



Macfeedback Weblog Question:

“How does one transition from ‘I’ll-never-do-this-again-pain’ into decision to love again? What mends the Scottie-broken heart?”

The loss of 21-month-old Nora to liver failure earlier this year robbed all of us--including our other three Scots--of joy for such a long while. I feel that I am still not myself. What has helped us cope with our grief better than anything else is creating a memorial garden in Nora's honor. We spent many hours selecting a Celtic marker for her, locating a Scottie topiary to watch over her, and planting a special rosebush--an antique called "Ballerina," with delicate pink flowers and a rugged nature--to remind us that our girl's spirit lives on.
Lisa in Cape May County, NJ

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My wife Lora and I lost our first Scottie girl Licorice at 7 years old to liver disease. We thought we would never get another Scottie again because Licorice's spirit was so large and a part of us and the loss of it was devastating. We still had our Westie Snowflake, but the house and our hearts didn't seem complete. If you don't try again for love, we feel you leave yourself in a kind of emptiness of the heart for the rest of your life. Love is a chance—one well worth taking, and puppies are the best at filling up that empty space. Now we have Glinny, our 5 year old who is currently playing with our new Westie puppy Crickett, and life for now is happy and complete. Take care and congrats on your new addition!

Bill and Lora Fidler, Glinny, and Crickett

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For us the decision isn't "will we" but "when and which one"? In my heart I feel that God calls one home because there is another lost little one that needs our love. The one that leaves will whisper in our ear and tell us which is the one. So will go the cycle....Love me...let me go when it is my time and I will send you more love. So in our grief we know that we are still loved and each one gone looks after the ones to follow.

Dayna, Randy, Bert, Sam E, Miss Sassy & Mr. Murphy
Williamson, Scottie Acres in Larsen, WI

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It goes without saying for all of us who have ever been owned by a Scottie, that having a Scottie in one's household is a must-have. I believe that the grieving period differs for each of us, much

of which depends on how we've bonded with each individual Scottie we've had. In my case, I went through some difficult emotional times that Jules' unconditional love and companionship helped me through and there was a bond between us that was very strong. After I lost Jules, it took me quite some time before I was ready to welcome a new Scottie into my home. I needed for some of the memories to mercifully fade so that I would be better prepared to raise a new Scottie, without making any unfair comparisons to the recently lost Scottie. I have had Jock for over two years now, he is quite his own little person and I am very blessed to have found a Scottie with such a vibrant personality and I am enjoying him very much.

Diane and Jock Ball, Duluth, GA

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When our Scottie, Michelle, died of genetic liver disease at age 8, I was devastated. I cried all the way home and all through her burial. Even though we had 4 other Furkids, I walked back into the house and just knew the home was not complete without a Scottie. We began our search immediately. Talking to understanding breeders, (Ginger McAffee was one of them) helped. Ginger sent me a lovely book on Scotties and also acquainted me with GSM. I learned I was not alone in my Scottie obsession. We found Miss Kyrie Alleysian 3 weeks later and had to wait 5 more long weeks to bring her home. Preparing for her arrival was another thing that helped.

Pat Ozburn, the Ozdoghouse

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Unfortunately there is no manual that tells us what to do when our scotties go to the Rainbow Bridge. The pain is so hard, but somehow you have to remember the better days with them. I have one wall dedicated to our scotties. Everyday I look each one straight in the eyes and say what I always said to them while they were here ... I close my eyes at times and try to remember the feeling I had on my fingers while rubbing their ears. I can still feel each one, and they are different. I have never thought of giving up when they leave us. Somehow I know that my heart has room for more Scotties. I was told this many times and I know first hand this is true ... You never forget any of them. I just make more room in my heart, and my heart is not crowded.

Ruthann Bruce, Canton, Michigan



through a tube surgically placed in the small intestine in order to avoid pancreatic stimulation. If oral nutrition is in order, however, small amounts of water are administered first, which if tolerated are followed 48 hours later by small amounts of bland food, doled out in a series of small meals each day. Supplementation with pancreatic enzymes is recommended.

Many dogs will eventually be able to resume their normal diets, but dogs suffering from chronic pancreatitis are often obliged for the rest of their lives to follow a no- or low-fat diet which in some cases is also protein restricted. A notable exception to both rules is Westie breeder Jane Fink's Kelsey, a Westie rescue Jane adopted when Kelsey was 18 months old. Just a few days later, in the wake of ingesting 32 pieces of chocolate, Kelsey developed pancreatitis, and she suffered from a chronic form of the disease until she was ten years old. At that point, Jane switched her to raw food, and Kelsey's pancreatitis symptoms abated. When Kelsey passed away about a year ago, it was not from complications of pancreatitis, but old age—she was 16.

Some holistic canine counselors feel strongly that pancreatitis can be averted. Here, for example, is what the esteemed C.J. Puotinen has to say about the disease in her *Encyclopedia of Natural Pet Care*: "Pancreatitis is easy to prevent. It's a condition that

well-exercised, correctly fed dogs ... simply don't develop. While your pet is young and healthy, switch to a well-balanced raw diet and keep him active." Confronted with pancreatitis, however, holistic veterinary practitioners like Martin Goldstein, DVM (see *The Nature of Animal Healing*) generally follow conventional therapy, reserving alternative measures for aftercare. One exception is Ellen van der Laan, DVM, who notes that a German trial has shown selenious acid (a form of the antioxidant, selenium), dosed at 0.3 mg per kilogram, to be effective in treating active pancreatitis, as has a "tea" (not an alcohol-containing tincture) brewed from fringe tree bark and administered as an enema. She also recommends the homeopathic remedy *Iris versicolor* 30C to control acute attacks.

Addison's Disease (a subject for another column) has been called "The Great Pretender" because its symptoms mimic those of so many other ailments. The same could be said of pancreatitis which, although more common, is equally serious and equally demanding of vigilance.



The information contained in this article should not be misconstrued as a substitute for personal and professional veterinary attention. Please contact your veterinarian to discuss any changes in your Scottie's care.

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Resources

Martin Goldstein, DVM, *The Nature of Animal Healing* (1999), and C.J. Puotinen, *The Encyclopedia of Natural Pet Care* (rev. ed. 2000), are both available from many sources, including online booksellers.

Jane Fink writes a Westie advice column which you will find here > <http://westiewisdom.westieworld.com/>

Ellen van der Laan, DVM, owns and operates The Ark Holistic Veterinary Care in Castle Rock, CO, which can be accessed here > <http://www.arkholisticvet.com/>

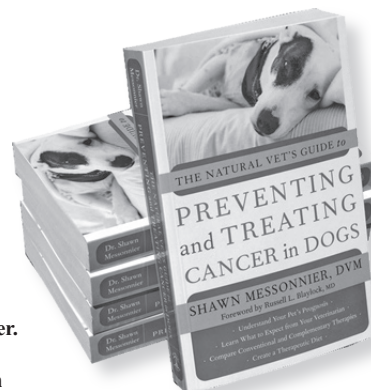
Diets for pancreatitis dogs can be found here:

- <http://b-naturals.com/Jul2004.php>
- Caroline D. Levin, RN, *Dogs, Diet & Disease: An Owner's Guide to Diabetes Mellitus, Pancreatitis, Cushing's Disease & More* (2001).
- Monica Segal, *K9 Kitchen: Your Dogs' Diet: The Truth Behind the Hype* (2002).
- Donald R. Strombeck, DVM, *Home-Prepared Dog & Cat Diets: The Healthful Alternative* (1999).

Those for whom Scottish Terrier health is a passion will want to read Dr. Shawn Messonnier's important new guide on 'integrative medicine' approaches to preventing and treating cancer in dogs—NOW AVAILABLE from Tartan Scottie.

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Messonnier includes a helpful chapter on 'Creating a Therapeutic Diet' which Scottie owners will want to consider. He blends the best of Eastern medicine's emphasis on promoting health and thus preventing disease with Western medicine's emphasis on curing disease.



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