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BOARDING OPTIONS: HOME AWAY FROM HOME

**By Stephanie M. Colman
Caninestein Dog Training**

(Originally appeared in *Whole Dog Journal*, Jan. 2010)

There are many things to consider when choosing to share your life with a dog. Knowing who will care for your dog(s) when you have to be away from home is just as important as knowing how you'll provide for their everyday needs. Even if overnight travel isn't part of your regular routine, it's wise to think ahead and have a plan for overnight care—just in case it's ever needed. You never know when a family or local emergency may force you and your pets to spend a night or two apart.

scenario, he is left alone and unsupervised for an unusually long period of time, and for that reason, this option is generally considered the most risky. On the other hand, arranging for someone to live in your home with your pet can provide a greater amount of supervision with the least amount of disruption to your pet's daily routine. In-home service providers will often bring in the mail, water plants and give your home a lived-in appearance, making it less appealing to criminals looking for the easy target of an empty home.

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.

Fortunately, today's dog owners have several choices for pet care, ranging from in-home care provided by visiting pet sitters, to a wide range of commercial kenneling options. Each comes with its own unique list of pros and cons and no one choice is right for every dog. It's important to do your homework when considering boarding. After all, you are literally putting your dog's life in the hands of another.

In-Home Care

Providing care for your dog in your own home is one option, either recruiting a trusted friend or family member or by contracting with a professional pet sitter or sitting service. Some people choose to have a pet sitter visit several times each day, while others prefer hiring someone to temporarily take up residence in their home. Unless the visiting sitter will be making multiple visits throughout the day, including one late in the evening and early the following morning, this option provides the least amount of supervision for your pet. In this

When choosing an in-home pet care provider, it's important to consider the unique needs of your pet and the experience level of the sitter. There are pros and cons to using a friend or family member, as well as a professional pet sitting service. While a friend or family member may opt to help care for your pet at no charge and may have a personal history with your pet, they may not be as educated in the fine details of pet care, particularly in things such as recognizing the early signs of stress or distress or the myriad ways a determined escape artist can find to Houdini his way out of a seemingly secured area. With a reputable pet sitting service, employees should be screened, professionally trained, bonded and insured, and an experienced pet sitter should be well-versed in all aspects of domestic animal care. As an added bonus, large pet sitting companies generally employ enough personnel to be able to accom-

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accommodate last minute bookings, something not often possible when calling on the aid of a friend, family member or single-sitter service. This professional training and flexibility comes at a price, however.

Similar to recruiting someone to temporarily reside in your home with your pet, many dog owners opt to have their dogs stay overnight at the home of a trusted friend, family member or professional pet sitter. While slightly more disruptive than staying in their familiar environment, this option works well for many pet owners, especially when the pet knows the person with whom he'll be staying and/or when the pet is older and not as apt to adjust well to a busier kennel environment. Before packing your pup's overnight bag and dropping him off at Aunt Betty's, it's important to be aware of environmental differences that could impact your pet. Does the host have dogs of her own? If so, how do the dogs get along? If they haven't met, be sure to arrange a meet-and-greet prior to travelling, so that any incompatible personalities can surface and be dealt with in advance. Double check to make sure your pet cannot slip through fencing or other enclosures and be sure to educate your pet's host on any behavioral quirks that may impact his safety, such as a tendency to doormat or ingest stray socks! If your host has a swimming pool and your dog has not been specifically taught how to safely swim to the steps, ask that your dog not be left outside unsupervised.

Commercial Boarding Options

A variety of options exist for owners who prefer to professionally board their dogs while away. Pet owners can choose from traditional kennel envi-

ronments to upscale "resort style" facilities with extra services, such as group playtime, interactive food puzzles, training time or grooming and spa services. Many facilities offer "cage-free" boarding where the dogs spend their time roaming with fellow guests and bedding down for the night on dog beds in a common area, while others have dogs confined to their kennels throughout the day, except while being exercised by kennel staff. There are pros and cons to every kenneling scenario and what works best for one dog might quickly spell disaster for another. Regardless of what type of service or facility you choose, it's imperative to do your homework and get to know the ins and outs of the service provider. The following considerations can be helpful in making an educated decision:

Compliance with state and local regulations and adherence to professional standards & practices

The kenneling industry is unregulated at the Federal level, leaving individual cities and states to implement regulations as they see fit. According to Pet Care Services Association (PCSA), a non-profit organization dedicated to assuring standards of quality and professional care, approximately 30 states have yet to adopt any formal regulatory standards for boarding kennels. As such, many kennel owners operate with little more than a standard business license. When regulations do exist at the city or state level, they are usually minimal and simply address things, such as preventing animal cruelty and requiring adequate food, water and shelter be available; not exactly standards that put your mind at ease when leaving your pet for the weekend.

"The pet-owning public has expectations when it comes to boarding their animals," said Charlotte Biggs, CKO and

board president of PCSA and co-owner of Stay N Play Pet Ranch®, Inc. in Dripping Springs, TX. "There are so few regulations available and our mission is to fill that void."

Paid membership in PCSA is open to any individual or legally operating business that is actively engaged in the non-veterinary care of pets as a primary service for a fee. All active members must agree to adhere to the organization's Code of Ethics and Pet Owner's Bill of Rights, both of which are available for review online at petcareservices.org. Members facilities may also opt to pursue volunteer PCSA accreditation through the Voluntary Facilities Accreditation (VFA) program. In order to be considered for accreditation, facilities must be in business for a minimum of six months, must submit a detailed binder of information documenting all of their business and pet care practices and demonstrating that they meet the standards set forth by PCSA, and must pass an on-site inspection. It's a comprehensive process that takes an average of six months to complete. Facilities are subject to random inspections throughout the year and must repeat the accreditation process every three years.

In addition to professional trade organizations, pet owners are wise to look for membership in local Chamber of Commerce and the Better Business Bureau. The more ways in which a professional's reputation may be on the line, the greater the chance he will do everything in his power to ensure a successful boarding experience for your pet.

While professional and civic memberships demonstrate a certain level of

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Professionalism on the part of the business owner, pet owners should not rely on memberships alone. Once you've verified that your prospective pet sitter or boarding kennel is in compliance with local regulations and adheres to a set of professional ethics and practice standards, there's still much research to be done!

Staff requirements and training

In any business, a well-trained, competent staff is critical to success. In the kenneling industry, a well-trained and competent staff is what ensures the health and safety of your pet. A general love of dogs or desire to shy away from working retail simply doesn't cut it when people are entrusting you with their beloved canine companions. Kindness, compassion and an ability to keep one's own emotions in check are all important personality traits that must be combined with a solid understanding of dog behavior and a natural ability with dogs. This is especially critical in facilities that allow time for dog-to-dog interaction among guests.

Ask how employees are trained and how much (if any) continuing education is required? Laurie Zurborg, owner of Wags and Wiggles in Tustin, CA, requires that all new employees undergo comprehensive in-house training and *all* employees participate in retraining every six months. As a daycare facility that provides boarding for clients, it's imperative that facility staff be skilled in the often subtle nuances of dog body language, such as facial expressions and body posture, how to recognize, prevent and interrupt bullying and how to safely break up a dog fight. In addition, any staff member who interacts with a dog in a training capacity (often available in boarding kennels as

an add-on service) must be certified by the Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers. Facilities that are members of PCSA also have the option of utilizing the organization's multi-level Pet Care Technician education program, a self-paced, home study program focusing on principles of animal care, facility management, customer service and business development.

Where are dogs housed?

When it comes to professional boarding kennels, accommodations come, literally, in all shapes and sizes. Kennels range from high-volume, no-frills facilities with the ability to house in upwards of 150 dogs to smaller, boutique-style kennels housing a very limited number of dogs - and everything in between! When choosing a kennel, be sure to make arrangements to visit far in advance. Don't be surprised if the facility requires that you schedule your visit or only visit during certain hours rather than simply popping in unannounced. Barb Gibson, owner of The Pawmer House Pet Hotel in Wilton Center, IL, explains that for her, preventing random visitors is all about reducing stress and ensuring the safety of the dogs in her care. Guests at The Pawmer House participate in mandatory "quiet time" from 11:30am-2:00pm, as well as for at least one hour after each meal. Unless there's an emergency, no one is allowed inside the kennel area during quiet time. The arrival of a human in the kennel area - especially a new human - sets off a cacophony of barking. Limiting such outbursts is an important part of managing the overall stress level of the dogs. Gibson also advises visitors to be prepared to wait if arriving unannounced because staff may be busy tending to the needs of the dogs, and the needs of the dogs come first.

When visiting a facility, pay special at-

tention to the area where your dog will be housed. Is it secure? How tall is the fencing? Are at least some of the kennels enclosed on the top to prevent jumpers and climbers from escaping? Is it clean? How is it sanitized? Does it smell? If housed in kennel runs, can the dogs directly see other dogs on either side and across from them? If the enclosure has no direct access to an outdoor potty area, ask how frequently dogs are taken outside or if they're expected to eliminate in the enclosure. If the latter, how quickly are messes cleaned up and where is the dog during the process? What, if any, "comforts" are provided (and how are they sanitized between dogs?) and what personal items are allowed from home? Does the kennel require that all guests eat a facility-provided kibble, or do owners bring their pet's food from home? Will the kennel accommodate special diets such as home-cooked meals or raw food?

It's also important to know in advance what vaccinations are required, how they need to be documented and what, if any, exceptions exist. As thoughts regarding vaccination evolve, many kennels now accept titers or statements of vaccine exclusion from a veterinarian in lieu of following a strict vaccination protocol.

Dog play groups

Many kennels offer the option of recreational play groups. When considering this option for your dog, find out how guests are screened to determine their eligibility for play groups. As with dog day care and cage-free boarding facilities, play groups must be closely supervised at all times by well-trained staff members. How large are the play groups? How are play pals sel-

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ected? How much time do dogs spend engaged in off-leash play with each other? What is the procedure for breaking up a dog fight, and how are dogs handled immediately following, as well as for the duration of their stay? Are owners notified? If you don't wish for your dog to participate in a play group, how will your dog be exercised?

In case of emergency

Accidents happen and an emergency can strike at any time. Make sure the facility has detailed emergency plans in place. Can they safely evacuate guests in the event of a natural disaster? Where are the animals evacuated to? Are client records backed up off-site so that owners can be notified of an evacuation should the facility be compromised? When a propane tank exploded at Pazzazz Boarding Kennel in Carbon County, PA, in March 2009, 17 dogs, including Martha Stewart's Chow Chow were tragically killed, and several others were injured or temporarily lost after fleeing in a panic. Many client files were destroyed in the fire, making it difficult to notify them about the emergency.

Every kennel should maintain excellent working relationships with local veterinarians and 24-hour care facilities. Find out how emergencies or potential emergencies are handled. When vet care is needed, are owners contacted ahead of time? For minor issues, how is the need for vet care decided and by whom? You should feel comfortable knowing that medical issues will be promptly addressed without sending your dog to an after-hours emergency facility at the first sign of soft stool.

Go with your gut

Once you've done your homework and thoroughly checked out your list of potential facilities, often the best way to make a selection is to go with your gut instinct. If deciding between two different facilities that seem equal in terms of experience and standards of care, ask yourself if one just simply feels better? On the other hand, if for any reason you feel uncomfortable with a facility, regardless of its memberships or glowing recommendations, trust yourself and your ability to know what's best for your pet.

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SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Cage Free or Not Cage Free?

While the idea of "cage free" boarding sounds nice and for some, can help take the emotional sting out of leaving their pet behind for the weekend, it may not be in the best interest of your dog. Not all dogs enjoy the company of all other dogs, and asking your dog to endure the constant presence of his peers - for an extended period of time, and in a confined space - can quickly become stressful. Additionally, dogs who spend 24 hours a day interacting with other dogs spend a tremendous amount of time in an aroused state. Even the "happy arousal" that results from good, clean play can take an emotional and physical toll on a dog over time. For most dogs, as their level of tiredness increases, their tolerance decreases, making them more prone to scuffles or even full-blown fights with other dogs. This ongoing emotional and physical stress also frequently manifests itself as loose stools, extreme physical exhaustion and a variety of behavior problems.

If considering a cage-free facility, be sure to spend time watching the way

dogs interact and are managed. Find out if dogs receive any structured down time and how personality conflicts between dogs are handled. If the dogs are expected to co-exist 24/7, how much supervision is provided and what is the skill level of the staff? What about overnight? In a cage-free setting, much skilled management can be needed to prevent a canine version of "Lord of the Flies!"

Preparing your dog for boarding

Kennel owner Barb Gibson offers the following tips:

- Expose your dogs to the boarding experience early. Even if you prefer to leave your pet with a trusted family friend, you never know when circumstances might suddenly warrant a stay in a commercial kennel. The older the dog, the harder it is to adjust to the unfamiliar.
- Provide your pet with basic training so that kennel staff can clearly communicate with him. This also provides a sense of stability for your pet when he sees that they can "speak his language" by asking for common behaviors such as sit, down or wait.
- Continually expose your dog to the world around him. The more new experiences your dog encounters throughout his life, the easier it will be for him to acclimate to the environmental change of being in a kennel.
- Arrange for a "test run" at your facility of choice. An overnight trial can help reveal any potential issues before you're actually out of town.
- Avoid dietary changes in the days prior to boarding. Clients often worry that their pet will lose weight while kenneled and as a result, over-feed or

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add extra "treats" to the diet in the days leading up to kenneling. The added food combined with the initial stress of boarding often leads to digestive upset. For similar reasons, Gibson recommends that dogs arrive with an empty stomach.

- Whenever possible, try to avoid contact with other dogs for 7-10 days prior to boarding. This helps prevent the possibility of exposure to disease which could then be introduced into the kennel environment.

- When leaving your dog, avoid dramatic displays. Your intense emotions create undue stress for your dog.

- Be upfront and honest about your dog's habits and quirks. Says Gibson, "I want you to think of me as a friend. I care about your dog. I need you to be open with me. If your dog's a digger, tell me. If he's prone to chewing, tell me. When I know more about him, I can provide better care."

"Red Flags" and How to Handle a Bad Experience with a Boarding Kennel

If you experience the following, experts agree that you should run - don't walk - to another facility!

- You aren't allowed to see where your pet will be housed. Some facilities cite insurance reasons for keep-

ing owners out of the kennel area, but at a minimum, you should be allowed to look through a door or window and see the area where your pet will stay.

- Dirty facility. Pet messes should be cleaned up promptly and adequate air circulation (necessary for the good health of your pet) should prevent an overall "doggy" smell. In general, the facility should appear neat and clean and should not have an unpleasant odor.

- Inattentive staff. Their top priority should be the dogs. It's a bad sign if the one person watching a play group of dogs is suddenly the same person giving you a tour of the facility!

- Excessive barking. It's reasonable to expect bursts of barking when a human or dog travels through the kennel area. Continued barking likely points toward a bigger problem such as lack of exercise, lack of mental stimulation, inadequate potty opportunities or an overall high stress/anxiety level.

Should you have a bad experience with a boarding kennel, Pet Care Services Association's Charlotte Biggs recommends the following course of action:

1. Notify the facility manager and/or owner and ask for an explanation. Communication is important.
2. Consider taking your dog to the vet, so that he can corroborate and docu-

ment any physical evidence such as injuries or extreme weight loss/gain.

3. Contact Pet Care Services Association at (877) 570-7788 to file a report. All complaints against PCSA member facilities are thoroughly investigated by the Ethics Committee.

4. Contact your local Better Business Bureau.

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Caninestein Dog Training

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Stephanie Colman is a writer and dog trainer who has trained dogs professionally in Los Angeles, CA, for more than eight years. In addition to teaching private lessons and group classes, she provides twice-weekly training tips for the local NBC affiliate's morning show, "Today in LA". She shares her life with two dogs and actively competes in obedience and agility.



SIGN UP FOR KROGER'S 2011 NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR PROGRAM!

For the 2010 program year, MSRH received over \$1,900, because MSRH friends and family enrolled in the program. The 2011 program year started July 1, so if you haven't already enrolled, sign up today! All you need to do is go to:

http://www.msrh.org/wp-content/uploads/Kroger_2011-12_Neighbor_to_Neighbor.pdf

Print Kroger Customer Letter and take it with you to the store checkout stand. Ask the checker to scan the barcode on the letter together with your Kroger Plus Card. That's it. You're set for the rest of the year.

CUTE SCHNAUZER MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

What better way to treat yourself or a special Schnauzer loving someone than with the gift of a Schnauzer Christmas ornament, picture frame, or pen/pencil holder? All ornaments and the picture frame are designed to have that special Schnauzer's name printed on them. See the pictures below of the merchandise available. By the way, we can special order this merchandise for any breed of dog, if you are interested.



Schnauzer Holding Picture Frame
2-1/2" X 3-1/2"
Available with cropped ears or
uncropped ears
\$12.00



Schnauzer with Name Plaque
(grey cropped)
\$8.00



Schnauzer Ornament with Dangling
Legs (shown with uncropped ears)
\$10.00



Schnauzer with Name Plaque
(black cropped)
\$8.00



Schnauzer Ornament with Dangling
Legs (shown with cropped ears)
\$10.00



Schnauzer with Name Plaque
(grey uncropped)
\$8.00



Schnauzer in Doghouse Ornament
Available with cropped ears or
uncropped ears
\$8.00



Schnauzer Pen/Pencil Holder
Available with cropped ears
\$15.00

To purchase, please contact:

Paula Tolbert
E-mail: pjtolbert@yahoo.com
Home: (281) 358-2874
Cell: (281) 798-7920

Paula will meet you to deliver your merchandise. All proceeds will be donated to MSRH. Thanks always for your support!

Featured Pet—Teddy Jack



Hi! I'm Teddy Jack. I'm a male salt and pepper Mini Schnauzer. I'm two years old with natural ears, a docked tail and weigh 13 lbs. I get along with well others, can use a doggy door, and I'm almost house trained, I'm sure with a little assistance from you, I'll have that mastered in no time. As you can see, I am very cute, loveable and ready for adoption. I'm looking forward to meeting you and your family and becoming part of your household. We're going to have lots of fun.

Teddy Jack—ready for a new home!

Adoption Fee: \$450

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 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.

AUGUST 26 IS NATIONAL DOG DAY

BOOK OF THE MONTH

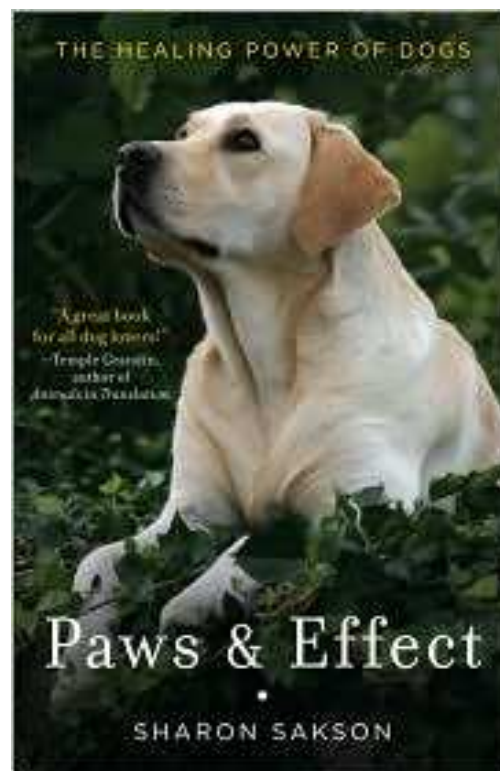
"PAWS & EFFECT: THE HEALING POWER OF DOGS"

By Sharon Sakson

Everyone now is familiar with stories of the amazing powers of therapy dogs: the old person in the nursing home whose blood pressure drops when they pet a visiting dog; the frightened child in the hospital who is willing to endure a painful treatment with a dog by her side; the abused or autistic child that will talk to a dog when they won't open up to an adult. But this book on the "healing power of dogs" goes far beyond that.

Ranging across time and culture, Sharon Sakson, in her engaging and lively style, tells stories that seem almost too amazing for belief. Except that she documents them with the hardest possible scientific evidence. If you are one of those people who believe that the bond between human and dog is far more profound than the word "pet" can ever convey, then this is the perfect book for you. And even if you're a person who places dogs in the same category as goldfish, but you enjoy a fascinating well-told story, you'll enjoy this book tremendously.

This book may be purchased from <http://www.amazon.com>, as well as other sources. Amazon prices are: Hardcover, \$16.47, Paperback, \$9.99. It is not available on Kindle yet. This book has received 35 reviews, with 32 of them being 5 stars.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sharon Sakson is a journalist, writer and television news producer who has been involved with purebred dogs for 30 years. She is a judge of Hound and Working breeds. She's bred champion Whippets and Brussels Griffons, and she's written four books about dogs. Sharon lives in Princeton, NJ.

Every dog owner knows there is something special about their dog. Our dogs give us love and support, comfort us, and admire us - but do they also help to heal us? That's the question at the center of Sharon Sakson's new book, *Paws & Effect: The Healing Power of Dogs*.

Her other books are: *Paws to Protect: Dogs Saving Lives & Restoring Hope*, *Brussels Griffons: A Complete Pet Owner's Manual*, and *Paws & Reflect: A Special Bond Between Man and Dog*, co-authored with Neil Plakcy.

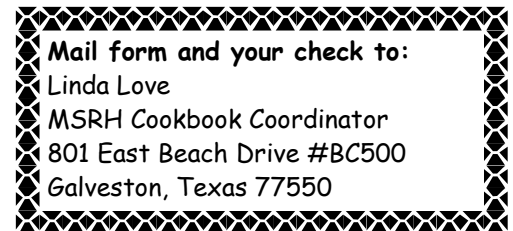
COOKBOOK PRE-ORDERS HAVE BEGUN

We have begun taking orders for the MSRH cookbook, "Schnauzerly Yours II, Recipes From Moose's Kitchen". In addition to just being a book of recipes, this will also be a photo album of adorable Schnauzers; it will tell about MSRH's beginning and history; it will acknowledge the folks who helped get MSRH started and the companies and veterinarians who support it today; and it will also include all of the things that you, the adopters, have written in about your special relationship with your dogs. It will be a keepsake. And, it will also make a nice gift for your friends and family.

We have begun taking pre-orders for the cookbook. The price is \$22.50 per book, including shipping. If you would like to place your order, you may do so by: 1) check or 2) Paypal

- 1) **If paying by check**, please make your check payable to **MSRH**, cut out, and complete the following form:

Name:	
Street or P. O. Box:	
City:	
State:	
Zip:	
Tel:	
E-mail:	
No. of Books:	
Amt. Enclosed:	



- 2) **If paying by Paypal**, email the same information requested in the form above (your mailing instructions, phone, e-mail, and number of books you wish to order) to linda.love0326@gmail.com. Then, go to:

<http://www.msrh.org/donate/>

At the bottom of the page, fill in the amount of your purchase, click 'Donate' and you will be directed to the Paypal screen. In the "Note to Seller", please indicate that the donation is for 'cookbook purchase'.

AUGUST 20 IS INTERNATIONAL HOMELESS ANIMALS DAY

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2011 YAPPY HOUR

Chair: Martha Sarrack
Tel: (281) 829-3293
E-mail: minimarti65@gmail.com
Where: Animal Tales—23930 Westheimer Parkway #115, Katy, TX 77494
Tel: (281) 395-5525 (Animal Tales)
Website: <http://www.animaltaleskaty.com>
Event Hours: 6—8PM

Please come out to support MSRH at this event. Contact Martha to arrange to bring your fosters out to meet the public and help with passing out flyers.

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY & SUNDAY OCTOBER 22 & 23, 2011 PETFEST

Chair: Karen Coleman
Where: Old Town Spring
Hours: Sat. 10AM—5PM; Yappy Hr. 4PM-9PM
 Sun. 11AM—5PM
Tel: (832) 277-4904
E-mail: houstonschnauzerrescue@yahoo.com

Volunteers are needed to man the booth part or all day either or both days. Please bring fosters to meet the public.

For more event details, go to:
<http://www.petfestoldtownspring.com>

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY OCTOBER 29, 2011 MSRH FALL GARAGE SALE

Chair: Martha Sarrack
Where: 21714 Moortown Circle
 Katy, TX 77450
Tel: (281) 829-3293 or (281) 825-8647
E-mail: minimarti65@gmail.com

Items are needed for the sale, so start cleaning out closets, attics, and garages. No clothing or books, but shoes, purses and accessories okay. Call Martha with questions. More details to come.

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2011 PET ADVENTURE DAY

Chair: Need Chair—if interested, contact Sherry Eitel
Where: Ella & Friends Dog Park, 500 W. 13th St., Deer Park, TX
Hours: 10:00AM to 2:00PM
Tel: (281) 358-7303 or (713) 298-4999
E-mail: sherry@eitel.com

RESULTS OF EVENTS PAST: Many thanks to all of you who came out on Thursday through Sunday, July 21—24, 2011, to man our booth at the Reliant World Series of Dog Shows. The dog show is always more fun than a barrel of Schnauzers, and this year was no exception! Special appreciation goes to **Paula Tolbert**, who chaired our booth. We are also grateful to those who brought their foster dogs: **Sherry Eitel**, **Pamela Avritt**, and **Donna Papparazzo**. The doggies are so irresistible and always attract so many visitors to our booth. Other volunteers who came to help pass out flyers and sell the merchandise that Paula had worked hard to put together for the booth were **Hanne Ozolins**, **Sharon** and **Lamar Nail**, **Linda Love**, **Jennifer Slaton**, **Laura Yokel**, **Barb Wirth**, **Blake Tolbert**, **Monna Rizal**, and **Martha** and **Anthony Sarrack**.

Many Thanks To Our July Transport Volunteers!

MUCH APPRECIATION GOES TO: **Marilyn Malaney** for picking up Polo at Harris Co. Animal Control on 7/1/11; **Dianna Tanner** for picking up Dawson at Town Lake Animal Care on 7/1/11; **Donna Papparazzo** for picking up Blanco, Chispita and Hilton at Montgomery Co. Animal Services on 7/1/11; **Martha Sarrack** for picking up Patti Mae, Sally Ann and Teddy Jack at BARC on 7/7/11; **Leslie Lapres** for picking up Leslie Renee at Harris Co. Animal Control on 7/9/11; **Good Samaritan Beth Werry/Regina Schroeder** for picking up Max, abandoned, on 7/9/11; **Carol Harrington** for picking up Franny Fay at LaPorte Animal Services on 7/10/11; **Carol Harrington** for picking up Bo, an owner surrender, on 7/13/11; **Linda Love** for picking up Cindy at Galveston Co. Animal Shelter on 7/13/11; **Jo Ann Ellis** for picking up Beebe, abandoned, on 7/13/11; **Sherry Eitel/GuINETTE Peebles** for picking up Asta and Dashiell from Poodle Rescue on 7/14/11; **Carol Harrington** for picking up Timmy at Pasadena Animal Control on 7/15/11; **Karen Coleman** for picking up Gregg at Harris Co. Animal Control on 7/17/11; **Connie/Mary Ann Esser** for picking up Dominic at Conroe Animal Shelter on 7/19/11; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Phoebe Diane at Harris Co. Animal Control on 7/19/11; **Gay Nowlin Angelone** for picking up Smokey Don at Harris Co. Animal Control on 7/20/11; **Marilyn Muzny** for picking up Pippa, abandoned, on 7/21/11; **Mechtilde Willumsen** for picking up Betty at Harris Co. Animal Control on 7/24/11; **Jerry Strouse** for picking up Katrina at Rita B. Huff Animal Shelter on 7/26/11; **Connie Seagroves** for picking up Peaches at Town Lake Animal Care on 7/26/11; **Sherry Eitel** for picking up Leonard and Sheldon at Harris Co. Animal Control on 7/27/11; **Sandra Board** for picking up Scruffy Allen, a stray, on 7/28/11; and **Emily Farmer** for picking up Astrid and Birgitta, strays, on 7/29/11.

From the Editor

Dear Readers:

Just want to let everyone know that our order has been placed with Morris Press Cookbooks. They received it on Friday, August 12. On average it takes about 45 days to process. The books will be shipped to me, so I should have them by the end of September. I will ship them to those of you who have placed orders as soon as I have the books in hand.

You will note that during the month of July we had far more intakes than we had adoptions (see banner below). This is due in large part to the problems we have been having with our website since last May. For one thing, it has made it very difficult for us to receive adoption applications, as well as communications in general. Anyway, it is my understanding that

this is all in the process of being remedied thanks to our webmaster Rick Meidel, Ryan Nutt, and Bob Towle.

Because of this unusual number of intakes versus adoptions, we are seriously in need of foster volunteers and/or donations. Without enough fosters, we have to board more dogs at \$6 per day per dog, plus we have to provide the food for them. While this doesn't sound like much, it adds up in a hurry when there are multiple dogs involved. When you consider caring for only one dog over a month's time, that's approximately \$200 for that one dog. Last I heard, there were about 25 to 30 to care for. You do the math. This doesn't count the routine veterinary expenses that we pay all of the time.

Let's face it. We are never rolling in the dough. It just isn't the nature of



Linda with Sophie & Barkley

any animal rescue organization. However, now just happens to be an especially hard time for us. We will get through it. We always do somehow, because our MSRH family members love our little Minis and will never let them down.

Sincerely,
Linda

JULY INTAKES = 35 ADOPTIONS = 18