

New Jersey Schnauzer Rescue Network, Inc.

June 2009 | Volume 1, Issue 2

Dear Friend of NJSRN,

Thank you all for your comments and suggestions following the inaugural edition of our electronic newsletter. We received an overwhelming response asking us to continue this newsletter, and we're happy to oblige! In this and future editions, we will respond to some of your questions, share stories from some of our adopters, provide you with Schnauzer-specific health and nutrition information, and link you to some of our favorite web sites.

One of our former adopters suggested we share with you some information on pancreatitis - a health problem often seen in Miniature Schnauzers. Pancreatitis can cause long-term health problems and, left untreated, can even lead to death. We'd like to thank Mike for suggesting this article.

Please continue to send your comments, ideas for future articles, and of course - updates on your adopted Schnauzers! Please drop us a line at newsletter@njsrn.org - we would love to hear from you!

The Members of NJSRN

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A Serious Health Problem: Pancreatitis

We recently heard from one of our adopters, Mike M. from Baltimore. Eight years ago, he adopted a three-year-old Miniature Schnauzer named Fritz from NJSRN. Several years ago, a few days after dining on a steak bone, Fritz started vomiting and acting very lethargic - Mike

Featured Dog of the Month



Missy was rescued from a puppy mill in Buffalo, NY. Are YOU the one who can help her make her former life a distant memory?

To learn more about Missy, [click here.](#)

Calling all Adopters!!

Help NJSRN Keep Track of our Rescues

NJSRN maintains a database of all of our rescues. Please help us keep our database current by sending any updated information. If you've moved, changed your email address, changed your dog's name, changed your spouse's name (!), or if your "fur baby" has passed away, please email us at newsletter@njsrn.org.

We'd also love to hear from you if you just want to tell us a cute story about your rescue or send an updated photo!

And don't forget ...

If you have adopted from us, don't forget that we are available 24/7 via email (info@njsrn.org) or during

knew something was seriously wrong. He rushed Fritz to the emergency clinic, where the vet diagnosed pancreatitis. Four days and a lot of worry (not to mention money!) later, Fritz was released to complete his recovery at home.

Fritz continues to have bouts of pancreatitis and has since developed other health problems, including diabetes, which may be related to chronic pancreatitis. Mike knows what to watch for, and he rushes Fritz to the vet for treatment at the slightest sign. Mike suggested we share information on this condition with our adopters so that they can avoid this problem with their pets.



Above, Fritz M. with one of his toys.

Pancreatitis

Pancreatitis is an inflammation of the pancreas, a small organ that produces digestive enzymes and insulin. When the pancreas is not functioning properly (or not functioning at all), pancreatitis occurs. Pancreatitis can strike a dog at any age, though it seems to affect middle-aged and elderly dogs more than younger ones. Smaller breeds - like Miniature Schnauzers - seem to be more susceptible than larger dogs. Overweight dogs are much more likely to develop pancreatitis. Pancreatitis can be acute (occurring only once), or it can become chronic (recurring).

Signs and Symptoms

Since our dogs can't tell us when they're in pain, it's important to watch for changes in their appetite and behavior. Dogs with pancreatitis often stop eating and drinking. They may also have diarrhea, vomiting, or appear restless. If your dog won't lie down completely, changes position often, or lies on his/her chest while keeping his/her backend in the air, **call your vet IMMEDIATELY.**

Diagnosis and Treatment

Pancreatitis can be difficult to diagnose because the common symptoms of pancreatitis are also symptoms of other conditions. Your vet will likely run blood and urine tests to measure the levels of enzymes found in the pancreas (serum amylase and lipase) and liver (alkaline phosphatase and alanine transferase (ALT)). Dogs with pancreatitis often also have hyperlipidemia (high fat content in the blood stream) but it's not clear whether this leads to pancreatitis or if it's the other way around.

the day/evening by phone (732-920-8242) to answer questions and offer advice. (Please, no non-emergency calls after 9 p.m.)

Upcoming Events

WoofStock

Riverfront Park
Harrisburg, PA
Sunday, September 20
11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Click [here](#) for more information.
We hope to see you there!

Links

[More on NJSRN](#)

[To Adopt a Dog](#)

[Current Adoptables](#)

[To Surrender a Dog](#)

[Simply Schnauzer Health and Nutrition](#)

[Pancreatitis in Dogs](#)

**NJSRN Recognized as
Most Fetching Member
at WoofStock 2008!!**



In the very first year of WoofStock awards, the Central Pennsylvania Animal Alliance (CPAA) recognized NJSRN as the **Most Fetching Member** at WoofStock 2008. We would like to thank CPAA for this award. We hope to have an even better booth at WoofStock 2009 - and **we hope to see you there!**

Prevention

Many experts agree that while certain dogs appear pre-disposed to pancreatitis, others develop it because of a poor diet. NJSRN recommends feeding your dog high quality foods with premium/human-grade ingredients. We aim for a fat content less than 14%. While convenient, the dog foods you find in grocery and discount stores are usually high in fat. They include little protein; lots of fillers, dyes, and by-products; and have little to no nutritional value. Switching your dog to a high quality food may help to avoid pancreatitis completely. Premium foods may be a little more expensive than convenience foods, but they will help keep your pet healthier, which means fewer veterinary bills. You'll also discover that you have less waste to pick up on your daily walks because your dog is able to digest and use more of his/her food!

And don't forget your dog's treats - they may also be high in fat. Veterinarians report that they treat many cases of pancreatitis after every holiday that includes a big holiday meal. Be careful not to give your pet more than a few bites from the dinner table, and if your dog has a history of pancreatitis, don't give him/her **any** table scraps - and avoid visiting the emergency veterinarian on a holiday.

It's important to take pancreatitis seriously. If your dog shows signs of illness and doesn't want to eat, don't try to tempt him/her with "special" high-fat treats - it will only make the condition worse. If your dog doesn't appear to be getting better within 24 hours, don't try to "wait it out" - even with treatment, **PANCREATITIS CAN BE FATAL**.

Mike doesn't want anyone to have to go through what he and Fritz have been through, and asked us to let everyone know that Miniature Schnauzers "should be fed a diet low in fat to give them a better chance of not developing this painful disease."

NJSRN would like to thank Mike M. for sharing their story - and for taking such good care of Fritz!

FAQs

What's so great about Miniature Schnauzers?

They sure are cute! Aside from that, this is a truly versatile breed. Typically weighing less than 20 pounds, Miniature Schnauzers are "portable" dogs. Anyone who's ever had to carry a Great Dane can appreciate the size factor! But don't let their small size fool you. They are a "big" dog in a small package! Miniature Schnauzers are robust, agile dogs that love hiking and walks. They are lots of fun and always ready for play but are also happy to curl up on your lap. They're also non-shedding, making them an excellent choice for people with allergies.

Every breed has some less desirable qualities. What about the Miniature Schnauzer?

Miniature Schnauzers have a strong prey drive. Originally bred to hunt rats and other vermin on farms, they will instinctively bolt after squirrels, birds, and bunnies; therefore, a Schnauzer can **NEVER** be trusted off-leash. Even household pocket pets (hamsters, gerbils, mice, Guinea pigs, etc.) must be confined safely away from pet Schnauzers. This inherent trait cannot be "trained out" of this feisty little breed. Another interesting fact: most Schnauzers cannot swim, so beware around pools and ponds.

Why can't Miniature Schnauzers swim?

There are several reasons: dense muscle and bone structure make

Click [here](#) for more information on this far-out festival.

Shop Online and Benefit NJSRN

If you shop on-line, you can help NJSRN! We are registered with both [igive](#) and [helpingudders](#). Giving is simple. Just use either service when you shop on-line, and designate NJSRN as your charity of choice - what could be easier?



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them sink like stones; short legs make it hard to "doggie paddle"; and no tail means no way to steer in the water!

Schnauzers are a "sturdy" breed, and have denser muscle and skeletal structures than many other breeds of the same size. The breed standard calls for a "nearly square" proportion of body length to height - Schnauzers don't have long legs (or webbed feet) like dogs that take to water easily. All water dogs have something that most Schnauzers don't have - a tail! A dog's tail works like a rudder when they're swimming. Docked tails don't work as rudders.

You know how difficult it is to convince your Schnauzer to go outside when it's raining? Most Schnauzers don't enjoy getting wet, which makes swimming all the more difficult!!

All breeds have health issues. What issues are prevalent in Miniature Schnauzers?

Most health issues in this breed can be averted with a quality diet and regular veterinary exams. Schnauzers are prone to pancreatitis, an inflammation of the pancreas. Quality low-fat food, weight control, and exercise will help keep most Schnauzers from developing pancreatitis. Weight control and exercise will also help prevent diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. A common problem in the breed is bladder stones; however, with the help of your veterinarian, there are often precautions that can be taken to prevent stone formation, including routine urinalysis and feeding prescription diets when necessary. Also, keep your Schnauzer well hydrated, with fresh water available 24/7. Home dental care is required to avoid dental disease. Use a toothbrush or commercial wipes designed specifically for dogs. During your Schnauzer's annual exam, ask your veterinarian about a professional dental cleaning. Just as with humans, if you ignore your teeth, they'll go away! Health screening and maintenance are the keys to a healthy pet.

Donate Now!

NJSRN is an all-volunteer organization. We have no shelter, no employees, and no overhead expenses. All donations go toward the care and re-homing of Miniature Schnauzers in need. Your donations cover the costs of spay/neuter surgeries; vaccinations; testing and treatment for heartworms and other internal parasites; dental cleanings and extractions, if necessary; and urinalysis to check for infections or stones.

NJSRN has received tax-exempt status under Internal Revenue Code section 501(c)(3), which means that contributions made to NJSRN may be claimed as charitable deductions on your federal income taxes. (Please check with your tax advisor.)

Financial donations of any amount are always appreciated. If you would like to help, but can't send a financial donation right now, there are other ways you can help - we're always looking for foster and transport volunteers.

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NJSRN is a federally registered 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization. Financial and other information on NJSRN may be obtained from the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey by calling 973-504-6215, or found on-line by clicking [here](#) (enter "Schnauzer" in the search box). Registration with the Attorney General does not imply endorsement.

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