



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

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April 15, 2011

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## Diabetes Mellitus in Dogs

By Holly Nash, DVM, MS

Veterinary Services Department, Drs Foster & Smith, Inc.



**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.

Diabetes mellitus is a common illness in dogs. It is caused by either a decreased production of insulin or decreased functioning of the insulin. Insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas that helps glucose move from the blood stream into the cells of the body where it can be used for energy.

**What causes diabetes in dogs?**

There appear to be many factors that can contribute to the development of diabetes in dogs. Genetics plays a role. Some diabetes may be immune-mediated. This means the dog's immune system works against the pancreas as it tries to produce insulin.

**What dogs are most at risk of developing diabetes?**

Dogs of any age can develop diabetes, but most are between 7 and 9 years old. Females appear to be at increased risk. Certain breeds appear to be more at risk, including Samoyeds, Australian Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Pugs, and Miniature and Toy Poodles. Dogs who have had multiple episodes of pancreatitis also appear to be more likely to develop diabetes mellitus.

**What are signs and symptoms of diabetes in dogs?**

Most dogs with diabetes will have increased thirst and urination. Although the appetite is usually good or increased, there is often weight loss. Some dogs, however, may become obese. In some cases, blindness due to cataracts may be the first indication to an owner that there is a problem. Cataracts would appear as cloudy eyes with vision loss.

Several diseases often occur in conjunction with diabetes mellitus, including Cushing's disease (hyperadrenocorticism) urinary tract infections, hypothyroidism, acute pancreatitis and cancer. The presence of these diseases can complicate the diagnosis and effective treatment of diabetes.

Dogs may develop serious complication of diabetes known as ketoacidosis. In this emergency condition, the blood glucose becomes very high and breakdown products of fat (ketones) accumulate in the blood. This can cause severe lethargy, weakness and vomiting.

**How is diabetes in dogs diagnosed?**

Diabetes in dogs is diagnosed based on the clinical signs as described above, the finding of glucose in the urine, and laboratory testing of the blood that demonstrates the blood glucose is persistently high. Because there are often complicating diseases present, a complete blood count, chemistry panel, urinalysis and urine culture are generally recom-

Continued on Page 2

## Diabetes Mellitus in Dogs *continued from Page 1*

### How is diabetes in dogs treated?

Diabetes cannot be cured, but it can be managed. Diabetes in dogs is managed through a combination of regular and controlled exercise, diet, and insulin.

Certain breeds seems to be more at risk, including Samoyeds, Australian Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Pugs, and Miniature and Toy Poodles.

### Exercise

The amount of insulin needed by an animal is directly affected by the diet and energy output of the animal. A dog who jogs several miles with his owner each day will have much different insulin needs than a dog who is basically a "couch potato". When regulating a dog on insulin, it is important that the dog receive approximately the same amount of exercise each day.

### Diet

Diet is another factor that greatly influences insulin requirements. The dog should receive the same dog food each day and be fed the same amount at the same time each day. Generally the dog is fed twice a day before she receives her insulin. Most diabetic dogs do best on a diet that is high in insoluble fiber, such as Hill's w/d or Purina DCO. You will need to eliminate treats according to your veterinarian's directions.

### Insulin

There are several types of insulin used in the treatment of dogs with diabetes mellitus. The characteristics differ as to source, duration of action, concentration, and the frequency of administration. The most common insulin used in dogs is NPH (Humulin-N or Novolin-N).

Usually the first dose of insulin is given while the dog is in the hospital and the blood sugar is measured every 2-4 hours. The subsequent doses may be adjusted depending on the levels of blood sugar and the duration of the effect. It may take a few weeks to two months and multiple laboratory tests to find the most appropriate insulin dose for an individual dog.

Your veterinarian and staff will show you how to properly handle, measure, and give insulin to your dog.

### Home monitoring

Diabetic dogs will need careful monitoring at home. If you are willing and able, your veterinarian may recommend that you monitor your dog's blood sugar through the use of a glucose monitor. A small lancet is used to puncture the skin and obtain a small amount of blood that is drawn into the machine. A display then shows the glucose concentration in the sample. A second method of monitoring is through checking the urine for glucose and ketones using special dipsticks available for home use. Finally, you should take daily notice of your dog's eating, drinking and urinating habits. If these change after your dog has been regulated on insulin, it may indicate a need to more closely look at the insulin dosage. NEVER change the insulin dose based on any home monitoring unless specifically told to do so by your veterinarian.

### Treatment of concurrent diseases

Dogs with concurrent diseases, especially hypothyroidism and Cushing's disease, may be very difficult to regulate on insulin unless these diseases are also treated.

**Considerations in the management of diabetes in dogs:** Before treatment is started, it is important that the owner be well-informed and have the time nec-

essary to make the correct decision since regulating a diabetic dog requires commitment. Owners should know:

- It will take some time (weeks) and multiple laboratory tests to determine the best insulin dose for your dog.
- For dogs, insulin is almost always given twice a day, every day at specific times, probably for the life of the dog. Always follow your veterinarian's directions as to type, amount, and when to give the insulin.
- Insulin must be handled properly (refrigerated, not shaken, etc.)
- There is a proper technique for administering insulin to a dog that must be followed.
- The type of insulin and insulin syringe that are used should not be changed unless under guidance by the veterinarian.
- The type and amount of food and when it is fed must be consistent.
- The type and amount of exercise must be consistent.
- The dog will need to be carefully monitored at home on a daily basis; when to seek veterinary advice and return for rechecks will depend on what signs the dog may be showing.
- Insulin requirements often change over time and the dose of insulin may need periodic adjustments based upon laboratory testing.
- Emergency conditions of low blood sugar (hypoglycemia) can be seen if too much insulin is given in relation to food intake. The owner must be aware of when this could occur, the signs of the condition, and how to manage it.

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## Diabetes Mellitus in Dogs *continued from Page 2*

- A blood sugar level that is too high is better than one that is too low.
- Diseases or procedures the dog may have in the future (e.g., surgery, teeth cleaning) may need to be managed differently because of the diabetes.

### Hypoglycemia

You should carefully monitor your dog for signs of hypoglycemia. This is a condition in which the blood glucose level becomes too low. This most commonly occurs when the insulin dose is too high in relation to the food intake, or in cases of increased exercise. This can be a serious and even fatal condition, so you need to understand what signs to look for and what to do if you see them.

**Hyperglycemia (high blood sugar) is always better than hypoglycemia (low blood sugar).**

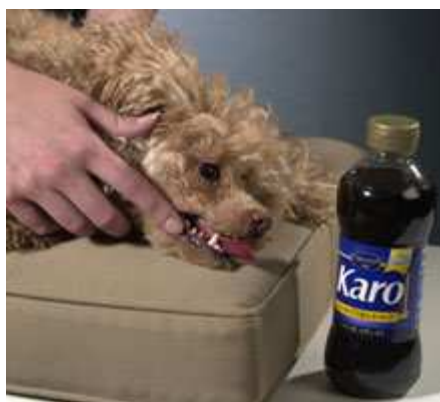
**Causes of hypoglycemia:** Most causes of hypoglycemia in diabetic dogs can be prevented or predicted. Hypoglycemia can result from:

- Administration of too much insulin. This can occur if the wrong insulin or the wrong type of syringe is used, or a second dose of insulin is given due to miscommunication between family members or to try to make up for a first dose that was improperly given. Rarely, a dog may undergo spontaneous remission of their diabetes, i.e., he suddenly produced enough insulin on his own and does not need supplemental insulin. How or why this occurs is not well-understood, and it may be only a temporary phenomenon.
- Change in food intake. If insulin was administered, but the dog did not eat her entire meal, the excess

insulin in relation to the amount of glucose available to the body will cause the blood glucose to go too low. Similarly, if the meal is not given on time, or a different food was fed, hypoglycemia could occur.

- Increased exercise or calorie consumption. If the body is using more glucose for energy, it may pull too much glucose out of the bloodstream.
- Poor regulation. If the dog is poorly regulated or insulin changes are made too rapidly in the regulation process, low blood sugar can occur.
- Metabolism changes caused by other diseases. Infections, some medications, heat cycles and other hormonal diseases (or their treatment) can result in a change of the body's insulin requirements.

**Signs of hypoglycemia:** Dogs with hypoglycemia will act depressed and lethargic; may show weakness, muscle twitching, or incoordination; progress into a stupor or coma; and ultimately develop seizures and die. The earlier the signs are recognized, the easier and more successful the treatment.



**Treatment of hypoglycemia:** Home management of hypoglycemia depends upon recognizing the signs of hypoglycemia early. If the dog is able to eat, offer her normal food. If she refuses to eat, but can still swallow, have her

lick some Karo® (corn) syrup. If she is unable to swallow, apply the corn syrup to her gums. Once she has responded, feed her a meal. Contact your veterinarian who can determine what other treatment or hospitalization may be necessary.

### Further complications of diabetes in dogs

In addition to hypoglycemia, there are other diseases that become more common in dogs with diabetes.

**Urinary tract infections:** Because the urine is dilute and often contains sugar, bacterial infections of the urinary tract are more common in diabetic dogs. If you notice your dog has increased urination, is straining to urinate, is urinating only small amounts, or has discolored urine, contact your veterinarian.

**Other infections:** It appears that the immune systems of diabetic dogs may not function as well as those of a normal dog. As a result, they may be more susceptible to other infections.

**Cataracts:** Cataracts ultimately develop in up to 80% of dogs diagnosed with diabetes mellitus. These can be effectively treated through surgical removal.

**Others:** Although rare, dogs with diabetes may also develop increased blood pressure, uveitis (inflammation of the eye), kidney disease, and atherosclerosis (hardening of the arteries).

### Summary

Dogs with diabetes are generally middle-aged females, and show signs of increased thirst, urination and appetite. Diagnosis is based on clinical signs and laboratory testing of blood and urine for glucose levels. Treatment consists of insulin and a consis-

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## Diabetes Mellitus in Dogs

continued from Page 3

tent diet and exercise regimen. Hypoglycemia (low blood sugar) is a dangerous complication when treating diabetes, and owners should know the signs and home treatment. Other diseases, especially hypothyroidism and Cushing's disease may complicate the treatment of diabetes. Urinary tract infections and cataracts are more common in diabetic dogs.

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## 2012 CALENDAR CONTEST HAS BEGUN!



Hansel Srulowitz—2011 Cover Boy

Yep! It's time to start capturing those adorable photos for the MSRH annual calendar contest.

Deadline for entries:

**August 1, 2011**

Winners will be announced by:

**October 1, 2011**

Calendars will be mailed by:

**December 1, 2011**

For contest info and to submit your entry, go to:

<http://www.msrh.org/category/resources/calendar-contest/>

## Part 8 of 8: TICK-BORNE DISEASES

### Babesia canis: The Cause of Piroplasmiasis

By Holly Nash, DVM, MS

Veterinary Services Department, Drs Foster & Smith, Inc.

*Babesia canis* was formerly called *Piroplasma canis*, so you may hear infection with this parasite called 'canine piroplasmiasis'. *B. canis* is a one-celled parasite that infects dogs and other wild carnivores like wolves and fox. It can be quite common in certain areas of the southern United States, and is found most often in kennel situations.

#### What is the life cycle of *Babesia canis*?

Not everything about the life cycle of this parasite has been discovered, but here is what we know. The parasite lives in red blood cells where it reproduces by dividing in two. Sometimes 2, 4, or even more parasites can be found in a single red blood cell. The infected cells rupture and release the parasites that can then enter new cells. The parasite is transmitted from animal to animal by ticks.

#### What are the signs of infection with *B. canis*?

The severity of signs may vary depending on the strain of parasite, the level of infection, and the immune status of the dog. In most cases, anemia occurs. If large numbers of red blood cells rupture at the same time, fever, vomiting, diarrhea, jaundice, and kidney failure can result. Sometimes skin lesions can be present. Rarely, the infected cells may clog some of the small blood vessels and cause nervous system abnormalities and muscle weakness. Sometimes, the same tick can transmit *Babesia canis* and other organisms (e.g., *Ehrlichia canis*, which causes anemia in dogs) at the same time. This causes the canine piroplasmiasis to be more severe.

Unlike many other diseases, infections with *B. canis* are less severe in young dogs than older ones.

Chronic forms of the disease can occur. Dogs have recurring fevers, lose their appetites and can become emaciated.

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## Babesia canis continued from page 4

### How is piroplasmosis diagnosed and treated?

The disease can be diagnosed by examining blood or tissues under the microscope and finding the parasite. This can sometimes be difficult, so often a serologic (blood) test is performed.

Other species of Babesia infect cattle, horses, poultry, and humans.

Some very special drugs are used to treat B. canis infections in dogs. If you really want to know, they include diminazene aceturate, imidocarb dipropionate, and pentamidine isethionate. These drugs may successfully treat the disease, but not totally eliminate the organism since relapses often occur. In severe cases, blood transfusions and extensive supportive care are often needed.

### Other than tick control, are there any other preventive measures?

Veterinarians need to screen blood donors for B. canis, because it can be transmitted through blood transfusions. Research into developing a vaccine is ongoing.

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## 2011 1st QUARTER ADOPTION STATISTICS

**Table 1: 1st Qtr Adoption Comparison 2008–2011**

Month	2008	2009	2010	2011
Jan	22	13	18	34
Feb	24	12	21	19
Mar	15	11	17	20
Total	61	36	56	73

**Table 2: 2011 1st Qtr Intakes vs. Adoptions**

Month	Intakes	Adoptions	Foster Pool (+/-)
Jan	31*	34	-3
Feb	23*	19	+4
Mar	26	20	+6
Total	80	73	+7

\* Corrected number from what was originally reported.

## A WORD ON FOSTER CARE

We want everyone to understand that just because the foster pool increased by 7 during the first quarter, it does not mean that we only have 7 dogs in foster care—not by a long shot. We desperately need more volunteers to foster in their homes. Why? Because on average we have 7 to 8 dogs in boarding facilities costing us \$6 per day for each dog. That adds up to \$1,440 per month, and that's money we just can't afford. Also, these dogs need to be in a loving home while awaiting their forever home. It does wonders to increase their adoptability (because they're happy, happy, happy), and it is so rewarding for the foster parent. Just read about Susanne Ramos, our Volunteer Spotlight on Page 8. If you would like more information on fostering or would like to volunteer, go to <http://www.msrh.org/volunteer>.

## BE PET SAFE WHEN PREPARING YOUR LAWN & GARDEN FOR SPRING

It's that time of year when most folks are planning and planting their gardens, cleaning up their yards, and doing lots of repairs around the house using tools and materials that may not be very pet friendly. Just to increase your awareness and make you more mindful of potential dangers, here are a list of helpful tips that may avoid tragic outcomes:

- Keep all unattended garden tools like rakes, tillers, hoes and trowels in a safe area and not haphazardly scattered on the ground. These tools can cause trauma to paws, noses, or other parts of a curious pet's body.
- Always store pesticides in an inaccessible area. The most dangerous forms of pesticides are snail bait with metaldehyde, fly bait with methomyl, insecticides with the ingredients disyston or disulfoton, mole or gopher bait with zinc phosphide, and most forms of rat poisons. [As we have learned from Mason Honeycutt, if your dog's stool is a bright green color, it is a sure sign he or she has ingested rat poison. Get your dog to your veterinarian or nearest after hours emergency clinic immediately. If you still have the rat poison container, take that with you. It will be helpful to the veterinarian treating your dog.]
- Remember that cocoa mulch is a byproduct of chocolate, which is toxic to dogs. It has to be consumed in large quantities to cause problems, but it has a sweet smell which attracts dogs to it. With lots of other mulch choices out there, why even consider this one?
- Be sure to check fence boards for any that may have come loose during the winter months. In particular, look for any nails that may be protruding that could cause injury to pets and block any new escape routes.
- When choosing new flowers and shrubs, make sure you choose those that are not poisonous to pets. For a comprehensive searchable list, please go to the ASPCA's website at:

<http://www.aspc.org/pet-care/poison-control/plants/>

### Featured Pet—Paige



Paige loves to play & loves to be loved

**Adoption Fee: \$450**

Hi, I'm Paige. I'm a gray female Miniature Schnauzer with natural ears and a natural tail. I have black ears, tail, and leggings that make me very unusual and beautiful. I am about 2 years old and weigh 12 lbs. I am completely house trained and crate trained now, and I know the "sit" command pretty well. I am learning other commands, too. I love, love, love to play, and chase birds. Oh, my goodness! That's my favorite. I get along well with other dogs (they make good playmates) and children, too. I would fit well into an active family. I'm good on a leash and love to ride in the car. I like to sleep in the big human bed next to you. I'd love to come live at your house. We'd have oh so much fun!



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 an 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

## TO GOD FROM THE DOG

Dear God: Is it on purpose our names are the same, only reversed?

Dear God: Why do humans smell the flowers, but seldom, if ever, smell one another?

Dear God: When we get to heaven, can we sit on your couch? Or is it the same old story?

Dear God: Why are there cars named after the jaguar, the mustang, the colt, the stingray, and the rabbit, but not ONE named for a DOG? How often do you see a cougar riding around? We do love a nice ride! Would it be so hard to rename the 'Chrysler Eagle' the 'Chrysler Beagle'?

Dear God: If a Dog barks his head off in the forest and no human hears him, is he still a bad Dog?

Dear God: We Dogs can understand human verbal instructions, hand signals, whistles, horns, clickers, beepers, scent ID's, electromagnetic energy fields, and Frisbee flight paths. What do humans understand?

Dear God: More meatballs, less spaghetti, please.

Dear God: Are there mailmen in Heaven? If there are, will I have to apologize?

Dear God: Let me give you a list of just some of the things I must remember to be a good Dog:

1. I will not eat the cats' food before they eat it or after they throw it up.
2. I will not roll on dead seagulls, fish, crabs, etc., just because I like the way they smell.
3. The litter box is not a cookie jar.
4. The sofa is not a 'face towel'.
5. The garbage collector is not stealing our stuff.
6. I will not play tug-of-war with Dad's underwear when he's on the toilet.
7. Sticking my nose into someone's crotch is an unacceptable way of saying 'hello'.
8. I don't need to suddenly stand up straight when I'm under the coffee table.
9. I must shake the rainwater out of my fur before entering the house—not after.
10. I will not come in from outside and immediately drag my butt.
11. I will not sit in the middle of the living room and lick my crotch.
12. The cat is not a 'squeaky toy', so when I play with him and he makes that noise, it's usually not a good thing.

P. S. Dear God: When I get to Heaven, may I have my testicles back?

## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT—SUSANNE RAMOS

Hello, I am Susanne Ramos. I am married to my husband Jose. We have been together for 21 years. We have one child, our daughter Melissa, who is 9. We have two Schnauzers of our own (Pepper Jack and Bella) and an endless love for the breed. I work from home, so the dogs are completely spoiled and always with me. I decided to be a foster mom, because I have the desire to help all Schnauzers.

At the time of this writing, I had been fostering for MSRH only for a couple of weeks. I found MSRH by searching online. I was not even sure if there was a foster organization for Schnauzers in Houston. I wanted to foster, because I wanted to help other Schnauzers, and I wanted to have my daughter learn through example and experience the value of giving back. Our dogs are very fortunate, as not all dogs are.



Susanne with Bella and Pepper Jack

We got our first foster "Emma". She was a GREAT dog! How anyone could let this sweet girl go is beyond me. She had an endless desire to please and loved nothing more than being in your lap. From the day we got her, she had no accidents and fit right in as if she had always been a part of our family. I knew I would fall in love with every dog we foster, but I had no idea just how hard I would fall! This little girl was so sweet. She was very unique, too. She loved to play fetch. Our Schnauzers will have none of that, but Emma would chase and retrieve all day long. Emma decided one day that she belonged to my daughter. She climbed into Melissa's lap and claimed her. The next day when I took Melissa to school, the dogs all came along for the ride. Emma was very unsure about riding in the car. She was clearly nervous and did not have a lot of experience with riding in the car. The really sweet part was as soon as Melissa got out at school, Emma began to cry. She cried all the way home. I could do little to calm her. When we got home she went straight to Melissa's room and laid on her bed. When I picked Melissa up from school later that day, it was as if it were Christmas morning for Emma. When she saw Melissa she was all over her. After that, when Melissa would do her homework Emma would put herself on top of the textbook and demand Melissa's attention. This sweet dog definitely needed a family with kids! Having her in our home brought endless joy to us.



Sweet little Emma

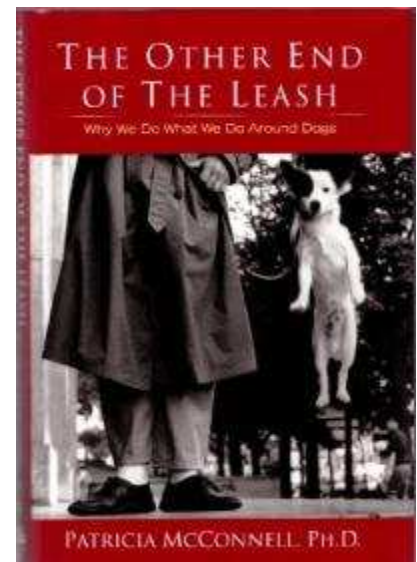
Editor's note: Susanne submitted her bio to me in mid-November. After reading it, I just knew this was going to be a foster failure. How could the Ramos family ever part with Emma? However, within just a day or so of submitting the bio, Emma was adopted by another family. Susanne says "We are currently fostering Luka, who is a complete delight to have in our home. We are all hopelessly in love with him. As for Emma, her new family sends me pictures regularly, so it is great to hear from them. Fostering for MSRH is so very rewarding. I love it!"

**PET PARENT'S DAY IS APRIL 25!**

## BOOK OF THE MONTH

# "The Other End of the Leash: Why We Do What We Do Around Dogs"

BY Patricia B. McConnell, PhD.



According to the Amazon.com Review, '*The Other End of the Leash* begins with an eloquently simple premise: "All dogs are brilliant at perceiving the slightest movement that we make, and they assume each tiny movement has meaning." With that in mind, all of Dr. Patricia McConnell's recommendations for communicating with your canine make immediate sense. Don't we all automatically bend forward when coaxing a dog to come and play? Break eye contact when we wish to avoid confrontation? While these instinctive behaviors are right on target, a number of other habits aren't so positive, and McConnell helps us break them with both humor and common sense.

Chapters are categorized by senses, such as sound, sight, and smell; specific pack behaviors, such as dominance and play also merit their own sections. McConnell uses the same humor and patience she recommends with dogs on her readers. Whether she's referring to maggots as "a value-added commodity in canine economics" or ruminating on attempts to verbally cue her dogs to exit the house one at a time, her wise and gently self-deprecating book brings training—of both dogs and humans—to new levels.'

One customer reviewer wrote, "It will open your eyes and heart to a new loving relationship with your dog. Every chapter is full of valuable information you should not be without. The chapters about body language (of humans) and sounds were so valuable that I instantly was able to have my dog come to me when called 100% of the time, even when in the middle of a squirrel chase!!"

As of this writing, the book has received 211 customer reviews with 160 of them 5-star. Purchase prices on Amazon are paperback—\$10.88, Kindle—\$11.99, hardback—19.01.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Patricia McConnell, Ph.D., is an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Zoology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and an expert applied animal behaviorist. Her company, Dog's Best Friend, Ltd., specializes in family dog training and treating aggression in dogs, and she is an immensely popular speaker around the country. She is the co-host of "Calling All Pets", an animal behavior advice show syndicated to a hundred public radio stations, and works daily with four dogs (three border collies and a Great Pyrenees) on her sheep farm outside of Madison. Her website is:

<http://www.dogsbestfriendtraining.com>

## Dear Sophie: I've lost interest in eating. Can you help?

Dear Sophie:

My parents are worried about me. For a few weeks now, I've just barely touched my food. My parents took me to the vet for a checkup. There is no gastrointestinal upset and no oral disease. I'm just not interested in eating what's put before me. Do you have any suggestions?

With a turned up nose,  
Fasting Freddy

Dear Freddy,

Since you say there are no underlying medical conditions (which is good news), the first thing your parents should do is check the food they are feeding you to make sure it is not spoiled. Both dry and moist foods can expire, so check the expiration date on the package. Even if the date is still good, your parents should take note of any strange odors that the food may have. After all, it is possible to get a bad batch of food.

If the expiration date and the smell test all past muster, then your parents need to make sure they are feeding you a high quality brand of food. Usually you won't find a good quality dog food in the grocery store. The best

place to find these better foods are at Pet Smart, Petco, or one of those specialty boutique pet supply stores. You may pay a little more for these better foods, but they actually cost less per meal, because you don't have to feed as much. In other words, there is more nutrition in less volume.

There are several great premium brands out there to choose from, but some suggestions are Blue Buffalo, Innova, California Naturals, EVO, Precise, Solid Gold, Wellness, and Merrick. I also suggest a dry food, because softer foods will cause more tartar buildup on your teeth. If your parents are satisfied that they are providing the right food for you, then they need to consistently feed it to you. Constantly switching foods can cause gastrointestinal upsets.

However, If your parents do feel that they need to change your food to a better quality one, then they should do it gradually to avoid those tummy problems. The best way to transition from one food to another is to first mix in about 25% of the new food with the old food for two days, then increase the new food to about 50% for another couple of days, then to 75%, etc., until after about a week

you are switched over to the new food.

Between meal treats need to be kept to a minimum or cut out completely in order to encourage you to eat at meal time.

Here are some tips for your parents for enhancing the flavor and aroma of the food, which might entice you to want to eat:

- Mix a little hot tap water or low sodium chicken broth into the dry food
- Mix in some meat flavored baby food, like strained chicken or beef or sprinkle in a little shredded cheese. Mix these additives in sparingly. Just give enough to provide the extra flavor.
- Mix in a few chopped carrots or cut green beans.

Caveat to your parents, though: These enticements may spoil you if you get too accustomed to them.

I hope, Freddy, that my advice helps you get your appetite back.

Sincerely,  
Sophie

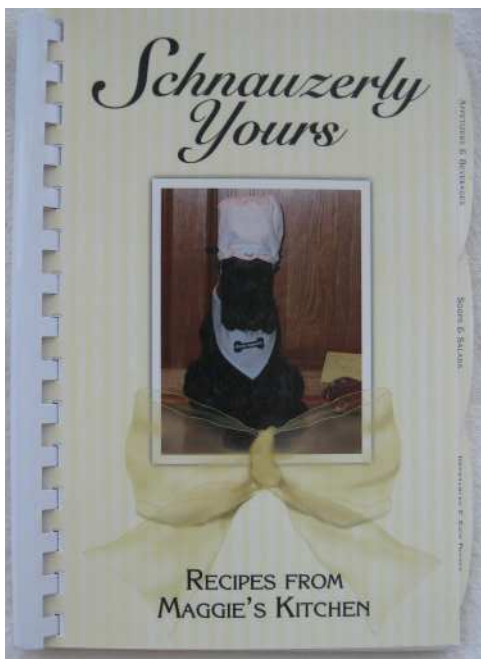


### PureBites

PureBites are an excellent healthy treat for your dog to try. You can even use them as a topper on his or her regular meal. They are made from only one ingredient. Choose from 1) cheddar cheese 2) quality cuts of USDA inspected chicken breast, beef liver or ocean whitefish or 3) trailmix (beef liver, sweet potato, and green beans). They are freeze dried to lock in flavor, so dogs love the taste. This is a low-calorie snack that is perfect for all dogs—even those with food allergies or obesity. Diabetic dogs should be able to eat these, too, but you should clear it with your vet first. You can buy PureBites at [Petco](http://www.petco.com). For more info about the product, go to :

<http://www.purebites.com>

## MSRH 2011 COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER-WE NEED YOUR RECIPES!!



Back in 2007, MSRH compiled its first cookbook called "*Schnauzerly Yours—Recipes From Maggie's Kitchen*". It was made up of recipes and photos sent in from adopters and volunteers and was dedicated to Maggie, a beautiful black Schnauzer adopted by Janet and Gary Griffith. Maggie was the "cover girl" on our cookbook wearing what else? Her chef's outfit that Mom purchased just for this special occasion! Maggie had undergone major surgery prior to her adoption, and her rescue and adoption story was told on the dedication page of the book. Many other adopters and friends sent in photos, too, which adorned the recipe category dividers and the back cover.

As a fundraiser, it was a huge success! Everybody loved it, and it had some darn good recipes in it, too, including doggie treats.

Since quite a bit of time has passed since this first endeavor, and since we have so many new adopters and volunteers, we thought it was time for:

**"Schnauzerly Yours II—Recipes From \_\_\_\_\_'s Kitchen"**

### WHAT WE'LL NEED FROM YOU—DEADLINE JUNE 15, 2011:

- RECIPES.** Recipe categories will be: 1) Appetizers & Beverages, 2) Soups & Salads, 3) Vegetables & Side Dishes, 4) Main Dishes, 5) Breads & Rolls, 6) Desserts, 7) This & That and 8) Doggie Recipes. We know there are so many good cooks in the MSRH family, so in order to accommodate as many participants as possible, we must limit the number of recipes per person to five. You may submit more than 1 recipe per category, however. If you submitted recipes for the first book, do not submit the same recipes for this book, please.
- DOGGIE PHOTOS & RESCUE/ADOPTION STORIES.** You are not required to submit a photo and rescue/adoption story of your dog or dogs. However, you are encouraged to do so. Photos must be at least 1MB or equivalent in JPEG format. Portrait orientation is preferred, but landscape can work. If you can get a photo of your dog with some pots & pans, next to a cake or a pie, a big spread of food, etc., that would be great, but not required. See picture of Barney Kohn at right to get an idea of a really cute cookbook shot. Don't know how Barney's Mom, Robbin, kept him off the table! In order to be in the running to win the spot on the front cover, you must submit, not only a photo, but also your dog's rescue/adoption story, including his or her adoption date. A committee will select the winner.
- SPONSORSHIPS.** The cost to produce the quantity of books we expect we can easily sell is **\$2,700**, including shipping. Therefore, in order for MSRH to fully maximize our profits from this fundraiser, we would be so grateful for any donations to help defray this production cost for the books.
- ADVERTISEMENTS.** If you would like to purchase a page in the cookbook to advertise your business, the cost for a one-page ad is \$100, 1/2 page is \$50. For details, please contact [newsletter@msrh.org](mailto:newsletter@msrh.org).



**TO SUBMIT RECIPES, PHOTOS, RESCUE/ADOPTION STORIES, OR DONATE:**

[HTTP://WWW.MSRH.ORG/CATEGORY/RESOURCES/COOKBOOK](http://www.msrh.org/category/resources/cookbook)

## 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.

You are invited to a fun-filled dog day that will benefit homeless animals in our area.

Meet terrific sponsors, hard working rescue groups and other caring dog folks! Bring your best buddy to the BEST PET EVENT (Voted Best in Houston 2009 and 2010 by readers of Houston Pet Talk Magazine ) in The Woodlands...Ooops! Woodlands!



## SPRING BARK 2011

Saturday, May 14th 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
 Northshore Park, The Woodlands, Texas



The Houston Canine Frisbee Disc Club will be hosting the annual Unified Flying Dog Operations (UFO) World Cup Qualifier, a full day of high-flying canine frisbee fun.



With special thanks to



For sponsorship information please contact Laura at lakoalamac@sbcglobal.net

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SPRING BARK SATURDAY, MAY 14

**Where:** Northshore Park—7/8 Mile West on Lake Woodlands Drive, The Woodlands, Texas

**Time:** 8:30AM—4:00PM

**Chair:** Callie Wolf

**Tel:** (281) 381-6309

**E-mail:** callieawolf@yahoo.com

We do not have a booth, but we need volunteers to walk around the event with our fosters passing out MSRH information for a few hours or all day. We will want volunteers to wear their MSRH T-shirts, so we will stand out and make our presence known. Also, Callie will have bandannas and or shirts saying "Adopt Me" for the dogs to wear.

When we applied for a booth, we found ourselves on a wait list. If we manage to get a booth prior to the event date, Callie will notify volunteers.

## Many Thanks To Our March Transport Volunteers!

MUCH APPRECIATION GOES TO: **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Duffy, a stray, on 2/28/11; **Carol Harrington** for picking up Davy Crockett at Pasadena Animal Control on 3/2/11; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Amber at Harris Co. Animal Control on 3/2/11; a **Good Samaritan** for picking up Muffin, a stray, on 3/7/11; **Carol Harrington** for picking up Paddy & Clarissa at Pasadena Animal Control on 3/10/11; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Benvolio at Harris Co. Animal Control on 3/11/11; **Linda Love** for picking up Sparky Joe at Galveston Co. Animal Services on 3/11/11; **Kara McClain** for picking up Cheyanne at Deer Park Animal Control on 3/11/11; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Zariah & Rennae at Harris Co. Animal Control on 3/15/11; **Tricia Wilkinson** for picking up Brandy at Town Lake Animal Control on 3/15/11; **Kelly Fike** for picking up Diamond at Rita B. Huff Animal Shelter on 3/18/11; **LaTonya Wright** for picking up Lance & Lexi, owner surrenders, on 3/18/11; **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Darla at Harris Co. Animal Control on 3/22/11; **Anonymous Owner** for picking up KC, an owner surrender, on 3/23/11; **Connie Seagraves** for picking up Charlie at Town Lake Animal Control on 3/25/11; **Kathy ?** for picking up Garrett & Marshall at Montgomery Co. Animal Control on 3/25/11; **Sandra Plunk/Stephanie McKinney** for picking up Mikey at Mansfield Animal Control on 3/28/11; **Good Samaritan** for picking up Kerri, a stray, on 3/29/11; and **Pam Averitt** for picking up Chase, Hobo & Ribbon from Houston Humane Society on 3/31/11.

## From the Editor

Dear Readers:

In March we had two nail biting situations. We got calls from two different shelters that they had owners who had surrendered their senior Schnauzers—13-1/2 yr. old Diamond and 14-yr. old Mikey. Both dogs would have been euthanized if we declined to take them, and we didn't have much time to give an answer. Unfortunately, we are not in a financial position to take elderly Schnauzers in as indefinite fosters. So, Sherry Eitel appealed to her extensive e-mail distribution list for permanent homes for the boys. Then, again this month we got a call from an owner needing to find a home for their 10-yr. old Schatze. Otherwise, they would have to take her to a shelter. Well, guess what? The Rainbow Bridge can wait. Diamond, Mikey, and Schatze have been truly blessed with new forever

homes. The Schnauzer Angels have done it again! Thanks so much to Sherry and Diamond's, Mikey's, and Schatze's new families. These are the kinds of joyous moments that MSRH lives for.

The Missouri State Senate has passed SB113 to repeal Proposition B, the Puppy Mill Cruelty Prevention Act. It has now gone to the Missouri House (HB131). According to a survey conducted between March 17-21, 2011, by Lake Research Partners, a large majority of Missouri voters want Gov. Jay Nixon to veto the bill if it passes the House and goes to his desk for signature. After all, Prop B is not supposed to even go into effect until November of this year. These lawmakers are not even giving it a chance. I'll keep you updated on how this goes. Regarding Texas animal matters, I do hope you e-mailed all of the Texas House Commit-



Linda with Sophie & Barkley

tee members on Appropriations to please keep their paws off the Animal Friendly License Plate Fund. I googled this fund and found all kinds of animal advocacy groups in Texas are quite upset about it, so I'm pretty sure these committee members got the message. The question is: Did they listen? I have not been able to find a definite answer as of yet.

Sincerely,  
Linda

PLEASE DON'T PROCRASTINATE! SEND IN YOUR RECIPES, PHOTOS, RESCUE/ADOPTION STORIES FOR THE NEW COOKBOOK FUNDRAISER. YOUR DONATIONS TO HELP PAY FOR THE BOOK ARE APPRECIATED, TOO! THAT WAY MORE SALES PROCEEDS FOR THE BOOK WILL GO TOWARDS HELPING THE MINI'S.

