



AMSCOPE

Newsletter of the AMERICAN MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB
Member of the American Kennel Club

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LOOK

The Harsh Truth About Why Our Sport Is Dying

By: Drew Deaton

Dear AMSC Member,

The annual AMSC trophy committee is soliciting your help. To ensure the success of this very important fundraiser, we are asking that you take a few moments to read this and consider making a contribution to help defray the costs associated with procuring trophies for our three national specialties and our supported companion event trial.

Generous donors like you are the key to our success and make it possible for the AMSC to provide the earned recognition these awards furnish to deserving individuals and their canine companions/athletes and the hard work they do in their breeding program and training. We hope that we can count on your support to help us meet our goal of \$5000???

Your donation will be acknowledged in show catalogs to recognize your generosity to this worthy cause. Please mail your donation to the AMSC Treasurer and memo it for the trophy fund to pledge your support. You may also donate online using paypal. We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Your Trophy Committee
Amy Gordon, Chair
Carma Ewer
Barbara Donahue

**The deadline
for the May issue is
April 16.**

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Recently I have read several very well written articles on the fall of Dog Shows as a sport. The reasons targeted in these articles were all correct, they are all problems that do reside in our sport and it certainly would be nice to see them eliminated. However, are they the true reason our sport is dying? No. Now you are probably wondering by now what my credentials are to be so brilliantly informed that I could diagnose the problem that is killing our favorite past-time, our sport, for some of us our livelihood. Well as much as I hate to disappoint I am somewhat of a newbie to the sport. I am only 20 years old and have been showing for less than two years. I did not participate in Juniors, I hold no degree related to dogs at all, and no one in my family but myself has ever even seen a dog show. I am so new that you could almost call me an outsider and this makes me the perfect person to tell you why it is so difficult to love this sport as much as I do.

Our sport is dying, stop attaching all of these excuses about the frequencies of shows and entry fees are too high for this and too much for that though you are not incorrect that is not the reason our sport is dying. Hear me carefully for this is not a metaphor our sport, meaning its athletes, supporters, and donors are literally dying. I am talking about physical and spiritual death. The great breeders, the famous handlers, those who grew up with their family showing dogs they are dying! Dog Showing once thrived in generations that were not this one now that we are in this generation all of the old generations are slowly, literally dying. Our sport is not dying because it is simply a rich man's sport that is a lie, this is a sport that can be played in a financially smart way. No, our sport is dying because it's people are dying. Ok- so how do we save it?

Obviously, there is no way for us to stop time from running its course that is just beyond our control. So in anything, how is one generation replaced once they are gone? With a NEW GENERATION. Oh but we offer Junior Handling at shows to reel the kids in. NO. Everyone reading this knows as well as I do that kids can't just walk in with their dog

and say "Hey, I think I want to try this! Sign me up mom!" not even close. Juniors is a wonderful thing but if you really pay attention it is mostly children of parents who breed, show, or are even professional handlers themselves. Though they are young, that is not the new blood we need to target. We want to expand, we want to grow!

Now, if no one has ever told you, let me be the first. The veterans of this sport make it INCREDIBLY difficult for us newcomers to love this sport. Myself, I am only still around because I tend to ignore the way people treat me; not everyone is like that, especially not in my generation. If you do not know my generation well, we are extremely over-sensitive and we are offended by EVERYTHING. That is why it takes about 10 minutes for a newcomer of my generation to get ticked off at a dog show. I have tried to bring family members and friends that have never even experienced anything like a dog show along with me and they leave HATING it. Let me tell you why, I don't have all the answers but I guarantee you that with just a little thought, the more experienced folks may be able to figure the solutions out.

When I started showing I was merely helping out a friend of mine in Chinese Cresteds who was generously donating his time to teach me the basics. We were at a show one day, it wasn't my very first show but it was of the first five, I was handling a small and timid Chihuahua client dog of his while he was in another ring. I waited very patiently right by the steward's table with the number 9 wrapped around my left arm. I could not move away from her table because I was so nervous that I would miss my ring-time if I left. So I waited, finally my class came up but I did not really have a full enough understanding of the class system to know that was my class. As it turns out, the steward had called my number and she was an older lady with a gentle tone, I had mistaken her calling out the number 5 but she was actually calling my number, 9. She called for a second time and I then realized my mistake and rushed in the ring, my nerves had tripled. As I fell in line to stack my little

LOOK

Please let me know if you make a change

* DECALS & PINS. You can get AMSC decals (\$1.00) and replacement pins (\$7.50) from

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*LOCAL CLUBS...please be sure to include all information when sending Specialty tear sheets for inclusion in AMSCOPE e.g. Judges, dates, entry, obedience.

***LOCAL CLUBS...PLEASE send a copy of your newsletter to the following members of the Local Club Bulletin Committee.**

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Editor's Page: "Showable" Versus "Show Quality" Why are so many people trying to find loopholes in their standards to show dogs that have no business being in the ring?

By Allan Reznik

Surely the first lesson we learned when we got into dogs was that good sportsmanship is the glue that holds the fancy together. It embodies such principles as fair play, polite behavior and respect for our fellow competitors and the judges. Implicit in demonstrating sportsmanship is observance of the rules. And breed standards form part of our rules. So why are so many people trying to find loopholes in their standards to show dogs that have no business being in the ring?

As rules are meant to do, our standards tell us the make and shape of the breed representatives we should aspire to produce and present in the show ring. No club wants to put on a merely adequate show, no self-respecting judge would be satisfied doing a passable job of evaluating the day's entries and no breeder or owner should want to exhibit a dog lacking fundamental type for its breed. Yet I hear more and more exhibitors defending a mediocre dog by insisting its faults are merely "undesirable" in the standard. "It's not a DQ!" they will argue. Do we really need to make faults disqualifications before some people take them seriously and place a dog of average quality—though probably "finishable" these days—in a pet home? There used to be a huge difference between "showable" and "show quality." No one expected any bitch to whelp a litter brimming with show prospects. We were thrilled to have one or two promising puppies to run on.

SPONSORED CONTENT

It is no coincidence that our glut of mid-week shows, with their smaller entries and easy majors, have also lowered expectations and cheapened many a win. I see incorrect outlines, generic movement, mismarks and other significant faults displayed in dogs that would not have been shown 20 years ago. Today they defeat their littermates that have even less to offer the breed. For some people, picking up that easy major is probably worth taking a Wednesday off work and entering half the kennel. So long as poor dogs with lots of holes don't have a disqualifying fault, and everything is finishable, a lot of mediocre

breeders put championship titles on their mediocre dogs.

But to what end? Why would anyone want these dogs to reproduce and perpetuate their mediocrity for future generations? Because there are buyers even less knowledgeable than some breeders?

Years ago, strong entries forced us all to step up our game and show only our best. If that incentive no longer exists, it may fall to our judges to demonstrate by their placements that they refuse to settle for finishable, second best, barely passable dogs. If we must live with small entries at smaller shows, let's make them the highest-quality smaller shows we can, with worthy dogs being selected by well-informed, confident judges for meaningful wins.

From the September 2014 issue of Dogs in Review magazine. Subscribe to receive 12 months of Dogs in Review magazine, or call 1-888-738-2665 to purchase a single copy.



"Showable"?



Show Quality

NEW APPLICANTS

John Rowe

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Sponsors – Beth Santure, Lynn Baitinger

John has been involved in Miniature Schnauzers since 1994. His Wife, Sandra Daggett is a current member of the AMSC. John is not a breeder. He has done Agility for 11 years and Obedience for 2 years and attends approximately 35 events per year. He belongs to the Gateway M.S. Club of St. Louis, Mo., where he did Agility Demos and served as Trial Chair and also worked with the AKC Dog Museum. John also belongs to Gateway Agility Club, St. Louis, Mo., where he was a past President. John is presently employed as an executive in IT Support. His interests are Agility and Health Issues, and would like to serve the AMSC in those areas. John's special skills are Trial Organization and Course Building.

Marija Kuncic

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Sponsors: Catherine McMillan, Marilyn Lande

Marija has been involved in Miniature Schnauzers for 25 years and showing for 3 years. She has participated in Conformation events and attends 5 – 10 events per year. She has bred 4 litters. She is a member of the Miniature Schnauzer Club of Canada and Calgary Associated Dog Fanciers. Marija is a Verified Management Accountant. She is interested serving the AMSC in the areas of Newsletter, Legislative issues, Rescue, Electronic Media, Public Awareness, Awards/Trophies, Education, Membership, Obedience, Agility, Ethics, and Health. Her special skills are financial/Accounting.

Paula Tibbs

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Sponsors: Sharon Edwards, Shawne Imler

Paula has been involved in Miniature Schnauzers for 22 years and has been participating in Conformation and has bred 2 litters. Paula has belonged to the

Mt. Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club for 5 years and has served as President, Board Member and Trophy Fund. Paula attends approximately 40 events each year. She is a homemaker. Paula is interested in serving the AMSC in the areas of Newsletter, Rescue, Public Awareness, Awards/Trophies Education and Health Issues...Paula's special skills are Administrative.

Liz Hawkins

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Sponsors: Janet Taylor, Barbara Koscielski...

Liz has owned Miniature Schnauzers for 26 years and competes in Agility, Obedience, Rally, Barn Hunt, Earth Dog and is active in Therapy and Community Education and attends 20 – 25 events a year. Liz is not a breeder. She belongs to Fort Dodge Kennel Club and participates in many of their club activities. She has served as Treasurer, Show Chair, Obedience Chair, Trophy Chair and Training Director. Liz is self employed as a dog groomer. She is interested in serving the AMSC in the areas of Obedience, Awards/Trophies and Education. She is also a Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Evaluator and is pursuing a Barn Hunt Judging License.

Heather Orr

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Sponsors: Silvia Soos-Kazel and Catherine Mc Millan

Heather has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 37 years...She has owned approximately 30 dogs over the years...She is a breeder and has had 20 litters from stud dogs and 9 litters from bitches over the past five years...Heather attends about 150 shows a year and concentrates on conformation...She is a member of the Canadian Kennel Club – Ontario and the Miniature Schnauzer Club of Ottawa and the Rideau Terrier Club...Heather is retired and has been widowed for the past five years...Her interests lie in mentoring and would like to help others get started in the sport...

Lynn J. Barbour

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Sponsors: Dale Miller and Marcia Feld

Lynn has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 15 years...She has just purchased a "Foundation Show Bitch" from Lisa Sarvas of Beauideal Miniature Schnauzers and will co-own the bitch with Lisa...Lynn attends about 6 shows a year and has taken a dog through Obedience Training and CGC training...She belongs to the Chicago Miniature Schnauzer Club...She has had experience with working on preparing the MONTCO Show Booklet and was invited to be on the board of the Chicago Miniature Schnauzer Club...Lynn is a retired former educator and has had some Sales Exec. Experience...She would like to be involved in the Newsletter, Electronic Media, Public Awareness, Education, Membership and Conformation...She has strong organizational skills as well as good writing skills and good speaking skills...She is computer literate on WORD, EXCEL, POWER POINT on MAC as well as PC...

Mary Anne Williams "Annie"

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Sponsors: Patty Ledgerwood and Jeri Muntis

Annie has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 7 ½ years...

Annie does Obedience, Agility, Rally and Therapy Dog with her Miniature Schnauzer Angel from APDT...With Angel, Annie has taken the "Canine Life and Social Skills" (CLASS) Series of classes...

Angel has been a Certified Pet Therapy Dog for the past 6 ½ years...Angel holds the highest level in Agility and Rally and holds excellent titles in Obedience and Therapy work... Annie continues taking training classes and training seminars...

She attends approximately 25 weekends yearly at dog events...

She belongs to:

Columbia Basin Dog Training Club, 4 Paws Dog Works, Badger Mountain Agility Club, Associate member in NADAC, Love on a Leash Therapy Dog Organization

Annie is a retired teacher and is interested in helping our club with Education, Obedience, Agility, Rally and Therapy Dog...

Bouquets & Biscuits Errata

I gave you the incorrect name of the dog that was published in the Bouquets & Biscuits (page 5) section of the March 2016 issue of AMSCOPE,

Sumerwynd Traymar Trigger Man is **NOT** the correct name of the dog. **Sumerwynd Traymar Pull the Trigger** is the correct name of the dog. Brian Bogart

Fun Games You Can Enjoy With Your Dog While Contributing to Science By Dr. Becker

Have you ever heard of “citizen scientists?” They’re average everyday people who help actual scientists and researchers conduct studies. A recent research article published in the open access journal PLoS ONE documents a citizen scientist study to learn what goes on inside the minds of dogs.¹

The citizen scientists were 500 dog owners from across the globe who did little experiments with their pets — the same experiments researchers use in the laboratory to analyze the ability of dogs to think and problem-solve.

On 5 of the 7 tests included in the study, the data collected from the dog owners corresponded closely to the results produced at Duke University and elsewhere.

The Memory vs. Smell Test

In one game or test, depicted in the video below, dogs proved they depend more on their memory than their nose to find treats hidden under overturned plastic cups.

The dog observes her owner hide a treat under one of the cups. Then while a helper distracts the dog, the owner moves the treat to the other cup while the dog isn’t looking.

When the dogs are released to find the treat, instead of following their noses to the right cup, most of them go to the cup they saw their owner place the treat under.

Dog Owners Across the Globe Are Becoming Citizen Scientists

The citizen scientist dog owners in the above study used the website Dognition to record the results of their tests. The site was created by Brian Hare, Evolutionary Anthropology associate professor at Duke University and the founder of Duke’s Canine Cognition Center.

According to Hare, the tests are “just games.” “The owners love playing them and the dogs love playing them. I realized more people could play them if they were online,” he says. Over 17,000 dog owners from as far away as Finland are participating at Dognition. And according to Evan MacLean, co-director of the Canine Cognition Center, they’re doing a great job:

“The data these dog owners are producing is quality data, says MacLean. “It matches the results we see coming out of the top research groups all over the world.”²

The memory-or-smell test results have been replicated over and over, proving their validity.

Conventional wisdom holds that dogs use their sense of smell almost exclusively, but in reality, “...dogs use a whole range of senses when solving problems,” says MacLean.

‘Intelligence Is Like Ice Cream. Everybody Has Different Flavors.’

Because there are so many dog owners inputting information into Dognition, researchers have been able to compile a great deal of fascinating data on the inner workings of the canine mind.

They’ve learned that all dogs have a unique set of mental skills they use in everyday life. Some dogs are better communicators than others, some have better memories, and some dogs excel at understanding their owner’s perspective.

According to Brian Hare:

“Most people think of intelligence as glass that is more or less full. But intelligence is more like ice cream. Everybody has different flavors. Being good at one thing doesn’t mean you will be good at everything else.”³

The more citizen scientists participating in studies, the more information the researchers are able to gather about the way our canine companions think.

If You’re Interested in Participating

Per the Dognition website:

“The Dognition Assessment provides a window into your dog’s individual cognitive style — the thinking, learning, and problem-solving strategies that influence much of your dog’s behavior.

You’ll play science-based games that assess five core dimensions of your dog’s cognition — empathy, communication, cunning, memory, and reasoning.

Then, in your dog’s Dognition Profile Report, you’ll gain a richer understanding of your dog through analysis and insight from the world’s top canine experts.”

Dognition has 2 ways to participate:

For \$19, you get a one-time assessment that includes 20 interactive games, an in-depth game analysis, and a Dognition Profile Report

For a \$79 annual charge, you get the 3 items above, plus monthly games, expert tips and tricks, and 50 percent off additional dogs. If you’d prefer to pay monthly vs. annually, it’s a \$9 per month charge plus the one-time \$19 charge

You can also give either package as a gift.

Other Citizen Science Dog Cognition Studies

When confined to laboratory studies, traditional research on dog cognition has a huge limitation — small sample sizes. Either people must bring their dogs to a research facility, or researchers must visit households with dogs or other dog-friendly spaces to gather data.

As a result, most of these studies involve less than 50 dog participants. Enter citizen science, which gives researchers the potential for enormous sample sizes.

Other citizen scientist studies on dog cognition include a past project called “Play with Your Dog,”⁴ sponsored by the Horowitz Dog Cognition Lab at Barnard College led by professor Alexandra Horowitz.⁵ “Play with Your Dog” allowed researchers to study dog-human relationships in homes and backyards around the globe by having owners record and upload videos of them at play with their dogs.

Spread the Word to Friends And Family
By Sharing this Article.



“Oh, let me sleep!”



How to Access the MEMBERS ONLY section of the AMSC website

Click the Members tab in the top right hand section of the website

Username is: AMSC#1
Password is: Schnauzer2015
Type carefully - case sensitive!

Once in you will have access to AMSCestry and many other items of interest to our members!

How To Control Your Dog's Digging

Dogs dig for many reasons. They dig when they're bored, stressed, lonely, hot, or because they're hunting for prey (real or imagined). The best approach to curb this often-destructive activity is to redirect your dog's desire to dig toward activities that are more acceptable to you and your neighbors.

Provide plenty of exercise

Chances are good that if you provide your dog with plenty of other exercise—such as walking, running, and general good-time playing—his digging activities will lessen, or disappear all together.

Avoid temptation

For dogs that dig out of a hunting instinct, it's important to keep them away from areas that may have burrowing animals or insects. Keep an extra close eye on your dog in natural areas such as parks, open fields, and yards.

The indoor option

As a last resort, you can confine your dog indoors or in a shaded, cemented area for short periods of time. This may help him break the habit. Although confinement is not the solution—and you should only use this as a temporary option—it will certainly keep your dog from destroying your garden and yard. An added benefit is that an extended indoor "time-out" gives you (and your dog) a necessary break before starting over with the training techniques described above.

Carole's Corner

Dear Fellow Schnauzer Fanciers,

Here we are, only a few short weeks from the MiniPalooza and I can't believe how quickly time has passed since I last wrote to you. I expect I will be seeing many of you there; just look for the pet grooming demonstrator and the sales person at the MiniPalooza sales table. And, oh yeah, in the ring on Sunday. I don't know if you are as excited as I am about our first ever MiniPalooza, but you should be!! We owe John Constantine and his crew a huge thank you for all their hard work and months of effort!!! I just know it will be one for the History books!

Your Board has been busy, even over the Holidays, and we've made a couple of changes in the way the club operates. The first was to eliminate the Regional Referral program and its six positions. Now that our Breeder Referral List and Map are on the website, it didn't seem that we needed this program any more. For those of you who are still uneasy about listing your name on the List, we do not show addresses, only city and state, and a telephone number if you want it listed, or a web page and/or email. It allows you to have a presence without divulging any more information than you want listed. The form is on the website; you should think about filling it in and joining the folks on the list. If you don't breed, you can list yourself as "information only", as I do, and it will give you an opportunity to talk about your favorite breed to people looking for the best dog money can buy!

The second action that the Board took was to make a policy of a practice that we have used for many years. When a new member is voted in at the October meeting, he/she pays one year's dues. Now it is Board Policy that the dues payment is for the first full year, starting in January, and the last three months of the year are free. We have done this for many years, but there was nothing in writing; now it is.

I wanted to mention trophies to you. Last year a total of 30 people in our membership donated to the trophy fund, forcing us to reevaluate the cost of the trophies for our three Specialties. We have had to limit the quantity and costs so that we could stay in the budget for the trophy fund. Our trophy committee has done a truly exceptional job with the budget they were given, but could do so much more with a little more money!! Many of you who

do not show are probably not bothered by that issue, and I don't blame you. But one of our duties as a Parent Club is to put on Specialties so that fanciers can see the beautiful Schnauzers we have bred and own. Trophies are a part of those shows. It occurred to me that if every member donated \$5 for trophies each year, we would be able to provide trophies for every class in conformation and all of our performance events. Just think about it.

On a final note, I would like to tell you a tale of rescue. I was contacted recently by a member who was concerned about a dear friend of his, also a member, who had recently been diagnosed with cancer. She didn't want to give up all her dogs, but needed to find homes for a number of the older ones that she couldn't care for. He asked if the AMSC could help. I called Jana King, who is also a member and on several AMSC committees, but additionally serves as Florida Intake Coordinator for Schnauzer Love Rescue. She couldn't have been nicer and they were more than ready to help out. Today the dogs are in Foster homes and several have already been adopted. This is a perfect example of how our Breed Club and Rescue can work together to help our members. I was so proud to be a part of this venture, and am deeply grateful to everyone who participated!!

Well, we'll see you at MiniPalooza!



HARSH TRUTH from p. 1

Chihuahua, a VERY well known handler in front of me turned around and remarked "How many times were you going to make her shout your number before you finally came in? Some of us have other dogs to show." I was appalled that someone would make such a remark to someone so obviously new, just because the steward had to call my number twice. The judge finally directed us to go around the ring. I stood up and looked down but the already timid dog that I was handling had all but curled into a ball and was immobile. He could tell that my nerves were completely shot. I tried my best to pep him up and eventually we made it around the ring. After the class was finished, as I was walking out the Judge grabbed my elbow and stopped me! "Don't you let these old women walk all over you!" She said with a very tender smile. That judge is the only reason I ever set foot in the ring again. So this paragraph is for the handlers: what could you do differently to help a newcomer OR what could you be doing that might be turning away newcomers unintentionally?

To the breeders: Fortunately for my mentor in my own breed, this has not yet happened to me however I have seen it many times. "We all had our first dog!" So many veterans have said to me or to friends of mine that are starting out. A friend of mine called a supposedly reputable breeder to obtain a show quality French Bulldog from her. They talked for months and went through the reference process, the interview process and finally this breeder agreed to sell my friend a puppy. I took my friend to shows and we met a few "Frenchie" folks and observed their handling and their grooming. One very kind handler even showed us a few of his grooming tricks. She finally got her puppy and started showing him. She showed him well! She gaited him beautifully and had taught him to hold a stack very well- but she never won. Months later while at a show we ran into the same handler that had showed us the grooming tricks and we asked him "Why is this puppy not winning anything?" That handler whipped out his phone and pulled up the Frenchie standard and explained in exquisite detail as to why the puppy was essentially a conformation train wreck. My poor friend had no idea, nor did she have a mentor to help her so the breeder sold her a puppy for a show quality price that was deeply pet quality. I can understand if you chose not to sell the absolute best puppy in the litter to a newcomer, but giving them the worst of the litter just because they are new. Does that seem right? That friend has never set foot on a show site again and lives quietly with her PET frenchie, Rosco.

>

> Now to the know-it-all, whether you are a

vendor, breeder, handler, or even spectator. I will never forget first time I asked my mother to tag along to the dog show with me. My mother was holding one of my dogs ringside while I was competing in the ring at an outdoor show. The dog my mother was holding had a bowel movement while she was watching me, she had no idea that the dog had used the bathroom behind her. Suddenly, a ferocious vendor comes trampling between the rings and throws a poop-bag at my mother and shouts "It is people like you that ruin it for all of us!" IF I am somehow able to convince my mother to come back to a show, she sits ringside and she does not move. She will not hold a dog for me and she will not walk around. She goes straight from the car to the ring and back again while hating every minute of it. So tell me, if you were a newcomer or a paying spectator who just spent \$20 just to park your car/would you come back?

To the owner-handlers (this is my category) I am going to be bold with you because I have so much respect for you and love you dearly. STOP TELLING EVERYONE THAT IF THEY ARE NOT PAYING \$1,000 PER SHOW TO HAVE THEIR DOG HANDLED PROFESSIONALLY THEN THEIR DOG WILL NEVER FINISH. If someone asks me "when are you putting her with a handler" again, I might just scream this at them. I have a shocking news update for the show world some owners have finished their own dogs before. Yes it is true, there are some judges who do play favorites in the ring and put up their friends don't enter under those judges again and your problems are solved! An owner CAN finish their dog and an owner CAN be a great handler of their own dogs! Professional Handlers do win a large amount of the time, but has anyone stopped to think that it is because they are professionals and this is their lively-hood? The very definition of professional implies that they have the talent or skills to display a dog more professionally than a non-professional. Do not spread lies to newcomers about not ever being able to beat a handler. Owner-handler friends had me PETRIFIED to step into the ring when there was a major handler of my breed competing. Then a judge put me up with a 10month old puppy over two extremely nice adult dogs handled by two MAJOR handlers of my breed and I realized that is nonsense at just under 5 months of handling experience.

I could sit here and go on for days with examples of situations like these that I

have encountered in less than two years of people who made me want to quit. I could never quit because I love my dogs and I love the experience of being in the ring with them. I enjoy it, I have so much fun and they LOVE it too! My point is that we have to allow newcomers the chance to get that feeling, the chance to fall in love with the sport like we all did. You never know who is there for their first show, or second or third. There is too much drama in the world today, I am telling you veterans that my generation has no time or tolerance to welcome in a new activity that is surrounded by drama. If we love our sport and if we want it to be passed on through future generations and not just die off, then we must change our atmosphere. We must extend kindness and grace to those around us, we have to have fun ourselves. Make friends with the newcomers and please, PLEASE if they ask for help or guidance! help them without cruel or smart remarks. Never forget, you had your first show too. What made you come back? What did you enjoy? What did you appreciate that people did? What did you not enjoy? Did you ever not want to show again-why? What have people done in the past that have angered you or upset you?

Ask yourself these questions and ponder what can YOU do that might encourage newcomers and keep this sport alive? As a breeder, vendor, owner-handler, professional handler, or even as a spectator, How can you change our sport?

Black Ribbons



October 21st 2000-February 23rd 2016

I had to put Raja to sleep today. Her health was not good and I couldn't watch her suffer. I will miss her terribly. She accomplished everything I asked her to do. U-UD only **CH OTCH, MACH Mythago's Moonlight Mirage UDX**, "Raja" in all of the three sizes of Schnauzers. Plus loved to swim and boss everyone else around. My HEART DOG. Pat Heinzelman

If Your Dog Could Talk, He'd Say "Don't Pet Me Here"

There's been a great deal of scientific research in recent years into the ways in which dogs benefit people. And the science confirms what pet guardians have always known — our animal companions have a powerful positive impact on our emotional and physical well-being.

Owners who are closely bonded to their dogs spend a lot of time being affectionate with their pet because it feels good. As it turns out, there's a good reason for those good feelings.

Feel-Good Hormones Overflow in Closely Bonded Dogs and Humans

In a Swedish study, researchers found that owners who kissed their dogs frequently had higher levels of oxytocin than other owners. And along with kissing, there were two other very important factors that contributed to elevated levels of oxytocin:¹

The owners perceived their relationship with their dog to be pleasurable rather than difficult or a chore

They offered fewer treats to their pet, preferring to offer attention and affection instead

In another study, dog guardians were put in a sparsely furnished room and asked to sit on a rug on the floor with their pets.²

For a half hour, the owners were instructed to focus all their attention on their dogs — talk softly to them, stroke, scratch and pet them. The owners' blood was drawn at the beginning and again at the end of the 30-minute session.

The researchers found that the dog owners' blood pressure decreased, and they showed elevated levels not only of oxytocin, but also several other hormones, including:

Beta-endorphins, which are associated with both pain relief and euphoria

Prolactin, which promotes bonding between parent and child

Phenylethylamine, which is increased in people involved in romantic relationships

Dopamine, which heightens feelings of pleasure

And believe it or not, all the same hormones were also elevated in the dogs, which suggests the feelings of attachment are mutual!

Based on all the happy hormones surging through the dogs, it's clear the owners in the second study knew how to touch their pets in a way that maximized their pleasure and contentment. However, that's not always the case.

Have You Ever Wondered How Petting Feels to Your Dog?

Dog-to-dog interaction involves lots of physical contact. They do it to show affection and a desire for play, but they also make contact when trying to goad or threaten another dog.

This is why some forms of human petting elicit pleasure and a sense of calm in dogs, while other types of touching can send the wrong message.

Unless you're carefully observing her as you pet her, it's easy to inadvertently trigger negative emotions in your dog. Different types of petting, for example, a scratch behind the dog's ear or a pat on the head, feel pretty much the same to us. The dog, however, isn't necessarily having the same experience.

Recently, a team of researchers set out to evaluate the physiological and behavioral responses in dogs to determine which types of petting felt good to them, and which didn't.³

How the Study Was Conducted

The study involved 28 privately owned dogs of different breeds, ages, and backgrounds. Some dogs were obedience trained; others were not.

Each dog was fitted with a heart rate monitor and brought into a room where both the owner and a stranger were present. The owner was instructed to ignore what was going on while the stranger interacted with the dog, touching him or her in nine different ways for 30 seconds at a time.

The nine different touches included:

Petting the shoulder

Petting the lateral side of the chest

Petting the ventral part of the neck

Petting and holding the lying dog on the ground

Holding a forepaw

Petting on the top of the head

Scratching at the base of the tail

Holding the collar

Covering the muzzle with one hand

What the Strokes Evoked

When the dogs were petted on the head or paw, they showed appeasement signals and redirected behaviors. The researchers interpreted those reactions as signs the dogs were uncomfortable. It's worth noting that appeasement signals aren't always indicators of stress. According to *Whole Dog Journal*:

"They are important everyday communication tools for keeping peace in social hierar-

chies, and are often presented in calm, stress-free interactions. They are offered in a social interaction to promote the tranquility of the group and the safety of the group's members.

When offered in conjunction with other behaviors, they can be an indicator of stress as well."⁴

When the dogs were constrained by being held while lying on the ground, held by the collar, or having their muzzle covered, unsurprisingly, they showed freezing and displacement behaviors. These included lifting a paw, looking or moving away, and lip licking. All the dogs also had elevated heart rates — a clear sign of stress.

When the interactions were over, the dogs immediately shook their bodies and stretched, which are signs of relief and further proof they did not enjoy being constrained, no matter how gentle the touch. The touches the dogs liked best? Having their chests and shoulders petted, and getting a nice scratch at the end of the spine just in front of the tail.

Dog Petting Tips

It's important to note the dogs in the study were being handled by strangers. Most dogs tolerate a lot more from their immediate human family members, including touching that is decidedly unnatural for canines, such as hugging and kissing.

However, it's not uncommon for dog guardians to miss their own dogs' stress signals, which can include a quick head turn or lick of the upper lip, as well as freezing in place. It can be easy to miss or misinterpret some of the more subtle canine expressions of distress.

Unfortunately, the result can be a difficult relationship between human and dog that in a worst-case scenario can even become dangerous. Suggestions for enhancing your relationship with your dog through touch:

Let your dog initiate contact most of the time, rather than invading his personal space. Some dogs need a little time to settle themselves before getting physically close enough to be touched.

Pet your dog gently on the chest or behind the ear closest to you (to avoid reaching over her head for the other ear). Always avoid petting that involves reaching over or across your dog. As a general rule, it's never a good idea to hug a dog. Some dogs tolerate it, but it's a form of constraint, which feels threatening to them. Stop petting your dog after a short time and see if she asks for more, or seems relieved and/or moves away.

Cont'd on p. 10...**PET ME HERE**

"A DOG FOR ALL REASONS" AMSC QUILT RAFFLE MINIPALOOZA 2016

Winner to be drawn after the Classes and before Best of Breed by Carole at AMSC Specialty April 3, 2016

Handmade SCHNAUZER quilt by AMSC President Carole Weinberger. It was designed by Carole using her original artwork in embroidery, applique and machine quilting. The size is 59" X 74". Contains all 3 Miniature Schnauzer Colors, schnauzer and pawprint fabrics, and all events.

Tickets are \$5 each or \$20 for 5. Tickets may be purchased at MiniPalooza OR from Luana Nedich Luaned@aol.com thru her Paypal account OR mailed (and received by March 25th) with a check to AMSC to her home address (Luana Nedick, 29 Jackson Hill Road, Underhill VT 05489). You need not be present to win (can be mailed to a US address).

The funds will be used to help pay for MiniPalooza.



Breed(Conformation)



Fun



High in Trial(Performance)



Barn Hunt



Agility



Obedience



ARE VACCINES SAFE FOR YOUR SMALL DOG?

If you have a small dog, your veterinarian probably gives him [exactly the same vaccine dose](#) a dog 25 times his size gets ...

... in other words, a Chihuahua gets the same amount of vaccine as a Great Dane!

And that's really bad news, because it puts your dog at high risk for illness after vaccination ... illness that can be life threatening or incurable.

Vaccines are full of ingredients that can be toxic to any dog, like MSG, mercury, formaldehyde and aluminum.

And when small dogs get more of these toxic ingredients per pound, it can have tragic consequences.

But here's the good news ...

... there's [a new study](#) showing you can protect your small dog from these risks by asking your veterinarian to do this one simple thing. If you look at cats, they're pretty much all the same size. It's the same with other species like ferrets and horses.

But no other species has such a vast variation in size and weight like the domestic dog does.

This creates a unique vaccination challenge, the consequences of which are starting to surface.

One Size Does Not Fit All

Did you know that a 160 pound Mastiff and a 10 pound Chihuahua both get the same amount of vaccine? Unlike every other veterinary drug, 1 ml of vaccine is given to every dog, regardless of his size.

Why is this a problem?

There seem to be a few problems with this approach. Researchers (Moore, Guptill, Ward et al, "[Adverse events diagnosed within three days of vaccine administration in dogs](#)") looked at veterinary records gathered from Banfield veterinary clinics for two years to find any trends in reactions suffered three days after vaccination. What they found was that small breed dogs (especially if they were young or neutered), were at the greatest risk.

In fact, the risk increased as the body weight went down, just like a sliding scale. Overall, dogs weighing 11 pounds or less were four times more likely than dogs over 99 pounds to suffer an adverse event (and medium

sized dogs also had an increased risk over larger dogs).

Why Are Small Dogs More At Risk?

The answer to that is simple. Vaccines contain only a small amount of antigen for safety reasons; you wouldn't want your dog to get rabies from the vaccine! So vaccines contain either small amounts of inactivated antigen or, more recently, subunit antigen particles that look like a virus to the body but can't really stimulate much of an immune response on their own.

So the vaccine needs to contain some pretty toxic ingredients called adjuvants (stuff like aluminum) that make the body respond to vaccines quicker, longer and more actively. These adjuvants create an inflammatory response that can range from a bump at the injection site to allergic reactions, anaphylaxis and even cardiac arrest. With time, they may even lead to chronic allergies, joint disease and cancer – but we'll stick to adverse events that occur within 72 hours of vaccination, because most vaccine reactions that occur outside that timeframe (and many do!) aren't considered vaccine related by most vets and aren't reported.

So that's why small dogs are more at risk of vaccine damage...they get the lion's share of adjuvants (and other things like mercury, formaldehyde and foreign animal protein) in their 1ml of vaccine.

The (Not So) Good News

If you have a small dog, the good news is that [antibody titers](#) seem to increase as body weight decreases. That means that the little guys should show protection when you titer test them (and you do titer test instead of vaccinating, right?)

The downside is that while high antibodies mean the body has responded to a vaccine, they also mean that the dog is in a pretty inflamed state and can set the stage for auto-immune disorders like allergies, hypothyroidism, diabetes, joint disease and more.

What About The Large Dogs?

Don't feel too good about this if you own a large breed dog. Because vaccines are tested on medium sized dogs, the large and giant breeds might not be getting enough!



This could be why many large breed dogs are more susceptible to parvovirus, even when vaccinated.

What To Do?

If you choose to vaccinate your pet, it's a very good idea to run a titer test two to three weeks after the vaccination. This is good for the big guys, because any amount of titer means he will be protected, likely for life, and won't need another vaccine.

If you have a small guy, ask your vet to give a smaller dose of the vaccine. Again, thanks to titer tests, you can measure whether the dose was large enough to produce immunity in your dog. If it does, he won't need another vaccine.

There are inexpensive, [in-house titer tests](#) available. If your vet doesn't offer one, encourage him to do so. Alternately, pay to have the titer test sent to a lab. It's worth the money to do so, if it means protecting your dog from unnecessary vaccination.

What About Rabies?

While vets may be able to give partial doses of the core vaccines, the law requires them to give a full dose of the rabies vaccine. This is bad news indeed for the little guys. If you live in an area where rabies is required, make sure you give the vaccine no more often than necessary. It's also a good idea to have a homeopathic vet on hand to deal with any possible vaccine reactions or issues. You can find a great homeopathic vet at [theavh.org](#).

Remember that adverse events are vastly under-reported and the incidence of vaccine related disease is much higher than you would think.



AMSCOPE

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UPCOMING SPECIALTIES

Milshore MSC (back to back) July 29,2016
Regular Classes: Mareth Kipp
Jay Richardson
Sweepstakes: Janice Wavra
Lone Star MSC July 7, 2016
Regular Classes: Sally George
Sweepstakes: Darlene Davis
Portland MSC January 18, 2017

AMSC SPECIALTIES

Gateway MSC April 1, 2016
Regular Classes: Margo Klinger
Obedience: Virginia Kinion
Sweeps: Brian Bogart
Roving Specialty-Purina Farms Apr.3 2016,
Regular classes, Carol Weinberger
Sweeps-Janet Taylor
Great Western June 26,2016
Regular classes, Linda More
Sweeps-Mary Paisley
Montgomery Co. Oct.9, 2016
Regular classes: Jon Cole
Sweeps:Linda Drost
Roving Specialty-Portland Jan 21,2017
Regular classes: David Alexander
Sweeps: Bonnie Keyes
Great Western June 25, 2017
Regular Classes: Peggy Beisel Mcllwaine
Sweeps: Patty Ledgerwood
Montgomery County Oct. 8, 2017
Regular Classes: Joan Huber
Sweeps:Brian Bogart

PET ME HERE...frm p. 7

Watch for stress signals, including looking away, lip licking, yawning, ears back, "whale eye" (the white of the eye is showing at the corners and/or rim), lifting a paw, tail tucking, freezing, or urination. If your dog is doing one or more of these things, stop touching him and give him some space.

Always ask the dog's human before interacting with a pet you don't know.

In all interactions with our animal companions, we should pay attention to the impact we're having on them. Each dog is an individual, and while one dog may love a vigorous rubdown, another may be completely stressed out by that type of handling.

Additionally, there are some dogs that have anxiety and fear being approached by strangers, in general. There's an organization trying to promote the identification of these dogs from a distance by using a yellow ribbon on a leash, through The Yellow Dog Project, which I wholeheartedly endorse.

By observing your dog's reaction to physical contact and following his lead, you can enhance your bond with him and forge a more positive relationship.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: The following information is given to help conduct AMSC business more efficiently. Please remember that the Secretary and the AMSCOPE editor should **BOTH** be notified of address changes, club officers and specialty results.

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