



The Schnauzer Browser

Edition 1, Issue 4

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Update on an NCSR Dog: Meet Chelsea (NCSR #129)

Inside this issue:

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| Meet Chelsea | 1 |
| NCSR Board Members | 1 |
| Embracing Seniors...dogs that is | 2 |
| Is Your Dog Overweight? | 3 |

Cold Weather Tips

*Limit time outdoors to short periods of time (15 minutes or less).

*Keep paw pads protected from ice melt and salt products that may be on the ground.

*Keep dogs warm with sweaters, jackets, etc (especially senior dogs).

*If you want to play hard with your dog in the cold, be sure to warm up his/her muscles well before going out (just like in people).

Want to help NCSR?

*Make a donation on-line at: <http://www.ncschnauzers.org/donate.htm>

*Items currently needed: PetTabs Plus vitamins, GlycoFlex, crate pads, postage stamps

If you have an article idea for our next issue, please e-mail

[rescue@ncschnauzers.org!](mailto:rescue@ncschnauzers.org)

Submitted by Jennifer Stubenhofer, adoptive home of Chelsea.

Chelsea (NCSR #129) came into our home as a foster in May of 2007. We decided to adopt her a short time later; she loved us and got along well with our other pets, and we couldn't bear the thought of giving her up. She and our other Schnauzer, Rory, are practically inseparable. She LOVES our backyard! She uses the doggie door to go outside. She also likes to go for a walk around our neighborhood. She was nervous at first around the people and dogs that we encountered on our evening walk since she was still getting used to her new home. To help her feel more at ease at

the beginning, we would walk later in the evening when most others were already home. That allowed Chelsea to enjoy her walk and get used to the new neighborhood. Over time, we walked earlier in the evening and allowed her to get used to encountering others during our walk.

She loves my husband and me. She follows one of us around the house constantly and greets us at the door when we arrive home with an excitement that you have to see to believe. She's learned to play with toys and has learned a few basic commands (neither of which she appeared to know when she came to

us). She seems to know that NC Schnauzer Rescue gave her a new lease



Chelsea (middle) with siblings Rory (left), and Sky (right)

on life and is happy and playful every day. We call her our "10-year-old puppy" and are very thankful to have her in our lives!

If you adopted a Schnauzer from NCSR and would like to share his/her story, send it to

[rescue@ncschnauzers.org!](mailto:rescue@ncschnauzers.org)

NCSR Board of Directors 2009-2010

As part of the annual meeting held at the end of October, new Board Members were voted into office for the upcoming year (November 1, 2009– October 31, 2010). The Board Members are:

Stephanie Bivens—
President

Eve Zuber—Secretary

Jennifer Christensen—
Board Member

Lynn Fraser—Board Member

Sally Rice—Board Member

The Board is responsible for the day to day operations of the rescue, including coordinating intakes of needy

schnauzers, coordinating foster homes, managing finances, and fund raising, to name just a few of the many responsibilities.

Board Member Jennifer Christensen says, "The five of us work so well together! We are looking forward to another great year in the rescue!"

Embracing the Senior Dog

Submitted by Lynn Fraser, Board Member

When I pulled Willie (NCSR #123) from a local shelter, he was 6 years old. It took me less than 24 hours to know this was one foster dog that wasn't going anywhere. His lovable personality and quirky antics won my heart immediately. A year or so later, as I took him to the vet for his yearly vaccines and



Willie (NCSR #123)

check-up, I was surprised when my vet started going over a senior dog evaluation on Willie. Senior? Willie? He's too playful and goofy and active to be a SENIOR. Senior dogs are old. They have arthritis. Their teeth fall out. That wasn't MY Willie. He was at that point 7 years old, and most definitely a senior by veterinarian definitions. He was, and at 9 years old still is, my playful, goofy, loving Willie. He, and the numerous senior foster dogs I have had over the years, has changed how I see senior dogs.

The point of my story is that if someone were looking to adopt a dog, they more than likely wouldn't give Willie a second look; because of a number. Being a senior dog, Willie requires a few things younger dogs do not. He gets a senior chemistry panel and full blood work every year at the vet. As

dogs age, these are done to monitor major organs, and to find problems early; better for the dog's health, and usually easier on the wallet, too. Senior dogs like Willie may take multi-vitamins, a supplement for joints or skin and hair.

Some senior dogs lose teeth, their eyes become cloudy (usually dogs over 5 years old will start to show some cloudiness in their eyes). Their diet needs may change. I spend a little more on a quality food to help keep his skin allergies down, and keep his coat healthy. Is it worth it? Every cent!

Many people shy away from adopting an older dog. I even had one person say to me that they would not adopt a senior dog because they "didn't want to get the dog and it die." Vets normally classify a dog a senior at around 7 years of age. The life expectancy of a Miniature Schnauzer is about 14 years, and can go beyond that with good food, regular vet care, and a conscientious owner. Liken it to a 65-year-old person who is classified as a senior, but still travels, jogs, or has an otherwise active life. Age is a number, not an indication of a dog's worth or health. When I fell in love with Willie, his age wasn't a factor in my

love for him. He fit in my dog pack, he fit with my lifestyle, and his personality was amazing.

Senior dogs are harder to adopt out because of the tendency of people to automatically want a younger dog or puppy. However, those of us who have adopted or own a senior dog know the benefits. Senior dogs will not chew up your favorite shoes. They are usually housebroken (or are easier to train) and have manners. They are content going for a walk, playing catch in the backyard, or joining you on the couch for some TV or a nap. They have life experience and are positive, happy, playful dogs who want to give and receive love. When a dog hopes for an owner, they want an owner to love them and look out for their best interest; age of the owner isn't important.

When looking to adopt a dog, please consider a senior dog. There are plenty of senior dogs who are active, playful, get along well with other pets and love children. There may be a senior dog waiting for a home right now that will be the perfect addition to your family! Just like Willie has been to mine.

Lynn has been an active member and foster home of NCSR for over 2 years. She has fostered MANY of our "senior" dogs and we continually count of her for her knowledge and experience with our beloved senior schnauzers.

Is Your Dog Overweight?

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

When is a dog considered to be fat? Veterinarians often use a 9-point scoring system to evaluate the body conditions of pets. A point value of 1 means the dog is extremely thin to the point of emaciation. A score of 9 means the dog is grossly overweight. And, like Goldilocks and the Three Bears, a score of 5 is 'just right.' To determine body score, there are several specific areas of the dog we look at. Remember, these are guidelines. A Greyhound with a score of 5 is still going to be thinner than a Bulldog with the same score.

To perform the rating, we first feel the dog's ribs. We should be able to quite easily feel the ribs. There should be a slight amount of fat over them, but each rib should be distinct. If you can see the ribs, the pet is too thin. If you can not feel them at all, the dog is very overweight.

Second, check the area near the base of the tail. There should be slight fat

covering over this area and it should feel smooth. If the bones protrude, the pet is too thin; if you cannot feel any bones at all, the pet is very overweight.

Third, feel other bony prominences on the pet's body such as the spine, shoulders, and hips. Again, you should be able to feel a small amount of fat over these areas. If these bones are easily felt or visible, the dog is too thin. If you cannot feel the bones beneath the layer of fat, the dog is obviously overweight.

Fourth, the dog should have a definite waist behind the ribs. If the waist is extreme, or again, bony prominences are visible, the animal is too thin. If there is no waist or worse yet, the area between the ribs and hips is wider than the hip or ribs, the dog is grossly overweight.

Fifth, look at the pet from the side. Dogs should have an abdominal tuck; i.e., the area behind the ribs should be smaller in diameter than the chest. This can vary a lot between breeds. Irish

Setters and Greyhounds, for instance, appear to have a much more distinct abdominal tuck since they are so deep-chested. An animal that is too thin will have a very severe abdominal tuck. Overweight pets will have no abdominal tuck.

If you feel your dog is overweight, consult your veterinarian to determine if there are any other medical problems before starting the animal on a weight reduction program. Your veterinarian can also suggest various diets, how fast your dog should lose weight, etc.

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