

HEALTH COMMITTEE GUIDELINE

I. PURPOSE

In accordance with the policies and procedures approved by the AMSC Board of Governors, the Health committee will serve as the official conduit between the AMSC, the AMSC Board and its members for the purpose of collecting health information, investigating the need for additional scientific study and disseminating information regarding matters of health in the Miniature Schnauzer to the membership. The Health Committee is responsible for evaluating available ongoing research and to make recommendation for dispersal of funds from the AKC/CHF Donor Advised Funds.

II MEMBERSHIP

- A. The Committee activities will be facilitated and managed by the Chairperson who will also be appointed by the President and approved by the Board of Directors.
- B. The committee will be appointed by the President with recommendations from the Chairperson and approved by the Board of Directors.
- C. At least one veterinarian will serve on the committee in, at least, an official advisory capacity to ensure deliberations are in keeping with current practice and sound principles of scientific discovery and Veterinary Medicine precepts. In the event that Veterinary participation and oversight cannot be provided from within the membership, an outside credentialed individual will be sought.
- D. By virtue of the office, the President serves as a non-voting ex-officio member. The President will also be expected to sign a confidentiality agreement. (See III E)

III. PROCEDURES

- A. This committee will review information and reports on matters of health affecting the Miniature Schnauzer submitted by members and obtained through credentialed investigational research.
- B. The chairperson shall submit a report to the Board as necessary. A final report must be submitted at the last

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board meeting of the official club year. This report will include any sub-committee and general committee activities and existing status reports.

- C. An itemized list of expenses, with receipts, is to be submitted to the Treasurer by the Chairperson before the end of the fiscal year.
- D. Miniature Schnauzer breeders, owners, and fanciers are encouraged to submit information to the Health Committee that they feel threatens the health or well-being of an individual dog or the breed as a whole. They may contact either the Chairperson or any member of the health committee. All members will be fully aware of all reports.
- E. Each Health Committee member will be required to consent to and sign a confidentiality agreement (information considered private and for the purposes of the committee not shared OUTSIDE this committee) which serves as a contract between the committee member, AMSC membership and the AMSC board. This contract, unique to the Health Committee, governs the degree of confidentiality of the information submitted by AMSC members to the receiving committee member and information shared within committee by another committee member. This confidentiality is to be treated as inviolable and adherence will be enforced within the rules of conduct as stated in the AMSC Code of Ethics. Sharing information among the entire committee membership is preferred and encouraged to ensure the collective judgement of the committee to be able to direct the most appropriate and productive study and analysis. Information shared among the Health Committee members will be treated with the utmost confidence and protection for the reporting member. It should be understood clearly that any information shared with a Health Committee member will be shared with the full committee or not accepted.
- F. Information may be shared with non-U.S. miniature schnauzer breed clubs when deemed appropriate by the Health Committee membership as long as the foreign health committee also has a confidentiality clause in effect.

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- G. This committee will disseminate information to the membership on investigations and developments pertaining to diseases and defects that may be hereditary or environmental in nature, and may affect the Miniature Schnauzer. Information will be shared in such a way as to ensure the maintenance of contractual confidentiality.
- H. The chairman will poll committee members regarding decisions on dissemination of information to the membership, requests for research funding, requests for board approval, articles to be posted to the AMSC website, and other matters requiring consensus of the committee. Any poll resulting in simple majority vote will be considered approved by the committee. Significant opposing positions, when encountered, will be included as part of any submission to ensure full and open disclosure of the recommendations.
- I. The committee is authorized to submit health-related articles to the AMSC webmaster for inclusion on the AMSC website. Articles on specific disorders shall be written by qualified experts (identified by name), or may be written by the committee based on information obtained from a qualified expert provided the expert is identified in the article and has reviewed and approved the article before publication to the webpages. The AMSC webmaster is authorized to place any such article on the AMSC website upon request of the committee chairman.

The Board has determined that the Health Committee has full authority over content on the AMSC Web Health member pages. Extensive and detailed health information will be made available to members through the members' only area of the website. However, the Health Committee must ask the Board to review any public content to ensure the intent of the public pages is consistently maintained. The Board supports the health links concept with the Health Committee to develop content on the links.

- J. The chairperson, as necessary, shall recommend changes in these committee guidelines and shall make revisions as instructed by the board, and provide the Secretary with a copy of the revised guidelines.

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- K. Health Committee correspondence will primarily be via email through a designated email group. Pertinent files will be archived within the group files section for committee member access. Polling will be conducted via the group polling mechanism. From time to time conference calls or other similar meetings may be appropriate to fully engage member discussion, understanding and deliberation. Minutes of those discussions will be summarized with specific agreeable points observed and approved by the committee before dispersal.

III. SUBCOMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

- A. SUBCOMMITTEES (as deemed necessary) will coordinate activities regarding the specific topic and report activities to the Health Committee for discussion.
- B. All activities will be reported and will be included as an individual report if warranted as well as a collective whole for inclusion in the annual Health Committee Report to the board.

IV. REVISION & RESCISSION:

This policy will be reviewed annually and approved by the Board.

Written by P. Henderson/October 2016