

New Jersey Schnauzer Rescue Network Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 1
Spring 2011

Introducing NJSRN's New Logo

Did you notice it as soon as you looked at the newsletter? NJSRN is proud to introduce you to our new logo, designed by artist and Miniature Schnauzer breeder Catherine (Kate) McMillan of Saskatchewan, Canada. The logo is uniquely NJSRN's ... it incorporates our name, images of cropped and natural-eared Schnauzers, and a life preserver that represents the lifeline you and NJSRN provide to Schnauzers in need of loving new homes.

Ms. McMillan is a talented artist who is especially known for her Miniature Schnauzer paintings and sculptures. She also does custom portraits if you're interested in a painting of your Schnauzer(s). To see her canine artwork, visit <http://www.katewerk.com/k9art.html>. Should you order artwork from Kate, please mention you met her through NJSRN ... she'll appreciate the gesture.

Wondering what will become of the familiar artwork donated to us by the late Schnauzer artist Lori Bush? Lori was a special person who captured the essence of Schnauzers for many years. We will continue to appreciate and use her artwork.

In This Issue

Newsletter Naming Contest

Spring and Smelly Visitors: Skunk Deodorizer Recipe

Dog Parks - Are they Right for You and Your Schnauzer?

Vet Office Visits Made Easy

Special Connections: Jennifer & John W.

K9 Nosework: The Fun Sport for Every Schnauzer

Special Connections: Lucy is Home!

Shop to Support NJSRN

Keep your Schnauzer Mentally Stimulated

Newsletter Naming Contest



It occurred to us that our newsletter also needs an identity of its own and what better way than to ask you, our dedicated readers, to provide suggestions for a name. The winner and their Schnauzer(s) will be featured in the inaugural issue of the newly named newsletter.

Contest rules: NJSRN will accept your suggestions through April 30, 2011. There's no limit to the number of names you can submit. E-mail your ideas to Newsletter@njsrn.org. The decision of the NJSRN contest committee is final. Name submissions and the selected name become the property of NJSRN.

NJSRN's New Logo!



Survey

Please click [here](#) to take a very short survey (only one question!) about our newsletter.

Training Corner



*Gus P. at graduation.
Gus is one of the dogs from
our big Maryland rescue in
2010.*

K9 Nosework: The Fun Sport for Every Schnauzer

K9 Noseworks is an exciting new sport and activity that is designed to let dogs develop their natural scenting abilities by using their curiosity, desire to hunt, and their love of food, toys, and exercise. Dogs have fun, develop confidence, and get the exercise

Spring and Smelly Visitors: Skunk Deodorizer Recipe

The weather is warming up and that means more wildlife will be roaming through our yards and parks. And what Miniature Schnauzer doesn't love to chase the critter du jour? But when that critter is a skunk, we all suffer and want to eliminate the odor quickly. This tried and true recipe will help your Schnauzer get back on the couch and in bed.



First, and most important: Do not bathe the dog!

Do not douse him with tomato juice, water, or any other home remedies you've heard about. Immediately grab several pints of 3% hydrogen peroxide, a box of baking soda, and dog shampoo, liquid soap, or dishwashing liquid. Keep these items and this article in your cupboard in the spring and fall.

Mix two pints of hydrogen peroxide in a bowl or bucket with 1/4 cup of baking soda. This will start fizzing and bubbling (which is why you can't pre-make the solution and store it in a bottle). Add a teaspoon of dog shampoo, liquid soap, or dishwashing liquid; the soap helps distribute the mixture through the dog's hair. Wet the dog thoroughly with the mixture, sponging carefully around the face. Most dogs' faces will be badly skunked, so you really want to wet the face, but don't get it in their eyes or nose because it stings. A drop of mineral oil in each of the dog's eyes will help reduce, but not eliminate, the stinging.

You'll notice an immediate cessation of the skunk smell. Skunk spray contains a substance known as "thiol" - an organosulfur compound that contains a sulfur-hydrogen bond. The compounds can be immediately altered into odor-free neutral substances by making oxygen molecules (provided by the fresh hydrogen peroxide/baking soda mix) bond with and chemically alter the thiols.

After the dog is thoroughly wetted with the mixture, and every trace of the scent is gone, then rinse the dog with water, or bathe him with water and shampoo, to rinse off the mixture (which can irritate and dry his skin if left on). Don't be surprised if your Schnauzer's coat color is a lighter color from the hydrogen peroxide.

You'll want to follow these easy steps as quickly as possible because it works best on the fresh, unoxidized compounds in the skunk "spray" and because you'll be suffering. Remember that if the dog has been bathed or rinsed with water, this mixture is not as effective as it would have been with fresh skunk spray. You'll think this formula is magic, but it's actually just good science.

Dog Parks - Are they Right for You and Your Schnauzer?

NJSRN often hears from current and prospective owners that dog parks will be a part of the exercise regimen for their Miniature Schnauzer. We're pleased that Sabine Platten has provided permission to reprint her article "Dog Parks - the Why's and Why Not's" with the goal of helping each of us to determine if dog parks are right for the Schnauzer/Schnauzer mixes we love and with whom we share our lives.

Dog Parks - the Why's and Why Not's

The scene is idyllic - open field, lots of green grass, safely fenced in, and lots of dogs of all sizes and shapes romping across the fields while their owners watch smiling from the sidelines, enjoying the sunshine. This is the way that we think (wish, hope) dog parks look and function.

and mental stimulation they crave. Dogs and handlers can work their way up to competition level or just enjoy the sport as a new, fun activity to share.

Inspired by the world of detection, K9 Nosework is not a method for training a detection or search and rescue (SAR) dog. The sport borrows elements from the activities of detection canines and puts them in a recreational setting. This allows dogs to experience the fun, sniffing part of these activities without the risk or liability of professional search canines. The sport has four elements of competition: box/container drill, interior building search, exterior area search, and vehicle search.

To get started:

1. Obtain a variety of cardboard boxes and other unsealed containers. Vented boxes (such as empty tissue and shoe boxes with holes) as well as fanny packs are ideal. Boxes can be all sizes; lay them on their sides, open, and close the flaps. Save a few coffee cup or deli container lids that fit inside the boxes. Mark one or two boxes as the "food" boxes.
2. Get some smelly treats; favorites may include salmon, sardines, or liverwurst. Some dogs are more motivated by toys, so use what is of the most interest to each dog.
3. Select a search environment such as your home or apartment; start searching in one room and gradually expand to include all rooms. If working outdoors, work on hard surfaces, not grass or dirt.
4. Minimize distractions; work only one dog at a time and put other dogs in a quiet, out of the way place.
5. With your dog restrained/crated or in a different room, scatter the boxes in the room to be searched. Put them in a random pattern or line them up ... it doesn't matter. Use only one "food" box.
6. Put some treats on a lid in the box marked "food." Have a few

However, the reality is quite different. So this is the question: Should I take my dog or puppy to the dog park? Isn't the socialization that the dog/puppy gets at the dog park supposed to be good for them?

Well - the real answer is yes and no. Well-run and well-supervised dog parks can be a very fun thing for many dogs. However, they are rare and the truth of the matter is that very few owners supervise their dog's activities at the dog park - they are either reading their paper or chatting with friends and sipping their Starbucks, and their dogs are pretty much on their own. Dog parks seldom have separate areas for large and small dogs, nor do they have any way for a small dog (or any dog, for that matter) to escape a pursuit from another dog.

And what looks like play many times is not. Many of these dogs are simply trying not to be noticed by the other dogs; trying to stay out of their way. Don't believe me? Go to a dog park (or doggie daycare, because the same thing happens there) and just watch for a bit. You'll see dogs either lying down in inconspicuous places, avoiding eye contact with the other dogs, or keeping in slow constant movement, sniffing the ground with an averted face (this is a huge calming signal - they don't really care what's on the ground)! These poor dogs are trying their best to make themselves invisible. Tails will be low and ears will be low and held back. The only dogs that you'll see enjoying themselves as they move from dog to dog are those who enjoy rough play or bullying other dogs.

Another danger of the dog parks is the size, which is the very thing that draws many dog owners to them. A large space means that dogs can build up real speed and injuries would be the result. Further, if a fight breaks out, it's seldom near the owners and it takes what seems like an eternity to get to the fighting dogs in a large space.

Some dogs simply should not go to the dog park and they are at both ends of the social spectrum. Obviously a dog that is aggressive (and acts on it repeatedly) with a bite history should never go to the dog park. Give yourself permission to keep that dog safely at home.

A shy or anxious, poorly socialized dog (particularly one that is a shelter rescue with a doubtful or unknown history) should also never go to the dog park. Why? Because he will have "target" written all over him and the dogs who enjoy bullying and boisterous play with limited dog communication skills will zoom right in on him, thus making the shy dog even more worried and anxious.

A dog that is a bully would also be a poor choice of a dog park playmate. These types enjoy making other dogs grovel, take away their toys (and then immediately drop them because it's the "take away" that is important to them). This type of dog will make all the dogs miserable and will most likely repeatedly single out the "doormat."

Puppies should NEVER go to a dog park. Let me say it again so there is no doubt. Puppies should NEVER go to a dog park. And for a number of reasons: their immune status, as they assimilate their vaccinations, is at its weakest, putting them at risk for illness; the risk of physical injury is quite high - imagine a 4-month-old puppy inadvertently getting in the path of a fast moving large dog and getting run over - not a pretty picture and could be deadly. Not all adult dogs tolerate the silly behavior that is part and parcel of puppy behavior, and this puts the puppy at risk for a bite or some other attack. Puppies go through various developmental periods - called critical periods - in their first year of life. These are called critical periods because things that happen to puppies at any of these times will stay with them for life, or may take a large time commitment to overcome, if they can be overcome at all. (I'm not wild about doggie daycare for puppies either and for many of the same reasons!)

What about the socialization question? The public misconception is that

extra treats in your pocket so you can reward the dog for finding the scented "food" box.

7. Bring the leashed dog into the room. Without restraining or steering him, encourage him to "find it" by searching the boxes. Do not direct or talk to the dog beyond a few words to "find it." If he looks at you for help, stroll around the room, but provide no guidance as to where the "food" box is located.

8. The dog will eventually catch the scent and follow it around the room until it finds the "food" box.

9. When the dog is at the "food" box, provide verbal encouragement for finding the scent, allow the dog to eat the treats in the box and feed the dog the additional treats hidden in your pocket.

10. The goal is for the dog to work off leash, but keep your dog's safety in mind before you do so. Remove the leash and allow the dog to search the boxes until he finds the food.

If you decide you'd like to compete in K9 Nosework, training will need to expand to searching for birch, anise, and clove oils. To learn more about K9 Nosework as well as classes and workshops, visit <http://www.k9nosework.com/>.

Whether you choose to compete or just have fun around the house, your Miniature Schnauzer will love playing this easy and inexpensive game. After all, they were bred to hunt rats, so hunting for food, toys, and other scents is a nice substitution!

Special Connections: Lucy is Home!

It takes a large village of caring people to rehome and forever love the many Miniature Schnauzers that come to NJSRN. This new column is dedicated to highlighting a few volunteers and adopters who make the work of NJSRN so worthwhile. We thank each and every one of you and hope you'll share your stories so we may consider publishing them in future newsletters. Please send

socialization is mostly dog to dog interaction. Good and thorough socialization is only about 10% dog to dog. It should be 90% life experiences because this is the world they will live in. Going for walks with you, the dogs hear, see, and experience life. They should see children on bikes, skateboards, in strollers, mailmen, lawn mowers, and other landscape equipment, see older citizens with canes, walkers, or wheelchairs. Dogs need to develop and practice self-control in distracting situations. They do this in a well-run basic manners class. Puppies should go to a well-run, well-supervised kindergarten class. This gives them the best option for safe dog-to-dog play opportunities.

In my classes, I can pick out a dog that is a regular dog park attendee within seconds of his arrival in the building, usually dragging his owner through the door and wherever else he wants to go. The dog has very little self-control, can't focus on his owner no matter how good the treats are or how much begging, pleading, and praying his owner does. He expects that because there are multiple dogs in the space, he should be able to just do what he wants - because that's what one does in a multiple dog situation (exactly what the dog park represents). This dog usually goes right to the end of a tight leash facing the other class dogs, just waiting for the leash to be unclipped. His owner is simply an appendage.

So having said all this, can dog parks be a good idea? Yes, they can. Although doggie mob scenes are not what I want my own dogs to experience, despite their solid temperaments and broad life experiences, here is what I would look for if I were to jump in:

- Be aware of the needs of your particular breed of dog. If you have a pug, or boxer, or English bulldog, running in a sun-drenched dog park for any length of time could put your dog in serious jeopardy because of their inability to cool themselves with panting. A black or chocolate dog is a heat magnet and will feel the effects much sooner than a yellow or white dog.
- A well thought out dog park has multiple spaces, separately fenced for large dogs, small dogs, and puppies (I know, I know - puppies shouldn't go, but the reality is that people do take puppies to dog parks and they should have a separate space).
- Each of these spaces should have a small "foyer" area at the gate (much like an air-lock door) where the leash can be unclipped before the dog is released into the large play area. Why? Because dogs already installed in the dog park will rush to the newcomer; if the leash is still on, the risk is high for an unpleasant incident.
- It should have solid objects that are low enough for a dog to get under in order to interrupt being chased by another dog. Depending on the size of the space, more than one might be necessary.
- There should be multiple water sources available so that resource guarding does not start an incident.
- Needless to say, the grounds should be free of feces - owners being responsible enough to pick up after their dogs - and the trash containers should be just outside the fence to avoid being tipped over.
- It should have some shade trees and the dog owners should be actively supervising their dogs.

If you're not sure about your chosen dog park, go without your dog at various times of the day or on the weekend to see what types of dogs inhabit the place. If you see the same dog moving from victim to victim, it's probably not a place or particular time of day that you would want to go. The busiest times tend to be the weekends and either before or after work hours. Often during the work day, the parks are somewhat quieter, providing a safer environment for your dog if you want to take the plunge.

your Special Connections story and a few pictures to Connect@njsrn.org.

Thank you to the six (yes, six!) volunteers who helped transport seven-year-old Lucy from her wonderful foster home in Rochester NY to her new home in Staten Island NY.

Her trip started at 10:00 AM and ended after 7:30 PM. Within minutes of her arrival, Lucy was sitting beside her new mom's side, being petted and told what a beautiful little girl she is. It was love at first sight!

This transport was challenging to arrange, but proved worthwhile as Lucy had a content look on her face and her new mom was wearing a big smile.

The transport volunteers were Karen M., Amy B., Eric F., Brad P., Chuck S., and Dorian R. Great job everyone!!

Shop to Support NJSRN

25% of online sales donated to us!



USBONES.com

USA made dog bones, chews, & treats.

U.S. Bones donates up to 25% of every purchase made using this link: tinyurl.com/47mncmu to NJSRN. You can have confidence in their USA made, high quality chews, treats and dog bones. Remember to select low-fat dog chews though - no rawhide or pigs' ears for your Schnauzers. U.S. Bones also carries high-quality NJSRN recommended dog food, dental care items, supplements, and grooming supplies.

Keep your Schnauzer Mentally Stimulated

We're fairly certain your Miniature Schnauzers are playful and need to be kept busy or they'll find their own fun, which generally translates into trouble. What many of us don't realize is that

The best way to address your dog-to-dog social needs is to invite a group of friends to go for walks in our many local parks or to your backyard for some play dates. It keeps your dog safe in so many ways: you know the dogs and their health status; you know their play styles; the space is limited, so if a problem occurs, you can get to them quickly. The way to meet appropriate playmates for your dog is through your training classes. Some of my best human friendships and my dogs' best doggie relationships were developed through their training classes.

Remember, your first obligation is to advocate for your best friend and have awareness of what's going on around them. This is what builds and maintains the bond of trust between you - your dog needs to know that you have the ability to keep her safe.

Suggested Reading and Resources:

On Talking Terms with Dogs - Calming Signals by Turid Rugaas

Sabine is owned, trained, and loved by four generations of Labradors: Hawksmoor Dream Catcher, 12; she retired at age 9 1/2 with 18 performance titles in agility rally and obedience; Dreamer's daughter, Hawksmoor Morningstar at Alicam, CGC, TDI, Rally, APDT-RL1 and RL2, who is her KPT assistant and puppy playroom monitor; Dreamer's granddaughter, Alicam's Brand New Song, ("Kiri") NAP, NJP, APDT-RL1, age 5, her current competition dog; and the fourth generation - Alicam's Will of the Wisp ("Whisper"), WIP (Work in Progress), 5 months old. Ms. Platten is the current President of the Dog Training Club of Chester County, a member of the Association of Professional Dog Trainers, Keystone Labrador Retriever Club, and active with Labrador Retriever rescue in Pennsylvania. She has published articles in the national Labrador Retriever Newsletter and was a contributor to a book called "Living With A Labrador Retriever," published in Great Britain by Ringpress Books in 2000 and Barron's Educational Series, Inc. in the US and Canada. Copyright 2010, Sabine Platten, CPDT-KA

Vet Office Visits Made Easy

Visiting the vet is often thought of as a stressful time for us and our dog but with a little preparation, it doesn't have to be. Try using these tips:

1. Prepare yourself. Remember that stress travels down the leash and your dog knows if you are uncomfortable. So don't rush, think positive thoughts about how easy the visit will be, and use a happy voice when speaking with your dog.
2. Visit the vet's office when your dog doesn't have an appointment; do this as often as possible. Sit in the lobby and give your pup yummy treats for being there with all the smells and activity. Ideally, vet office personnel would greet and pet your dog, and feed it some treats.
3. For your appointment, ALWAYS take a pocketful of the best treats in the world. Bring an unlimited supply of cut, small soft treats like chicken or turkey hotdogs; boiled chicken; Natural Balance food roll; canned spray peanut butter; or liverwurst in a squeeze tube (such as GoToob, which is available at outdoor gear specialty stores like Eastern Mountain Sports and REI).
4. Do not feed your dog before a vet visit; use the treats as the dogs' meal.
5. Sitting in the vet's lobby is a wonderful time to be reinforcing tricks they already know or to learn new easy tricks. How fast can your dog do 5 or 10 puppy push-ups (sit, down, sit, down, sit, etc.) in a row? Do not ask for anything that exposes the

mental stimulation can be nearly as tiring as physical exercise. Activity toys are a great way to provide your dog mental stimulation and some are a wonderful tool for feeding your dogs their daily meals and keeping them busy. Why allow your Schnauzers to gobble down dinner in five seconds when it could take 30 minutes or more? The Schnauzer test group at one NJSRN member's home has selected the below as a few of their favorite activity toys.

Nylabone products:

<http://www.nylabone.com/>

Get the size that best relates to the size of your dog. The Durachews (especially the "Y" shaped bone, which is easy to hold down) and Double Action Chews have proven to be resistant and all-time favorites. The Double Action Chew was used at our house to help teach the dogs how to hold Obedience dumbbells. One word of advice ... you don't want to step on Nylabones when you get up in the middle of the night and are walking around barefoot in the dark.

Premier Pet Products- Busy Buddy dog toys:

www.premier.com/store

This company makes many high quality, well designed products ranging from harnesses to training aids to activity toys. The Busy Buddy line of treat dispensing toys is a great way to feed your dog his dinner and keep him busy. Every Schnauzer dreams of catching squirrels, so what's not to like about the Squirrel Dude? Fill with kibble and watch your dog entertain himself. Tug-a-Jug is an all-time favorite at our house. By putting large macaroni and dog kibble in the jug, the kibble is dispensed very slowly and provides a lot of entertainment value. The Kibble Nibble is used similarly and is how the test crew eats their breakfast at agility trials. The dispenser holes are on the large side so put large items in the container to help slow the dispensing of kibble, thus taking more time and effort to get the food.

- dogs' belly to others dogs.
6. Use those yummy treats to keep your dog focused on you and not other animals entering, exiting, or waiting in the lobby area.
 7. Keep using the treats when you get in the examination room. Lure the dog on the scale and encourage him/her to sniff around; give treats for exploring and touching new, strange objects.
 8. Offer to pick-up and hold your dog during its veterinary exam, but be certain you are holding it correctly. Stand on the dogs' side with one arm under the neck and wrapped around to the spine, the other arm under the dogs abdomen with your arm back toward the belly/legs and wrapped around and touching its spine. The dog should be in a firm hug against your body, but not gasping for air. Veterinary staff is often bitten, so they will be inclined to muzzle a disruptive dog.
 9. If you don't like the way the vet or staff treat your dog, nicely tell them so. If they refuse to change their approach, leave unless it's a medical emergency. It takes a lot of work on your part to retrain your dog after she has had a bad vet experience.

It is our responsibility to help our dog as well as the veterinary professionals she will encounter. Practice grabbing your dog's collar and immediately feed him a treat. Touch your dog at different body locations and quickly feed treats. Most owners don't palpate a dog's stomach to feel for bladder stones or express anal sacs, but your vet needs to be able to do these things without your dog nipping at her hands. It is your responsibility to work on getting your dog comfortable with being touched anywhere on its body. This is especially important for Miniature Schnauzers due to the amount of grooming required in the average MS's lifetime.

Special Connections: Jennifer & John W.

It all started in October 1997 when Jennifer and John got their first dog, a Miniature Schnauzer named Shammy. She wasn't from NJSRN, but she started their love affair with the breed. In July 2000, after moving from a condo into their first house, Jennifer and John thought Shammy needed a friend. They found NJSRN and adopted Mary Lou, who was listed as a special needs dog because of her limited eye sight.



Five years later, during the first week of November 2005, Jennifer contacted NJSRN member Dorian about possibly fostering or providing assistance to our rescue group. That's when Jennifer found out about a 13-year-old Schnauzer named Thumper who needed a home. On November 10th, only a few days after asking how she could help, Thumper officially joined the family. Thumper had more problems than they want to

remember, but after much love and more money, he settled in with their crew. Thumper's prognosis was not good and they expected to have him for only two years, but he filled their lives with love for four.

Planet Dog products:

<http://www.planetdogs.com/>
Balls are popular with Schnauzers and these can take a real beating. The Orbee Tuff balls are super resistant and the dogs really like the rope handle version which they grab and throw into the air. The rope handle is meant for people to grab so we aren't picking up a slobbery ball. But good luck telling your Schnauzer she isn't allowed to use the handle.

Kong products:

<http://www.kongcompany.com/>
Kong has a color and size to suit every Schnauzer in your house and at every age. Classic Kongs are red, EXTREME versions are black, and puppy versions are marbled with white. The test crew has a variety of Kongs and they are used exclusively with stuffing. A favorite is to pack them full of baked, mashed sweet potato, which is then frozen. Another way is to slightly moisten the breakfast or dinner kibble, stuff, and freeze. The Kong Wobbler is another great way to feed your dog.

In Memoriam Donations

It is hard to lose a loved one, whether two or four legged. A wonderful way to honor a special person or Miniature Schnauzer is to give to NJSRN in the name of the departed. We are grateful for all contributions that help us continue our mission of rescuing, vetting, and finding loving new homes for Schnauzers in need. Let your friends, co-workers, and family know you'd prefer a donation be made to NJSRN in lieu of flowers or other gifts. Giving in someone's honor is a way to let the lost loved ones' spirit of caring and compassion continue to live.

Recommended Sites

www.katewerk.com/k9art.html

<http://www.k9nosework.com/>

<http://www.nylabone.com/>

During this time, Mary Lou has also had some serious medical issues, but she's been a fighter and is still going strong at 17. Unfortunately, in December 2009, the family had to say goodbye to Thumper and only seven months later their beloved Shammy passed from cancer. While they love all their Schnauzers, Shammy is most likely to be voted their "heart" dog. Having gone from three Schnauzers to one in such a short time, Jennifer and John felt Mary Lou (and they) needed another dog for companionship. On August 6, 2010 they met two-year-old Bentley, a shy little guy from our big rescue in Maryland, and gave him a wonderful new life. Bentley is now full of confidence, loves being with his mom and dad, and is a terrific big brother to Mary Lou. Bentley guides his blind sister during their walks and is her best friend in and out of the house.



www.premier.com/store

<http://www.planetdogs.com/>

<http://www.kongcompany.com/>

Join Our Mailing List!

NJSRN thanks John and Jennifer for being repeat adopters and for understanding that special needs dogs are wonderful companions that deserve great new homes. Love comes in all Miniature Schnauzer shapes and sizes!



April showers are on the way ...
and Lucy is ready for them!



(Photos, top to bottom: Shammy, Jennifer and Thumper, John and Bentley, and Bentley and Mary Lou.)

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