



AMSCOPE

Newsletter of the AMERICAN MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB

Member of the American Kennel Club

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The host hotel for the 2014 Roving Specialty

is the Country Inn & Suites By Carlson Scottsdale at 10801 North 89th Place | Scottsdale, Arizona 85260. They can be reached at 480-314-1200. Their website is: <http://www.countryinns.com/hotels/azphosco>

The room rates are as follows:

Standard Guest Room: \$129.00 Single/Double Occupancy

Suite: \$139.00 Single/Double Occupancy

A \$30 pet free will apply and No pets are allowed on the first floor.

The rooms will be held until January 28th, 2014. At that time rooms not spoken for will be released for general sale.



**So long, farewell,
auf wiedersehen,
adieu...adieu...adieu...to you
and you ...
who have not paid your
dues.....
DUES ARE OVERDUE**

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Pyometra: More Than a Uterine Infection

This Life-Threatening Condition Could Kill Your Dog Within 48 Hours

Story at-a-glance

· Pyometra is a uterine disease that occurs most often in intact female dogs six years or older that have never been pregnant.

· Pyometra is a hormonal abnormality with or without the presence of a secondary bacterial infection. An excessive amount of progesterone, or hypersensitivity of the uterus to progesterone, is what causes the condition. Left untreated, pyometra can be life-threatening.

· Pyometra is triggered by a heat cycle that doesn't end in egg fertilization. Cysts develop in the lining of the uterus and release large amounts of fluid into the uterus. The accumulated fluid can spark a secondary bacterial infection.

· There are two types of pyometra, open and closed. In open pyometra, the cervix allows accumulated fluid and debris in the uterus to flow out of the body through the vagina. At some point, however, the cervix closes (closed pyometra), trapping all the excess fluid and white blood cells in the uterus. The flow of fluid into the uterus continues, causing the organ to enlarge.

The uterus can eventually rupture and empty all its contents into the abdominal cavity, causing death within about 48 hours.

· Treatment of the condition includes spaying. If the owner wants to breed the animal, obviously other options are available, but they present a higher risk to the dog.

Pyometra occurs most commonly in intact female dogs that have not been pregnant. But it is also seen in unspayed cats, hamsters, ferrets, guinea pigs, rats, and rabbits. The problem can occur at any age, but is usually seen in dogs who are six years of age or older.

More Than a Uterine Infection

It was once thought pyometra was just a uterine infection. But the condition is now recognized as a hormonal abnormality with or without the presence of a secondary bacterial infection. It can be life-threatening if it's left untreated. Pyometra is triggered by a heat cycle that doesn't end in egg fertilization. Dogs typically start showing

signs of the disease within two to four months after the heat cycle. Either an excessive amount of progesterone or hypersensitivity of the uterus to progesterone is what causes the condition. Cysts develop in the lining of the uterus and release large amounts of fluid into the uterus. The accumulated fluid can spark a secondary bacterial infection.

'Open' and 'Closed' Pyometra

A normal uterus in an average-sized dog weighs just a few ounces. But when pyometra is present, the organ can weigh up to four pounds due to the accumulation of fluid and diseased tissue.

The fluid accumulation in the uterus starts leaking out through the vagina. The dog's natural response is to lick the area clean. Excessive licking can introduce still more bacteria through the cervix and into the uterus.

The body's response to the secondary infection is to increase fluid production and white blood cells to the uterus, which continues to flow out of the vagina. This is called an open pyometra, because the cervix is open, allowing fluid and accumulated debris to be flushed from the body through the vagina.

At some point, the cervix closes and the fluid can no longer flow out of the uterus. Meanwhile, the body continues to produce more and more fluid and white blood cells. The result is an enlarged uterus. This condition is called closed pyometra, because the cervix does not allow the accumulated material to exit through the vagina.

In worst-case scenarios, the uterus can rupture and empty all of its contents into the abdominal cavity. When this happens, the animal usually dies of septic peritonitis and/or acute kidney failure from uremic poisoning within about 48 hours, even with very aggressive medical intervention.

Obviously, the goal is to catch this
Continued on p. 2, col. 2 **PYOMETRA**

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

Stephanie Davis Rae
148 Dover Way
Vacaville, CA 95687
luvwatldisney@att.net

* **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.

Chair: Laurie Moore
1785 Ocean Blvd. #312
Coos Bay, OR 97420
swdesign@gmail.com

Kennalea Pratt
535 East Woodland
Springfield, MO 65807-3607
kennalea@mindspring.com

Diana Coville
100 Stafford Holland Road
Wales, MA 01081
diana.coville@yahoo.com

Marilyn Oxandale
10117 Maebern Terrace
St. Louis, MO 63126-1814
oxandale@aol.com

**The deadline
for the March issue is
February 17.**

Report all changes to the Roster to
treasurer@AMSC.us
Sharon Edwards
21301 Golf Estates Dr.
Laytonsville, MD 20882

PYOMETRA...cont'd from p.1 col 3

condition long before it becomes this serious.

Catching symptoms early on is very important in treating pyometra successfully.

Symptoms

Symptoms of pyometra can include lethargy, depression, fever, lack of appetite, vomiting, excessive thirst, frequent urination, a distended abdomen (due to the enlarging uterus), vaginal discharge and excessive licking at the area, as well as weakness in the rear limbs due to the enlarged uterus.

Remember: these symptoms will be noted after a heat cycle. If your female dog has recently concluded a heat cycle and you begin to see some of these symptoms, you should seek care immediately.

Diagnosis and Treatment of Pyometra

Pyometra is diagnosed with an examination of the cervix and vaginal discharge, plus X-rays and/or an ultrasound to evaluate the size of the uterus and to rule out pregnancy.

Toxicity can develop rapidly in a dog with pyometra, so prompt treatment is really a very important part of successful treatment, especially if the cervix has closed. The preferred traditional treatment for pyometra is spaying. If the owner wants to breed the animal, obviously other options are available, but they present a higher risk to the dog. IV fluids are usually administered for several days, along with antibiotics to treat the potentially life-threatening infection. The uterus and surrounding areas will be irrigated to flush away pus and fluids, and to speed healing.

In cases of open pyometra, prostaglandins are sometimes administered to control cell growth, regulate hormone production, and cause contraction of the uterus to help expel accumulated fluid.

Why Dogs with Pyometra Should Be Spayed

Since pyometra is most commonly seen in middle-aged or older intact female dogs who have never been bred, this actually IS a condition that can be prevented by spaying your dog, unlike breast cancer, which has historically been touted as the most important reason to spay dogs.

Whenever possible, it's important to

prevent any type of unplanned pregnancy. If you plan to breed your dog, I hope you are an experienced, knowledgeable, and ethical breeder who selects for health first and foremost. This also means putting the health of a cycling female before the desire to perpetuate a certain strain of DNA.

All that to say, I strongly recommend spaying a dog with pyometra to avoid recurrence of the disease following future heat cycles.

If you're like most pet owners who don't intend to ever breed their dog, before you have your pet spayed at an early age – let's

say, six months – I encourage you to learn about surgical sterilization options and the risks and benefits associated with each of them.

If you decide to spay your dog, holding off on the surgery until she is sexually mature and fully mentally and physically developed can help protect her against many forms of cancers and endocrine diseases later on.



Hurray! I'm a winner!

* MOVING?

Be sure to send your change of address and new phone number and new email address to us so that AMSCOPE can follow you... you wouldn't want to miss one issue!

Send information to
Carla Borrelli
1799 South Creek Road, Derby, NY
14047
627-3206
cborr@aol.com

LOSING HARRY ARTHUR

By Stephanie Abraham Originally printed in "The Royal Dispatch," Winter 2014. Reprinted with permission.

October 15, 2013 was a horrible day. Little "Harry Arthur," just turning 16 weeks, always the picture of health and vigor, and possessed of a very special engaging personality, died of Leptospirosis at Angell Memorial Animal Hospital in Boston. He was due for his Lepto vaccination that very week.

Harry was placed the 3rd week of September with a loving and totally responsible family who adored him and live in the heart of Boston. Every day he was walked in the Public Garden and along the Boston Common. Unfortunately, none of us knew that Boston was a breeding ground for Lepto, a bacterial disease caused by one or more of many different serovars that comprise the spectrum of Lepto strains. In fact, the veterinarian who treated Harry at Angell called the Lepto situation in Boston "epidemic." Here are some Lepto "basics:"

Leptospirosis is caused by spiral-shaped bacteria from the *Leptospira* genus which can infect many animals including dogs and humans. Therefore it is a zoonosis, a disease that is transmissible from animals to humans. Incidence occurs worldwide and frequency of incidence is increasing therefore it is considered an emerging disease in humans and in dogs. Leptospirosis was once considered a disease of rural dogs but is being increasingly seen in urban dogs due to urbanization of rural areas and increased contact with wildlife species such as raccoons, skunks, opossums, and rodents. Dogs typically become infected by drinking or swimming in water contaminated with *Leptospira* organisms shed in urine by the local wildlife. {Dr. Kristy Conn, DVM, Internet article Cesar's Way}. *Leptospira* penetrates through the mucosal membranes—eyes, conjunctiva, mouth, any breaks in the skin. After disseminating in the blood, leptospira tends to target the liver and kidneys but can also go to other organs in the body such as the spleen and central nervous system (CNS). A reservoir host is an animal that harbors the organism with no clinical signs of disease. The organism is shed in high quantities in the urine. Dogs, rats, pigs, cattle, raccoons, deer, skunks, opossums and small rodents (mice) can all serve as reservoir hosts for the different serovars. Man and dog can be an incidental host, in which

clinical disease occurs, but the organism is not shed in high quantities. {Claws and Paws Veterinary Hospital, Pearland, TX, Internet.}. Your dog can become infected just be walking through muddy soil or a puddle with infected urine in it.

Harry became ill on Friday the 11th of October. He exhibited lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, and refused all food. His owners took him to their local veterinarian on Saturday. His examination revealed a strong heart, clear lungs, and his symptoms were thought to be the result of eating something (unknown) that upset his stomach. When he did not rebound on Sunday, his family returned to the veterinarian, who prescribed some Pepcid and gave fluids. No blood work was done. Upset and frustrated when the symptoms did not subside, on Monday morning Harry's owners took him to Angell where the diagnosis of Leptospirosis was made almost immediately after running a blood panel. His kidney and liver tests showed markedly elevated results, and his white blood count was also very high. Despite IV antibiotics and heroic treatment, sweet, happy, wonderful Harry died within 24 hours in the ICU. The bacteria attacked his lungs as well as his kidney and liver, and he died in pulmonary hemorrhage. He was just a baby, after all, and although he fought so hard, he could not survive.

There is plenty of guilt to go around. Why didn't I send him home with his Lepto shot? We ALWAYS give Lepto shots but this year elected to wait until our June puppies had completed their other vaccinations. After all, who ever hears about Lepto? I for one had never known of a case among my many friends—not for all our years involved in dogs. The vet who treated Harry initially did not have nearly a high enough index of suspicion—but unfortunately, as we discovered, many dogs presented with what are actually the early signs of Lepto are just presumed to have a mild upset and are given some palliative treatments. They are expected to make a full recovery in a day or two—who among us has not seen vomiting and diarrhea in a puppy that just ate something that did not agree? We don't automatically assume he has Lepto.

Likely, we would be more worried about Parvo. Unfortunately, in his case, Harry was harboring something much worse, and as it turned out, deadly.

I would like to make us all aware that Lepto is a growing problem in many areas of the USA. **Leptospirosis has re-emerged as a clinical disease in North America and has become a common cause of acute renal failure in most areas of the US {Larry G. Adams, DVM DACVIM, Nov. 2010 "DVM 360"}**. And it is definitely transmissible to humans. If you go to the Public Health sites in your individual states you will undoubtedly find a listing of documented cases in people. Among other things, it can cause meningitis and liver failure. Since I disclosed Harry's story on the Cavalier Lists I have received news about Lepto confirmed in dogs and sometimes in humans in areas of MA, FL, Alberta and Ontario Canada, California, Hawaii, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Oregon, Oklahoma—in short, no area is immune, especially during periods of warm, wet weather. Veterinarians are often very indifferent about vaccinating for it at all—so many, many of our dogs go unprotected. Why? For two reasons—first, the story has always existed that Lepto is a very uncommon disease. This may have once been true, but it is no longer. Perhaps because of lack of vaccination, it is on the rise in many areas of the USA. No unvaccinated dog is immune—city or country dweller. It is also my personal opinion that many milder cases of Lepto go unreported—the dog has some symptoms, gets some antibiotics, and if he is very lucky, gets better. No one ever realizes what was wrong. There are undoubtedly many cases of subclinical infection. Scientific data from the Univ. of Michigan Veterinary School supports this theory. And the second reason for not vaccinating? Because for years the "old" Lepto vaccine that only protected against 2 serovars was seen to be a risk for causing anaphylaxis or other bad reactions. And statistics showed that this Lepto vaccine did indeed cause more reactions than was ideal, in some cases very serious or even fatal ones. But times are changing, and if your veterinarian does not understand this, he / she should become better educated. Let us address some common Lepto myths:

"First, Lepto comes in so many strains; we cannot possibly vaccinate for them all; and it is dangerous vaccine. Therefore, vaccines are not only almost useless, but

Continued on p. 4, col. 1. **LEPTO**

LEPTO...con't from p. 3, col.3

also commonly life threatening.” WRONG! While there are many Lepto serovars, over 200 of them, there are only 7 that are known to affect dogs. And we now have a killed vaccine, on the scene since 2004, offered by both Fort Dodge and Merial, that protects against the most common 4 of those serovars (for those of you who would like to know, these 4 serovars are : L. grippityphosa, L. pomona, L. icterohemorrhagia, and L. cannicola). These are known as adjunct vaccines...their manufacturers have reduced the level of possible contaminants in the vaccine, and studies tell us that now there are less than 1.1% adverse effects from the administration of this inoculation. Is it 100% safe? No. Are your Rabies, and DHPP vaccines 100% safe? No—there is always an attendant risk with any vaccination. I have read some literature that points to studies that indicate our Rabies and DHPP vaccinations have a greater incidence of reactions than does the “new” Lepto vaccine. My own vet recommends the Lepto vaccine be given by itself, not necessarily with the DHPP inoculations. If you are sure that your dog will never step in the urine shed by an infected mouse, rat, skunk, raccoon, or even an infected dog—you can safely avoid the vaccination risk. I don't think ANY of us could be sure his or her dog would not at one time in his life come into contact with the Lepto bacteria—unless he lives in a bubble. And certainly our Show and Performance dogs are at risk to encounter this bacteria in any one of a hundred places.

Second—“The vaccine does not offer long term protection.” True—it does have to be given yearly, though some studies suggest that it may protect longer than that. It is an inconvenience, and an expense that none of us needs—but it may just save the life of your dog. It should be relatively easy to remember your Lepto vaccine when your dog is taken for a yearly check up. We have always given Lepto vaccinations for decades—the “old” shot that protected against only 2 Lepto serovars. Knock wood, we never once had a reaction and we never once had a case of Lepto. And I admit we did not always booster it on a yearly basis—I will, now. I am taking all our adults in to the vet to receive the “New” vaccine. As to puppies, it can be administered for the first time at 12-16 weeks with a 2nd shot about 3 weeks later—similar to your DHPP regimen. Until then...please keep your pups in a safe environment. By the way, the “old” shot would have protected Harry—he was infected with the icterohemorrhagia serovar.

■ “Lepto is susceptible to certain easily attainable antibiotics and if my dog gets it we can cure it.” Sometimes true...not always. This is a deadly disease attacking many organ systems, most often the kidneys and liver but also the lungs and central nervous system. The young may be most at risk, but one major problem is lack of correct diagnosis until it is too late. Adults are also very susceptible. If the vet that saw Harry on Saturday had started treatment for Lepto, he might have survived. Unfortunately, this particular practitioner did not have a high enough index of suspicion. And even if dogs do survive the initial infection, they are often left with kidney damage that takes their lives way before their time. One email correspondent told me that her puppy survived Lepto at 4 ½ months—though he was deathly sick and almost died. Unfortunately, he did die at 5 from residual renal damage as a result of his Lepto encounter.

Harry's heartbroken owners, and his heartbroken breeder, want to be sure his shocking death does illustrate that Lepto can be a serious problem for us all, and one that must be addressed. Statistically, Lepto may be uncommon, but if he is YOUR puppy, his death is a small tragedy. By all means consult your trusted veterinarians for their advice, but we also urge you to read up on the latest scientific literature that may be educational. If he was still here with us, Harry Arthur would thank you for your attention.

Some web sites that may be of interest are: <http://veterinarymedicine.dvm360.com/vetmed/data/articlestandard/vetmed/192005/160331/article.pdf> or <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3040842/> or <http://veterinarycalendar.dvm360.com/avhc/content/printContentPopup.jsp?id=644255>

FOR SALE:

Tutto Pet On Wheels, medium size, 4 wheeled fabric crate; telescoping handle; fits under airline seats. view it on line at amazon or Tutto Pet on Wheels; color black. gently pre owned by me. suitable for toy size or miniature schnauzer size dogs.

Set of 2 stacking plastic PetMate crates. heavy duty plastic; color: wine and beige; . 20" W; 17" hi; 26" long; also gently used by me in my dog room only. view on line at Pet Mate

call gloria lewis 561-697-9634 or my cell 561-310-9838

Bouquets & Biscuits

***Am /Can Ch Empire Creator Pi Ala Mode.** “Allie” is out of Am Can PI Ch RWW06 Empire's Pi In The Sky ROM and is by Am Can Ch Annfield Oh For Sure ROM. She is proudly bred & owned by Vicki & Greg Stephens. She is her dam's 2nd American champion (4 Canadian champions). Allie completed her title at the age of 5 ½. Thanks so much to her fan club & supporters.

***Carbor Call Of The Wild OA NAJ OF** (Am/Can CH Carbor Hot on the Trail x AM/Can CH Carbor Prim And Proper) earned his Open FAST agility title on 12/31/13 and his Open Standard agility title on 1/1/14 at the Williamsport Dog Training Club's trial. Jack was bred by Carla Borrelli is owned by Judy Russell & Carla Borrelli, is handled by John Russell and is adored by all three. Jack celebrated, as has become his custom, by going outside the trial building and howling for all to hear!



The regional contacts for Breeder Referral are:

Donna Hafen North Eastern States
dhafen@optonline.net

Gloria Lewis South Eastern States
GloriaLewis@bellsouth.net

Marcia Feld Central States
mfeld@prodigy.net

Carla Nickerson Rocky Mountain States
nicknack2@cablone.net

Buzzy Alfano Western States
minishnr@aol.com

2014 Membership Dues

Your 2014 membership dues for the American Miniature Schnauzer Club are due **by January 1, 2014**. Dues will be in arrears after that date and you will be ineligible to vote. Membership will lapse if dues are not paid before March 1, 2014.

There is no change in the amount of dues this year - dues will continue to be based on the method by which you receive the newsletter. All members who wish to receive a hard copy of the newsletter sent through regular mail will continue to pay an increased amount to offset the additional costs for printing and postage.

*Members receiving AMSCOPE by **Email - \$30 individual, \$52.50 joint**

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

New members (voted into membership Oct. 2012) and Life members do not need to pay

A few important notes to remember:

- By your selection of the "Email membership" and corresponding dues payment you authorize future notification of Club Member and Board meetings, dues notices, minutes, and newsletters by Email.

- The amount of your dues payment will serve as notification of your preferred newsletter delivery method. If you do not currently have an email address on file and you are switching from hard copy to soft copy delivery for 2014, please include your email address with your payment. Once you have paid your 2014 dues, you cannot change your AMSCOPE delivery method during 2014. This can be changed once per year when dues are paid.

Payment may be made either online or by check.

- Online payment** is made by secure credit card (VISA, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express) or PayPal transaction by using the following link. Note this link is only available directly, and cannot be accessed through the AMSC web site or through PayPal. You must have a PayPal account in order to pay via PayPal. Foreign members can pay with currency conversion from most countries - be sure to pay in US dollars.

Online dues payment: <http://amsc.us/dues.html> (click here to access)

- Payment by check** may be made by sending a check **payable to the AMSC** to the address below. Foreign checks must be a bank draft or certified check in US dollars. Please do **NOT** include the word "Treasurer" in the address for security reasons.

Sharon Edwards
21301 Golf Estates Drive Laytonsville, MD 20882
phone 301 947-8811 email: Treasurer@amsc.us

Finally, please review the AMSC roster to confirm the accuracy of your address/ phone/email. The roster is available at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMSC-L/>. You must be a member of the AMSC-L email list and have a Yahoo ID to access this online roster. If you are not currently on the AMSC-L list and wish to be, contact Vicki Kubic at vickikubic@aol.com

Send any changes to your contact information to

Treasurer@amsc.us or send a note with your payment.

Looking ahead to February 27th 2014 through March 3rd 2014

Mark your **2014** show calendars now and plan to attend the Cactus State Miniature Schnauzer Specialty in Scottsdale Arizona. We will also be hosting the AMSC National Roving Specialty this coming spring.

Featuring 6 shows in 5 days part of the **Fiesta Cluster** at WestWorld in Scottsdale Arizona

2/27 Thursday am, Sun Country Terrier Club — terrier group show

Breed: Judy Smith _ Sweepstakes: Shirley Cole

Jack Bradshaw Superintendent

***2/27 Thursday approx 12~noon, Cactus State Miniature Schnauzer Club Specialty**

Breed: Lynda Berar

Sweepstakes: Carma Ewer

CSMSC Show Chair, Kathy Thom - schnrgab@aol.com

CSMSC Show Secretary, Linda Jacobs - lindajaz@q.com

Details will be posted on the club web site - **including on-line entry**

<http://www.cactusstatemsc.org/>

2/28 Friday, Scottsdale Dog Fanciers — all breed show

Jack Bradshaw Superintendent

3/1 Saturday, Scottsdale Dog Fanciers — all breed show

Breed: Mrs K. J. Ferris

Jack Bradshaw Superintendent

3/1 Saturday, Scottsdale Dog Fanciers — all breed show

Breed: Mr. R.E. Hutton

Jack Bradshaw Superintendent

3/2 Sunday, AMSC National Roving Specialty

Breed: Mr. John Constantine

Sweepstakes: Manuel Itriago

AMSC Roving Specialty Coordinator,
Cindy Molieri - cmolieri@wbhsi.net
Jack Bradshaw Superintendent

3/3 Monday, Superstition Kennel Club — all breed show

Breed: Betty-Anne Stenmark

Jack Bradshaw Superintendent

Fiesta Cluster Information Link

Performance Events include

5 days of Obedience and Rally Trials

3 days of Agility Trials +AMSC Agility Trial

Refer to club web site for more information

- including on-line entry form

<http://www.cactusstatemsc.org/>

CSMSC Show Chair, Kathy Thom - schnrgab@aol.com

AMSC Liaison, Cindy Molieri - cmolieri@wbhsi.net

5 Ways to Keep Your Dog Cancer-Free

An assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Nicola Mason, is researching a new way to treat canine osteosarcoma.

Osteosarcoma is an all too common and highly aggressive bone cancer that invades the long bones of large and giant breed dogs. Even with amputation of the affected limb and chemotherapy – the current standard of treatment – the average survival rate is only about a year. Small clusters of cancer cells develop into metastatic tumors that are ultimately fatal. Approximately 60 percent of dogs with osteosarcoma die within one year of diagnosis.

'Cancer Immunotherapy'

Dr. Mason of Penn Vet, in collaboration with Advaxis Corporation, is currently studying a vaccine that kills osteosarcoma cancer cells that survive chemotherapy treatments. The vaccine contains a genetically modified bacteria, *Listeria*, that expresses a tumor marker called Her2/neu. The Her2/neu protein is also commonly associated with breast cancer cells in women. This target is expressed in about 40 percent of canine osteosarcomas. The theory behind the vaccine is that it will stimulate the immune system to kill the bacteria and also the cells that express Her2/neu.

According to Dr. Mason, if the vaccine is able to effectively stimulate the immune system, then immune cells will find and destroy any remaining cancer cells that have survived chemotherapy. It is also intended that the immune system will be left with a memory of the cancer cells and will be able to inhibit development of further osteosarcoma lesions.

The vaccine is given intravenously to dogs that have been diagnosed with osteosarcoma that expresses the Her2/neu target. To date, Dr. Mason has administered the vaccine to a dozen dogs with osteosarcoma after amputation and chemotherapy. The vaccine is given once weekly for three weeks, and the only reported side effect thus far is a mild, transient fever.

Preliminary Results and Future Plans for the Vaccine

Preliminary results of the vaccine's effectiveness have been very encouraging. As of mid-November 2013, the very first dog vaccinated was still alive at 570 days post-diagnosis. Two additional dogs were alive and cancer free for over 500 days post-diagnosis, and other more recently vaccinated dogs were also doing well.

In the future, Dr. Mason hopes to include another group of dogs in her vaccine study

– these are dogs diagnosed with osteosarcoma that can't undergo amputation of the affected limb due to neurological or musculoskeletal issues in other limbs. Treatment of these dogs involves alleviating the pain caused by the tumor.

Dr. Mason is also looking into the possibility that the vaccine may help prevent osteosarcoma in certain breeds at high risk for developing the disease.

My View on a Bacteria-Based Vaccine to Treat Osteosarcoma

As regular readers of the Healthy Pets newsletter know, my general opinion of vaccines is that they should be used with extreme caution and only when truly necessary to protect a vulnerable animal from a specific disease. In fact, many of our readers have an automatic negative response to even the mention of the word "vaccine." Most of the adverse reactions and side effects associated with vaccines come from the toxic adjuvants they contain.

In this case, even though the product is called a vaccine, it's really more of an unadjuvanted form of immunotherapy. A newly developed product is being studied for its ability to treat an aggressive, life-ending cancer, and I'm not opposed to non-toxic immunotherapy. This is assuming the side effects truly are mild and short-lived, and improvement is achieved in both the quantity AND quality of the dogs' lives.

Needless to say, I feel much less comfortable with the prospect of vaccinating healthy dogs that may be at increased risk for osteosarcoma, since vaccines can cause significant damage to immune system functioning and are linked to certain types of [cancers](#).

My recommendation is to create a lifestyle for your pet that will reduce his risk of developing cancer.

5 Ways to Reduce Your Dog's Cancer Risk
Don't allow your dog to become overweight. Studies prove that restricting the amount of calories an animal eats prevents and/or delays the progression of tumor development across species, including canines.

Fewer calories cause the cells of the body to block tumor growth, whereas too many calories can lead to obesity, and obesity is closely linked to increased cancer risk in humans. There is a connection between too much glucose, increased insulin sensitivity, inflammation, and oxidative stress – all factors in obesity – and cancer.

It's important to remember that fat doesn't just sit on your pet's body harmlessly. It produces inflammation that can promote tumor development.

Feed an anti-inflammatory diet. Anything that creates or promotes inflammation in the body increases the risk for cancer. Current research suggests cancer is actually a chronic inflammatory disease. The inflammatory process creates an environment in which abnormal cells proliferate.

Cancer cells require the glucose in carbohydrates to grow and multiply, so you want to limit or eliminate that cancer energy source. Carbs to remove from your pet's diet include processed grains, fruits with fructose, and starchy vegetables like potatoes. Keep in mind that all dry pet food contains some form of starch. It may be grain-free, but it can't be starch-free because it's not possible to manufacture kibble without using some type of starch.

Cancer cells generally can't use dietary fats for energy, so appropriate amounts of good quality fats are nutritionally healthy for dogs.

Another major contributor to inflammatory conditions is a diet too high in omega-6 fatty acids and too low in [omega-3s](#). Omega-6s increase inflammation while the omega-3s do the reverse. Processed pet food is typically loaded with omega-6 fatty acids and deficient in omega-3s.

A healthy diet for your pet – one that is anti-inflammatory and anti-cancer – consists of real, whole foods, preferably raw. It should be high in high-quality protein, including muscle meat, organs and bone. It should include moderate amounts of animal fat and high levels of EPA and DHA (omega-3 fatty acids), a few fresh cut veggies and a bit of fruit.

This species-appropriate diet is high in moisture content and contains no grains or starches. I also recommend adding a vitamin/mineral supplement and a few beneficial supplements like probiotics, digestive enzymes, and super green foods.

Reduce or eliminate your dog's exposure to toxins. These include chemical pesticides like [flea and tick preventives](#), [lawn chemicals](#) (weed killers, herbicides, etc.), tobacco smoke, [flame retardants](#), and [household cleaners](#) (detergents, soaps, cleansers, dryer sheets, room deodorizers).

Because we live in a toxic world and avoiding all chemical exposure is nearly impossible, offer a periodic detoxification protocol to your pets.

Allow your dog to remain intact (not neutered or spayed), at least until the age of 18 months to two years. Studies have linked spaying and neutering to increasing

NEW APPLICANTS

Andy Deer

Randy Clay

612 Margaret Street
Charleston, WV 25301
(301)881-3628

email: adeer76@yahoo.com

Sponsors: Cathi Rohrer, Terrie Houck

Andy has had Miniature Schnauzers for 18 years, Standard Schnauzers for 5 years and Giant Schnauzers for 6 years. Randy has had all three sizes for 2 1/2 years. They are breeders. They have been involved in conformation for 5 years and breeding for 18 years. They attend approximately 10-15 events per year. They are also members of the Standard Schnauzer Club of America. Andy is a Registered Nurse and Randy is a Licensed Practical Nurse. Their interest lie in Rescue, Ethics and Health. Andy started in 1994 with his first Mini and had his first litter in 1995 with champion bloodline pets. In 2008, he got his first Standard Schnauzer and went to his first dog show and owner handled her to her Grand Championship. He bought his first show Mini in 2010, which was handled to his Grand Championship by Terrie Houck. He then bought another Mini and is excited about the future. They state that they are team players, hard workers, both are in the medical field and Randy is very organized.

Judy Rowley

50 Laurel Drive
Carmel Valley, CA 93924
no phone or email listed

Sponsors: Carol Hafner, Patricia O'Brien

Judith has owned German Shorthair Pointers, German Wirehair Pointers, a Doberman and now a Miniature Schnauzer. She is not a breeder. Judith has been active in agility and obedience for 14 years and tracking for one year. She attends approximately 10 events per year. She belongs to GWPCNC, GWPCA and Therapy Dogs International. Judith is a retired English teacher. Her areas of interest are Newsletter, Rescue, Public Awareness, Obedience, Agility, Ethics and Health. She became interested in performance, especially agility in 1998 and made 4 trips to the Agility Invitational with her German Wirehaired Pointer and received a fifth invite when her dog was 12 1/2 years old. Her current GWP has a CD and a few agility titles. He is also a welcome therapy dog. Judith is now training her Miniature Schnauzer in agility and obedience and still working with her GWP.

Bernardo Buechner Regazzoni

Im Rosenberg 2
53179 Bonn, Germany
+491604453287
zelebreritaet.de

Sponsors: Terrie Houck, Sharon Edwards

Bernardo has had Miniature Schnauzers since 1986. He had Standard Schnauzers from 1984-95, and has had Smooth and Wirehaired Dachshunds from 1984-98. He is a breeder and has had six litters under the kennel name Zelebritat, which is FCI registered. Bernardo has been involved in Conformation, breeding, obedience and judging and attends approximately 30-40 events per year. He belongs to the Pinscher Schnauzer Klub (PSK) Germany and the Kennel Club Uruguayo (KCU) Uruguay. Bernardo is employed as an International Civil Servant (United Nations). His interests are in Newsletter, Legislative Issues, Rescue, Judges Education, Education, Ethics and Health. He has been involved in breeding for a long time as his family breeds cattle, horses and sheep. Bernardo started his breeding program in 1985 with Standard Schnauzers to which Dachshunds and Miniature Schnauzers followed. Zelebritat has produced over the past 28 years several national and international champions and provided foundation top dogs to various kennels worldwide. Bernardo is a specialized judge for all three Schnauzer breeds, as well as for the nine Dachshund breeds and their Group 4 under FCI. He has extensive knowledge in dogs anatomy, functionality and behavior and experience in breeding and evaluating stock at international level. He also has deep knowledge of the breed origins in Germany, its development and current status worldwide.

Becky Nagel

6412 Weber Circle
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
(714)296-0067

email: nagelbecky@ymail.com Sponsors:

Denise Valverde, Kathy Colby **Becky** has had three Miniature Schnauzers. She states that she is not a breeder anymore. She has been involved in conformation, breeding, obedience and therapy dog activities. Becky attends approximately 10 dog related events per year. She belongs to the Southern California Miniature Schnauzer Club and the Pet Prescription Team, a Therapy Dog organization. Becky is employed as a pet groomer. She is interested in Obedience, Health and Therapy Dog. She has had two therapy dogs and has done obedience with one dog. Her dogs are a part of her family. Skills helpful to our organization are her work with therapy dogs.

Barbara Fraile

Calle 409 no 3036 Villa Elisa
Buenos Aires, Argentina
+54 221 474 2622
trufasnegras@yahoo.com

Sponsors: Shirley Sarvas, Patti Henderson

Barbara has owned Giant Schnauzers since 1998. She's had two blacks and a salt and pepper who became a champion in 2005 and bred a litter in 2007. She has had Miniature Schnauzers since 1999 and has been breeding them since 2002 and in that time produced or owned over 20 champions in over a dozen countries. Barbara, along with her sister have also had Standard Schnauzers since 2003. She has co-owned and bred them and produced some champions. She lists herself as a breeder, having had a total of 28 litters since 2008. Barbara has been active in conformation for 12 years, obedience for 5 years and breeding for 11. She is a member of Schnauzer Club Argentino and Federacion Cinologica Argentina, both located in Buenos Aires. Barbara has been involved with Schnauzers since 1998 when she got her first Giant Schnauzer at the age of 11. When she was 15, she started attending dog shows with a professional handler traveling around her country, Brazil and Uruguay learning about dogs. She has learned to groom and handle her own dogs. In 2002, she had her first litter of Miniature Schnauzers. Barbara states that, "the dogs are a part of my life" "breeding dogs for me has many meanings but the biggest joy is to see the new owners happy". Barbara states that she lives to far away to be a direct help to the AMSC, however she does have artistic skills that may be helpful to the club. She does sculptures and does figurines in resin and bronze. Her work can be seen at <http://www.applerain.com/>.

Vera Van Wassenhove

Tarwestraat 3
9060 Zelzate - Belgium
Phone: +32 9 3457668

Email: vera@artdeco-schnauzers.com
web: <http://www.artdeco.schnauzers.com/>
Sponsors: Janet Taylor, Carole Weinberger

Vera has had Miniature Schnauzers for the past 25+ years. She has been breeding for five years. She is involved in conformation and breeding. Vera attends approximately 10-15 events per year. She works as a medical assistant. Vera is interested in Newsletter, Education, Membership and Health. She got her first dog around 1977 and her first show dog in the early 80's. She likes to exchange information with responsible breeders in Europe and other continents.



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Carla M. Borrelli, Editor
1799 South Creek Road
Derby, NY 14047-9729

UPCOMING SPECIALTIES

Gateway MSC Feb 28, 2014
Regular Classes: Steve Hayden
Sweeps: Richard Isley
Obedience: Virginia Kinion

MSC of Southern CA June 20, 2014
Regular Classes: Robert Black
Sweepstakes: Tammy Colbert

MSC of Southern CA June 21, 2014
Regular Classes: Claudia Seaberg
Sweepstakes: Janet Allen

AMSC SPECIALTIES

Roving, Scottsdale, AZ March 2, 2014
Regular Classes: John Constantine
Sweeps: Manuel Itriago

Great Western June 22, 2014
Regular Classes Marcia Feld
Sweeps: Kim Cox Griffin

Montgomery Co. October 5, 2014
Regular Classes Margo Klingler
Sweeps Carla Nickerson

Roving Specialty- Denver Feb.15, 2015
Regular classes, Wyoma Clouss
Sweeps-Kurt Garmaker

Great Western June 21,2015
Regular classes, Judy Smith
Sweeps-Shawne Imler

CANCER..cont'd from p.6,col 3

cancer rates in dogs. A 2002 study established an increased risk of osteosarcoma in both male and female Rottweilers neutered or spayed before the age of one year. Another study showed the risk of bone cancer in neutered or spayed large purebred dogs was twice that of intact dogs.

Refuse unnecessary vaccinations. Vaccine protocols should be tailored to minimize risk and maximize protection, taking into account the breed, background, nutritional status and overall vitality of the dog. The protocol I follow with healthy puppies is to provide a single parvo and distemper vaccine at or before 12 weeks,

and a second set after 14 weeks. I then titer (ask your vet to run titers at a lab that uses the IFA method) two weeks after the last set and if the dog has been successfully immunized, he is protected for life.

If titer tests indicate vaccine levels are low (which would be incredibly unlikely), I recommend a booster for only the specific virus or viruses that titered low, and only for those to which the animal has a real risk of exposure. I do not use or recommend combination vaccines (six to eight viruses in one injection), which is the standard yearly booster at many veterinary practices.