



# AMSCOPE

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

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## 5 Fun Ways to Exercise with your Dog

Not only can exercising with our dogs lead to a possible happier and healthier pup, but it also contributes to positive wellness and increased happiness for the pet parent too. Studies continually show that dog owners are more likely to meet daily exercise requirements than people without pets. With Spring in full bloom, start gathering ideas for varying up your dog's exercise routine!

You're used to the normal walking around the block or heading over to the local dog park, but have you considered one of these out-of-the-box ideas?

### 1. Paddleboarding or Kayaking

Paddleboarding and kayaking with your pup are two great activities for the summer, especially if your dog enjoys the outdoors and loves to get in a quick swim before you set off. Just remember to bring plenty of water and treats out on the lake, ocean, or river for the both of you! And don't forget your pup's life vest.

### 2. Rollerblading or Cycling

Rollerblading, roller skating, and biking are great activities to test out. Larger breeds and dogs with high energy levels love running beside you as you cruise down the all-purpose



cont'd on p. 3...**EXERCISE**

**The deadline for the January issue is December 15**

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## When Your Dog Does This, They're Screaming 'Don't Trust This Person'

Dogs may appear to love everyone unconditionally, but this applies primarily to those who treat them well in return. If you wrong a dog too many times, your dog will probably lose trust in you and resist responding to your commands.

In other words, dogs are incredibly good judges of character, which probably stems from their keen observation skills and the fact that they've lived closely with humans for more than 10,000 years.

The ability to pick up on a person's emotional cues and level of trustworthiness may mean the difference between life and death for a dog, and this is one area in which they excel.

### Dogs Can Identify Liars

Research published in the journal *Animal Cognition* revealed dogs learn when a person is not trustworthy and no longer follow their commands. In a study of 24 dogs led by Akiko Takaoka, Ph.D. of Kyoto University in Japan, all dogs initially went to a container that a researcher pointed to, under which a bit of food was hidden. 1

The researcher next pointed to an empty container after showing the dogs that food was hidden under a different container. Then, in the final phase, the research again pointed the dogs toward the correct container with the hidden food.

However, by this point the dogs were no longer willing to trust him and only 8 percent went in the direction he pointed. According to the study:

"These results suggest that not only [are] dogs ... highly skilled at understanding human pointing gestures, but also they make inferences about the reliability of a human who presents cues and consequently modify their behavior flexibly depending on the inference."

### Dogs Learn Who They Can Trust — and Who They Cannot

The researchers next wanted to find out whether the dogs learned to only mistrust this particular researcher or if they applied to mistrust to other people as well.

The first part of the experiment was repeated, but in the final step the untrustworthy research was replaced with someone new, who pointed to a container with an appropriately hidden treat.

In this case, the dogs gave the person the benefit of the doubt and went to the container to which he pointed, showing they had not lost faith in all of humanity — only in the person who lied to them.

Interestingly, research involving human children has shown they typically don't learn this level of discrimination (learning to accept information from a trustworthy person and not from an unreliable person) until around the age of 5.

Dogs are typically said to have mental abilities similar to a 2- to 3-year-old child, but this study suggests a higher degree of mental sophistication.

### Dogs Reject Food From Person Who Snubbed Their Owners

In 2015, research led by Kazuo Fujita, a professor of Comparative Cognition at Kyoto University, showed for the first time that dogs make social and emotional evaluations of people, and act on their judgment independent of their own interests.

For instance, dogs watched as a person either helped their owner open a box, actively refused to help with the task or behaved in a neutral manner. The strangers then offered food to the dog.

The dogs were more likely to choose food being offered by the neutral party and refuse food offered by the uncooperative party.

### Impressive Examples of Dog Intelligence

Dogs appear to process emotional cues and meanings of words in different hemispheres of the brain, similar to humans. Dogs also pay attention to your body language, taking note of your posture and eye contact, for instance.

The average dog also understands about 165 different words, although they may learn more if you take the time to teach them. So-called

cont'd on p. 2, col 1...**BELIEVE IT!**

# 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** send a copy of your newsletter to the following members of the Local Club Bulleting Committee.

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## BELIEVE IT! ..from p.1

"super dogs," which are said to be in the top 20 percent of dogs intelligence-wise, may learn 250+ words.

Intelligence levels of individual dogs varies by breed and other factors. Canine researcher Stanley Coren, Ph.D., of the University of British Columbia, told Science Daily:

*"There are three types of dog intelligence: instinctive (what the dog is bred to do), adaptive (how well the dog learns from its environment to solve problems) and working and obedience (the equivalent of 'school learning')."*

Coren suggested most dogs' mental abilities are similar to a 2- to 2.5-year-old child, however they have shown some impressive capabilities, including:

Fast-track learning, which was once thought to be found only in humans and apes

Counting up to four or five

Basic understanding of arithmetic, including noticing errors in computations such as 1+1=1

Understanding the meaning of symbolic concepts

Deliberately deceiving other dogs or people to get rewards

Learning how to operate simple machines

How Smart Is Your Dog?

According to Coren, the seven smartest dog breeds are as follows:

Border collie

Poodle

German shepherd

Golden retriever

Doberman

Shetland sheepdogs

Labrador retriever

That being said, how smart your dog really is may depend on how much you work with your dog to develop their cognitive capacity, as well as who you ask. As you might suspect, dog owners consistently believe their own dogs are at the top of the pack. According to a study in the Journal of Veterinary Behavior, most dog owners believed their dogs were socially intelligent and possessed the ability to learn general cognitive skills.

The closer an owner was to their dog, the smarter they believed him to be. Close to half (46 percent) also believed their dog's mental ability was equal to that of a 3.5-year-old human child, and 25 percent believed their dogs were smarter than most people — a sentiment that is certainly debatable!

## Why Do So Many People Still Believe This Disproven Dog Myth?

Science is proving what many of us have known for a long time: "you can't teach an old dog new tricks" isn't true after all, according to researchers from the Messerli Research Institute at Vetmeduni Vienna.

They were interested in finding out how aging affects various cognitive processes, including learning, logical reasoning and memory, in pet dogs, so they conducted a study to find out. Ninety-five dogs (Border Collies) were included in the study, ranging in age from 5 months to 13 years. Border Collies are frequently identified as one of the smartest dog breeds, and are known for being fast learners. However, distinct differences were seen among the dogs' learning ability depending on age.

### Young Dogs Learned Faster but Old Dogs Excelled at Reason

To test the dogs' learning abilities, researchers showed them two abstract images on a touchscreen. One image was positive, and resulted in the dog getting a treat while the other was negative, leading to no treat and time-out.

The photos were mixed up and the dogs had to learn which image would result in the coveted treat, by touching the correct image on the screen with their nose.

The older dogs were capable of solving this task, although they did it more slowly than the younger dogs. Like humans, it's likely the older dogs became more rigid in their thinking as they aged. Study author Lisa Wallis said in a news release:

*"Older dogs required more trials than younger ones before they were able to solve the task correctly. The test also showed that older dogs are less flexible in their way of thinking than younger ones. As in people, older dogs find it more difficult to change old habits or what they have learned."*

The older dogs did outshine the younger dogs in the area of logical reasoning, however. The dogs were shown two pictures — one familiar "negative" image and a new image. The negative image was the "wrong" choice while the new image was therefore the right choice.

This task required logical reasoning (inference by exclusion) to complete, and the older dogs excelled at this task. Study director Friederike Range said:

**Cont'd on p. 3...MYTH**

**MYTH..from p.2**

*"The older the dog, the better it performed, while younger dogs were unable to master this task. This is probably due to the fact that older dogs more stubbornly insist on what they have learned before and are less flexible than younger animals."*

**Long-Term Memory May Not Be Affected by Age**

Six months after the first series of learning tests were completed, the touchscreen trials were repeated using the same abstract images. The test, which was designed to measure the dogs' long-term memory, revealed no significant differences among dogs of different ages. Impressively, virtually all of the dogs correctly identified the positive images, regardless of age. The study findings help identify what's normal in terms of cognitive aging in border collies, and may ultimately be used to recognize cognitive problems in dogs. Keep in mind that teaching your dog new tricks may help to keep him mentally sharp as he ages. Mental stimulation (puzzles and treat-release toys), as well as plenty of opportunity to socialize with other pets and people, is important for ongoing cognitive health.

**Your Dog Is an Intelligent Creature**

Research demonstrates most dogs' mental abilities are similar to a 2- to 2.5-year-old child, and if given the opportunity, most dogs can learn to count, understand symbolic concepts, operate simple machines and even understand basic arithmetic.

And if you're like me, you've met many dogs with much higher IQs than those probably included in those studies.

Dogs are also capable of social learning, or learning by watching others, and appear able to process emotional cues and meanings of words in different hemispheres of the brain, similar to humans. Dogs also pay attention to your body language, taking note of your posture and eye contact, for instance.

Your dog probably understands about 165 words, which is about average for dogs, but with the appropriate training, some dogs may learn to understand 250 words or more.

And please don't assume that just because your dog is older, his cognitive function will slip. There are steps you can take to keep your dog mentally sharp even in old age.

**What Else Can Help Keep Your Older Dog's Mind Sharp?** physical activity appropriate for his age and physical condition, is also important. At the foundational level, however, a

nutritionally balanced fresh, species-appropriate diet is a requirement for cognitive health.

You'll want to be sure your dog is also consuming a healthy amount of animal-based omega-3 fats, such as krill oil, which are critical for brain health. Medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs) found in coconut oil have also been proven to slow cognitive decline. In fact, one of the best things you can do for older pets is decrease the amount of unnecessary carbohydrates (or even better, eliminate them) in the diet, and replace them with healthy fats that nourish your animal's brain. I recommend twice-yearly vet visits for pets no matter their age, but this becomes even more important for animals getting up in years. Keeping abreast of your dog's physical and mental changes as he ages is the best way to catch any disease process early. Ask your vet to perform a blood test to check your dog's internal organ health, to make sure you are identifying possible issues early on. In addition, your holistic vet can also recommend appropriate supplements that support cognitive health, such as:

SAMe (S-adenosylmethionine)  
Resveratrol (Japanese knotweed)  
Jellyfish extract (apoaquorin)  
Ginkgo biloba    Gotu kola  
Phosphatidylserine

If your dog needs a bit of a push in his learning, positive reinforcement behavior training — involving lots of healthy treats and praise — can also work wonders in teaching your senior dog some new (or old) tricks.



***Presently, I am a present...  
and a wonderful one!  
...what I'm really doing...?  
waiting to scare Santa!***

**EXERCISE...from p. 1**

trail at the park. Just be sure to take plenty of breaks for water and rest in the shade if your dog starts panting from running fast.

**3. Doga (Doggie Yoga)**

Doga is an activity that is becoming more and more popular all over the United States. Lots of yoga studios host "bring your dog day" events. Or local parks and beaches host classes for free on Saturday mornings during the summer. So open your laptop and start searching for events near you. It'll keep you and pup feeling refreshed, revived, and full of positive energy.

**4. Playing Sports (like Soccer)**

Our dogs are some of the best athletes out there! From soccer to volleyball, and all of the other sports in between, dogs love games where they get to chase around a ball or flying disk. So grab your friends and their pups and head to the local park for a fun game where everyone can get a great workout in.

**5. Stair-Running**

Last but not least, head to the closest high school football stadium to run sprints and stairs with your pup. Stair exercises help build great agility and endurance and they'll whip you both into shape very quickly!



If you are just starting to exercise together or are jumping back in after taking a break, be sure to start slow and not overdo it. When beginning a new activity, try it for 5-10 minutes for the first 5-8 times together. Then, you can start to add 3-5 minutes to your time once you both are doing well at that level. You want to be sure you and your best friend build up some stamina before going all out! Have fun and enjoy staying healthy together!

## NEW APPLICANTS

### Lisa K. Miller

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**Lisa** has been involved with dogs (different breeds) for a total of 19 year. She has owned Miniature Schnauzers for the past 5 years: CH Axcium's Shine On (Finnigan) – 5 years and Axcium's Drive Me Crazy (Nelly) - 3 years Lisa is not a breeder, but her dogs are co-owned by Hilde Haakensen who retains breeding rights on them... Finnigan has never been bred...Nelly had her first litter this past Jan, and Lisa raised the litter Lisa has done Conformation for 3 years, Agility for 4 years, Obedience for 5 years, and Lure Coursing for 1 year, Rally for 4 ½ years, and Barn Hunt for 1 year Lisa works alongside of Hilde Haakensen at some of the shows and she attends about 30 events per year, including seminars. She belongs to the Atlanta Obedience Club, Norcross, Ga., (Agility Trial Chair, Hospitality), Canine Capers Agility Club, Norcross, Ga., (Building Cleaning), Past Member – Huntsville Obedience Training Club – (Instructor). Lisa's occupation is in the field of Accounting Software Support Lisa would like to help the club with Rescue, Agility and the 2018 Roving Atlanta Specialty  
**Lisa's sponsors are: Hilde Haakensen and Robin Ohrt**

### ANGELA CHRISTOPHER

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**Angela** has owned Miniature Schnauzers for over 25 years. She currently owns and co-owns three (3) Miniature Schnauzers. Angela is not a breeder. She has done conformation showing for 11 years. She attends 15 – 20 dog events per year. She belongs to: Portland Miniature Schnauzer Club (PMSC), Portland, OR. Where she is current Club Treasurer, Board Member and Constitution Committee Chairperson. She is also working on 2017 National Roving Specialty and Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Events. Angela is retired since 2015 from a leadership position with Coca Cola Co. She is interested in Legislative Issues, and Ethics.  
**Angela's Sponsors: Rene Wigan and Laurie Moore**

### JAN M. VAN SYCKEL

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**Jan** has been involved with Miniature Schnauzer for eight (8) years. She has done

Obedience, Agility and Conformation. Jan is not a breeder. She attends 30 + dog events per year. Jan belongs to The Agility Club of NH and Paul Revere Miniature Schnauzer Club. Jan is employed in Information Technology, Identity Mgmt., and Security.

**Jan's Sponsors are: Lynn Baitinger and Kaye Kirk**

### KARIN KINNIAN

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**Karin** has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 21 years and Scottish Terriers for 11 years. She is not a breeder. She has done Agility for 21 years and Conformation for 3 years. Karin attends about 30 dog Agility Trials per year and 2 Seminars. She belongs to Canine Capers, Norcross, GA and serves as an Agility Instructor. When still living in NH, she previously served as Treasurer for Agility Club of NH, before relocating to GA. Karin is a retired US Probation Officer. She is interested in Rescue, Agility and Health.

**Karin's Sponsors are Lynn Baitinger and Kaye Kirk.**

### LISA "JAN" SEAY

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**Jan** has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 3 years. She is not a breeder...She shows in Conformation, Agility, Obedience, and Barn Hunt events. She has helped her breeder/mentor at a few conformation shows and plans to continue, along with at least 6 agility trials a year. She belongs to the Mobile Dog Training Club, Mobile, Alabama. Jan is a nurse practitioner...She would like to help our club out with Membership, Agility, and Health...

**Jan's Sponsors are Patti Henderson and Hilde Haakensen.**

### SUSAN CHURN

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**Susan** has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 40 years and with cocker Spaniels for 20 years. She is not a breeder. She does Obedience (14 years) and Agility (13 years). Susan attends approximately 25 dog events per year. She is a member of the Williamsport Dog Training Club, Williamsport, PA. serving as Agility Trial Chair and President

of the club. Susan is retired. She is interested in Agility and Health. She loves training and competing in Agility and is just getting starting in Barn Hunt. In 2016 Susan made and donated a quilt for Miniature Schnauzer Rescue at the Montgomery All Terrier Trial in PA.

**Susan's Sponsors are Lynn Baitinger and Kaye Kirk.**

### THEONE L. HUTCHMAN

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**Theone** has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 32 years, doing conformation showing, and also breeding (5 litters). Theone attends 10 – 15 dog events per year. She belongs to the Portland Miniature Schnauzer Club, where she serves as President and Board of Directors and also the Greater Clark County Kennel Club, serving as Secretary and Board of Directors. Theone is currently a groomer and retired from being self-employed as a Fromm Food Distributor. She is interested in Rescue, Education and Ethics. She loves to mentor on grooming, structure, and sportsmanship. Theone also co-partners the Maple Creek Miniature Schnauzer Rescue Organization.

**Theone's Sponsors are: Rene Wigan and Laurie Moore**

### DEBBIE HOY and JEFF HOY (co-applicants)

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**Debbie** has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for approximately fifteen (15) years. Debbie is not a breeder. She has participated in Agility and Obedience. MACH 2 Mighty Max and MACH 6 Gala Run for the Roses and has a puppy Loneacre Intergalactic Princess Mia.

Debbie attends about 30 dog events per year. She belongs to Nita Nee Kennel Club, in State College PA and is a Board Member of same club. Deb is a retired clerical worker and Jeff is a Forester. They both participate in Obedience, Agility, Rally and Barn Hunt. Their dog "Rosie" qualifies for the Nationals each year...They both help with the organization of the MONTCO Terrier Trials for the Miniature Schnauzer participants. Debbie's special skills fall in the category of Clerical and Organizational...They are both interested in Obedience and Agility. Their sponsors attest to their willingness to help and take part in anything that needs doing.  
**Their sponsors are Lynn Baitinger and Kaye Kirk.**

## NEW APPLICANTS

### CATHY FARR

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**Cathy** has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 11 years. She is not a breeder. She has participated in Agility for 8 years, Obedience for 2 years and Therapy Dog for 10 years. Cathy attends about 12 dog events per year. She is a member of: TDI, Dauphin Dog Training Club and York county Training Club. Cathy is a retired teacher. She is interested in helping the club with Awards and Trophies, Education, Obedience and Agility. Cathy has worked with her Therapy Dog at the Hershey Medical Center, comforting sick persons. Is starting a new puppy in Agility, Rally and Obedience. Cathy is especially interested in helping with the Companion Sports Committee.

**Cathy's Sponsors are:** Lynn Baitinger and Barbara Donahue

### CONNIE KROHN

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[connie@conniekrohn.com](mailto:connie@conniekrohn.com) **Connie** is a Canadian resident applying for Foreign Membership. Connie has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 20 years. She is a breeder and has produced four (4) litters from her bitch and 40+ litters from her stud dogs in the past 6 years. She has been showing in Conformation for 20 years. She has had 6 Best in Show winners, two of which were home bred. She also competes in Rally, Agility and Barn Hunt and has gain titles there also. Connie attends 25 – 30 dog events each year. She is a member of the Canadian Kennel Club. She is a Professional Do Handler and an Artist. **Connie's Sponsors area:** Patty Ledgerwood and Patti Henderson



## *Bouquets and Biscuits*

**\* MACH4 Southcross Majority Vote UDX2 OM2 BN GN VER OF RATN** (Ch Bravo's The Great Gatsby x Ch Cholet's Dangerous Devotee) earned his Obedience Master 2 (OM2) on Aug.13, 2016 and his Utility Dog Excellent 2 (UDX2) on Oct. 9, 2016. He also earned his Novice Barnhunt (RATN) on Oct. 22, 2016 which qualified him for an AMSC Versatility Award. - he loves finding the rat! Major was bred by Sonny Lelle and is owned and loved by Clay and Nancy Lincoln. He is an absolute joy to live with and to show.

**\*CH Abacus No Margin For Error "Margie"** earned top producing bitch status when her son, **PACH Abacus Chief Executive Officer BN RN NA NAJ MXP5 MXPS MJP5 MJPS PAX NF MFP T2BP2 CGC RATS "Chiefie"** earned his PACH in October. His full siblings are both Grand Champions - GCH CH Abacus Profit Margin RN OA AXJ AXP MJP OF XFP CGC RATN "Emmy" and GCH CH Abacus Rainmaker "Maker". Margie's first litter with CH T-Lan's Carmel Superman was two puppies, Chiefie and Maker, and her second litter was one puppy, Emmy. Very proud of Margie and her offspring. Emmy also earned her MJP in October. Linda Wahlquist-Soos, is their breeder. Maker and Emmy are owned by Linda Wahlquist-Soos and Chiefie is owned by Pat Milburn.

## Get your dues in on time!

### CORRECTION ... of October issue

Joan Huber was NOT the first non-AKC approved judge to judge regular classes at a NATIONAL SPECIALTY held in conjunction with the Montgomery County KC.

## PU: HOW TO STOP FIDO'S FARTING

### by Joey Turner

(PET CARE/DOGS) Trying to stop the males in your home from farting in the presence of dinner guests? Why not turn your dog into the most classy male in the home?

Read on to learn about three strategies to help stop Fido's bloating and gas problems. — Global Animal

Regular exercise may put an end to your dog's farting problems.

Paw Nation

Q. Our dog farts a lot. My husband and son think it's hilarious, of course, but I could really do without both the farting and the jokes about the farting. Is there some way to stop this?

A. While I can't help you with the jokes – I like fart jokes as much as the next man – I can offer some tips on the toots. Start with a veterinary checkup for your dog, because sometimes gas-passing is more than meets the nose – there could be a serious health problem. If everything checks out, here are some things to talk over with your veterinarian:

Move it: Moderate exercise can help move everything along the digestive tract and out the back door. Just remember to stay upwind and pick up after your pet. For dogs prone to bloating, ask your vet about the safest way to exercise your dog around meal time.

Change it: Consider a change of diet. While gas is a normal byproduct of digestion, if your pet is gassy as a blimp, his diet may need some adjustments. Talk to your veterinarian not only about your pet's regular meals, but also about any between-meal snacks he is enjoying, whether you're handing them out or he's finding them himself.

Slow it down: Not only do wolfers swallow air when they inhale their food, but they often overeat as well, backing up the digestive system. Pets with short noses – Pugs and Bulldogs, for example – are also not designed for an optimal intake situation. The result of swallowed air and excess fermentation is belches, flatulence or both. Several companies make bowls designed to slow down gulpers. You can also toss the bowl and feed from food puzzles – toys that make a pet work to get food a little bit at a time.

If your dog is healthy and nothing turns down the toots, you might just have to learn a few fart jokes to get along.

More Paw Nation: <http://www.pawnation.com/2012/02/23/3-ways-to-stop-your-dog-from-passing-gas/>

## Why Is This Single Organ One of the Hardest Hit Disease Locations?

Recently I ran across a list titled "The 26 Biggest Health Conditions That Plague Dogs."<sup>1</sup>

The list was compiled by PetBreeds, and includes many disorders I've covered here at Mercola Healthy Pets, such as hip and elbow dysplasia, patellar luxation (floating kneecap), gastric dilatation volvulus (bloat), seizures, allergies, and musculoskeletal diseases.

What I find interesting about the list is the number of conditions (9 of 26!) that involve a dog's eyes. These include:

### Entropion

A condition in which the lower eyelid folds inward, resulting in pain, irritation and excessive tearing.

### Cataracts

Cataracts give the eyes a cloudy appearance and can cause blurred vision.

### Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA)

An inherited condition that can cause impaired night vision, diminished peripheral vision, and/or complete blindness.

### Distichiasis

A condition in which extra eyelashes grow from the eyelid, which may or may not be problematic for the dog.

### Ectropion

A condition in which the lower eyelid droops or rolls out from the surface of the eye, causing red, watery, and irritated eyes.

### Lens Luxation

An inherited condition in which the lens dislocates and can damage the optic nerve, causing blindness.

Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca (KCS). KCS (dry eye) describes faulty tear glands that cause dry, irritated eyes and can permanently impair vision and result in blindness.

### Glaucoma

A condition in which fluid accumulates inside the eyeball, which can eventually damage the optic nerve.

### Trichiasis

A condition in which eyelashes grow in the wrong direction, causing pain, irritation and potentially, injury to the eye.

In my experience, most people don't give much thought to the health of their dog's eyes, but as you can see from the list, there are a number of things that can go wrong with your pet's peepers.

Keep an Eye Out for These 9 Canine Eye Conditions

1. Entropion. A dog with entropion will typically squint and have an excessive amount of discharge from the affected eye. Sometimes there can be sensitivity to light and pawing at the eyes, especially when the dog is outside.

Other signs of entropion include inner eye inflammation (which is called keratitis), an eye tic, a sagging of the skin around the eye socket, or in worst-case scenarios, a rupture of the cornea.

Some cases of entropion are never more than a minor annoyance, while more severe cases can cause significant pain, eye ulceration, scarring, and ultimately, loss of vision.

2. Cataracts. Cataracts form a blue cloud of varying degrees inside the capsule that houses the lens of the eye. Cataracts can progress very slowly over many years or they can come on very quickly, leading to blindness within a few days or weeks.

Cataracts in dogs are often inherited. They can also be caused by diabetes, toxicity from drugs and pest preventives, another underlying eye disease, trauma to the eye, nutritional deficiencies in puppies, and as part of the aging process.

If your dog is diagnosed with cataracts, less troublesome ones will be rechecked periodically to see if they're progressing. Sometimes anti-inflammatory eye drops are prescribed.

But if your pet's vision is affected, her quality of life is compromised, or the cataracts are progressing rapidly, surgery is sometimes recommended to restore vision.

3. Progressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA). PRA is an inherited disease that causes dogs to lose their eyesight over a period of months to years. PRA is most often seen in Cocker Spaniels, Border Collies, Irish Setters, Norwegian Elkhounds, Schnauzers, and Poodles.

The retina, which is in the back of the eye, is composed of rods that perceive light and cones that perceive color.

Normally the rods and cones mature by the time an animal reaches about 12 weeks of age, but in some pets with PRA, they never completely mature and may begin to degenerate at an early age.

4. Distichiasis. Excessive eyelash hairs growing from the dog's eyelids rub against the cornea, irritating it. The affected eye becomes red, inflamed, and may develop a discharge.

Dogs with the condition typically squint or blink a lot and tend to rub their eyes against objects such as furniture or carpet. In severe cases, the cornea can ulcerate and appear bluish in color.

5. Ectropion. The most common sign of ectropion is a distinctly droopy lower eyelid. Affected dogs also tend to have watery eyes, swollen or red conjunctiva, tear staining, inflammation and/or eye infections. Signs of ectropion often seem to improve, then recur at a later date. In severe cases, symptoms typically do not wax and wane and will not improve without treatment.

6. Lens Luxation. In some dogs, the supportive ligaments of the lens weaken or tear, which causes the lens to dislocate from its normal position. It can fall backward into the eye (posterior luxation), which is typically painless.

Alternatively, the lens can fall forward into the eye (anterior luxation), where it blocks drainage of fluid and can result in glaucoma or increased intra-ocular pressure (IOP), which is extremely painful and can cause permanent blindness. Weakness of the lens ligaments is known to be hereditary in terriers, the Chinese Shar Pei, and the Border Collie.

7. Keratoconjunctivitis Sicca (KCS). Dry eye is a condition in which the tear mixture, which consists of oil, mucus and mostly water, is absent. Only oil and mucus are being secreted, which is why pets with KCS have thick, yellow discharge from their eyes. The eyes get red and the cornea, in time, turns brown. If the condition isn't treated, blindness can result.

8. Glaucoma. In dogs, glaucoma is either primary or secondary. Primary glaucoma is inherited and occurs in many breeds, including the Cocker Spaniel, Basset Hound, Chow, Jack Russell, Shih Tzu, and the Siberian Husky. Primary glaucoma typically starts in one eye and eventually involves both eyes. Secondary glaucoma occurs when other eye diseases are present that inhibit drainage of the aqueous humor inside the eye.

These diseases include inflammation of the eye (uveitis), advanced cataracts, cancer of the eye, lens displacement, and chronic retinal detachment. The increasing pressure inside the eye from glaucoma causes pain. The pressure can get much higher in dogs than it does in humans, so we can assume the condition is more painful for dogs than it is for you or me.

The pain of glaucoma is most likely felt as a severe headache. You may notice your pet doesn't want to play, is irritable, or perhaps his appetite is off. You might also notice he's rubbing or pawing at his eye or face. Sometimes dogs will rub their faces against furniture or another object in the home. Some will have fluttering of the eyelid, squinting, or will hold their eyes closed. Another sign is a dilated pupil in the affected eye.

Loss of vision is another symptom and often that is what brings pet owners to the vet. Unfortunately, permanent blindness can occur within a matter of hours, in cases of rapidly developing glaucoma where the pressure inside the eye becomes very high, very quickly.

9. Trichiasis. Trichiasis is common in brachycephalic breeds with flat noses and prominent eyes, such as the Pekingese, Pug, and Bulldog, as well as breeds with long hair around their eyes, such as the Cocker Spaniel. Trichiasis can cause squinting or blinking of the eyes, excessive tearing, eyelid twitching, swelling, blood vessel invasion of the cornea, and pigmentation of the iris (the colored portion of the eye).

Any noticeable changes in your dog's eyes or her ability to see should prompt a phone call to your veterinarian. I recommend you have your canine companion's eyes examined as soon as possible to determine exactly what's going on, and whether treatment is needed.



November 1, 2016

## 2017 DUES & TROPHY DONATION

By renewing your dues you acknowledge you have read and will abide by the AMSC [Code of Ethics](#).

**2017 Membership** dues are due by January 1, 2017. Dues will be in arrears after that date and will lapse if not paid before March 1, 2017.

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Members receiving AMSCope by **Email** (soft copy) - **\$30 individual, \$52.50 joint**

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Members receiving AMSCope by **regular mail** (hard copy) - **\$55 individual, \$75 joint**

**Pay Online** by secure credit card (VISA, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express) or PayPal. Foreign payments must be paid in US dollars.

Go to the AMSC website ([www.AMSC.us](http://www.AMSC.us))

Click on Members box at top of page, login to the Members Only section.

(The ID is: AMSC#1 Password is: Schnauzer2015)

Click on the "Buy Now" button for the type of Dues you are paying.

**Payment by check payable to the AMSC** to the address below. Foreign checks must be a bank draft or certified check in US dollars.

Bonnie Keyes  
511 River Terrace  
Endicott, NY 13760-5054

email: [Treasurer@amsc.us](mailto:Treasurer@amsc.us)  
phone: (607) 742-3828

**Review** the AMSC roster to confirm the accuracy of your address/phone/email. The roster is available in the Members section of our Website. Send any changes to your contact information to [Treasurer@amsc.us](mailto:Treasurer@amsc.us) or send a note with your check.

**Make your 2017 Trophy Donation now.** Send a check or pay via PayPal. PayPal payment is in the Members section of our Website. When paying by Check or PayPal please notate 2017 Trophy Donation.

Regards,

**Bonnie Keyes**

Bonnie Keyes, Treasurer



**AMSCOPE**

Carla M. Borrelli, Editor  
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**UPCOMING SPECIALTIES**

Greater Columbus MSC      Nov. 19, 2016  
Regular Classes: Paula Harding  
Puppy Sweepstakes: Anne Beckwith  
Portland MSC                      January 18, 2017

**AMSC SPECIALTIES**

Roving Specialty-Portland    Jan 21, 2017  
Regular classes: David Alexander  
Sweeps: Bonnie Keyes  
Great Western                      June 25, 2017  
Regular Classes: Peggy Beisel McIlwaine  
Sweeps: Patty Ledgerwood  
Montgomery County              Oct. 8, 2017  
Regular Classes: Geraldine Kelly  
Sweeps: Martin G. Marks  
Roving specialty-Perry GA.    April 15, 2018  
Regular Classes: Terry Stacy  
Sweeps: Vicki Kubic  
Great Western                      June 24, 2018  
Regular Classes: John Constantine  
Sweeps: Kim Griffin  
Montgomery County              October 7, 2018  
Regular Classes: Joan Huber  
Sweeps: Susan Atherton

**GVKC & TVKC are combining their shows in 2017. The dates are June 23, 24, & 25 at the Dome Arena in Rochester, NY. There will only be a three day cluster this year. The air conditioning issue should be fixed by that time.**

**Apparently both clubs lost money on their 2016 shows so they are giving this a go. If they make money in 2017 they will most likely expand to four days.**

**Let's mark down the dates so we can support them & keep the local clubs alive.**

**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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