



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



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How Animal Blood Banks Can Save Your Pet

By Dr. Debra Primovic

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

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.

Blood Transfusions

Thousands of pets require blood product transfusions every year as the result of injury/trauma, toxin ingestion, surgery or other diseases. Advancements in veterinary medical care have increased the need for blood transfusions. Also, as pets have become an important part of the family, many pet owners want to do everything possible to keep their pets alive. When this occurs, how do they get the necessary blood products?

Here are the two most common ways. Often blood is purchased from an animal blood bank. Or a veterinarian will use a "donor" pet in their office to orchestrate a transfusion.

Veterinarians and their staff often use their own pets as donors. However, having blood on hand from an animal blood bank can save precious time when an emergency transfusion is required.

There are animal blood banks scattered across the country that draw and store blood, making it available to veterinarians. Some animal blood banks are nonprofit organizations that work with volunteer donor pets in the community. Others are for profit businesses that house large numbers of donor pets and sell blood. Some blood banks are organized to immediately ship blood products for emergency use.

What is blood?

Blood is the complex fluid (technically it is considered a "tissue") that flows through

the body's veins and arteries. "Blood" consists of blood cells that are suspended in a fluid called plasma. Blood carries oxygen to cells. It contains fluids, minerals and hormones that nourish tissues. Blood also carries cells that help eliminate toxins and infections.

How is blood used?

Packed red blood cells (PRBC's) are units of blood concentrated in red blood cells with minimal amounts of other fluids. These units of concentrated blood cells are commonly used to treat blood loss and anemia. Common causes of blood loss in young dogs include bleeding secondary to trauma, or blood loss from toxins such as rat poison that interfere with the blood clotting system. Anemia may occur in young cats from several infectious diseases. Older pets can acquire anemia from a kidney disease, cancer or autoimmune diseases—or they may bleed from tumors.

What do the animal blood banks do?

Animal blood banks organize healthy pets for regular blood draws. This blood is drawn into bags and "spun down" to divide the blood into different components. Commonly, blood is separated into packed red blood cells and plasma. These components are used to treat different medical problems. Most blood banks focus on dogs. However, some blood banks also supply cat blood. Because cats require sedation to donate blood, they are not

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How Animal Blood Banks Can Save Your Pet continued from Page 1

commonly included in volunteer blood drives. Most cat blood will be drawn from resident donor cats or employee pets. Plasma is frozen and remains viable from 90 days up to 1 year, depending on how it is stored and its required use. Dogs generally donate approximately 450 milliliters (~16 oz.) and cats can donate approximately 55 milliliters (~2 oz.) of blood.

Blood donors are generally rotated on a schedule that allows a fresh supply to be available to balance blood product expiration dates. A unit of packed canine red blood cells is good for 30 days. Plasma is frozen and remains viable from 90 days up to 1 year, depending on how it is stored and its required use. Dogs generally donate approximately 450 milliliters (~16 oz.) and cats can donate approximately 55 milliliters (~2 oz.) of blood. No sedatives or anesthesia is required for the donor dog. A unit of blood is drawn from the dog's neck while he is lying down and comfortable. Donations generally take about 15–30 minutes, and the donor is rewarded with treats and lots of love when the donation is complete. Dogs generally donate approximately 450 milliliters (~16 oz.) and cats can donate approximately 55 milliliters (~2 oz.) of blood. If you are interested in having your dog become a donor, ask your veterinarian for the animal blood bank nearest you.

Part 6 of 8: TICK-BORNE DISEASES

Tick Paralysis in Dogs

By Race Foster, DVM
Veterinary Services Department, Drs Foster & Smith, Inc.

What is tick paralysis and how is it caused?

Tick paralysis is not a paralysis of the tick, but a paralysis in animals, which is caused by the tick. The females of the *Dermacentor variabilis*, *D. andersoni*, and *Ixodes holocyclus* (found in Australia) ticks secrete a toxin that affects the nervous system of mammals. It produces a flaccid (weak, with no muscle tone) paralysis. In some animals, only the hind limbs are affected. In others, the condition can ascend up the body and affect the front limbs and sometimes even the muscles required for respiration.

What are the signs of tick paralysis?

The signs of paralysis generally start 5-7 days after the ticks start feeding (it usually takes multiple ticks feeding simultaneously to elicit paralysis). The first signs are weakness and incoordination in the hind legs. Several hours after the signs in the hind limbs start, the front legs are affected and soon the animal cannot move any of his legs. Difficulty with breathing, chewing, and swallowing can be seen. The animal generally has no fever. Death can occur within hours from respiratory failure due to paralysis of the muscles necessary for respiration.

How is tick paralysis diagnosed?

The diagnosis is based on the sudden onset of paralysis, the rapid worsening of the condition, the season of the year, presence of ticks, and rapid recovery when the ticks are removed.

What is the treatment for tick paralysis?

The treatment for tick paralysis is basic—remove the ticks. Most animals will quickly recover. If an animal is severely affected, supportive care and artificial respiration may be needed. There is an antitoxin that can be given if it is available and can be procured quickly.

Not all ticks carry this toxin and not all dogs are affected, hence the disease is only occasionally seen. Cats appear resistant to the toxin.

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(<http://www.peteducation.com>)

On-line store at

<http://www.drsfostersmith.com>

Free pet supply catalog: 1-800-323-4208



Parker Road Animal Hospital & Pet Resort
 6740 Airline Drive
 Houston, Texas 77076
 Tel: (713) 694-0552
 www.parkerroadpetresort.com

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

Benefits for you & Benefits for MSRH

As a adopter you will be entitled to a set discounted rate to support you in the care of your new family member:

- 10% Off- Examinations
 Laboratory Diagnostics
 X-rays/Imaging
 Hospitalizations
 Surgeries
- Parker Road will donate \$20.00 for each adopter's first visit back to MSRH
- Parker Road will also donate 5% of your total dollars spent back to MSRH after your first visit

6730 Airline Drive
 Houston, Texas 77076
 (713) 694-0552

Parker Road Monthly Report: Pet Partners for Schnauzer Survival & Wellness

During the month of January, Parker Road handled the following special cases:

Dee was diagnosed with significant heart murmur. She came to Parker Road to be spayed and to have her teeth cleaned. With her heart murmur, that made her a high-risk surgery. Dr. Dayton did the diagnostic work up and found her to have a congenital mitral valve insufficiency. She was put on the proper heart medications and in two weeks the heart murmur had improved greatly. Her surgery was performed successfully. She will be checked again in February, and it is anticipated that she will be ready for adoption after that.

Katja was brought in for a routine check-up when she was rescued by MSRH. Upon her physical exam we found her bladder to be full of bladder stones. A cystotomy was performed to remove the stones which were the size of ping pong balls. The stones have been sent out for analysis, so we can create the proper treatment plan of food and water to prevent her from developing this painful condition ever again. She will be rechecked in February, and we anticipate her to be ready for adoption after that.

Damien was diagnosed with an ischial fracture & symphysis separation (pelvis fractures) which required orthopedic surgery to repair. He was brought to Parker Road for Dr. Dayton to do the surgery. We anticipated a two-week recovery period. However, he did so well, he was able to discharge to boarding within 5 days. His sutures have been removed, and he is doing great!

Tucker was brought to Parker Road for a second opinion due to limping. Dr. Dayton did his physical exam and found a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament (knee). Dr. Dayton performed the orthopedic procedure, and now Tucker is doing very well! He is currently undergoing an Adequin injection series to help repair the cartilage in his knee. So far, he is showing excellent improvement!

Donations Back To MSRH	
Usage of Parker Road Pet Resort = (4th Quarter 2010)	\$130
Referral Donation (December) =	\$20
Annual Donation from Referrals (2010) =	\$1,354

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT—KARIN BACON

My name is Karin Bacon, and I came to MSRH in April 2007 to adopt a Mini after my beloved mix named Patia crossed the Bridge at 17 yrs old. I had a soft spot in my heart for older Minis no one wanted. I am a special education teacher, and my class went on line with me. We all agreed on a specific Mini named Candy Cane. I adopted Candy Cane in April of 2007. That began my journey with MSRH.

I began working applications soon after I adopted Candy "The Cane", as well as did some home visits and helped transport. Due to my teaching job and other commitments working applications was where I focused the majority of my time. I love helping potential adopters find the right Mini for them and their family!!

As Sherry Eitel likes to say, when you adopt from us you become part of the family! Everyone I have worked with in the organization has been wonderful--we all share the common goal of wanting the best for our four legged furry rescued ones! The Cane and I continued to visit her former foster for monthly Mini meetings. She had quite the personality and was as no other.



Candy "The Cane"

The very next day I met up with Karen Coleman, who had graciously perused the MSRH inventory in search of the right Mini for me, and I came home with Brooke Elaine! I felt to save another life was the best way to honor my beloved Cane (and I couldn't stand not hearing the sound of four furry paws following me!) She is different than The Cane, but special in her own unique ways. She has her own Blog that my classes read weekly! (www.teachminiblog.blogspot.com) She made the heartache over The Cane's passing much easier to endure. Brooke and I continue to visit Candy Cane's former foster and her Mini, as we are like family!!

I can't say enough about how much I love the people and the cause of MSRH!!!! They have certainly enriched my life as well as all the Mini Schnauzers they have rescued and placed in "forever" homes!



Karin with Brooke Elaine

She had quite a following and wrote email commentaries that even traveled to Iraq and Afghanistan to the various soldiers I supported thru Soldiers Angels. I was shocked and deeply grieved when she unexpectedly passed over the Bridge right before my eyes in August of 2009.

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Brooke "The Blogger"

DON'T FORGET TO ENROLL IN THE 2010-2011 KROGER NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR PROGRAM!

A PORTION OF YOUR GROCERY BILL WILL BE DONATED TO MSRH.

QUESTIONS? SEND E-MAIL TO NEWSLETTER@MSRH.ORG

BOOK OF THE MONTH

"Every Rescued Dog Has a Tale: Stories from the Dog Rescue Railroad"

BY Deborah Eades

Not just another book about dogs, but a collection of stories, with adorable photos, of many homeless dogs who were scheduled to die in shelters around the country. They were saved from euthanasia by a group of volunteers with the Dog Rescue Railroad—an informal group of hundreds of thousands of internet users who get dogs out of shelters and then drive a leg of a trip from one state to another where the dog will be or already has been adopted. Some of these stories are heartbreaking, and some will make you split your sides laughing at what can happen in a car with a dog if you are not prepared. This book will reaffirm your faith in the goodness of people who spend their weekends doing their small part to help the millions of dogs in animal shelters across the country.

This book contains 17 chapters, each profiling a rescued dog from his hapless beginning to his happy ending, complete with photos. Some stories are heart wrenching, while others are full of humor. They all teach a lesson of how one person can make a difference in the lives of homeless animals. All it takes is a willingness to help and some free time.

"*Every Rescued Dog Has A Tale*" may be purchased from www.amazon.com in paperback edition for \$11.41 and in Kindle edition for \$8.49. It has received 18 customer reviews with 12 of them 5-star.

EVERY
RESCUED
DOG HAS A
TALE
Stories from the Dog Rescue
Railroad



Deborah Eades

If after reading this book you would like to become a transporter for MSRH, please send an e-mail to:

volunteer@msrh.org



Deborah Eades

Deborah (Debbie) Eades has always dreamed of being a writer and sitting at her little desk pounding out bestsellers while doing the laundry. So far, she has only been published in Letters to the Editor of her local paper, but still believes it will happen someday. In 2007, she self published the book she always wanted to write concerning homeless dogs and how volunteers across the country are saving the lives, one at a time, by driving them to their new homes or to a rescue. All profits from the sales of her book are going back into dog rescue organizations. Her major influence while growing up was Erma Brombeck, and she would love to write a humor book.

Debbie works part-time as a clerk in an emergency room of a large hospital and in her spare time is a dog rescuer.

Dear Sophie: Does my poop fertilize the lawn?

Dear Sophie:

I have noticed that many lawn fertilizers have cow manure in them. So, since manure is actually poop, does that mean that when I poop out in the yard or at the park that it is good for the grass? I see some humans pick up dog poop and some just leave it on the ground. This is confusing to me. Which humans are doing the right thing? Does it matter?

With concern,
Miss Green Paw

Dear Miss Paw:

Dairy cow manure is usually allowed to decompose in a controlled environment for six months before it is used for fertilizer, which gets rid of most of the odor and any disease that may be present. In addition, the diet fed to dairy cows is a vegetarian diet. There-

fore, their manure produces an ideal organic fertilizer.

The above is not true for dog poop, however. And, it isn't just on our lawns and in our parks. When dog owners do not pick up after their dogs, storms wash the poop into storm drains, which empty out into the nearest waterway. The poop can contain harmful bacteria and parasites.

This is an extreme example, of course, but my mom used to work with a man who previously lived in Boston. In the winter, he walked his dog in a nearby park along with many other dog owners. Apparently, no one picked up after their dogs. However, it snowed often, which covered up the poop, so no one realized just how much poop was really there. In the spring when all of the snow melted, the massive amount of poop that was unveiled was disgusting. AND, the bacteria and parasites had survived the

harsh cold temperatures, because they were dormant during those winter months. The City of Boston had a real public health issue on their hands, because the pet owners were too irresponsible to take care of one of their most important duties as pet owners. Can you imagine the flies that must have been swarming around that park, not to mention the stench!

So, to answer your question, Miss Paw, the humans picking up the poop are doing the right thing. Dog poop is NOT fertilizer. It is not the same thing as cow manure. It will not make the grass greener or the flowers grow. It might even make you sick!

Sincerely,
Sophie



Featured Pet—Redmond



Redmond needs your tender love & care.

Please meet Redmond. He's a sturdy 2-1/2 year old salt and pepper boy weighing in at 22 lbs. He has cropped ears and a docked tail. Although you wouldn't know it now, Redmond is a special needs Schnauzer. He has Progressive Retinal Atrophy, which means he will eventually go blind. He takes Vitamin E, OcuVite, and fish oil daily to help slow the process down. He needs a forever home with a strong alpha human pack leader. He gets along well with other dogs. He is very sweet and just wants that special human to love him.

Adoption Fee: \$150

UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

MSRH SPRING GARAGE SALE

Where: 21714 Moortown Circle
Katy, Texas 77450

Time: 7:30AM—2:00PM

Chairs: Martha Sarrack & Regina Schroeder

Tel: (281) 829-3293 or (281) 825-8647

E-mail: minimarti65@gmail.com

Martha will be ready to start receiving delivery of donations of items for the sale from March 27 through April 10.

Items are needed for the sale, so start cleaning out your closets, attics, and garages! No clothing or books will be accepted, but shoes, purses, and accessories are welcome. Please have everything clean and price marked. No pickup service is available this time. If you have any questions about the sale or to make arrangements for delivery of your items, please call Martha at one of the above numbers.

If you would like to host a garage sale at your home to help raise money for MSRH, please contact :

newsletter@msrh.org

Your sale can be held on a date of your choosing, and you can include or exclude items at your own discretion. It will be totally your sale with the main goal to raise as much money as possible for our favorite charity. Although you will need to advertise the sale in your local Greensheet and other neighborhood newspapers to attract buyers, we will promote it as far in advance as possible in *The Schnauzer's Paw* and via our e-mail distribution list in order to help get as many items donated for your sale as possible.

FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL PET DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Many veterinary clinics offer discounts on dental exams and cleanings during February.

Check with your vet's office today!

Many Thanks To Our January Transport Volunteers!

MUCH APPRECIATION GOES TO: **Susan Srulowitz** for picking up Winston at San Antonio Animal Control Services on 1/3/11; **Lynette Cutrer** for picking up Damien at Ft. Bend Co. Animal Control on 1/5/11; **Linda Love** for picking up Harrington at Galveston Co. Animal Control on 1/7/11; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Zola at BARC on 1/10/11; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Gunner & Nickalaus, both strays, on 1/10/11; **LaTonya Wright** for picking up Dixie Bell, an owner surrender, on 1/11/11; **Judy James/Thecia Taylor/Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Bentley Edwin, Mercedes & Trace at Harlingen Animal Control on 1/15/11; **Tricia Wilkinson/Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Brooks at Killeen Animal Control on 1/16/11; **Leslie LaPres** for picking up Emily, Peanut & Ranger at Deer Park Animal Control on 1/17/11; Good Samaritan **Adriana Cordoba/Kelli Anderson** for picking up Brooklyn, a stray, on 1/19/11; Good Samaritan **Audra/Kelli & Erica Anderson** for picking up Cane, a stray, on 1/20/11; **Rocky Gates/Bea Alfonso** for picking up Daisy, an owner surrender, on 1/21/11; **Rocky Gates/Bea Alfonso** for picking up Remi at New Iberia Animal Services on 1/21/11; **Carol Harrington** for picking up Finley Scott, Gibson, Zeke, & Violet at Pasadena Animal Control on 1/22/11; **Mindy Nutt** for picking up Houston & Roman at Town Lake Animal Control on 1/22/11; **Tricia Wilkinson/Mindy Nutt** for picking up Katja, an owner surrender, on 1/22/11; **Eileen Mahoney/Thecia Taylor/Mary Griffin** for picking up Ellery, Othello & Rosalind at Harlingen Animal Control on 1/24/11; Good Samaritan **Jaquelin Freund/Sherry Eitel/Kelli Anderson** for picking up Catie, a stray, on 1/26/11; Anonymous owner for turning in Brownie, an owner surrender, on 1/27/11; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Portia at Harris Co. Animal Control on 1/28/11.

From the Editor

Dear Readers:

I am proud to announce a new addition to our newsletter beginning this month. It is the Parker Road Monthly Report. Although MSRH uses several vet clinics for new intake physicals and spay/neuter surgeries for our rescues, it is Parker Road Animal Hospital that performs all of our specialized surgeries and handles all of our critical care cases. In addition, Parker Road extends discounts to MSRH adopters and their referrals and donates a portion of the vet bill back to MSRH. They also donate \$1 per day for each day you board your dog at their pet resort. What a great partner MSRH has in Parker Road—not to mention that Dr. Dayton is an outstanding veterinarian!

Don't know if you have been following the Air Chihuahua story in the news or not, but during the first week in January, the Houston SPCA in part-

nership with Continental Airlines flew 30 homeless Chihuahuas from Los Angeles to Houston in hopes of finding them homes. By January 11, all but one of them had been adopted. The remaining Chihuahua mix named Cash, only two years old, was featured at a Rockets game on January 12. He did get adopted after that, but was returned. He was too aggressive and bit his owners and the other pets in the household. I read this past week that the SPCA decided to euthanize him.

I have read where aggression in dogs is usually in response to fear, rather than dominance. Also, it is often the result of a lack of socialization during their puppyhood. We'll never know Cash's history. We can only guess, but we know his short life must have been hell for him. He didn't understand love and how to receive it, even though the SPCA and Continental Airlines went to great lengths to help him. It was just



Linda with Sophie & Barkley

too late. Cash has crossed the Rainbow Bridge now and lies in the arms of the angels. At last he knows the love and peace he never had on earth.

Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Don't forget to tell the ones you love just how much they matter to you. Everyone needs to know they are loved.

Sincerely,

Linda

January Intakes = 30* Adoptions = 34

*Actual Intakes were 32, but 2 were mixed breeds that were transferred to a mixed breed rescue group.