

# your new dog

Information and Advice from  
Miniature Schnauzer Rescue  
for a Happy Life with  
Your New Canine Companion

## congratulations

You are now the proud parent of a wonderful new companion.  
Miniature Schnauzer Rescue  
thanks you for choosing to adopt your new pet from our group.  
This booklet addresses many of the questions and concerns you  
may have about how to care for your new dog.

Please contact us at [info@msrnorthwest.org](mailto:info@msrnorthwest.org)  
if you need additional information or advice.



Miniature Schnauzer Rescue, Inc  
Portland, Oregon  
A Federally recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

[www.msrnorthwest.org](http://www.msrnorthwest.org)

**Saving one dog won't change the world but it  
WILL change the world for that one dog!**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Preparing Your Home</b> .....	1
Dog Proofing.....	1
Basic Supplies.....	1
<b>Getting to Know Each Other</b> .....	2
Ride Home.....	2
Arrival Home.....	2
The First Few Days and Weeks.....	3
Especially for Puppies.....	3
Puppy Kindergarten.....	4
<b>Introducing Your New Dog to Other Pets</b> .....	5
Dog to Dog.....	5
Dog to Cat.....	6
Dog to Caged Pet.....	6
<b>Developing Structure</b> .....	7
Consistence and Patience.....	7
Food.....	7
Sleep.....	7
Attention and Rewards.....	7
Games and Toys.....	8
Exercise.....	8
Establish a Routine.....	8
Morning.....	8
When You Leave.....	9
When You Return.....	9
At Bedtime.....	9
<b>Schnauzer Training</b> .....	10
Time Outs.....	10
Exercise.....	10
Expectations.....	10
<b>Crate Training</b> .....	11
Do and Don't.....	12

**TABLE OF CONTENTS cont.**

**House Training**.....13  
    Puppies..... 13  
    Use a Crate..... 14  
    Adult Dogs..... 15  
    Submissive Urination.....16  
**Keeping Your Schnauzer Healthy**..... 17  
**Schnauzer Behavior**..... 20  
    Chewing..... 20  
    Jumping.....20  
    Barking.....21  
    Digging.....21  
    Bolting.....21  
    Separation Anxiety.....22  
**Children and Dogs**..... 24  
**Reminders**.....25  
    Microchipping.....21  
    If the Match Isn't Right.....25  
**Volunteering**.....25  
**Donations**..... 25

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# Helpful tips for preparing your home



Before bringing your new dog home, “dog proof” your home (for the dog’s safety as well as that of your belongings!) and buy a few basic supplies. These checklists can get you started.

## Dog Proofing

- ◆ Prepare a safe room where your new pet can be left alone.
- ◆ Remove **breakable objects**.
- ◆ Check electrical wiring for safety.
- ◆ Put away shoes, belongings, papers, etc.
- ◆ Remove **trash cans** and secure inside cabinets.
- ◆ Do not leave food out on counters or table tops
- ◆ Move any **cat food** and **litter box** to a safe place.
- ◆ Check the **outside area** where your dog will spend time. Make sure the fence is secure and the ground is free of sharp objects and other items that are not appropriate to chew.

## Basic Supplies

- ◆ **Food:** Feed your dog high quality dry dog food. We recommend Solid Gold Hund-N-Flocken however your dog may have specific needs so talk with your veterinarian about dietary requirements.
- ◆ **Food and water dishes:** Ceramic or stainless steel dishes are best because, unlike plastic, they do not harbor bacteria and they are less likely to become chew toys.
- ◆ **Bed:** Prepare a soft, dry, clean place for your dog to rest.
- ◆ **Crate or pen:** Buy or rent a crate or puppy exercise pen, or use a baby gate.
- ◆ **Grooming supplies:** Choose appropriate tools for your dog’s coat.
- ◆ **Collar:** Your dog needs a flat collar to wear safely at all times, to which you can attach identification tags, license and a leash. Flat collars may be made of nylon or leather and have a variety of buckles. **NOTE: Choke chains and pinch collars are not a substitute for a flat collar and should never be left on an unsupervised dog.**



- ♦ **Enzyme-based cleaner:** These cleaners help with housebreaking by removing all residual odors from accident sites.

## getting to know each other

### Take Care on the Ride Home

You, your new pet and your family will all be excited. Your dog may ride home in a crate or in the back seat of your car. **NOTE: *Never put an unrestrained dog in the back of an open pick-up truck – it is not safe and it is a violation of most county ordinances.***

- ♦ If you are bringing a new dog into a home with an existing dog, try to keep them apart on the ride home -- your current dog may feel the car is his/her space and in need of protecting.
- ♦ If the dog whines or barks, ignore the dog or give him a command to settle.
- ♦ Praise all good behavior.
- ♦ Do not allow children to excite the dog.
- ♦ Take the dog directly home -- do not stop for supplies or to visit.
- ♦ If the dog vomits, clean it up without punishing the dog.
- ♦ Do not leave the dog alone in the car.
- ♦ When you get home, place the leash on the dog's flat collar and walk or carry your pet into his new home. **NOTE: *It is a good idea to give him a chance to relieve himself outside before you take him inside.***

### When You Arrive Home with Your New Pet for the First Time

- ♦ Take your dog on the leash to the outside area that you want him to use each time he goes out to relieve himself -- do not play with him until he relieves himself and then immediately praise him for using this area
- ♦ Take your dog inside and show him his food and water.
- ♦ Be low key and don't excite him with play.
- ♦ Watch him carefully while he explores his new home. If he attempts to urinate inside, quickly take the leash and escort him to his outside area. When he uses this area correctly, praise him.
- ♦ Keep the doors closed to any areas of the home where the dog is not allowed.

## **During the First Few Days and Weeks**

It may take 60- 90 days for your new dog to feel at home and bond with you, but a calm and consistent first few days will help your dog settle in with the least amount of stress. The following information and tips may help smooth the way.

- ♦ Because your new dog may be stressed in his new surroundings, give him food and water in small amounts. Overfeeding could lead to vomiting, diarrhea and dehydration.
- ♦ Consult your veterinarian if your dog becomes sick. Please also call Miniature Schnauzer Rescue if you have any concerns about your new dogs' health.
- ♦ Get to know your new pet. Your new dog needs to trust you. Respect your dog and encourage others to do the same. Your new dog is your friend and companion, and should welcome your touch. Forcibly moving him, hitting or pinning him down will lead to problems such as the dog seeing you as a threat or as someone to fear. The dog could then shut off from you or become aggressive.
- ♦ Keep your dog safe from aggressive dogs and dangerous areas. Keep your dog on a leash when walking and in traffic. Be especially carefully at dog parks. It may be 60-90 days before your dog recognizes you as its new parent or knows its new name, so it may not always come when called. If play is getting too rough, leave and return at a better time. Always be careful around other dogs, children and strangers. Use extra caution until you know what your dog's response will be.
- ♦ Provide a safe place indoors where your dog can stay unsupervised. It should be chew-proof, easy to clean and escape-proof. Outdoors, keep your fence maintained and check it regularly for signs of digging or scratching. Don't leave your new friend outside unsupervised for long periods of time, as this leads to development of many bad habits.

## **ESPECIALLY FOR PUPPIES (dogs under six months old)**

- ♦ Introduce your puppy to new experiences gradually and make sure the experiences are positive.
- ♦ Puppies may whine a lot their first few days in their new home. This may be their first time away from their mother and littermates. If you remain calm, this phase will pass as your puppy gains confidence and feels secure.

- ◆ If you have an older dog who correctly disciplines the puppy, do not interfere. The older dog can teach the puppy good manners vital for successful dog interaction.
- ◆ After your puppy's vaccinations are complete (check with your veterinarian), take him out for positive experiences. If he is afraid of anything, be calm and confident, and ignore any timid behavior.
- ◆ Begin teaching your puppy basic obedience as soon as you get him home. Take advantage of your daily routine to teach your puppy manners. When feeding, ask the puppy to come, sit and stay until you give him the okay to eat. Ask him to sit or wait before letting him out of his crate, going through doors, etc.
- ◆ Work on bite inhibition by teaching your puppy not to use teeth on human skin but to chew on appropriate toys and bones. If your puppy touches you with his teeth, say "ah, ah" and give him a chew toy.
- ◆ Do not use corporal punishment on your puppy. Dogs work on instincts that you cannot change, but that you can redirect. Hitting only causes pain.
- ◆ Practice touching your puppy on his paws, tail, ears, etc., and reward relaxed behavior with treats and praise.

## PUPPY KINDERGARTEN



Puppy kindergarten is a series of classes for puppies aged 8-20 weeks. During these valuable weeks when your puppy is very open to learning you will be taught how your puppy thinks, feels, and the best way to influence his/her behavior for the future.

These classes teach basic obedience, potty training and understanding other natural puppy behaviors. You will be provided with knowledge on how to become the kind leader your puppy needs. You and your puppy will not only learn a common language but also develop a bond based on trust and respect.

Your puppy will also be exposed to lots of positive experiences in a controlled and safe environment. Learning to interact with other puppies and dogs and with other people and children is very beneficial at this early age.

Be cautious and patient when introducing your new dog to an established family pet. It takes time for everyone to adjust and relax. The first few weeks may be frustrating and time consuming, but with patience their relationships typically work out and everyone is happy!



# introducing your new dog to other pets



## Dog to Dog

Your new dog is coming into your existing dog's territory and your existing dog is trying to determine if its place in the pack has changed. Spayed or neutered dogs usually get along more readily, but individual personalities are always a factor.

The general rule is to give your existing dog 2/3 of your attention and your new dog 1/3 of your attention for the first 10 - 14 days to help everyone understand that you are the head of the pack and your existing dog's place is above your new dog.

- ♦ If at all possible, introduce your existing pet and your possible new pet at the foster home before you take your new pet home. We'll be happy to help. This could avoid unpleasant surprises when you get home and even influence your decision about which dog to adopt.
- ♦ If an introduction at the foster home is not possible, try to introduce your current dog to your new dog on neutral ground away from the established dog's food, bed and toys. Often a walk is a good time to make the introduction since all the dogs are on neutral ground and are usually so interested in everything around them that they "forget" to be territorial. NOTE: Do not let the dogs meet at the threshold of a door or yard. The boundary of a dog's perceived territory is the area where he is most likely to start a fight.
- ♦ Initially, do not feed the new and existing dogs next to each other and don't give the new dog access to your current dog's toys, bones, etc., since this can lead to fighting.
- ♦ Let the dogs determine their roles and positions and, as long as it seems to not be dangerous to either dog, let them have brief arguments. By interfering, you could make the situation worse. If it appears a fight will break out, shout, make a loud noise or spray the dogs with water, and instruct both dogs to stop. Do not grab either dog, because you could be bitten by mistake. Praise them both once they are quiet and well-behaved.
- ♦ Don't expect your dogs to share the same bed. You may want to crate the new dog until a relationship is established and you know the dog is house-trained. Eventually it would be ideal to have both dogs, with a dog bed each, sleeping in the same room.
- ♦ Separate the dogs when you are not home until they have proven they can get along.

## Dog to Cat

Cats are creatures of habit, and changes in their lifestyle require time and patience. Maintain your cat's routine and make sure the dog does not have access to the cat's food, water or litter box.

As you introduce your new dog to your cat, keep in mind the following tips.

- ◆ Put the cat on a raised surface (such as a table or dresser) to feel less threatened.
- ◆ Bring your new dog into the house on a leash.
- ◆ Allow the two animals to sniff each other (try to keep the leash loose) and then distract the dog with a treat or praise. It is normal for the cat to hiss and growl at first, especially if it has not lived with a dog before.
- ◆ The more the animals are together in the same room with supervision, the more quickly they will adjust to each other.
- ◆ Keep a squirt gun or bottle handy and spray both animals with water if they start to fight. You can also throw a towel over the cat if the cat attacks the dog.
- ◆ Make sure the cat has an escape route or can leap to a high place. Do not let the dog corner the cat or vice versa.
- ◆ Separate the animals when you are not there to supervise until you are all comfortable with the situation.
- ◆ Don't worry if your cat hides. Keep the dog around as much as possible so the cat gets used to it.
- ◆ Make sure the cat has a private place -- not accessible to the dog -- where it can eat and drink in peace and feel safe.

Allow the pets to adjust in their own time -- be patient and act calm and relaxed. Often they become friends; sometimes they just tolerate each other.

Either way, respect whatever arrangement they work out between themselves.



## Dog to Caged Pet

Generally, keep caged pets in a secure cage out of the reach of your dog. Introductions should be carefully watched and done with the dog on leash. Most small pets are nervous and scared around a dog. Always be there when they're together and keep the visits short.

# developing structure

This is a very important time for your new dog. The whole family should agree with the training methods and rules for the new pet and stick to them! Your new dog will look to you for guidance and gentle leadership to shape his behavior throughout his life. As with people, dogs develop new behaviors and change with age. This is helped by refreshing your dog's training and continued guidance. If you treat your pet with respect and teach and train with patience and rewards, the results will be amazing!

## Consistence and Patience

- ◆ Provide rules and guidelines and apply them consistently.
- ◆ There is never a need to physically reprimand your pet. Your dog should view your hands as a source of love and praise and should not be afraid of them.
- ◆ Introduce new surroundings and routines gradually.

## Food

Feed young puppies three times daily. By six months, your dog can go to a twice-daily schedule.

- ◆ Free feeding is not recommended.
- ◆ Keep your dog at a healthy weight.
- ◆ Feed your puppy high quality, dry puppy food.
- ◆ If the food is right for your dog, his stool should be firm and small. Any variances should be discussed with your veterinarian.
- ◆ Always ask your dog to sit and stay before giving him dinner. This is a great training opportunity!

## Sleep

Do not let your new dog sleep on your bed. Dogs, as pack animals, need to know who the Alpha (leader) is in their pack, and that must be you. If you let them sleep on your bed, they may think they are your equal. Better options for your dog are on a doggy bed placed next to your bed, or in a crate or exercise pen. Make sure your dog will allow you to move and even sit on his bed.

## Attention and Rewards

- ◆ Don't always pet your dog when he asks. Sometimes ignore him until he sits or lies down, and then reward that behavior with

petting. Smothering your dog with affection and attention may indicate to your dog that he can always get whatever he wants.

- ♦ Ask your dog to sit, wait, down, etc., before giving her dinner, taking her for a walk, playing or petting.

## Games and Toys

- ♦ Try keeping some of your pet's toys in a basket out of his reach. Give him a few to play with and put them away when he has finished.
- ♦ Don't play rough games that may teach your dog that it is OK to bite.
- ♦ Only play tug-of-war after the dog has been with you for a few weeks and if you can win. If your dog gets too rough, end the game by standing completely still, folding your arms and looking away. The dog should calm down immediately; then you can resume playing later.
- ♦ If your dog plays "keep away" with toys, clothes or other items he shouldn't have, attach a leash to his flat collar and step on it when he attempts to run. Gently and cheerfully call him to you (using the leash to guide him) and trade the item for something he can have (treat, ball, etc.).

## Exercise

Play with and walk your dog regularly. A tired dog is a good dog that will be less likely to cause problems. Your dog will not exercise himself. Dogs need to use their brains as well as their muscles to be content and well-behaved.

## Establish a Routine

A routine gives your new dog a sense of security; helps him settle down and learn he can trust you, and helps him realize he is there to stay. Here are some ideas for routines you might want to start with your new dog.

## Morning

- ♦ Let the dog out of his crate or room.
- ♦ Immediately take the dog outside to relieve himself.
- ♦ Do not play with the dog until she has relieved herself, and then feed her breakfast.
- ♦ Take the dog for a walk or play and encourage her to relieve herself in an appropriate area. (Remember the pooper scooper bags!)

## When You Leave

Remember, don't give too much attention to your dog within about 20 minutes before you leave – he may begin to think that when he gets attention, you are about to leave and begin to worry.

- ◆ Ask the dog to enter a safe place (crate, exercise pen, designated small room), encouraged with a food treat or toy (not force).
- ◆ Give the dog a long-lasting, safe food treat or a chew toy. We strongly recommend against rawhide chews.
- ◆ Turn on a radio or television to mask outside noise and leave calmly.

## When You Return

- ◆ Settle in yourself, then let dog out of crate or room using the wait command. Again, not too much attention at first, you don't want them to begin thinking the crate is a bad thing and they will get lots of attention outside the crate.
- ◆ Take dog outside immediately to relieve himself.
- ◆ Take dog for a walk or play and encourage dog to relieve herself in an appropriate area; remember the pooper scooper bags
- ◆ Feed, if it is the appropriate time. It is best to feed after your walk and play to avoid upset stomachs.
- ◆ When dog is thoroughly tired, return home and relax

## At Bedtime

- ◆ Take dog outside to relieve himself
- ◆ Give dog the command to enter her crate or lie on her bed
- ◆ If dog is less than six months, it may be necessary to take him outside during the night as well as just before going to bed and first thing in the morning. It sometimes helps, with puppies less than 6 months, if you pick up food and water after 7 p.m.



# Helpful tips for schnauzer training



Understanding your dog's behavior and learning how dogs think will make life with your new pet happier and easier. Positive reinforcement, also known as reward-based training, has proven to be far more effective in creating a well-adjusted, obedient dog than negative or punishment-focused methods. Positive training does not require a special training collar. If you do choose to use a choke chain (slip collar) for training, remember to always remove the collar immediately after a training session. These collars can easily cause injury on an unsupervised dog. If your dog pulls on the leash, you may want to try a humane head halter collar that is fitted properly.

## Time Outs

If your dog nudges you for attention, barks demandingly, leans against you, follows you from room to room, etc., **and you are sure he does not need to be let outside**, begin giving him "time outs."

- ◆ Never give the time out in his crate or safe room.
- ◆ Have everyone ignore him for 10 minutes when he is trying to get your attention.
- ◆ If the dog offers a "sit" or "down," reward him with calm "good dog" and a pat
- ◆ If the dog is very persistent, attach the leash to his FLAT collar, put him in a "down-stay" and step on the leash.
- ◆ If he's following you everywhere, go into a different room and close the door behind you. Say calmly, "I'll be right back." When you come out, ignore the dog until he becomes calm.

## Exercise

Many bad behaviors can be significantly reduced if your pet is exercised regularly. Take him for a long, brisk walk and play fetch. Keep him tired!

## Expectations

Dogs "act out" because they do not know what we expect - so they act like dogs! You need to show the dog how you wish him to behave and reward the dog when he does the proper behaviors.

- ◆ The dog has to be around you and your family to learn good behavior.
- ◆ Giving a reward for the right behavior is a faster and easier way for dogs to learn (you only have to teach one response - the right one!).
- ◆ Use everyday activities as mini-training sessions, i.e., have your dog sit and stay before giving him his food dish, sit and wait at the door before it is opened, etc.
- ◆ Teach your dog not to pull on the leash by changing direction every time he pulls.

**NOTE:** *We recommend all new dogs and their family members attend a basic obedience-training course to solidify the loving bond and to help the new dog understand what is expected. We also recommend all new puppies (dogs less than six months old) and their family members attend Puppy Kindergarten, a series of classes for puppies aged 8-20 weeks and their owners that teach puppies' basic obedience and house training, and help you understand natural puppy behaviors.*

## crate training

Since dogs are naturally den animals, if given the opportunity they will view their crate as a den -- a wonderful, safe place to be. Crates are excellent for most puppies and adult dogs. They keep the pet and your belongings safe when you are not there. They help in house training because a dog will not want to soil his sleeping area and will therefore naturally learn bowel and bladder control.

Crates are useful in many settings and situations.

- ◆ To help calm and nurture your dog in a new environment
- ◆ As a house training aid.
- ◆ As a temporary play pen
- ◆ As a safe way to travel in your car or by airplane
- ◆ In hotels where pets are allowed
- ◆ As a recovery room from illness or surgery
- ◆ As a sanctuary when things get hectic
- ◆ In some mild cases, it can be helpful for anxiety to help prevent destructive chewing
- ◆ To protect your pet from children who cannot act appropriately around dogs

## DO . . .

- ♦ Select a crate big enough for the dog to stand up and turn around in, but not so big that he can eliminate in one corner and sleep in another. (For a growing puppy, you can choose a larger crate and block off part of the space. As the dog grows, you can remove the partition.)
- ♦ Make the crate a positive place
- ♦ Use treats and toys to lead the dog into the crate, and hide food treats in the crate
- ♦ Keep several “favorite” toys and chews for use in the crate only to make the crate more fun and interesting
- ♦ Feed the dog dinner in the crate at first
- ♦ Leave the door open initially and stay close when you first do close the door
- ♦ Place a clean, soft bed in the crate and encourage your dog to sleep in his crate
- ♦ Place a shirt with your scent on it in the crate
- ♦ Praise and pet him when he is inside his crate
- ♦ Teach your dog to “wait” before coming out

## DON'T . . .

- ♦ Force your dog into a crate
- ♦ Use the crate for punishment
- ♦ Keep the crate in an isolated area
- ♦ Leave your dog in his crate for more than six hours at a time
- ♦ Talk to or let him out of the crate when he’s whining (unless he needs to relieve himself)

**NOTE:** *Though a crate is a great training tool and can help your new pet settle into your home, it should never take away from the contact and socialization that your dog needs with you and your family. Your Miniature Schnauzer needs to spend much more time out of the crate than in it. Schnauzers are social animals that expect and deserve to be a part of nearly all aspects of family life.*





# house training



## Puppies

Puppies have limited control of their bladder and a short memory. Some learn more quickly than others. By being consistent and patient, you will have a happy, house-trained puppy. Your puppy wants to be house-trained; but he cannot delay relieving himself beyond his physical capabilities.

The rule of thumb is dogs can control their bladders for approximately one hour of time for each month of their age. In other words, a three-month-old puppy cannot be expected to last more than three hours without relieving himself. Variations to this rule are based on size, as smaller dogs often have to go more frequently.

Consistency and routine are the secrets to all methods of house training. There are several humane options of house training - here are a few good ones:

- ♦ If you can be home with your puppy, take him out on his leash every two hours, after **every** nap, after **every** play session, before confinement and any time he signals (circling, sniffing) the need.
- ♦ Take him to the same outside area each time.
- ♦ Do not play with the puppy while you are waiting for him to eliminate.
- ♦ Give him a command for the action and do not play with or interact with him until he goes.
- ♦ Immediately praise him for eliminating outside.
- ♦ If he does not eliminate within 2-3 minutes of when taken out, confine him for 15 minutes then take him out again. Repeat this until he goes.
- ♦ If you miss the signals but catch your puppy eliminating, pick him up, take him outside and praise him when he goes in the appropriate place.
- ♦ Rubbing his nose in any errors does not teach proper elimination habits or control.

## Use a Crate

Have the crate next to your bed. When the puppy whines during the night, take him outside to eliminate and praise him when he does. Put him back in the crate to sleep.

Keep his crate clean to encourage him to do the same. If you have to leave your puppy for more than an hour, consider confining him to your kitchen area.

- ◆ Leave the door off the crate and place it close to his food and water dishes.
- ◆ The puppy should sleep in his crate and get up to eliminate on a hard surface floor, which is easy to clean and sterilize.
- ◆ When you arrive home, DO NOT punish your puppy for eliminating on the floor. This teaches the puppy nothing except to fear your return! When you are home, be diligent about taking him outside to eliminate, and use lots of praise when he does.

Adjust the suggested schedule below based on the age of your puppy and your own habits.

### 6 a.m.

- ◆ Take puppy out to designated area for two minutes
- ◆ If he/she does not go after two minutes, bring puppy inside and confine to crate
- ◆ Repeat in 15 minutes
- ◆ When the puppy has relieved himself, praise him. Once inside, offer food and water
- ◆ Within 5-10 minutes after puppy eats/drinks, take puppy out again to relieve himself
- ◆ Repeat until puppy both urinates and defecates, then bring puppy inside to play
- ◆ Put puppy into crate to rest

### 9 a.m.

- ◆ Puppy wakes; take out to designated area (Use routine described above.)
- ◆ After puppy relieves himself, let puppy play with safe toys and you
- ◆ Puppy goes into crate or pen, takes a nap or chews on puppy toys

## Noon

- ♦ Feed puppy, and then take to designated area (Use routine described above.)
- ♦ After puppy relieves himself, take puppy for a walk
- ♦ Play with puppy indoors or out, then crate puppy for a nap
- ♦ When puppy wakes, take him to the designated area. Follow established routine.

## 5 p.m.

- ♦ Feed puppy by 5 p.m. to help him get through the night with no accidents
- ♦ Take puppy to designated area (Use routine described above.)
- ♦ After puppy relieves himself, take puppy for a walk or playtime
- ♦ Puppy plays with toys and family

## 7 p.m.

- ♦ Take puppy out to designated area (Use routine described above.)
- ♦ Walk and play with puppy

## 10 p.m.

- ♦ Take puppy out to designated area. (Use routine described above.)
- ♦ After puppy relieves himself, reward him with a walk
- ♦ Crate puppy overnight and listen for whining. Remember, puppies have tiny bladders and may need to go out during the night.

## Adult Dogs

Your new dog may be already housebroken, but with the trauma of being displaced from its home and then going to a new home, there may be some accidents. He should be taken outside to relieve himself:

- ♦ When you first arrive home
- ♦ First thing in the morning
- ♦ Before confinement (if you go out)
- ♦ Immediately after confinement
- ♦ After his dinner
- ♦ Just before you go to bed
- ♦ Any time she signals a need to go

When you're not home, consider confining your dog in a crate or dog-proof room until he shows he can be trusted. Gradually, as the dog has no accidents, allow more freedom.

If he continues to relieve himself inside when you're at home, attach a leash to the dog's flat collar and tie it to your waist so you can watch him and take him outside when he shows signs of needing to relieve himself.

## Submissive Urination

Less confident dogs sometimes urinate and/or roll over to show submission. They want you to know that you are in charge and that they pose no threat or challenge to you. If this happens with your new dog, do the following:

- ◆ Do not punish him, as this tends to make matters worse
- ◆ Ignore him -- do not make eye contact or lean over to pet him
- ◆ Try to distract him with another activity such as catching a treat
- ◆ Build confidence by practicing obedience and agility games
- ◆ Clean up any accidents with an enzyme-based cleaner to effectively remove all odors.

As your dog's confidence grows, the problem should lessen and eventually stop.

Please avoid these methods that **DO NOT** work!

- ◆ Striking the dog or hitting the dog with a rolled up newspaper
- ◆ Pushing the dog's nose in his accidents
- ◆ Getting angry

These old methods only lead your dog to be afraid of you, afraid to eliminate when you are around, hide the stool and even eat his stool.

# keeping your schnauzer healthy



There are many things we have done and you can do to help keep your dog healthy. The dog you adopted may have received one or more of the following vaccines or treatments while in our care.

- ◆ **DHPP** is a standard vaccine administered to dogs. Puppies and some dogs may need additional doses administered by your veterinarian over a period of weeks to achieve maximum immunity from diseases. Until these are completed, it is best to limit the exposure of your puppy to other dogs.

**NOTE:** *Many serious dog illnesses are spread by fecal material from other dogs, so be sure to properly dispose of waste and avoid areas of elimination used by other dogs.*

- ◆ **Bordatella (Kennel Cough)** is a contagious upper respiratory illness that spreads in facilities with lots of dogs. If we know or have reason to suspect your new dog may have kennel cough, we will let you know. Dogs with kennel cough have a dry, hacking cough or bouts of deep, harsh coughing often followed by gagging motions that sometimes produce foamy mucus. Most dogs with kennel cough do not have a fever and, apart from the cough, appear healthy and energetic. Other dogs can catch this cough, so limit contact with other dogs until you have observed your dog for a week or longer for symptoms. If symptoms develop, keep the dog quiet, and encourage him to eat and rest. Your veterinarian may provide antibiotics to prevent him from developing a secondary infection.

**NOTE:** *If your dog has a fever, is less active than usual, has a decreased appetite, has a discharge from the eyes or nose or has difficulty breathing, please consult your veterinarian immediately, as a more serious problem than kennel cough may be present.*

- ◆ **Deworming** medicine is given to dogs to eliminate roundworms and/or tapeworms. Do not be surprised to see worms passed in your dog's feces. Depending on your dog's life-style, your veterinarian may provide continued treatment and other types of parasite control.
- ◆ A **Microchip** may have been implanted in your dog that can be detected by scanners at animal shelters and veterinarians. Be sure to keep your information updated (address and phone) with us so that you can be found if someone finds your dog and reports it to us. You can also register with the microchip company's database.

There may be a charge for reregistering your dog. It is important that your information be current in the database to protect your dog if he becomes separated from you.

- ◆ **Flea/Parasite Control** products may have been used on your dog. If you travel with your dog, you will need to take special care to protect him from illnesses spread by fleas, mosquitoes and ticks in other areas. Ask your veterinarian for information about available products.
- ◆ **A Spaying/Neutering** procedure may have been done on your dog by a veterinarian. All rescue dogs must be altered to prevent domestic animal overpopulation. Altering also keeps them healthier and easier to live with! If your dog was recently altered, monitor the incision site and keep your dog relatively quiet during the recovery process.
- ◆ **Grooming:** Miniature Schnauzers require grooming approximately every 6 weeks. Some people prefer more often some people prefer less often. It is important to keep your dog properly groomed and brushed to prevent mats from forming.
- ◆ Be sure to ask the groomer you choose to pluck the hair from the dogs' ears. This allows for proper air circulation and aids in preventing ear infections.
- ◆ Your dogs nails need to be clipped periodically and most groomers will include this in their grooming service
- ◆ Regular grooming is required not just to look better, but to allow for freedom of movement and for the skin to breathe. Ignoring this need can constitute neglect and cause suffering.
- ◆ Be sure to look for a groomer that does not tranquilize the dog prior to grooming. Look for a groomer that your dog seems to enjoy going to see. Your dog should not cower and shake when walking into the grooming shop.
- ◆ Grooming can be expensive but it is a skill that can be learned. Your dog may not resemble a Miniature Schnauzer the first few times but with practice and patience, it can save you money and become a bonding experience for you and your companion.

**Dental Cleaning:** Just like people, good dental hygiene is an important element to your new dogs overall health. Not only do dirty teeth cause bad breath, but lead to decay, infection, abscesses and more serious health problems.

Ask your veterinarian about regular dental care for your Miniature Schnauzer. This can take the form of regular brushing or periodic dental cleanings which are usually done under general anesthesia.

In addition to feeding dry kibble, appropriate chew toys can help you dogs' teeth stay clean and their breath fresh.

**A final note on keeping your companion healthy:** Just as we exhibit certain behaviors and characteristics, so do our canine friends. Learn to "read your dog" and understand the subtle nuances that will tell you when something is wrong. We all know the physical signs to look for - vomiting, diarrhea, limping, bleeding or crying. But by learning to read your dog, you will be able to see telltale signs that they are not feeling well long before any of the physical manifestations appear. This can be different for every dog but here are some to consider.

- ◆ Refusal to eat
- ◆ Eating unenthusiastically
- ◆ Refusal to play
- ◆ Lack of interest in things and activities normally enjoyed
- ◆ Excessive sleeping or general lethargy

# Helpful tips on schnauzer behavior



**CHEWING** -- Chewing is normal and necessary for dogs to keep their teeth clean and gums healthy. To discourage this in inappropriate settings, follow these guidelines.

- ◆ Give each dog his own chew toys -- nylon bones, hard rubber toys and natural, large raw bones. (NOTE: Avoid cooked bones, poultry bones and rib bones because they tend to splinter and cause choking and intestinal problems.)
- ◆ Avoid toys with “squeakies” or other pieces that can be swallowed and soft rubber or plastic toys that can be chewed into small pieces and swallowed.
- ◆ Show your dog the appropriate chew toy and make a big fuss over it. Praise your dog when he takes the toy. Sometimes smearing a little peanut butter or cream cheese on the toy can make it more appealing.
- ◆ If your dog tries to chew on inappropriate items, distract him and give him an appropriate toy. Teach your dog to “drop it” and “leave it” to exchange an unsuitable item for a chew toy.
- ◆ Praise your dog and play with him briefly when he chews his toy.
- ◆ You can spray bitter tasting (but safe) substances such as “Bitter Apple” on dangerous objects such as electrical cords to discourage chewing.

**JUMPING** -- Jumping is just an inappropriate greeting, showing that your dog is pleased to see you and wants your attention. Dogs can learn quickly that jumping is bad. However, if your dog cannot get your attention any other way, he may choose to jump. To discourage this behavior, follow these guidelines.

- ◆ When the dog jumps, ignore him, stand still, fold your arms and look away. The second your dog's feet remain on the floor, acknowledge and greet her. If she jumps up again, immediately stand still, fold your arms and look away. Repeat this every time your dog jumps (and ask your family and friends to do this, too).
- ◆ When the dog no longer jumps up for your attention, add the sit command and your dog will sit at your feet waiting to be greeted. Acknowledge your dog if she is being good to ensure the behavior will continue.



- ♦ Watch for your dog to approach and not jump, and then give her the attention she deserves before she resorts to jumping.

**BARKING** -- Dogs bark, and particularly Miniature Schnauzers, to alert you of danger, because they are lonely or bored and seek attention, because they are being teased by an outside influence (i.e. squirrels) or because they feel their territory is being invaded. Consider the following steps to reduce barking.

- ♦ Keep your dog inside your home when you are not there. Leave on the radio or TV to mask outside noises.
- ♦ Teach your dog the “no bark” command.
- ♦ If barking becomes excessive, use a squirt bottle on the dogs’ rear end to get his attention and then in a firm voice, give the “no bark” command.
- ♦ Ignore your dog if he is barking for attention. Consistently reward silent pauses with your attention. Your dog will learn that he is rewarded for not barking.

**DIGGING** -- Usually dogs dig because they are bored or left outside for too long. However, digging is a normal activity for dogs and many of them really enjoy it. To reduce digging, especially in inappropriate places, consider the following guidelines.

- ♦ Spend more time with your dog, give him plenty of exercise, keep him indoors and provide him with toys.
- ♦ Direct the behavior by designating an area in the yard where it is acceptable for your dog to dig, and encourage him to use this area by putting a sandbox or burying his toys there.
- ♦ Help stop your dog from digging in a particular area by covering the spot with dirt and securing chicken wire on top or placing the dog’s feces in the area.

**BOLTING** -- Bolting is common, and often increases after a stay at a shelter where the dog learns that fun occurs when he is taken out of his kennel and allowed to run in the exercise pens. This learned behavior may show up at your home when your new dog pushes through your legs and runs off down the street. Your dog may also act excited and “wild” if allowed to run loose in your back yard unattended. To reduce this behavior, consider the following guidelines.

- ♦ Put your new dog on leash before opening the door, even if you are only going into your fenced yard, to teach and guide him to be calm and learn boundaries.
- ♦ Teach your dog to “wait” at every door or gate until you release him to go through, after you go through. Begin training inside your home when there are no distractions.

- ◆ You can put a baby gate on the outside of your front and back doors to form a double barrier and help prevent your dog from darting out by accident.

Always train with your dog on leash so if he slips out, you can lead him back and begin again.

- ◆ If your dog escapes, do not run after him – the dog often sees this as a game and will probably run away faster! Instead, turn around and run away at an angle and the dog may turn around and chase you home!
- ◆ If your dog approaches you, crouch down and offer a cookie to lure the dog to you. Talk in a “happy” voice to attract your dog. Do not reprimand your dog for coming to you – reprimands may lead your dog to be afraid to come when called.

As time goes on, your dog will learn that inside your home is a great place to be, and probably will not be as likely to run away.

**NOTE:** *Some dog breeds are more likely to roam than others; research into breed traits is always a good idea before adopting a dog.*

**SEPARATION ANXIETY** -- If your dog becomes increasingly anxious as you prepare to leave (whining and pacing, barking frantically and destroying the dry wall and door frame to get to you), the dog may be having separation anxiety. Usually within 30 minutes of the owner departing, a dog with separation anxiety attempts to get out to find his owner. Tremendous damage can be done to door frames, drapes, windowsills, furniture, blinds, etc. Dogs can injure themselves from the destruction efforts or from obsessive chewing on themselves. Putting a dog in a crate or kennel can increase the anxiety, and result in broken teeth and ripped nails as they try to get out. Food and treats are rarely a distraction. The dog may relieve himself because of his anxiety.

A dog with separation anxiety is not being willfully destructive or malicious. Punishing the dog does no good and *only confuses your already anxious and distraught pet*. Usually the dog is extremely affectionate and loving when in the presence of his owner. Dogs with separation anxiety are usually loyal and affectionate pets. With time, patience and the ability to train and medication, this condition is highly treatable. Some of the ways to relieve this situation are described below.

- ◆ Consult your veterinarian for information about available medications. Treating your dog may be necessary to take the edge off his anxiety and enable you to implement a behavior modification training program.

- ◆ Behavior modification can have a huge impact on the dog's behavior. Daily walks and exercise such as tossing a Frisbee, retrieving a ball and running or swimming for at least one to two hours are highly recommended for needed aerobic exercise.
- ◆ If your dog follows you everywhere, begin to close the door to the room you have entered saying, "you're fine, I'll be right back," in a calm, confident voice. When you come back out, ignore the dog or praise him calmly.
- ◆ Practice the "down-stay" command, giving your dog treats for staying put on a mat or dog bed. Beginning with just a few seconds, gradually increase the length of the stay until you can go out of sight. Reward this milestone with lots of treats and calm praise. Continue to practice; gradually increasing the time you are out of sight. If your dog keeps breaking the stay, you are moving too quickly. Lead him back to the mat, go back to the point where he was successful and reward that for a while, then increase the time slowly until your dog can stay on his mat for over 30 minutes with you out of the room. Sometimes leaving a chew toy or longer-lasting food treat can also help with the training.
- ◆ Practice picking up your keys but not leaving the house. Put on your coat and sit on the sofa. Teach your dog that these cues do not always mean you are preparing to leave. Doing this often, every day, will eventually take the stress out of your actual departure.
- ◆ While you are training your dog to accept your departure, leave a great treat, such as a nylon bone or chew toy filled with cream cheese or peanut butter to distract him. Remember to leave for just a few moments at first, and take away the treat the moment you return. Only give him this special treat while he is alone. This is not a time to introduce a crate. Keeping him in a smaller space usually makes the anxiety much worse.
- ◆ Leave on the radio or television, which may ease anxiety
- ◆ To help your dog learn to not become anxious when you leave, limit attention to the dog 15 – 20 minutes prior to leaving and 15 – 20 minutes upon your return. This helps your dog accept these activities as a regular part of his life rather than something about which to worry.

# Helpful tips for children and dogs



Many puppies and dogs think of children as littermates because children have high-pitched voices, get easily excited, run and fling their arms about, and are closer to the dog's size. The puppy/dog interacts in play with children just as it would with other dogs/puppies: nip, jump up, bang into, knock over and wrestle. Very young children can't handle dogs with proper gentleness. They want to hug and squeeze the dog and are often rough despite their sweet intentions.

## Teach Your Children the Right Way to Pet a New Dog

- ◆ Approach from the side
- ◆ Allow the dog to smell your hand
- ◆ Extend your hand under the dog's chin or chest
- ◆ Do not look directly into the dog's eyes
- ◆ NEVER touch a strange dog
- ◆ Don't disturb a dog that is eating, chewing or sleeping
- ◆ Don't run from a dog
- ◆ If the dog is getting too excited, stand still "like a tree," fold arms and hide hands, then walk away slowly and calmly
- ◆ Do not allow children to climb on the dog, hug tightly, pull its tail or ears, or tickle its feet.

### Warning Signs That a Dog Is Anxious

- ◆ The dog is standing stiffly, looking sideways at your child and perhaps gives a low, deep growl
- ◆ Ears and tail are up. Tail is wagging very quickly and stiffly. (Often people think a wagging tail is a good sign only if it is low and slow. A highly raised tail, wagging very quickly, may be a sign of great stimulation for your dog.)
- ◆ Ears are laid back against the head and the tail is tucked
- ◆ Staring your child in the eye, with a raised lip

# reminders

## Microchipping

We strongly encourage you to have an identification microchip implanted in your dog if it hasn't already been done. This relatively painless, 20-second procedure greatly increases the chance that your dog could be found if he gets lost. The microchip, which is about the size of a rice grain, is inserted just under the skin between the animal's shoulder blades. It cannot be seen or felt; it can only be detected by a microchip scanner. Veterinarians, shelters and rescue organizations use scanners to identify stray animals they receive.

## If The Match isn't Right

While our volunteers try very hard to help you choose just the right dog for your lifestyle, sometimes a relationship is not successful. If you find yourself with a Miniature Schnauzer that does not adjust to your household or is more than you can or want to handle, please contact us. The Adoption Agreement you signed when you adopted your Miniature Schnauzer requires that the dog be returned to Miniature Schnauzer Rescue Inc. if you are no longer willing or able to keep the dog. We will always take back any dog we have placed. All of us at Miniature Schnauzer Rescue want to help you make the right pet choice and to keep the loving bond for the lifetime of the pet. Please call with any questions; we are glad to assist.

# volunteering

Miniature Schnauzer Rescue is an all-volunteer organization. We have ongoing needs for foster homes, grooming, veterinary care, training & socialization, clerical work and special events. If you are interested in learning more about volunteer opportunities, please contact us at [info@msrnorthwest.org](mailto:info@msrnorthwest.org).

# donations

As a federally recognized nonprofit organization, Miniature Schnauzer Rescue, Inc relies 100% on donations. Your tax deductible donation will help to ensure the Miniature Schnauzers entrusted to our care, receive the veterinary care, proper diet, grooming and training needs they require. Donations may be made via PayPal on our web site at [www.msrnorthwest.org](http://www.msrnorthwest.org) or mailed to the donation address shown in the "Ways to Help" section. Thank you.

notes



