



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



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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.

Canine Cancer: What Are The Warning Signs?

By Petplace Staff

This article has been provided courtesy of PetPlace.com (www.petplace.com), the definitive online source for pet news, health, and wellness information.

Signs of Cancer

Not too long ago, when a dog owner learned that a pet had cancer, it meant a death sentence for the animal. But, thanks to advances in cancer research, things have changed.

Cancer is an uncontrolled growth of cells on or within the body. It may be localized, or it may invade adjacent tissues and spread throughout the body. Cancer is common in pet animals, and the rate increases with age. Dogs get cancer at roughly the same rate as humans, while cats get fewer cancers. Cancer accounts for almost half of the deaths of pets over 10 years of age.

Unfortunately, the cause of most cancers is not known and therefore prevention is difficult. One type of cancer, breast cancer, is largely preventable with early spaying. Fifty percent of all breast tumors in dogs are malignant. Spaying your pet prior to the first heat cycle will greatly reduce the risk of breast cancer.

Cancer can occur in almost any location or body system—for example, areas such as the skin, gastrointestinal tract (stomach, bowels), urinary system (kidney or bladder), blood, nervous system (brain tumors) and bones.

Different types of tumors can grow in each location of the cancer. A cellular diagnosis is needed to determine the "type" of cancer. For example, cancer of

the skin can be due to basal cell tumors, mast cell tumors, lymphosarcoma, and fibrosarcoma. Each tumor type within a location has a different treatment and prognosis.

Signs of Canine Cancer

Do you know the signs of cancer in dogs? Dogs get many of the same types of cancer as humans, and frequent physical exams and diagnostic tests help detect cancer before it is too late for treatment. Some common types of cancer in dogs are:

- **Skin tumors.** Skin tumors in dogs are rather common. Melanomas, lipomas, basal cell tumors and mast cell tumors are the most often diagnosed. All skin tumors—lumps or masses of any sort—should be examined by your veterinarian.
- **Lymphoma.** This form of cancer is common in dogs. Lymphoma can affect the digestive system, resulting in lethargy, vomiting, and diarrhea. It can also affect the liver resulting in lethargy, vomiting, and a yellow tinge to the gums and skin. Lymphoma can also affect the chest, causing coughing and difficulty breathing.
- **Mammary gland tumors.** These tumors are more common in the older female dog that has not been spayed. About 50 percent of all tumors in dogs are mammary gland tumors. Of those, about 1/2 are malignant. Typically, a lump is felt in the breast tissue. Although they are most

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Canine Cancer Continued from Page 1

- common in intact dogs, they can also occur in spayed dogs.
- Abdominal tumors. Abdominal tumors are common, but it is difficult to make an early diagnosis. Some examples include hemangiosarcoma, mast cell tumors, lymphoma and prostate cancer. You should be aware of any weight loss, weakness, pale gums, protracted vomiting, continual diarrhea, and/or abdominal enlargement and see your veterinarian if these signs occur.
- Testicular tumors. This type of tumor is the second most common tumor of intact male dogs. Signs are usually one large testicle and one normal sized testicle. If malignant, the cancer can spread throughout the body, resulting in weakness, lack of appetite, and weight loss.

If you notice any of the symptoms, consult with your veterinarian. If found early, most of these cancers can be cured with surgery, chemotherapy, radiation therapy, or a combination of the three, and early diagnosis will aid your veterinarian in delivering the best care possible.

What To Watch For

- Any lump or mass that appears to be increasing in size
- Any sore that does not heal
- Change in bowel or bladder habits
- Difficulty urinating or defecating
- Unexplained bleeding or discharge from any body opening
- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Difficulty breathing
- Persistent lameness or stiffness

- Offensive odor
- Difficulty eating or swallowing

Website Pupdates

By Rick Meidel

There are now more than 50 Schnauzers "Looking For Homes" on the MSRH website! If you are fostering one of these dogs, how do the pictures of your Schnauzer stack up against other Schnauzers in this section? Good pictures help move the Schnauzers to loving forever homes! If your foster isn't getting its due, take a few high quality pictures in the yard or with a toy and send it to me at webmaster@msrh.org. Are you fostering a dog that's ready for adoption, but not yet on the website? Take a few pictures and send a few brief words about the dog's personality and it's attributes (house, crate or leash trained? Good with kids and/or other dogs? Etc.) I'll take it from there and get the dog added to the site as soon as possible. Please note that pictures for our website are best when taken in a normal, horizontal camera position. Vertical pictures have to be cropped significantly. Taking pictures from different angles, or with the dog in different positions is also helpful. You do not need to spend time editing the pictures. I am happy to do that for you, as well.

Paper Shredder Danger!

Marilyn Malaney sent in this claim from www.snopes.com about household paper shredders posing a danger to children and pets that happens to be true



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

and confirmed by a vet, Elizabeth A. Coney, DVM, of Kentucky. She wrote:

"Now, for everyone of you that has a home paper shredder with an "auto on" feature, I want you to turn it off and unplug it right now, because night before last I was presented with a paper shredder containing most of the tongue, ripped out by the base, and a very pretty sweet 1-1/2 year old Lab mix whose owners euthanized her. She always watched the paper go into the shredder. She thought it was fascinating. The 'auto on' feature means the shredder sits there waiting for something to get placed into it—like an inquisitive tongue." According to veterinary literature, a Basset lost an ear, a long-haired cat most of the skin on its side, a kitten a foot, etc. Human injuries were not mentioned, but certainly possible and probable.

Lesson learned: When not using the paper shredder, turn it off and unplug it!!!

Dear Sophie—What About This Sunscreen For Dogs?

My mom saw an article recently in the Houston Chronicle about sunscreen for dogs. Is this stuff for real? I am a white Schnauzer girl with a very thin coat. My skin is pink. In the summer my family likes to spend time at the lake riding in their boat. This is NOT good for my skin at all, but I don't want to be left behind. My mom's sunscreen is not good for dogs. Also, what about those Doggles sunglasses?

Yours truly,

My Fair Lady

Dear Lady:

One of my assistants, Miss Candy Cane (a.k.a. "The Cane"), who has skin like yours, has been testing the Doggles and Epi-Pet brands of sunscreens for dogs that were mentioned in the recent newspaper article. Doggles sunscreen is SPF 15, while Epi-Pet is between SPF 30-40.



The Cane

The Cane prefers the Doggles, because it has no scent. The Epi-Pet has a scent,

and although it does have a higher SPF,

The Cane and her mom haven't stayed out long enough to

test the difference between the two from a sun protection standpoint, because it has been so darn hot lately. Both products make the longest parts of her fur a little greasy, but where the fur is clipped really short is where the skin is most likely exposed the most. In those spots, the sunscreen will be absorbed into the skin more readily. The Cane also says she has sensitive skin, but neither of these products irritates it, which is really a good thing. To purchase the Doggles sunscreen, go to www.doggles.com. Their price is \$9.99 for a 2-oz. spray bottle. You can purchase it from other pet supply websites, as well. To purchase a 4-oz. spray bottle of Epi-Pet Sun Protector, go to www.epi-pet.com. Their price is \$17.95, but you get twice as much as the Doggles product, plus twice the SPF protection. I encourage all of you fellow doggies who go out in the sun regularly in the summer to try one of these new sunscreens. Per our feature article this month on canine cancer, we canines (and cats) can get skin cancer just like humans!

Now, about the Doggles sunglasses you asked about. I first saw those on some fellow dogs at the Mardi Gras here in Galveston last February and thought

they really looked cool. However, these dogs I saw were not Schnauzers with bushy eyebrows. My mom bought my brother Barkley and me a pair, and we hate them. Our eyebrows get caught inside them, and we can't see! No matter how hard we try to get our eyebrows out, it is always a struggle. For those of us who can stand to keep them on, though, they actually do protect our eyes from the damaging rays of the sun, and they do keep the wind from drying our eyes out if we happen to ride in motor boats or convertibles with the top down. If you want to give the Doggles sunglasses a try, you can get those from www.drsofostersmith.com on sale now for \$17.99 (regularly \$19.99). You can also get them from the Doggles website, but they cost slightly more.



Barkley modeling Doggles sunglasses

Sincerely,
Sophie



Do You Know Where The Nearest After Hours Emergency Vet Clinic Is?

If your pet were to be seriously injured or were to become seriously ill after your veterinarian's office has closed for the day or on a weekend, do you know where to go for help? If you aren't so sure, call your veterinarian's receptionist and ask. The receptionist should be able to give you the name of the clinic, the hours of operation, the street address, and phone number. Keep this information in a safe place where you know you can find it.

You should take a test drive to this clinic at your earliest convenience, so that in the event that an emergency occurs, finding the emergency clinic is one less thing you have to worry about and precious time will not be wasted.

Volunteer Spotlight — Amanda Ryan

Hi everyone! My name is Mandy Ryan. My husband, Jonathan and I moved to Houston in June 2007 with the intent of buying a house and starting a family. Well, we bought a house in August that year, and started our family; a Mini Schnauzer family!! My husband has always had a Mini in his family his whole life, so when we talked about getting a dog, we knew it would be a Mini. We wanted to get a Schnauzer after we bought our house, but we decided to wait a little while until we got settled in and everything. Being the Aries that I am, who can't wait for anything, so we started looking for Mini Schnauzer organizations on the web. I came across MSRH. I would look online every week at their available dogs. I found one I really wanted to meet, but when I turned in our adoption application the dog had already been adopted. Karen contacted me and we talked about what we were looking for in a dog, etc. It just happened that there was a little female waiting for us. We went to meet Sunni one afternoon. The next day she was sitting in my lap driving home. Sunni is our first dog we adopted from MSRH. Couldn't have asked for a better companion, except



Jonathan, Holly & Amanda with their dogs
Sunni, Denny, and current foster Candy
who is available for adoption

she likes my husband better!! Ha Ha. After having Sunni for a couple months (yep that's all it took!!), I contacted MSRH about fostering. That is where we came to meet Denny. I picked him up from Bingle Vet and brought him home. We instantly fell in love with him. He has such a funny personality. When it was time for a potential forever owner to come meet Denny, we just could not let him go. So we adopted him. Since then we have had several Mini's come in and out of our lives. It makes my family and I feel good to be able to provide a loving and safe environment for the Mini's looking for their forever homes. It's very hard to see them go, but rewarding. My

first forever adoption was Maya. We had her for over 6 months. She was rescued from a breeder and tested positive for light heart worms. After helping her adjust to human contact, socializing her with other dogs, and introducing her to grass for the first time, it was time for her heart worm treatment. Low and behold when we took her in for treatment, the heart-worm preventative she received every month had knocked out the heart-worms. She was now ready for adoption. I did a home visit for MSRH for a very nice family, and they were the ones that ended up adopting Maya and my other foster Mandi. Seeing Maya and Mandi go to a forever home was so tough on my family and me, but it made me feel wonderful inside. I knew that their new family was going to love them like they deserve to be loved. That feeling you get when you see your foster trot off with their new owners makes it all worth it. My volunteer work with MSRH consists of transporting dogs, representing MSRH in local events, conducting home visits, and most of all fostering. I love this organization and what they stand for. I am proud to be a part of MSRH.

Go Shopping At The Animal Shelter Store

Go to our website, www.msrh.org, and look under 'Our Resources' for the Animal Shelter Store. Click on it and go shopping! Browse through more than a thousand high quality products including natural food, treats, toys, clothing, remedies, and more. When you checkout, select Miniature Schnauzer Rescue of Houston as your favorite rescue organization. MSRH is listed under the state of "Texas". Don't forget to make this selection. Every time you shop, we get paid. Your purchases help us 1) rescue 2) rehabilitate 3) provide veterinary care 4) fund adoption efforts 5) purchase supplies 6) feed our rescued animals 7) transport and house

2009 1st & 2nd Qtr. Adoption Statistics Comparison

Table 1-A: 1st Qtr Adoptions Comparison 2008-2009			
Month	2008	2009	% change
Jan	22	13	Minus 41%
Feb	24	12	Minus 50%
Mar	15	11	Minus 25%
Total	61	36	Minus 41%

Table 1-B: 2nd Qtr Adoptions Comparison 2008-2009			
Month	2008	2009	% Change
April	20	12	Minus 40%
May	22	16	Minus 27%
June	21	28	Plus 33%
Total	63	55	Minus 13%

Table 2-A: 2009 1st Qtr Adoptions Vs. Intakes			
Month	Adoptions	Intakes	Foster Pool (+/-)
Jan	13	17	+4
Feb	12	17	+5
Mar	11	22	+11
Total	36	56	+20

Table 2-B: 2009 2nd Qtr Adoptions Vs. Intakes			
Month	Intakes	Adoptions	Foster Pool (+/-)
April	26	12	+14
May	38	16	+22
June	26	28	-2
Total	90	55	+35

SECOND QUARTER YIELDS A SMALL RAY OF HOPE

You know the old saying, "It's always darkest before the dawn." It may not be dawn yet, but in the month of June we saw the first rays of the sun come over the horizon. Seventeen volunteers stepped forward to serve as foster parents. After we went to press with our June issue, we had even more say "I'll Be There": **Suzie Seed, Dania & Mark Harrison, Brenda McLeod, and Kim Metoyer**, making the total twenty-one. We are so grateful for everyone of you!!!

Also, during the month of June for the first time this year we had more adoptions than intakes (barely). Okay, so we only had two more adoptions than we did intakes, but at least our foster pool finally shrank by two, instead of continuing to grow. It grew by double digits in March, April, and May! It is no wonder the darkness of Black Friday rained down upon us. And, it is important to note that by July 8 we had to suspend all intakes again due to several foster parents taking summer vacations, to which they are certainly entitled.

Not only did the foster pool reduce ever so slightly in June, but we actually adopted out 6 more dogs in June 2009 than we did during June 2008, and broke an all time record for adopting out 11 dogs in one single weekend (the last weekend in June).

However, it is important to note that until we see the foster pool decrease consistently for several months running should we have any reason to celebrate. We still have a long road ahead of us. Hang in there.

Table 3: 1st Half Year 2008 to 2009 Adoptions Comparison		
2008	2009	% Change
124	91	-27%

BOOK OF THE MONTH - NEW REGULAR FEATURE!

"PIECES OF MY HEART" BY JIM WILLIS

If you were moved by "The Animal's Savior" in our May issue and "How Could You" in our June issue, both written by Jim Willis, then you will enjoy reading his book entitled Pieces of My Heart. Both of these writings are in this book, plus many more poems, essays, and short stories all around the theme of animal rescue. Some will make you laugh, some will make you cry, but they will all inspire you to carry on in your rescue efforts. You can pick up the book and read when you have only ten minutes to spare or two hours.

Jim Willis has loved animals of all species and breeds since he was a child and has been involved in rescue efforts since he was a teenager. Jim was born in the mid 1950's to parents who were both polio victims. They didn't have much money, and since they were handicapped, they wouldn't let him have cats or dogs as pets. As a compromise, his mother thought she was doing a good thing by convincing the director of the local animal shelter to take him on as a volunteer at the age of 14. However, she didn't realize that he would befriend the various dogs and cats in the shelter only to lose them to euthanasia. Needless to say, the experience had a lasting impact on his life.

You may purchase Jim's book, Pieces of My Heart, in paperback from www.amazon.com for \$17.12. All proceeds from the book go towards Jim's animal rescue efforts.

Each month beginning with this issue, we will feature a "Book of the Month", which will have a dog or multiple dogs as the main focus, although they won't always be limited to Schnauzers. I assume that if you love Schnauzers, you pretty much love most dogs in general (I do). If you have a favorite book along these lines that you think our readers would also enjoy, please send me an e-mail at newsletter@msrh.org. I will certainly feature it in an upcoming issue.

Bumper Sticker Sales

Help us raise awareness of our rescue group by purchasing a bumper sticker or two [See display of the sticker below]. We have more dogs coming into rescue this year than ever before, yet fewer adoptions. Not only do we need to raise awareness, but also money to pay for our growing vet bills.

These stickers were created, printed, and the sales are being coordinated by the same great team who did our "Adopt A Schnauzer" T-Shirts: **Martha Young, Eric Solomon, and Beatriz Alfonso**

As always, we are so thankful to have such a creative and generous threesome working for the Minis!

We are selling the stickers for \$2.00 each, and we are asking you to include a 44 cent postage stamp or stamped self addressed #10 size envelope with your payment, so we can reduce our cost. Make checks payable to MSRH and mail to:

Beatriz Alfonso
16814 Scenic Gardens
Spring, TX 77379

Any questions?

beatriz-alfonso@hotmail.com



Featured Pets—Brody & Brady

For those of you who check our website regularly, Brady and Brody have been familiar fixtures for quite a long time--in fact almost a year. They are truly brothers. We're going to skip the usual cute story here and cut to the chase. Like most rescues, they have a hard luck story. They are only a little over a year old. They were born in a shelter on May 28, 2008, to an abandoned beautiful white Schnauzer named Cheri Ann, who has long since been adopted. Brady and Brody lived for a very short while during the early part of their puppyhood in a true foster home, but for the largest part of their lives, they have lived at Happy Tails. So, the only home they know is a doggie daycare center. At night, they sleep in their kennels there. They have no idea what it is like to live in a real home. This is not at all what MSRH intended for them. MSRH wants all of our rescues to learn the loving environment of a home, whether a temporary foster or forever. This past year, MSRH has been so challenged with keeping all of the dogs under our care in foster homes until they are adopted. Since these little boys were cared for at least for the moment, it was easy to put their best interests on

hold while the multitudes of others were being tended to. The next thing we knew, a year had past. Both Brody and Brady have been adopted once separately. Both were returned to MSRH. The reason is apparent. Brady and Brody have never known the love of a family other than each other. Being separated from one another in a strange environment was more than either of them could bear.

We have reduced their adoption fee twice (\$250 for both) trying to help encourage someone to adopt them.



Brody and Brady in their patriotic bandanas!

What is desperately needed for these two little boys is for someone with patience and compassion to take them into their home and give them a chance to slowly learn about human love, about cuddling on the couch watching T.V., about long walks in the park on a pretty day, and what all the other wonderful joys of being part of a family are all about. If these boys are able to stay together, the adjustment issues should be diminished greatly.

Brody is the light colored one, weighing in at 17lbs. Brady is the darker one at 19lbs. They love to play, have fun, and are real cuties.

If you would like to teach these boys about the loving home they deserve, please go to our website and complete an adoption application asking for them specifically.

Alternatively, if you are willing to take them in as fosters to get them out of the daycare environment, that would be wonderful, too, because it will help them become more readily adoptable. The longer they remain in the daycare environment, the harder it will be for them to find real homes as time goes on.

CALENDAR CONTEST TIME IS RUNNING OUT SOON!

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/

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday Thru Sunday July 16 -19 World Series of Dog Shows

Where: Reliant Park
Time: 8:00AM to 5:00PM
Chair: Paula Tolbert
Tel: (281) 358-2874
E-mail: pjtolbert@yahoo.com

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.

Saturday, August 1

Macy's Charity Day

Where: Macy's Deerbrook Mall
Time: 10:00AM—8:00PM
Chair: Paula Tolbert
Tel: (281) 358-2874
E-mail: pjtolbert@yahoo.com

This is a fundraiser!

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.

Saturday, August 1

Heights Meet & Greet

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: laura@harmonyelectric.com

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.

Note: This event occurs every month on the first Saturday. Please note [new summer hours](#).

Our President, Karen Coleman, would like to thank everyone who made donations to MSRH, Inc., in memory of her mother, Ruth S. Heck, who passed away recently. The total donations received amounted to \$2,710. Given that adoptions have been down so much this year, private donations like these, in addition to proceeds from our fundraisers, have enabled MSRH to at least make some payments to the veterinarians.

"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 **\$2,480**, but a few more shirts are available in sizes Youth Med to Adult Large, XL, 2XL, and 3XL. Price is \$20, which includes shipping and handling. To purchase a shirt, please contact Beatriz at beatriz-alfonso@hotmail.com.

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

Many Thanks To Our June Transport Volunteers!

MUCH APPRECIATION GOES TO: **Marybeth Shipley** for picking up Rita & Vita (strays) on 6/01; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Oliver (owner surrender) on 6/03; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Chelsea & Molly 2 (owner surrender) on 6/05; **Amanda Brewer Ryan** for picking up Lucy Lulu (stray) on 6/05; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Berkley on 6/06; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Keito (owner surrender) on 6/06; tag team **Kathy Perkins /Callie & Kevin Wolf** for picking up Wilson (owner surrender) on 6/06; **Emison Lewis** for picking up Molly (owner surrender) on 6/07; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Coco (stray) on 6/10; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Evan from BARC on 6/10; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Summer Rose at Montgomery Co. Animal Control on 6/12; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Jamie (stray) on 6/12; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Dudley & Polly at Harris Co. Animal Control 6/22; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Cocoa (owner surrender) on 6/22; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Jake & Lacy from BARC on 6/26; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Cubito & Tootsie (owner surrender) on 6/26; **Mike Coleman** for picking up Brooke (owner surrender) on 6/26; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Butch (stray) on 6/27; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Oscar (owner surrender) on 6/28; **Linda Love** for picking up Toby McGuire at Galveston Co. Animal Control on 6/29; and **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Diego at Montgomery Co. Animal Control on 6/29.

From the Editor

Dear Readers:

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer, especially the recent July 4 holiday. Please be mindful to keep the doggies (and any other pets you have) out of the heat and make sure they have plenty of fresh water to drink.

Regarding our feature article on canine cancer, if you have purchased pet insurance and your dog is still young, you may be able to purchase a cancer rider to your policy if you haven't already. With my policy, I was able to do that for my dogs as long as they were under three years old at the time of purchase. The cost is only \$27 per year. The policy will pay up to \$9,000 per occurrence and \$14,000 annually. It is definitely worth looking into.

I hope you'll at least give the sunscreen a try. I was so glad to see that there is finally one out there just for dogs. I keep waiting for a mosquito repellent. I've been looking for one that is safe for them, but so far there isn't one. I'll keep trying and will let you know if I find one.

I was reading an article recently that said if your dog is having trouble seeing, there are veterinary ophthalmologists now that can test your dog's eyes and fit them with prescription lenses that can be inserted into the Doggles frames. Now isn't that the wildest thing you've ever heard?

Since starting this newsletter back in January of this year, I have received some very nice feedback from many of you, which I greatly appreciate. However, I must share much of the credit. Sherry Eitel has been a great resource for me in creating this newsletter. It was her idea to do the Volunteer Spotlight, among other things, and I must say it is one of my favorite parts. Since volunteering for MSRH over the years, I have heard lots of your names, but never put faces with names, since in many cases I've never met many of you. This feature has been a delightful way to connect the names with the faces. I feel like I know you now. It is really helping to build cohesion among the volunteers within the organization. It's wonderful.



Linda with Sophie & Barkley

Rick Meidel helped with the creation of *The Schnauzer's Paw* banner on the front page. He is the one who placed the huge paw prints there that makes it look like a Schnauzer just happened step in black ink and then walk over the page.

Sherry has also suggested many topics for feature articles and 'Dear Sophie'. If you have some ideas for topics, your suggestions are welcome, too. This newsletter is a collaboration. Let me hear from you!

Sincerely,

Linda