

The Giant Hotline

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Therapy Dogs International

-Jan Young

Something I have always wanted to do was to have a dog certified as a Therapy Dog. For years I showed in the conformation ring and had a wonderful time, but, being in the health care field I wanted to do more.

When I got Maggie, I realized that she was perfect for the role. She is friendly, enthusiastic about being loved and petted and already knew the basic commands. Contacting Therapy Dogs International, I located a certified evaluator and set up the time for Maggie to be tested. She passed with flying colors and comments from the evaluators such as "She was a joy to work with", "She seems very well-adjusted and happy to be a part of this".

According to their web site, Therapy Dogs International was founded in 1976 in New Jersey by Elaine Smith and had about 24,000 dog/handler teams in 50 states and Canada in 2010. They define themselves as "a volunteer organization dedicated to regulating, testing and registration of therapy dogs and their volunteer handlers for the purpose of visiting nursing homes, hospitals, other institutions and wherever else therapy dogs are needed."

"The bond between dog and man dates back to early history, but it wasn't until recently that a correlation was acknowledged between this bond and the emotional health of humans. Studies have shown that a person

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Message from the Editor

Wow – Getting my first Hotline out has definitely been a learning experience. I know that I can never fill Enid's shoes in the wonderful job she did for so many years but, with the help of all the members in the form of contributions, I will do my best to keep this a fun and informative newsletter with lots of pictures.

Though I have only been in the SCGSC for 3 years, I have met such great people who love their dogs just like kids. Sometimes they cost almost as much! I was blessed to adopt Sebastian on Mother's Day, 2008, and he has been a joy in my life. Although he was terribly abused (Tina & Jane said he was "the worst" they had ever rescued) he has improved dramatically. This last Mother's Day I got Maggie. She is now 12 and just received her TDI certification.

We are so looking forward to the Round-Up this October. We are also praying that we don't get visited by a tornado like last year. It was pretty scary but the great food, awesome raffle and super company made up for it.

Get your costumes ready and we will see you at Southfork!

-Jan Young, MD

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Well, like many of you, I am definitely ready for the dog days of summer to be over! Most of us throughout the central part of the U.S. are truly suffering from drought and heat. Even my dogs do not want to go outside, and all of us are so grouchy! Another reason I am ready for summer to be over is that it will be time for the annual Southfork event. You will read more about this in the newsletter and get to see the great items that are up for bid. Jane Chism, as always, has done a magnificent job in locating unique and beautiful Giant Schnauzer items. The pictures are good – but do not do justice to the artisanship of the items. Our club is indeed lucky to have Jane's perseverance as she scouts E-bay to find "all things Giant." I hope all of you make a special effort to come to the event. Put your dog on lead and "come on down." The event is meant for all Giant people – it is not just for show dogs or just for agility dogs ... it is for all Giants and their families.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Bill Ameser for getting the last Hotline out. Bill pitched in when we desperately needed an editor. Thank you, thank you, and thank you. The pictures and articles were great. Bill has now transferred the editorship over to Jan Young. Like any editor, Jan's job is to put the newsletter together. That means she is depending on us (all of us) to get information to her. Before you say "I don't have anything to contribute" look down at your feet. There should be a black nose looking up at you – THAT is what you can contribute. Our newsletter is such a hit because of all the pictures. All of you can send pictures of your dog – all those cute (and maybe not so cute) things that your dog does. When you send pictures, send in jpeg format and give us a little information (name of dog, names of people in the picture, when/where the picture occurred, and who took the picture). If you want to write more about the picture, feel free to do so. If you attend an event (dog show, agility or obedience event, or social event), take pictures. Fall is in the air (for some people) – take pictures of your dog playing in the leaves. So, you do have something to contribute. If you want to highlight YOUR dog show (you know, that one where your dog got all those points) then it is up to you to take pictures and get them to Jan. Jan's email is jan.young@cox.net. If you do not send pictures, you are going to continue to see many pictures of Turti (my boy) because I keep my camera with me whenever I take Turti somewhere.

I want to thank Greg Reyna for a great article on breeding for size. He brought up good points as to why our breed has the size standards. Thanks for stating that if people want truly BIG dogs, they should think about another breed. Along with size, we know that many people now want "Designer Dogs." Although I have not heard of many Giant breeders working on unique characteristics, I do know there are many miniature schnauzer breeders that are hearing the request for champagne colored or parti-colored miniature schnauzers. My concern with cross breeding for color is that there are other traits on that particular DNA strand. Thus, when we manipulate color, we also manipulate other traits – some of which could have serious health consequences. For example, we know that 90% of white cats are deaf, as both of these traits are on the same DNA structure. So, if you have friends who are considering Designer Dogs, please advise them that they are risking health consequences.

Since Jane Chism and I are very active in HT-Z Giant Schnauzer Rescue, we tend to talk every day. We usually compare e-mails from people who contact us wanting a Giant. We get some heartfelt reasons but also some hilarious reasons as to why people want Giants. From out of those many talks and from our own experiences, we started a Lettermen-like list of reasons for owning a Giant (the list is somewhere in the newsletter). I am sure you can identify with many of these reasons, but I also bet you have your own "special" reasons. Send those in to the Hotline – we always like to commiserate with you (can you tell one of the themes of this column is to get each of you to contribute items to the Hotline?).

HT-Z Giant Schnauzer Rescue has been very active this year. I personally have fostered six dogs since January 2011. Being a foster family is very rewarding; yes, you miss the dogs when they go to their "forever" homes but you also get the joy of seeing a family get a great dog. We keep up

with our placed dogs – in fact, some of the dogs that will be Southfork are because of HT-Z. If you are unable to foster, there are many other things you can do to help HT-Z. We need people to identify dogs (go to a pound and make sure the dog is a Giant ... we have had pounds call us about Giants only to go find a 12" tan dog that no way resembles a Giant). We need people to transport or retrieve Giants. If we have enough transporters, we could start a relay from Point A to Point B so no one has to travel too far. Jane and I already do this – we meet (don't laugh) at the dumpster in Waco to "trade off" dogs. We also can use any kennels that you have sitting around your garage not being used. Pat Krapf and Bill Ameser/Scott Turnbull just donated two – and I thought why have we been buying kennels when many people just have them sitting out in the garage. Of course, HT-Z can always use money. For each dog we get, we spend a minimum of \$300-\$500 for vetting. Some dogs have been truly sick, and the veterinarian bills skyrocket. The adoption fee usually does not cover what we have put in these dogs, so to honor your dog on its birthday, make a contribution to HT-Z.

We are re-printing an article on toe cancer from a few years ago. Please read it and take it to your veterinarian. For people who are new to the Hotline or new to the breed, Giants have a tendency to have toe cancer. The "tell tell" sign is lots of licking of the paw. Faulkner had his first bout with toe cancer about 4 years ago (it was in October, as I had to miss Southfork...another reminder of the October 29th event). My veterinarian, as with most veterinarians, wanted to treat the issue as an infection and give antibiotics. As the bossy and insistent owner, I had her amputate the toe. Unbelievably, Faulkner limped out of her clinic, jumped in the car, and by the time he got home he was just barely limping. By two days, you would not know he had his toe amputated. Once the hair grew back, I could not even tell which paw was missing an appendage. I say this because many people feel that the dog will miss the toe. However, to quote Enid Lagree "lose a toe, save a life." As I write this article, I am awaiting a phone call from my veterinarian. Faulkner is back in surgery for his third toe amputation. My veterinarian has learned "lose a toe, save a life."

See you at Southfork
Tina

The "Rat Pack"



Turti holding court.



TOP 10 REASONS YOU LOVE HAVING A GIANT SCHNAUZER

- #10. Because you enjoy mopping the floors 10 times everyday after your giant drinks water! Gotta love those “sponge beards”!
- #9. Because having black dust bunnies in the corners of your house looks cozy.
- #8. Because letting them in and out the door every 30 minutes is great exercise.
- #7. Because you don't mind only having two feet of your bed to sleep on.
- #6. Because you don't need an electric blanket in the Winter! -- OR Summer!
- #5. Because it's fun to watch the FedEx guy throw packages at your porch and sprint away as fast as he can.
- #4. Because you don't have to worry about putting up leftover food – if it's left out on the counter for two seconds after dinner!
- #3. Because you enjoy explaining why you're covered in bruises!
- #2. Because going for a walk is always an adventure!

And #1:

BECAUSE THEY'RE THE GREATEST BREED IN THE WORLD AND THINK OF HOW BORING YOUR LIFE WOULD BE WITHOUT THEM!



Maggie lounging at home. She has definitely settled in .

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holding or petting an animal will cause a lowering of blood pressure, the release of strain and tension, and can draw out a person from loneliness and depression.”

They accept both pedigreed and mixed breed dogs. Each dog must maintain a current health record form and, in addition to the TDI certification, must pass the AKC Canine Good Citizen test which makes certain that the dog will be comfortable around medical equipment including walkers and wheelchairs. Their temperament is also evaluated around both strangers and other animals.

I am so proud of Maggie and look forward to our visits to local health-care facilities.

How do you know it's Summer? Wet Giants!!

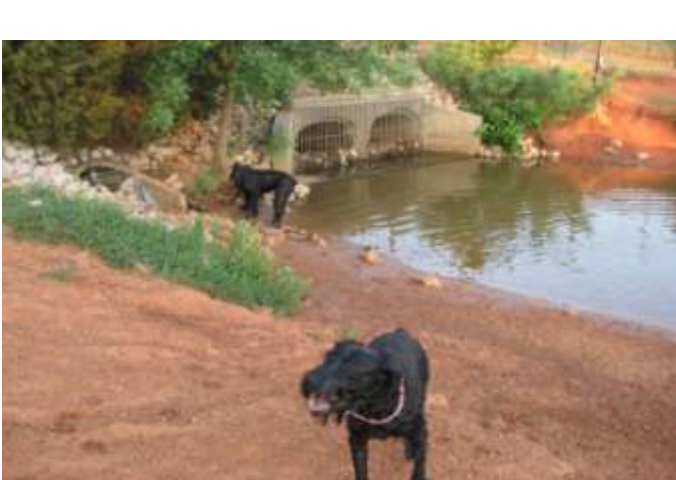


Kai Krapf cooling off!!

Photos courtesy of Pat Krapf



Ozzy making the best of a hot day! Photo by Jean Erath Owned by Chris & Jean Erath



Maggie and Sebastian enjoying the lake at the Dog Park. Photos by Jan Young

Since it's been a couple of years since we've included information about toe cancer in The Hotline, we felt it was important to bring the subject top-of-mind with giant schnauzer owners again! To that end, we're including an encore of Enid Lagree's last article. Thank you, Enid, for writing such a wonderful, comprehensive article! No one says it better than you!

It still amazes me at the number of Vets who aren't familiar with toe cancer in giant schnauzers. So we need to stay vigilant and informed on this very important topic!

I've been through this several times myself. My first giant, Inca, had two squamous cell toes removed during her lifetime. The first toe was taken when she was 8 years old, the second at 11. We were very lucky! Both times the margins were clear and she was with me until she was almost 14.

I'm currently going through almost the identical history with my second giant, Majerle. She had her first "suspicious toe" at age 9. I promptly had it removed. As it happened, it was not squamous cell. Do I regret having it removed? Not in a million years! The healing process after the surgery is quick, and she never "skipped a beat". We had another toe removed last year at age 11. This time it WAS squamous cell! Thankfully the margins were clear, and hopefully she'll be with me a long time!

-Jane Chism

Save the Toe — Lose the Dog!

by Enid Lagree

In the September 2003 issue of *The Giant Hotline* there was an article entitled *Changes in the Toes or Nails of Giant Schnauzers* as well as a request for information from owners of Giant Schnauzers that have experienced toe and/or nail problems. In the December 2004 *Hotline* there was a Clinical Report entitled *Multiple Digital Squamous-cell Carcinomas in 2 Dogs*, one of which was a Giant Schnauzer.

Those articles and the request for information continue to elicit a steady response from Giant Schnauzer owners in the U.S. and around the world because of our club's website.

Most people write because their seven to nine year-old black Giant Schnauzer is limping due to a toenail or nail bed problem. If the nail is the culprit, it is usually cracked, deviated, elongated, hollow or missing all together. An infection of the nail bed is more difficult to establish and may show up only on an x-ray. In either case the dog is limping and the toe is painful to touch.

The typical veterinarian is or has been treating the toe with antibiotics, often for weeks, even several months. When the veterinarian finally decides that the antibiotics aren't working, he or she does a biopsy, which is positive for squamous cell carcinoma.

At that point the vet finally breaks down and amputates the toe, but only as a last resort. Amazingly, once the toe is gone, the dog is out of pain and stops limping even while the stitches are still in place.

Finally and sadly people write to tell me that the weeks of antibiotic therapy gave the cancer a chance to metastasize to the lung, the sinus, etc. And from there, it progresses very rapidly. Over the past six years I have heard so many toe stories with sad and avoidable endings that my advice has become pretty blunt:

• **Save the Toe and Lose the Dog or Lose the Toe and Save the Dog.** •

Advice For You and Your Vet:

1. If your Giant starts limping and a single toe is involved and that toe is hot, swollen, painful and/or the nail is misshapen, broken or empty—chances are good that it is squamous cell carcinoma.
2. Before your vet starts antibiotic therapy, **INSIST** he do a radiograph.
3. If the radiograph reveals soft tissue swelling and bone lysis, don't mess around. Amputate the toe. Your Giant will never miss it.
4. If your vet doesn't have a practice that includes a large number of Giant Schnauzers, and he or she isn't familiar with the toe problems in our breed, give him copies of the two articles that appeared in

the September '03Hotline and the December '04 Hotline. If you don't have copies of those issues you can download both articles off of our club's website.

Toes Don't Make the Dog

There is a documented case of a Giant, whelped in 1981, who lost her first toe in 1987. By 1991, she had lost all but two toes. She had no trouble walking and was much happier without the painful toes. I have received numerous reports of Giants losing four or five toes between the ages of 7 and 12 and they did not miss their toes in the slightest.

The Giant Schnauzer is Not Alone

Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) is not limited to black Giant Schnauzers. Many black, large breeds of dogs appear to be predisposed. *The National Genome Research Institute, NIH* is researching the genetic susceptibility to SCC of the digit of breeds with black coats such as the Giant Schnauzer, black Standard Poodle, and the black Labrador Retriever.

SCC is Not Limited to a Certain Line of Giant Schnauzer

All too often Giant owners want to blame a particular breeder or line of Giant Schnauzer. There is even a website that lists "Known Producers of Toe Cancer" which is absolutely outrageous and rather ridiculous. Giant owners from all over the world contact me and I doubt if any "line" is SCC free.

Malignant Melanoma

Unfortunately toe problems are not limited to Squamous Cell Carcinoma. Malignant melanomas between toes and on toes are not as common as SCC but still occur. These are very serious and recurrence or spread of the tumor to other tissues is very likely. The best treatment for any melanoma is still considered to be radical (aggressive) surgical excision. Speed is of the utmost importance because melanomas are

fast growing. The good news is, (if that's possible) if the toe or lump is removed quickly and the pathology come back with "clear margins" there is a good chance that it may never reoccur.

Two or More toes – Symmetrical Lupoid Onychodystrophy

Cases where two or more toes at a time are involved are the exception and normally indicate an aggressive nail bed infection rather than cancer. In veterinary literature the condition is referred to as *Symmetrical Lupoid Onychodystrophy* or SLO. Again this disease is not limited to Giant Schnauzers.

SLO is an autoimmune disease of dogs, which can cause severe nail problems in otherwise apparently healthy dogs. It is characterized by nail problems on more than one paw—eventually all the nails on all four paws may be involved. Other symptoms may include: receding quicks, secondary infection (often with a strong smell), nail splitting (usually down the back of the nail), pain, distorted/twisted nail and lameness.

In the past year I have had reports from three Giant owners whose dogs had been diagnosed with SLO. In two cases all of the nails were involved which made walking extremely painful. Their vets were and had been treating the dogs with essential fatty acid (EFA) supplements and antibiotics.

Back in the March 2006 issue of *The Giant Hotline*, Pam Foster wrote an article about their Giant Goliath who suffered from SLO. To summarize: Pam's vet, Dr. Harold Krug, finally declawed Goliath as you would a cat. Goliath never missed the nails and lived another six pain free years.

Many vets hesitate to remove a toe, so you can imagine their aversion and resistance to declawing a dog. My advice to owners of Giants suffering from SLO, which isn't responding to antibiotics and fatty acid supplements, "Have your vet call Dr. Krug in Dallas." His phone number is 972 931 9206 and email address: cvvc@flash.net.

**Editor's Note: Below is an excellent description of Squamous Cell Carcinoma.
"Nail-Bed Squamous Cell Carcinoma (SCC) by Lynn Wilkes (Standard Poodle breeder)**

Digital SCC is a malignant tumor that originates in the nail-bed epithelium. Most dogs with SCC of the digit are examined because of a sore toe. Limping, swelling, bleeding/discharge, ulceration, and breaking or splitting of nails are also common complaints. SCC tumors in many dogs were preceded by chronic nail-bed infections.

Black, large breed dogs such as Labrador Retrievers, Giant Schnauzers and Standard Poodles appear to be predisposed. In these breeds, multiple digits may be involved over a course of two to four years.

Each toe affected is a primary tumor, and not metastases from another digit.

Squamous Cell Carcinoma of the digit is locally aggressive, and "lysis" (erosion and deterioration of bone) is evident on X-rays about 80% of the time. Amputation of the digit is necessary to prevent SCC from spreading to adjacent lymph nodes and major organs. Average age at the onset of SCC is nine, but Standard Poodles as young as four have been reported.

Diagnosis is confirmed by histopathology of the affected digit."

A suspicious nail can be misshapen, broken or empty. The nails in this photo is a classic example of SCC affected toes.



Too Much Fun with the Frisbee!!!



Gaining on it!!!



Got It!!



Now I'm Pooped.....

Pictures of Jett by Jean Erath. Owned by Chris & Jean Erath & Ed Fojtik.

VEGGIEBITE

Ingredients:

3 1/2 cups whole wheat flour
1/2 cup oatmeal
1/2 cup diced celery
1/8 cup diced red bell pepper (optional)
1/2 cup shredded carrots
1/2 cup cup unsalted sunflower kernels
1 1/4 cup water
3 tablespoons olive oil

Directions:

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Mix water and oil.
Add flour, oatmeal, vegetables, and sunflower kernels.
Knead dough for 2 - 3 minutes and roll to 1/4 inch thick.
Cut into bone shapes and place on a untreated cookie sheet.
Bake at 375 degrees for 30 minutes.
Yields: 2 1/2 dozen.

BONE APPETIT!

Many thanks to Valerie Quella for her creative recipes and her willingness to share!!

A Giant Laugh ... The Perfect Plan
-Tina Fields

I woke up that morning thinking I had the perfect plan. The IT that would make me millions. My "Plan B". My retirement. I would write romance novels. I had the perfect opening for that first best seller... "she was awakened by tender caresses all over her body." And then I opened my eyes and found three Giant puppies licking me.



Oh no you don't!



Almost got it.....



I'm not as young as I used to be.

Chief and Rose playing Frisbee.

Photos by Jean Erath. Owned by Jean Erath and Ed Fojtik.

Dog Urine Odor Removal

By Robyn Elliot

Accidents happen. It's part of life with dogs; but why do they always have to pee on the carpet and not the tile? It sure is frustrating and it makes clean up a hassle; plus, the smell can last forever. Here's something that might minimize accident odors:

- 1. Act quickly.** It's best to clean up accidents as soon as possible, so they have less chance to soak in. For fresh puddles on your carpet, soak them up with plenty of paper towels until the area is almost completely dry. Then, rinse the area with cool water and blot.
- 2. Add some muscle, if needed.** If the potty spot has a stain already starting to set, a wet vac, shop vac, or similar type of extractor cleaning machine may work. It works by rinsing the affected area with water and forcefully sucking it away. You can rent or buy one, but don't confuse it with a steam cleaner, whose high heat actually helps set stains and allows odors to penetrate more deeply.

Resist the urge to add any other chemicals or cleaning products to this machine; it only uses water. Also, stronger smelling cleaning products don't necessarily do a better job of getting rid of odors.

- 3. Neutralize.** Once the area is clean, use a neutralizing product to tackle any lingering odors. You want the neutralizer to work directly on the carpet and not waste any of its power interacting with other products, so make sure anything else that you've applied to the carpet has been thoroughly rinsed. I have found that plain brown Listerine works well, even directly on concrete.
- 4. Replace, if needed.** At some point, the carpet might have to be replaced. If urine soaks all the way through your carpet and into the padding below, things get a bit more complicated. In these cases, the most foolproof way to eliminate odors is to remove and replace what is hopefully just a small area of carpet. Personally, I pulled all of the carpet and my giants LOVE the concrete floors, especially in our 105 degree heat!

Wouldn't it be nice if our giants came potty trained and NEVER had an accident? Ahhh, the perfect world!

If you have any hints, please send them to Robyn at ilovegiants@hotmail.com

Olivia and Levi having fun.



I can get him, I know I can.

Gaining.....



Now, what do I do with him??

We hear so much about people being allergic to dogs and the quest for the ultimate “hypoallergenic” pet, but we do need to consider what our dogs may be allergic to that can make them very uncomfortable and even very ill.

Allergies in Dogs

Just like people, [dogs](#) can show allergic symptoms when their immune systems begin to recognize certain everyday substances-or allergens- as dangerous. Even though these allergens are common in most environments and harmless to most animals, a dog with [allergies](#) will have an extreme reaction to them. Allergens can be problematic when inhaled, ingested or contact a dog’s [skin](#). As his body tries to rid itself of these substances, a variety of skin, digestive and respiratory symptoms may appear.

What Are the General Symptoms of Allergies in Dogs?

- Itchy, red, moist or scabbed skin
- Increased scratching
- Itchy, runny eyes
- Itchy back or base of tail (most commonly [flea allergy](#))
- Itchy ears and ear infections
- [Sneezing](#)
- [Vomiting](#)
- [Diarrhea](#)
- [Snoring](#) caused by an inflamed throat
- Paw chewing/swollen paws
- Constant licking

Allergic dogs may also suffer from secondary bacterial or yeast [skin infections](#), which may cause [hair loss](#), scabs or crusts on the skin.

Which Dogs Are At Risk for Getting Allergies? Any dog can develop allergies at any time during his life, but allergic reactions seem to be especially common in terriers, setters, retrievers, and flat-faced breeds such as pugs, bulldogs and Boston terriers.

What Substances Can Dogs Be Allergic To? A few common allergens include:

- Tree, grass and weed pollens
- Mold spores
- Dust and house dust [mites](#)
- Dander
- Feathers
- Cigarette smoke
- [Food](#) ingredients (e.g. beef, chicken, pork, corn, wheat or soy)
- Prescription drugs
- [Fleas](#) and flea-control products (The bite of a single flea can trigger intense itchiness for two to three weeks!)
- Perfumes
- Cleaning products
- Fabrics
- Insecticidal shampoo

- Rubber and plastic materials

Can Dogs Be Allergic to Food? Yes, but it often takes some detective work to find out what substance is causing the allergic reaction. Dogs with a [food allergy](#) will commonly have itchy skin, breathing difficulties or gastrointestinal problems like diarrhea and vomiting, and an elimination diet will most probably be used to determine what food he is allergic to. If your dog is specifically allergic to chicken, for example, you should avoid feeding him any products containing chicken protein or fat. Please note that food allergies may show up in dogs at any age.

What Should I Do If I Think My Dog Has Allergies? Visit your veterinarian. After taking a complete history and conducting a physical examination, he or she may be able to determine the source of your dog's allergic reaction. If not, your vet will most probably recommend skin or blood tests, or a special elimination diet, to find out what's causing the allergic reaction.

How Are Dog Allergies Diagnosed? If your dog's itchy, red or irritated skin persists beyond initial treatment by a veterinarian, allergy testing, most often performed by a veterinary dermatologist, is likely warranted. The diagnostic test of choice is an intradermal skin test similar to the one performed on humans. The only way to diagnose a food allergy is to feed your dog a prescription or hydrolyzed protein diet exclusively for 12 weeks. The importance of not feeding your dog anything but the diet cannot be emphasized enough-that means no [treats](#), table food or flavored medication. This diet will be free of potential allergy-causing ingredients and will ideally have ingredients your dog has never been exposed to. He'll remain on the diet until his symptoms go away, at which time you'll begin to reintroduce old foods to see which ones might be causing the allergic reaction.

Please note, many dogs diagnosed with a food allergy will require home-cooked meals-but this must be done in conjunction with your veterinarian, as it requires careful food balancing.

How Can Dog Allergies Be Treated? The best way to treat allergies is to remove the offending allergens from the environment.

- Prevention is the best treatment for allergies caused by fleas. Start a flea control program for all of your pets before the season starts. Remember, outdoor pets can carry fleas inside to indoor pets. See your veterinarian for advice about the best flea control products for your dog and the environment.
- If dust is the problem, clean your pet's bedding once a week and vacuum at least twice weekly-this includes rugs, curtains and any other materials that gather dust.
- Weekly [bathing](#) may help relieve [itching](#) and remove environmental allergens and pollens from your dog's skin. Discuss with your vet what prescription shampoos are best, as frequent bathing with the wrong product can dry out skin.
- If you suspect your dog has a food allergy, she'll need to be put on an exclusive prescription or hydrolyzed protein diet. Once the allergy is determined, your vet will recommend specific foods or a home-cooked diet.

Are There Allergy Medications for Dogs? Since certain substances cannot be removed from the environment, your vet may recommend medications to control the allergic reaction:

- In the case of airborne allergens, your dog may benefit from allergy injections. These will help your pet develop resistance to the offending agent, instead of just masking the itch.
- Antihistamines such as Benadryl can be used, but may only benefit a small percentage of dogs with allergies. Ask your vet first.

- Fatty acid [supplements](#) might help relieve your dog's itchy skin. There are also shampoos that may help prevent skin infection, which occurs commonly in dogs with allergies. Sprays containing oatmeal, aloe and other natural products are also available.
- An immune modulating drug may also be helpful.
- There are several flea-prevention products that can be applied monthly to your dog's skin.
- If the problem is severe, you may have to resort to [cortisone](#) to control the allergy. However these drugs are strong and should be used with caution and only under the guidance of your veterinarian.

Are Allergies and Bronchitis Related?

Chronic exposure to inhaled irritants (including cigarette smoke) may be a cause of [bronchitis](#) in the dog. Bronchitis is characterized by a persistent [cough](#) due to inflammation of the airway and excessive mucus production. Treatment may include medication to open breathing passages, [antibiotics](#) and anti-inflammatory agents. Please remember, your pets should not be exposed to cigarette smoke.

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“Flower bed.....what flower bed??”

Kai Krapf Photo by Pat Krapf

Follow up on the “Brat Pack” rescued by Tina Fields and HTZ-Rescue

HT-Z had three 6 month old puppies this summer. Despite their scraggly look, their long tails, their natural ears, their matted hair, three people identified them as Giants. We rescued them on a Sunday and promptly named them The Rat Pack. Dino was named for Dean Martin; he was the lover (think “Everybody Loves Somebody Sometimes”) and lived up to that name, spending his entire trip to San Marcos kissing my arm. Frankie was named for Frank Sinatra; he arrived at my house and promptly left the others to go exploring (think Frank Sinatra’s “My Way”). And then there was Sammy. Named for Sammy Davis Junior, little Sammy was the funny man, the candy man. He loved toys and surrounded himself with everything fun. After vetting and grooming, we had a good looking group of young boys. Of course, Turti had to teach them the ropes – or should I say the inner puppy came out and I had 4 puppies running around the house!



Sammy going to Connecticut.



Dino with his new forever family.



Frankie checking out his new home in Houston.

Can Dogs get PTSD?

Although I have been very blessed to breed, train and show several champion Giant Schnauzers, a few years ago I decided to become a part of rescue.

Anyone with money can purchase a puppy with a “clean slate” and raise it correctly. However, if you adopt an older dog and/or one with a history of abuse or neglect, the rules change.

As an example, my Sebastian was left at a shelter in Missouri at age 4 months having been so horribly abused that his left ear was healing from being cut almost in half. He was shuffled to 2 more shelters over the next 8 months before being identified by HTZ rescue and flown to Texas to have a great foster mom in Tina Fields.

When I met him at Bill and Scott’s house all he would do was bark. Tina and I took him on several walks during which she finally was able to give me his lead. When we were leaving, Tina even had to put him in my car. Dogs, like small children, are quite adaptive and within 30 minutes he had his nose in my ear, checking me out.

We did have some issues about his adaptation to Not being abused but just being loved. We did a trial of “doggie prozac” and many different foods but, in the end, it just took time, love and the establishment of trust for him to be comfortable with his new life. I always did therapeutic holds/hugs and now he loves to be hugged and rests his head on my shoulder, hugging me back.

He loves to go to the Dog Park to run, sniff and swim. He has finally let 3 other people touch and pet him and adores going to the groomer where he sits on the assistant’s lap and never goes into a kennel because they would rather play with him.

When I talked to Tina recently she told me that Sebastian was the “worst case I have ever rescued”. Even if she would have told me that 3-1/2 years ago I still would have taken him.

Now on to Maggie. She will be 12 by the time you read this and was so emotionally neglected that she still can’t believe that she does not get locked in the laundry room but is free to run around the house and yard, get on the bed and play at the Dog Park. She goes up to people and nudges them to pet her and chases the other dogs like a puppy. I am certain she never got to go swimming before, but she has taken to it like she had been doing it all her life.

Maggie apparently never had any kind of toys except for tennis balls but is learning about squeaky toys and playing with other dogs. She also allows Sebastian to “groom” her and she licks his paws.

Although she acts like a much younger dog, I know that that the time will come when she cannot leap onto the tall bed like she can now and she has quickly learned how to use the doggie steps I got for her.

Health issues are always a concern in senior dogs and Maggie has had her brush with that when she had a mammary mass removed (with clean borders). Fortunately, an old high-school pal is my Veterinarian and he is taking great care of my “kids”.

The following are the results of a little research on both PTSD in abused dogs and issues with aging pets along with the links to the sources.

I have actually done a great deal of research into PTSD in people and was published in Psychiatric Annals with a clinical research study of PTSD in survivors of Hurricane Katrina, so I have a little understanding of the subject. I think that it served me well in the rehabilitation of Sebastian.

Symptoms of PTSD - Trauma-related stress induces problems and reactions in dogs that are very similar to that exhibited by humans under the same conditions. Some symptoms include:

- Panic at sudden loud noises,
- Increased stress and anxiety,
- Breaking house-training procedures,

- Separation anxiety,
- Fear of unknown objects and people,
- Barking and howling,
- Hiding, and
- Displays of unnecessary aggression.

Healing

The dog suffers from a mental disorder which can affect his personality in crippling ways. He needs the calm, safe conditions of a stable home and a regular routine. Some things you can do to relax and help the dog heal are the following:

- Give him a safe, quiet place to retreat from noise, dogs and people; put a favorite toy or blanket in that area.
- Give him encouragement and an occasional treat.
- Make sure he is warm and has water available at all times.
- Play gently with the dog, and let him set the pace.
- Pick him up and just hold him from time to time. Hugs and kisses are always good for dogs and humans too.
- Put him into a normal daily routine of sleeping, feeding, walking and playing.

Dogs are very special creatures. No matter what happens to them, they have an incredible capacity to forgive, and they have huge hearts. Given love and just half a chance, they will always respond with even more love.

Sources: *War Dogs* by Michael G. Lemish; Brassey's Pub.; 1996

The Lost Dogs by Jim Gorant; Gotham Books; 2010

Read more at Suite101: [Dogs Who Have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTSD\) | Suite101.com](http://www.suite101.com/content/dogs-who-have-post-traumatic-stress-disorder--ptsd-a319929#ixzz1QKVorwXS)
<http://www.suite101.com/content/dogs-who-have-post-traumatic-stress-disorder--ptsd-a319929#ixzz1QKVorwXS>

For more information on aging/senior dogs go to:

<http://www.dummies.com/how-to/content/handling-the-problems-of-old-age-in-your-dog.html>



Maggie snuggled up.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Southfork, Southfork, Southfork!!!!!!!!!!

You should have received the mailing about Round-up by now.

As usual, it will be at Southfork in Dallas and the date is October 29, 2011.

Remember to RSVP to Jane Chism along with your \$13 for lunch and get your best Halloween costumes out for the contest.

Genesis Giant Schnauzers Litter Announcement

Five Girls and Five Boys were born on Aug 21, 2011

Sire is Champion Skansen's Lars V Lindwood Farms

Dam is Champion Skansen's Anniversary Edition

Breeder/owner is Tamara Shields

Giant Schnauzer Club of America's 2011 National Specialty

Purina Farms, Gray Summit, MO, 10/3-9/11

For details, go to www.giantschnauzerclubofamerica.com



Reba & Izzy out for a walk.

Courtesy of Pam Foster.