



Schnauzer Tales

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3

DECEMBER 2010

**Miniature
Schnauzer
Rescue of
North Texas**

"Opt to Adopt"

MSRNT is a
Non-Profit Organi-
zation 501(c)(3)

Contact Us:

P.O. Box 112341
Carrollton, TX
75011

206-333-0156

www.msrrnt.com

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**Holiday Sur-
vival Guide** 2

Donations 3

**Spotlight on
Schnauzer
Stars** 4

Santa Paws 6

Happy Tails 7

Contest Info 7

**Cricket's
Corner** 8

Kroger Info 9

Fosters Give The Greatest Gift Of All

"I just don't know how you do it. I would never be able to give up a foster dog". MSRNT foster parents hear those words many times from people who wonder how our volunteers manage to say goodbye to a dog after caring for it like a member of the family. Each foster parent has a different way of expressing it, but to a man and woman they all agree that the reward of seeing the joy of a family adopting their foster dog is tremendous, and well worth the momentary sadness when the time comes to part with the dog. "We say goodbye knowing that our precious foster dog is going to a wonderful home, with a loving family. There is a profound joy in turning over a rescued schnauzer to an excited new family. We may sometimes shed a few tears, but then we turn our attention to the next Schnauzer who needs our love and attention," said one foster Mom.



What's it like?

Being a foster is a bit like being a grandparent with visiting grandkids. Fosters experience all the joys of being there for a dog, making a difference in its life, loving it, playing and working with it, and preparing it to transition to the next phase of its life. Then it's time to turn the dog back over to its (new) parents. All of this without the cost of college! Fosters are often rewarded by watching a frightened Schnauzer that came from a shelter grow in trust and strength after

the unpleasant experience of being lost, or surrendered by their owner. Better than the TV, the dog also provides a wide variety of great entertainment. He may arrive in your home withdrawn from his past experience, but within a week he is in your lap asking for attention or running through the house playing with or hiding his new found treasures (toys).

"While there is an element of sadness when you say goodbye, I'm not sure how to express the joy we receive in giving a bouncing schnauzer to the adopting family. Sometimes we're also helping to fill the void if a previous pet has died, or helping someone faced with loneliness and the need to nurture after the death of a spouse. In other cases, we're providing a companion who completes the family.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Holiday Survival Guide for your Canine



At our house, no other words are as disappointing to our Schnauzer girls as “Not for doggies!” we admonish while nibbling on a square of dark chocolate. And while the big brown eyes staring back tug at our heartstrings, we stand firm. Because, as most people know, **chocolate is not for doggies!**

With the holidays upon us, we are reminded of a long list of seasonal fare that is not for doggies. While not an all-inclusive list, other foods that can cause issues ranging from minor stomach upset to seizures or death in canines include **raisins and grapes, onions, garlic, macadamia nuts, coffee, raw yeast dough** (which can expand in the digestive tract), **avocado, milk, raw eggs, and uncooked meat, fish and poultry.** The artificial sweetener **xylitol**, present in some gums, candies, and baked goods is also toxic, and even spices such as **nutmeg** can be dangerous. Rich, fatty foods such as **gravy and meats** can cause digestive ailments up to and including pancreatitis, which can result in death. So despite the pitiful begging, resist the urge to share your holiday feast! **Bones from fish, meat and**

poultry can also be problematic. Treats from a pet store or pet bakery are a great alternative. Also on the list of culinary offenders is the **alcoholic beverage.** Keep cocktails out of reach! A glass of wine or spiked eggnog may warm the soul on a cold winter’s night but when slurped down by your canine, may find you spending the evening in a veterinary emergency clinic with a comatose dog.

Of course, an item does not have to be classified as “food” by the human to be considered edible by the canine! The much-loved **poinsettia** can be troublesome to our plant-munching pets. More toxic holiday plants include **ivy, holly, mistletoe and their berries.** Even the foliage of **juniper, pine, cedar and fir** can cause mouth and stomach irritation. Beware, however, the false sense of security that comes with an **artificial tree.** Dogs have been known to chew those as well.

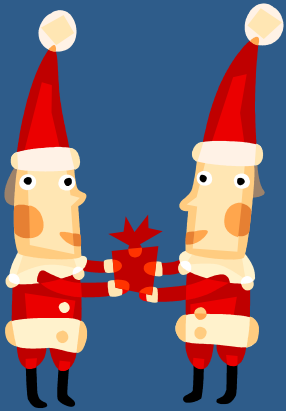
Speaking of O Tannenbaum, be sure to secure the tree, even if that requires tethering it to a wall or window with fish line. **Water in the tree stand** may be tempting for

a thirsty pup but if treated with an aspirin or a preservative containing sugar that promotes bacterial growth, it can be harmful. Cover the stand well with a tree skirt or other barrier. Bubble lights, glass ornaments and ornament hooks can spell danger.

Tinsel, garland, artificial snow and ribbons can cause intestinal blockage if consumed, often requiring emergency surgery. And, although **candy canes and popcorn/cranberry garlands** may be attractive, decorating with food is a recipe for disaster! Keep in mind also that the canine nose knows! A festively-wrapped box containing a **meat and cheese gift pack, a fruitcake or even potpourri** may not make it until Christmas Morn when placed beneath the tree.

Between holiday parties, shopping, decorating and chores, our dogs may not get the attention they normally receive. Those with separation anxiety may be particularly affected but all dogs can feel loneliness and disruption in their daily routines.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Give while getting groceries!



Shop at **Kroger** and **Tom Thumb** and MSRNT will earn extra \$\$\$\$ through your generosity at either grocery store chain.

Kroger

“Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program” - Clip the Customer Letter attached to the end of this issue of "Schnauzer Tales" and follow the instructions for initiating the reward program. Once you have set it up, there is nothing further to be done

other than to use your Kroger card.

Tom Thumb Good Neighbor Program – includes all Tom Thumb, Randall's & Simon David stores. Use your Remarkable/Reward Card and supply the store with the MSRNT Good Neighbor Number – which is **12542**. To ensure that MSRNT receives the highest possible return, you will need to communicate our account number to your local store. You may need to fill out an application available at

the Courtesy Booth to ensure that your Reward Card links to the MSRNT account number. Once established every time you use your card at Tom Thumb, MSRNT will receive a percentage of the sale.

We appreciate your generosity and that of the grocery in supporting MSRNT, especially during the holiday season.



Alex survived Halloween in this cute little number!

Survival Guide cont...

Holiday lights present another danger. **Electrical cords and batteries** can cause burns or worse when treated as chew toys. Unplug lights and other holiday displays when not in use. Applying a bitter-tasting product – available at most pet stores – to wires and cords often discourages would-be munchers. **Candles** are an obvious concern – place them well beyond the reach of probing paws and curious noses.

While the holidays are meant to be enjoyable, they can be stressful to our four-legged friends. Parties and

holiday dinners bring visitors unfamiliar to our pups. Children, especially, may cause stress in a dog unaccustomed to them. Advise well-meaning guests up front not to share goodies with your dog. Be vigilant about keeping drinks and food off low-lying tables. Keep trash cans and ashtrays away from your pup. Even small amounts of tobacco can be fatal to a dog. Ultimately, it is best to keep your pooch in a quiet room, away from all the commotion.

Your veterinarian can most likely provide the phone number and address of a 24-

hour veterinary emergency clinic which should be kept posted in a convenient location. If, despite your best efforts, Fido ingests or comes in contact with a dangerous substance or object, this information can be life-saving.

Aside from keeping our canines away from all those not-for-doggies hazards, we need to spend a moment every now and with our little friends. Take a walk, toss a ball, give your pal a big hug. Because, of all the gifts you can give your canine this season, there is none greater than the gift of your love.



Fostering Cont.



Cricket and Lola showing their Texas Ranger pride!

We help change lives, for the better,” said another foster Mom. Foster parents also continue to get “warm fuzzies” when they hear from an adopter months later through emails or see a “Happy Tails” story sent to MSRNT.

Shared Commitment

What is required to be an MSRNT foster parent? A desire to give back to the

community in the form of fostering. Being a current or past Schnauzer Mom or Dad--to have an understanding of the breed--is preferred. You must live in the DFW area, and be able to provide the dog with love, exercise, discipline and rewards. MSRNT pays for any medical expenses the Schnauzer needs while in foster care. Fosters provide a home, good food, love and attention. They make time to take the dog to the vet if necessary, bring the dog to periodic MSRNT adoption events, or to meet prospective adopters. In the event that work or pleasure calls the foster family out of town, others from MSRNT step in to care for the dog while the foster is gone. Think you don't have enough time? Most of our foster parents also

work full-time.

More Fosters Needed

Sadly, without more foster parents MSRNT cannot take in all of the schnauzers that need to be rescued. Our ability to save more dogs depends upon having enough foster homes to accommodate them. One more foster parent will save more Schnauzers from euthanasia at a shelter. A typical MSRNT foster parent is personally responsible for saving the lives of 8-15 Schnauzers each year. Saying yes is not only rewarding for you, but truly helps saves these precious lives! Are you interested in learning more about being a foster volunteer for MSRNT? If so, go to <http://www.msrint.com/html/fostering.html> and use the link to the application to foster.

What's in a name?

Ever wonder how MSRNT dogs get their names? If the dog's name is unknown, usually the foster parent or MSRNT volunteer who picks the dog up from a shelter will give the dog a

name. Some names “stick” after the dog is adopted, and other times the family will change the name. Do you have some ideas for great Schnauzer names for our foster dogs—

both male and female? If so, send them to us at karenwatson1@tx.rr.com and you may see one of your suggested names appear on a future “Adoptable Dogs” list!

Happy Tails - Jasmine



“Sorry it’s taken so long to get back with you. Jasmine is a real sweetheart. She is a very social dog with people and other doggies. She has learned to love car rides and we even taught her how to fetch although she would

rather play keep away from the boys. She is just over 12 lbs. She puts herself to “nighty-night” in her crate if we take too long. She is well manned except for when guests first arrive as she wants all the attention. She is a jealous doggie if we are giving hugs and she is not included. Our neighbor just got a puppy Schnauzer so she will be able to have a

playmate; although right now the puppy runs from her more than plays with her. She is quite spoiled as even the boys will put a sweater on her to go out if it is cold. I will try to take a picture of her at Christmas with the boys and send it back to you. We are sooo happy with her!”

Kelly Jo

Santa Paws Photos

MSRNT is pleased to announce!

Santa Pet Photo Benefit



Schnauzers love the holidays!

From left to right: Jasper, Jax (Dallas), Gus, and Dexter

Santa is Coming to Town to support our Schnauzers by posing with your pets!

**Come join the fun!
Get a great photo and support a great cause!**

For more info see our website for further details at www.msrint.com

Questions?
Donations@MSRNT.com

**December 4-5, 2010
(Saturday & Sunday)**

at **PetSmart** from 11 - 4
Address: 5401 N Garland Ave
Garland, TX 75040
(972) 675-4900

December 11, 2010 (Saturday)
at **PetCo** from 1 - 4

PETCO #106 at Prestonwood
Address: 5301 Beltline Rd. #106
Dallas, TX 75254
(972) 788-0460

December 19, 2010 (Saturday)
at **PetSmart** from 11 - 4

Address: 415 Carroll St.
Fort Worth, TX
76107
(817) 820-0630



Happy Tails - Zoe



The following is a letter MSRNT recently received from a past adopter.

*Former foster
Zoe has a grand
life and a new
little sister called
Mika!*

Hello MSRNT:

It has been my wish to write to you after so many years of sharing the love and joy of our family with a dog rescued from your organization.

A while has passed since my family has been in contact with your rescue, but this is the only email address I could find after checking back on PetFinder and your website. We adopted a Miniature Schnauzer, Zoe, from EllenMarie's foster care back on March 18, 2006 I believe. What a wonderful day that was. I clearly remember the antici-

pation of meeting our first and forever companion after driving for five hours to Dallas on a cold rainy day. The day after that was beautiful and warm after bringing Zoe home.

We no longer live in Houston, where we lived when we first brought her home, but have moved to the northeast states. Almost five years have passed by, and adopting from your rescue has been the most positive experience we have had. Zoe has transformed from her shy self and is now a playful, devoted dog lady who never leaves you out of sight. One thing she always loves is a baby carrot after doing a trick she has learned -- she learned nearly ten (okay, it's not THAT impressive, but she does anything for a carrot)! She is still very dainty, mellow, and polite

as she has always been. She also does this cute little thing where she presses her head against your chest right near your heart when she wants you to pet her. We will never forget the years which have past and the many years to come. If we move back to Texas and wish for another lovely Schnauzer, we know which rescue to look to. What a prayer that has been answered! Please let EllenMarie know of our thanks, and I'm sure Zoe remembers her.

I have attached a photo of Zoe and her new sister, a little mix breed we recently adopted to post in your happy tails out of our complete gratitude.

Thank you so, so much for this wonderful Schnauzer.

-The Park Family

Schnauzer Snaps - Holiday Photo Contest

Please send us the cutest holiday photos of your little schnauzer! We'd especially love to see our alumni!

The top three snaps and two honorable mentions will be featured in the next issue of *Schnauzer Tales*. Please email a jpg or bit map file to donations@msrnt.com by January 31st.

Cricket's Corner



Hi Cricket,

Charlie here! I enjoyed your article in the last issue of **"SCHNAUZER TALES"** so I thought I'd write to you about myself. I'm a two year old black Schnauzer who has been a part of MSRNT since October 2008. My foster par-

ents said that I was a sickly child who had to fight for survival. I don't really remember that, but if it gets me some additional TLC I'm all for it. Anyway, my foster parents said that I was so cute that they had to adopt me and give me my forever home! I'm glad they did because I'm quite happy in my home with my family. I have a sister who is quite different from me; they say she isn't a Schnauzer, but we get along quite well. She is a lot older than me, so I watch what I say to her.

Mom & Dad say that I am an ambassador for MSRNT. I'm not sure what that means, but I know I stay quite busy. Usually we have one or two other Schnauzers staying at our house for short periods of time. I'm supposed to help them adjust to a new life before going into their "forever home". Now that is really a lot of work. I've

got to make them feel welcomed in our home, play with them, teach them manners and show them the ropes on how to be a good loving Schnauzer. Believe it or not, I have to share all my toys and treats with them. I could do without the sharing part! I like to play with most of my foster brothers and sisters but there are some that bug me! Unfortunately, my parents say that I need to treat them equally! It can be quite a job for me to handle. I also like to run around the house and yard with my cousins. Some of them are so shy that they don't want to play with me. These guys are the hardest to bring around to my way of thinking. Mom says they are shy because they have had a hard life. That's when I try real hard to get them to play with me. After a while we are just running around and having fun. We like to go for walks or to the dog park. When we go to the dog park I like to play boss because I have more experience at barking and running around the park.

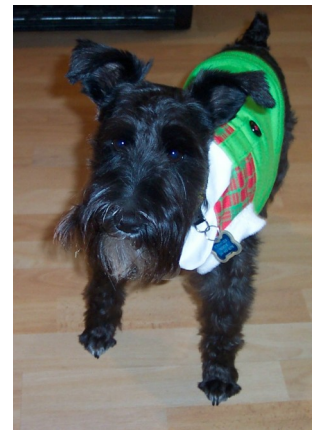
I do get jealous sometimes because the fosters get to go more places with my parents than I do. My Dad tells me that's because they have to go to "events" to meet and greet new

people to see if a family wants to adopt them and give them a forever home. Oh well, when they come home from these events, I'm happy to see them so we can play.

Sometimes I'm sad to see them leave our house; other times I'm happy to say goodbye. It really is a lot of fun being part of MSRNT. I'm always meeting new friends who have different personalities and we learn to share our lives. This makes my parents happy.

Every day my parents tell me they love me and say how special I am as well as thank me for all the work I do to make my Schnauzer cousins feel welcome into our home. I like to complain about my work, but really I do enjoy it!

Thanks Cricket for listening to my story! Charlie.





Customer Letter



Step One:

Read through this letter to understand the advantage of being a part of the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program.

Step Two:

Take the letter with you to your neighborhood Kroger store the next time you go shopping.

Step Three:

Present the letter with your organization's barcode to your cashier upon checkout. After they have scanned your KrogerPlus Card you will be enrolled for the current year of the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program. Every time you shop at Kroger and use your enrolled KrogerPlus Card, Kroger will contribute a percentage of your eligible purchases to the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation fund. Once a card is scanned with the barcode, it will be active for the remainder of the program year.

Q & A

How many Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor accounts can an organization have?

One per organization.

Can a household "link" their KrogerPlus Card to more than one organization at a time?

No, the system allows for one organization per household. To change organizations, you must present your KrogerPlus Card and the new organization's barcode to the cashier.

Do I have to enroll each program year?

Yes, all organization's and participants must re-enroll for each program year. Enrollment is June 1, 2010 through Dec 31, 2010 The Neighbor to Neighbor Program accumulation is July 1, 2010 through April 30, 2011.

How much can my organization earn?

The Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program will donate \$1 million annually. Each organization will earn a percentage of the \$1 million equal to the percentage of total earned contributions attributable to that organization.

Kroger Cashier: 1. Scan customer's KrogerPlus Card 2. Scan the attached Organization's barcode.

The customer's Kroger Plus Card is now enrolled in the Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program & contributing funds to their organization. When you scan the barcode, the description on the receipt will say "Loyalty Div 0.00". This means the barcode was properly scanned. The following Friday, the customer's receipt will display a message at the bottom of the receipt saying "Your card is contributing to Neighbor to Neighbor #12345"

MINIATURE SCHNAUZER RESCUE OF NORTH TEXAS



Please feel free to contact a Kroger Neighbor to Neighbor Donation Program Representative with any additional questions at 866-995-7643 or email to neighbortoneighbor@kroger.com. Additional information is also available at www.krogerneighbortoneighbor.com.