula Tolbert, Herb Hays, Elizabeth Morton, Lesa Boswell, Teri Bartlett, Marilyn Malaney, and Krista Garcia.** We extend our sincerest thank you to every one of you. Some of you were able to take in multiple dogs for us, so that means we are still over extended and still need more volunteers to help foster in order to avoid another Black Friday. Please contact us [volunteer@msrh.org](mailto:volunteer@msrh.org) if you can help.

Remember, when the shelters get too full, the dogs who have been there the longest and have the least chance of being adopted will be  euthanized . Please see "Letter From A Dog—How Could You?" on Page 5.

## A letter from a dog - "How Could You?"

*by Jim Willis*

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When I was a puppy, I entertained you with my antics and made you laugh. You called me your child, and despite a number of chewed shoes and a couple of murdered throw pillows, I became your best friend. Whenever I was "bad," you'd shake your finger at me and ask, "How could you?" -- but then you'd relent and roll me over for a belly rub.

My housebreaking took a little longer than expected, because you were terribly busy, but we worked on that together. I remember those nights of nuzzling you in bed and listening to your confidences and secret dreams, and I believed that life could not be any more perfect.

We went for long walks and runs in the park, car rides, stops for ice cream (I only got the cone because "ice cream is bad for dogs" you said), and I took long naps in the sun waiting for you to come home at the end of the day.

Gradually, you began spending more time at work and on your career, and more time searching for a human mate. I waited for you patiently, comforted you through heartbreaks and disappointments, never chided you about bad decisions, and romped with glee at your homecomings, and when you fell in love.

She, now your wife, is not a "dog person" -- still I welcomed her into our home, tried to show her affection, and obeyed her. I was happy because you were happy. Then the human babies came along and I shared your excitement. I was fascinated by their pinkness, how they smelled, and I wanted to mother them, too. Only she and you worried that I might hurt them, and I spent most of my time banished to another room, or to a dog crate.

Oh, how I wanted to love them, but I became a "prisoner of love." As they began to grow, I became their friend. They clung to my fur and pulled themselves up on wobbly legs, poked fingers in my eyes, investigated my ears, and gave me kisses on my nose. I loved everything about them and their touch -- because your touch was now so infrequent -- and I would've defended them with my life if need be. I would sneak into their beds and listen to their worries and secret dreams, and together we waited for the sound of your car in the driveway.

There had been a time, when others asked you if you had a dog, that you produced a photo of me from your wallet and told them stories about me. These past few years, you just answered "yes" and changed the subject. I had gone from being "your dog" to "just a dog," and you resented every expenditure on my behalf. Now, you have a new career opportunity in another city, and you and they will be moving to an apartment that does not allow pets. You've made the right decision for your "family," but there was a time when I was your only family.

I was excited about the car ride until we arrived at the animal shelter. It smelled of dogs and cats, of fear, of hopelessness. You filled out the paperwork and said, "I know you will find a good home for her." They shrugged and gave you a pained look. They understand the realities facing a middle-aged dog, even one with "papers." You had to pry your son's fingers loose from my collar, as he screamed, "No, Daddy! Please don't let them take my dog!" And I worried for him, and what lessons you had just taught him about friendship and loyalty, about love and responsibility, and about respect for all life.

You gave me a good-bye pat on the head, avoided my eyes, and politely refused to take my collar and leash with you. You had a deadline to meet and now I have one, too. After you left, the two nice ladies said you probably knew about your upcoming move months ago and made no attempt to find me another good home. They shook their heads and asked,

"How could you?"

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## A letter from a dog – "How Could You?" continued from Page 5

They are as attentive to us here in the shelter as their busy schedules allow. They feed us, of course, but I lost my appetite days ago. At first, whenever anyone passed my pen, I rushed to the front, hoping it was you, that you had changed your mind -- that this was all a bad dream... or I hoped it would at least be someone who cared, anyone who might save me. When I realized I could not compete with the frolicking for attention of happy puppies, oblivious to their own fate, I retreated to a far corner and waited.

I heard her footsteps as she came for me at the end of the day, and I padded along the aisle after her to a separate room. A blissfully quiet room. She placed me on the table and rubbed my ears, and told me not to worry. My heart pounded in anticipation of what was to come, but there was also a sense of relief. The prisoner of love had run out of days. As is my nature, I was more concerned about her. The burden which she bears weighs heavily on her, and I know that, the same way I knew your every mood. She gently placed a tourniquet around my foreleg as a tear ran down her cheek. I licked her hand in the same way I used to comfort you so many years ago. She expertly slid the hypodermic needle into my vein. As I felt the sting and the cool liquid coursing through my body, I lay down sleepily, looked into her kind eyes and murmured, "How could you?"

Perhaps because she understood my dog speak, she said, "I'm so sorry." She hugged me, and hurriedly explained it was her job to make sure I went to a better place, where I wouldn't be ignored or abused or abandoned, or have to fend for myself -- a place of love and light so very different from this earthly place. And with my last bit of energy, I tried to convey to her with a thump of my tail that my "How could you?" was not directed at her.

It was directed at you, My Beloved Master, I was thinking of you. I will think of you and wait for you forever.  
May everyone in your life continue to show you so much loyalty.

### A Note from the Author:

If "How Could You?" brought tears to your eyes as you read it, as it did to mine as I wrote it, it is because it is the composite story of the millions of formerly "owned" pets who die each year in American & Canadian animal shelters.

## 2010 CALENDAR CONTEST ENTRY DEADLINE IS AUGUST 1

The annual Calendar Contest is one of MSRH's most successful fundraisers, and we are approaching our entry deadline on August 1, 2009. Get out your digital cameras and be ready for those special photo opportunities. If you haven't already captured those special holidays and birthdays or other special events, let's keep those cameras clicking and make this the best MSRH calendar ever. There is still some time left to snap a photo amongst the flowers or on the beach or lounging by the pool.

Deadline for entry is August 1, 2009. Winners will be announced no later than September 1, 2009, and calendars will be in the mail no later than November 15, 2009.

Please visit our website for the entry form and more information:

[www.msrh.org/category/resources/calendar-contest/](http://www.msrh.org/category/resources/calendar-contest/)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday Thru Sunday July 16 -19 World Series of Dog Shows</b></p> <p>Where: Reliant Park Time: 8:00AM to 5:00PM Chair: Paula Tolbert Tel: (281) 358-2874 E-mail: <a href="mailto:pjtolbert@yahoo.com">pjtolbert@yahoo.com</a></p> <p>MSRH will have a booth again this year. Volunteers are always needed to represent MSRH and man the booth either for just a few hrs. or all day. Please contact Paula if you can help with this event.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Saturday, August 1</u> Macy's Charity Day</b></p> <p>Where: Macy's Deerbrook Mall Time: 10:00AM—8:00PM Chair: Paula Tolbert Tel: (281) 358-2874 E-mail: <a href="mailto:pjtolbert@yahoo.com">pjtolbert@yahoo.com</a></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i><b>This is a fundraiser!</b></i></p> <p>Volunteers are needed to sell and take tickets at the door and man our table in 2.5 hr shifts. We will get to keep the money from the ticket sales and have opportunities to earn bonus money (\$1,000 or more). Foster Minis encouraged to attend. Please contact Paula if you can help with this event.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Saturday, August 1</u> Heights Meet &amp; Greet</b></p> <p>Where: Cooper Animal Clinic 1136 Heights Blvd. Houston, Texas 77008 Time: 3:00PM to 8:00PM Chair: Laura Virgadamo Tel: (713) 880-0802 Cell: (713) 826-8105 E-mail: <a href="mailto:laura@harmonyelectric.com">laura@harmonyelectric.com</a></p> <p>Volunteers are needed to help man the booth. Those of you fostering a Mini baby are encouraged to bring him or her. All dogs must be on a leash or in a crate. There will be NO on-site adoptions. Several rescue groups participating. Come on out and enjoy the day! Please direct any questions to Laura.</p> <p><u>Note: This event occurs every month on the first Saturday. Please note <b>new summer hours</b>. There will <b>not</b> be an event on Sat., July 4, however.</u></p>
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## Results of Events Past & Deepest Gratitude to Our Volunteers!

The Spring Bark in The Woodlands on Saturday, May 16, was a great success! MSRH raised **\$1,168** from this event. \$1,000 came from the Best Buy Viewpoint group who offered us a hand. We also got \$150 for coming in 4th place in the doggie walk-a-thon, and another \$18 from table donations. Many thanks go to chairs Kevin and Callie Wolf, Marilyn Malaney, Gwen Tokar, and 5 volunteers from the Best Buy folks. We also made lots of contacts. Petco on Hwy 290 and Gourmet Doggie Bakery in The Woodlands spoke to us about future Meet & Greets at their stores—Woo-Hoo!!! We're workin' it!

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Volunteers who assisted Chairs Laura & Dennis Virgadamo at the Heights Meet & Greet on June 6 were Gwen Tokar, Marilyn Malaney, Jim Gwinn, and Callie & Kevin Wolf. Many thanks to all of you as always.

### "ADOPT A SCHNAUZER" TEE SHIRT SALE

Tons of appreciation go to Beatriz Alfonso, Martha Young, and Eric Solomon for their work on our new "Adopt A Schnauzer" T-Shirts. Martha designed the shirts, Eric took care of printing them, and Beatriz took care of taking the orders, collecting the money, hand delivering, and mailing them. So far, MSRH has netted **\$1,813.50**, but we have more shirts available.

As of this publication date, 30 shirts are available in sizes ranging from Youth Med to Adult 4XL. Price is \$20, which includes shipping and handling. To purchase a shirt, please contact Beatriz at [beatriz-alfonso@hotmail.com](mailto:beatriz-alfonso@hotmail.com).

**DON'T FORGET TO ENROLL IN THE 2009 KROGER NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR PROGRAM!**

## Featured Pet—Cody

Cody is an adorable white Schnauzer boy with natural ears and natural tail. He is 5 months old and weighs a whopping 6 pounds.

Cody is a very smart boy. Having learned to use the doggie door within a few hours, he is already house trained. He can walk on a leash and knows the basic commands of sit and stay (well almost).

Cody was picked up from a Houston shelter in March. He was all of 2 pounds then and had very bad contagious sarcoptic mange. All of his hair fell out, and his eyes were swollen shut. Check out his photo on the website in ICU. He was a mess. Now well, he is a very handsome boy with lots of hair and lots of attitude! He gets along great with his Schnauzer foster buddies and is a real snuggler, especially in the evening.

He loves traveling in the car and sleeping in the "big" bed with his foster mom.

Cody is still a puppy and "play" bites, so he would probably do best in an adult

home with another small 4-legged companion.

If you would like to add to your family or know a responsible person wanting to adopt, please ask for Cody when completing an adoption application.



**Cody in his Doggles—His future is so bright, he has to wear shades!**



Be sure to mention that you are associated with MSRH when you board your dog at Parker Road Pet Resort and a donation of \$1 per day per dog will be made to MSRH. Not only will your dog be treated like royalty, but MSRH will be receive a benefit, as well.

Parker Road Animal Hospital  
& Pet Resort

6740 Airline Drive  
Houston, Texas 77076

Tel: (713) 694-0552

[www.parkerroadpetresort.com](http://www.parkerroadpetresort.com)

## From the Editor

Dear Readers:

Although Summer is not official until June 21, in this part of the world its been "Summer" for a while now, and along the Gulf Coast, that means mosquitoes. I hope the article on heartworms is enlightening and drives home how important it is in this part of the world to keep dogs and cats current on a heartworm preventive. Vets recommend that pets be kept on the preventive twelve months of the year around here to be safe, even if you don't see any mosquitoes around. However, make sure your pet tests negative for heartworms first before starting the preventive program. If a pet actually has heartworms and is given a preventive treatment before completing treatment to rid the pet of the heartworms, it can be fatal.

So many of our rescues come to us heartworm positive, because they haven't had anyone to care for them for a long enough period of time for them to get infected. Unfortunately, a few of them have gotten to us too late. Heartworms are serious business. They can kill.

As a result of starting this newsletter back in January of this year, I have become much more aware of all of the various efforts the many volunteers make to keep this organization successful. The single most outstanding characteristic that always shines through is they are all people that can be counted on again and again. Our little doggies have obviously met a few people in their lives that they couldn't count on. I was thinking MSRH should adopt Michael



Linda with Sophie & Barkley

Jackson's song "I'll Be There" as our official song. Call me corny, but it fits so well. However, on "Black Friday" we definitely needed at the very minimum, one more person to count on. Since then, several more of you have come forward and said "I'll Be There", too. It's a life or death situation. Thank you so much.

Sincerely,  
Linda Love