



# AMSCOPE

Newsletter of the AMERICAN MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB

Member of the American Kennel Club

January 2012

Volume CB20

Issue 1

## The Evolution of Pet Ownership



Hey, don't take a chance! Update your info when you pay your dues!

## TROPHY DRIVE...

please don't forget the trophy drive.

Sharon Edwards  
21301 Golf Estates DR.  
Laytonsville, MD 20882

Here is the link to the page for the Trophy Fund Drive, [http://amsc.us/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=131&Itemid=44&mosmsg=Thanks+for+your+submission](http://amsc.us/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=131&Itemid=44&mosmsg=Thanks+for+your+submission)

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In recent years, there's been a growing awareness of the very positive effects pet ownership can have on human health and psychological well-being, and a recognition of the therapeutic value of companion animals.

Throughout history, animals have played a key role in human life. People have come to depend on animals for food, clothing, and transportation. At many times throughout history, and in many cultures around the world, animals were also the focus of religious worship.

Although animals still maintain many of those traditional uses around the world, the role of animals in society has also changed. In the last several hundred years, there has been a massive increase in the number of animals kept purely for companionship and pleasure.

Here's some fascinating information on the way relationships between people and animals have developed over time.

### Prehistoric communities

In prehistoric times, the relationship between primitive man and animals was that of hunter and prey. People viewed animals primarily as a source of food and skins for clothing.

The first animal to make the transition from the wild to the domesticated state was the wolf, the common ancestor of all modern-day dogs. This occurred at least 12,000–14,000 years ago when people discovered that young wolf cubs that remained subordinate to humans as adults could be trained.

From the earliest days of domestication, dogs would have had practical uses. They were kept because they could perform tasks such as hunting, guarding, and herding. Although domesticated dogs were probably treated with respect in primitive societies, there is evidence that at least some were also considered companions as early as 12,000 years ago. The finding of a Paleolithic tomb in Northern Israel, in which a human was buried with a dog or wolf puppy, illustrates this point. The dead person's hand had been arranged so that it rested on the animal's shoulder, as if to emphasize a deep bond of affection during life.

### Ancient civilizations

A gradual change in human living from nomadic hunter to settled farmer began approximately 8,000 years ago in the so-called Fertile Crescent of the Middle East. Working dogs would have been increasingly valued in this setting, but at about this time the cat also became loosely associated with humans. Houses, barns, and grain stores provided a new environmental niche that was rapidly exploited by mice and other small mammals, the favored prey of small wild felids. Cats that followed these rodents into human settlements would have been tolerated—and possibly encouraged—because of their usefulness in getting rid of these troublesome pests.

In some ancient civilizations, dogs may also have had cultural significance, usually in regard to death practices. In some cases, the deceased were deliberately put out for dogs to consume, as it was thought necessary for the dead person's soul to pass through a dog to reach the afterlife. These early associations between dogs and death gradually evolved into beliefs that dogs could ward off or prevent death. In ancient Greece, dogs were kept as co-therapists in healing temples for their perceived ability to cure illness. This can be seen as the precursor of our modern practice of using therapy dogs to help people with a wide range of conditions.

Pet ownership by the ruling or noble classes has a long history, dating back at least as far as ancient Egyptian times. Murals from this era depict pharaohs keeping companion animals. Many generations of Chinese emperors kept dogs that, as puppies, were often suckled by human wet nurses, and as adults were tended to by their own servants. Greek and Roman nobility were also avid pet keepers.

As civilizations developed, human-animal relationships became more symbolic and less central to human life, and with this change came the view that humans had dominion over all animals. Although animals lost much of their religious and cultural importance, some animals remained closely

Cont'd on p.3, col. 1... **EVOLUTION OF...**

# 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:

Mary Ann Shandor  
2302 Cumberland Court, SW  
Decatur, AL 35602  
256-351-6942  
tuckarry@aol.com

\*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:

Cindy Moileri (chair)  
26406 S. Brentwood Drive  
Sun Lakes, AZ 85248  
480-832-2495  
cmolieri56@gmail.com

Ron Azzanni  
P.O. Box 1239  
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314-706-8500  
azzanni@charter.net

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13 Cornell Drive  
Camp Hill, PA 17011-7638  
717-761-1751  
ms\_resq@comcast.net

Report all changes to the roster to:  
[treasurer@AMSC.us](mailto:treasurer@AMSC.us)  
Sharon Edwards  
21301 Golf Estates DR.  
Laytonsville, MD 20882

## Brushing up on Tooth Matters

Our dogs are living healthier and longer lives due to advances in veterinary medicine, such as vaccines, heartworm testing and better technology in place to diagnosis illness. However, even with these advances, dental disease is still a common issue in dogs today often leading to more serious health issues such as Endocarditis (heart valve infection) and Pyelonephritis (serve kidney infection)?

### What are common dental issues in dogs?

**Plaque:** Caused by food particles and bacteria collecting along the gumline.

**Tarter:** If plaque is not removed, minerals in the salvia combine with plaque and form tarter (or Calculus) which adheres strongly to the teeth. Tarter will cause inflammation in gums commonly referred to as gingivitis. Signs of this can be seen with reddening of the gums below and around the teeth and causes bad breath.

**Periodontal Disease:** If the tartar is not removed, it builds up under the gums. It separates the gums from the teeth to form "pockets" and encourages even more bacterial growth. At this point the damage is irreversible, and called periodontal disease. It can be very painful and can lead to loose teeth, abscesses, bone loss or infection. As bacterial growth continues to increase, the bacteria may enter the bloodstream, causing infection of the heart valves (endocarditis), liver and kidneys.

### What steps can be done to prevent dental issues in dogs?

1. Annual visits to your veterinarian generally include an oral exam that check for the following:

- Dogs face and head for asymmetry, swelling or discharge.
- Outside surfaces of the teeth and gums and the "bite".
- Inner surfaces of the teeth and gums and the tongue, palates, oral mucosa, tonsils, and ventral tongue area.
- Palpate and assess size, shape and consistency of the salivary glands and the lymph nodes in the neck.

2. Veterinarian dental cleaning as advised. Dental cleanings generally include:

- Anesthetizing your dog.
- Taking radiographs (x-rays) to assess the health of all of the teeth and bones of the mouth.
- Flushing the mouth with a solution to kill the bacteria.
- Cleaning the teeth with handheld and ultrasonic scalers. All calculus is removed from above and below the gumline. This is extremely important and can only be done if

the animal is under anesthesia.

- Using a disclosing solution to show any areas of remaining calculus which are then removed.
- Polishing the teeth to remove microscopic scratches.
- Inspecting each tooth and the gum around it for any signs of disease.
- Flushing the mouth, again, with an antibacterial solution.
- Optionally, applying a dental agent to retard plaque build-up.
- Recording any abnormalities or additional procedures on a dental chart.
- Determining the best follow-up and home dental care program for your dog.

3. Daily home dental care which includes:

- Brushing of teeth daily to weekly depending on your dogs diet, chewing habits, and breed. Ask your veterinarian for the brushing regimen that best suits your dog.
- Check for warning signs such as bad breath and redness around gums
- Chew toys which aid in the elimination of plaque and tarter build up. A list of chew toys can be found on The Veterinary Oral Health's Council website.

### RENTALS FOR ROVING SPECIALTY

Woodpeckers  
821 Willow Ct  
Saginaw, TX 76179

phone: 817-232-3067  
show site phone: 817-233-6073  
fax: 817-306-0259

### COST OF RENTALS PER DAY

<b>CRATES</b>	2000	\$8.
	3000	\$9.
	4000	\$12
	5000	\$15

<b>X-PENS</b>	30"	\$8.
	36"	\$9.
	48"	\$12.

<b>TABLES</b>	30 X 18	\$14.
	36 X 24	\$17.

**ARM/CLAMP** \$5.

**20 DRYER** \$25.

Daily rates are subject to change. Daily rental of any other items will be determined by the Lessor.

## 2012 Roving Specialty in Texas!

Ya'll come join us!



### Lone Star MSC Specialty

March 23-25, there will be 4 big shows in 3 days!

Friday we will have the AMSC specialty in the morning and the LSMSC specialty in the afternoon. AMSC will sponsor a box lunch for exhibitors that day. Saturday and Sunday will be an all breed show hosted by the Ft Worth KC.

#### \* AMSC judges are:

Sweeps: Janet Taylor-Sweeps

Regular classes: Carol Weinberger\*

#### LSMSC judges are:

Sweeps: Manuel Itriago

Regular classes: Penny Hirstein

#### \* Judge for Saturday : Sally George

#### \* Educational Seminar on Saturday.

#### \* AMSC Board Meeting

Saturday at 6:30

Will Rogers Memorial Center, Ft Worth

All members are welcome to attend and observe \*

#### LSMSC dinner TBA

\* Judge for Sunday: JoAnn McCann (AUS).

The AMSC has blocked rooms at a discounted rate at the Residence Inn Ft Worth University 1701 South University Drive, Fort Worth, TX, 76107, (817) 870-1011

Event name:

American Miniature Schnauzer Club.

Room rates are \$119.00/night for studio, \$139.00/night for double.

There are many hotels in the Ft Worth area to choose from but this one is very close to the show site and very "doggie" friendly with lots of grassy areas for exercising.

NEED a Grooming Table? SEE PAGE 2

Kim Cox Griffin (daystar@doglover.com) and Laurie Darman-Owen

**Y'all head SOUTH when you're tired of winter!! Please make plans to join your friends in Fort Worth, TX on March 23, 2012 for the AMSC Obedience Trial being held in conjunction with the Roving Specialty! Our obedience trial will be held in the morning and Joyce Morgan will be judging. We will offer all regular classes plus the titling classes and veterans class! Mark your calendars, and come on down for a FINE TEXAS WELCOME!!!**

## EVOLUTION OF PET OWNERSHIP...continued from . p. 1, col 3

associated with humans, but subtly, in the role of companions.

### The Middle Ages

In medieval Europe, from the 13th–15th centuries AD, pet keeping was popular among the aristocracy and some senior clergy. Lap dogs were fashionable among the noble ladies, whereas male nobility were more inclined to lavish their attention on more "useful" animals, such as hunting hounds and falcons. During this period, hunting, or "venery," was of great importance to the aristocracy as a symbol of power and status. Dog breeds spread throughout Europe as different types of hound were developed for chasing different quarry.

Nevertheless, the Christian church frowned on pet keeping. Church leaders suggested that the food used for these animals should be given to the poor. However, the Church was probably more afraid that close associations with animals were strongly linked to pagan worship. The prejudice against pets reached its height during the Inquisition, where evidence against heretics often included references to close associations with animals.

Throughout the barbaric witch trials of the 16th and 17th centuries, a large number of innocent people were accused of witchcraft and condemned to death. Possession of an



"animal familiar," considered to be a symbol of Satan, was used as evidence of their guilt. The accused were most often elderly and socially isolated women who probably kept animals for companionship. As interest in witchcraft declined, however, companion animals returned to favor and even

came to symbolize good fortune.

The most likely reason for negative attitudes to companion animals throughout history is that affectionate relationships towards animals were considered immoral and against the natural order of life. Until relatively recently, there was a commonly held view in the Western world that animals lacked feelings and were created in order to serve humanity.

### The rise of pet keeping

Pet keeping wasn't generally accepted in Europe until the end of the 17th century, and it wasn't common among the middle classes until the late 18th century. Pet keeping in its present form is probably a 19th century Victorian invention. At this time, it was perceived as a link with the natural world, which itself was no longer seen as threatening. It also allowed a visible demonstration of man's domination over nature.

Britain had been a center for dog breeding since Roman times, and one of the first formal competitive dog shows was held in Newcastle in 1859 for the Pointer and Setter breeds. Still, little was known about the inheritance of various characteristics until Charles Darwin published *The Origin of the Species* in 1859. Since that time, dog breeding has become more formalized with the establishment of strict breed standards.

The practice of pet keeping in Victorian times also reflected other social attitudes of the time. Pet keeping was not considered appropriate for the "lower classes," as it was thought to encourage the neglect of other social duties.

### Pet keeping in modern society

In present-day societies, dogs have a number of functional roles, from ornamental to status symbol, as helpers, and as companions. Dogs can also act as a channel for personal expression because people express their personality in the breed they own. For example, rare breeds are often used as indicators of status. Guide dogs for blind people and hearing dogs for deaf people are examples of pets who are kept as helpers.

But the most common reason for owning pets in Western societies is companionship. In recent years, there's been a growing awareness of the very positive effects this relationship can have on human health and psychological well-being, and a recognition of the therapeutic value of companion animals.

**The deadline  
for the  
February issue is  
January 18.**

## Determining The Best Age At Which To Spay Or Neuter

Author: Margaret Root-Kustritz, DVM, PhD  
University of Minnesota

### Introduction

In many parts of the world, due to cultural or economic prohibitions, bitches and dogs are not spayed or castrated unless they have reproductive tract disease. However, in the United States, virtually all bitches and dogs are rendered sterile by surgery at some point in their life. This better allows for reproduction control in animals no longer capable of or not considered desirable for breeding, and eliminates behaviors and physical changes related to presence of reproductive hormones that dog owners find objectionable. The surgeries most commonly performed are ovariectomy (removal of the uterus and both ovaries), commonly called spaying, and castration (removal of both testes and the associated epididymes). Castration is commonly also called neutering, although that term most correctly can be used for surgery of either gender. Collectively, these surgeries can be referred to as gonadectomy, removal of the gonads or reproductive organs.

Removal of the ovaries eliminates secretion of the hormones estrogen and progesterone. Removal of the testes eliminates secretion of the hormone testosterone. Elimination of these hormones obviously leads to decreases in behaviors and physical changes associated with their secretion, such as heat behavior, swelling of the vulva, and estrous bleeding in bitches, and mounting and roaming in dogs. However, reproductive hormones have effects on other tissues in the body and removal of those hormones may inadvertently impact those systems negatively. Other, less obvious, hormone changes also occur after gonadectomy, including persistent elevation in hormones that control the secretion of estrogen, progesterone, and testosterone. Whether these other hormone changes affect other systems positively or negatively often is unclear.

This paper is a review of what has been demonstrated in the veterinary literature regarding effect of gonadectomy on the animal as a whole. This discussion does not address the societal problem of pet overpopulation. The author feels that animals with no owner or guardian should be spayed or castrated before adoption into a new home as one of many initiatives necessary to decrease the number of dogs euthanized in the United States annually. This discussion instead refers to dogs with responsible owners or guardians who maintain dogs as household pets, do not allow

the animals to roam free, and provide the animals with regular veterinary care.

Evidence in this context is defined as credible information from peer-reviewed research. Studies involving more dogs are more valuable than reports of single cases. Multiple studies documenting a given phenomenon are more valuable than single papers. Incidence in this context is reported as a percent; this is the number of affected animals out of a random sample of 100. In veterinary medicine, any condition with an incidence greater than 1% is considered common. Readers are encouraged to carefully read all manuscripts of interest and to ask their veterinarian for clarification if needed. This paper is condensed from a more detailed, extensively referenced manuscript that may be available through your veterinarian (Root Kustritz MV. Determining the optimal age for gonadectomy of dogs and cats. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 2007;231(11):1665-1675).

### Why do we perform spay or castration at 6 months of age?

Most veterinarians in the United States recommend bitches and dogs be spayed or castrated between 6 and 9 months of age. This is not based in science; no one has performed a large-scale study in which bitches and dogs underwent gonadectomy at various ages and were tracked throughout life to determine what abnormalities developed relative to age at gonadectomy. It is thought that the current age recommendation arose after the World War II, when increasing affluence of American families first permitted them to treat animals as household pets and were, therefore, more interested in controlling manifestations of reproductive hormone secretion and very interested in making sure the animal survived surgery. Anesthetic and surgical techniques available at that time necessitated the animal be at least 6 months of age.

With current anesthetic agents, anesthetic monitoring equipment, and surgical techniques, it has been demonstrated in multiple studies that bitches and dogs can safely undergo gonadectomy when as young as 6 to 8 weeks of age. Surgical complication rate does not vary between groups undergoing surgery when very young compared to those undergoing surgery at the more traditional age, with overall postoperative complication rate reported

as 6.1%. The vast majority of these post surgical complications are transient and do not require veterinary care.

### Effects of gonadectomy on behavior

Behaviors that are most likely to be affected by gonadectomy are those that are sexually dimorphic (seen primarily in one gender). Examples of sexually dimorphic behaviors include flagging in bitches, and mounting and urine marking in dogs. Incidence of sexually dimorphic behaviors decreases after gonadectomy in bitches and dogs, with the decrease in incidence not correlated with length of time the animal has shown the behavior prior to gonadectomy.

Those behaviors that are not sexually dimorphic, including most forms of aggression, are not decreased in incidence by gonadectomy. One behavioral consequence of spaying that has been documented in several studies is an increase in reactivity towards humans with unfamiliar dogs and increased aggression toward family members. This may be hormonally related; there may also be a breed predisposition.

There is no evidence documenting a decline in trainability of working female or male dogs after spay or castration. One study documented an increase in development of senile behaviors after gonadectomy in male dogs. However, that study had very few dogs in the intact male group and other studies, looking directly at changes in brain tissue, are not supportive of that finding.

### Effects of gonadectomy on health

#### Neoplasia

Neoplasia, or cancer, is abnormal growth of tissue. Benign tumors tend to stay in one location and cause disease by altering the single tissue involved and compressing tissue around it. Malignant tumors tend to spread in the area from which they arise and to spread to distant tissues, causing widespread disease. Virtually all tumors are more common in aged than in young animals, with average reported age at time of diagnosis of about 10 years. For the tumor types described below, exact cause-and-effect relationship between gonadectomy and development of tumors is unknown.

Mammary neoplasia, or breast cancer, is a very common disorder of female dogs, with a reported incidence of 3.4%; this is most common tumor type in female dogs. Of fe-

Cont'd on p.5, col. 1.. **SPAY/NEUTER**

**SPAY/NEUTER..cont'd from p. 4, col.3**

male dogs with mammary tumors, 50.9% have malignant tumors. Risk factors for mammary neoplasia in female dogs include age, breed, and sexually intact status. Multiple studies have documented that spaying bitches when young greatly decreases their risk of developing mammary neoplasia when aged. Compared with bitches left intact, those spayed before puberty have a 0.5% risk, those spayed after one estrous cycle have an 8.0% risk, and dogs spayed after two estrous cycles have a 26.0% risk of developing mammary neoplasia later in life. Overall, unspayed bitches have a seven times greater risk of developing mammary neoplasia than do those that are spayed. While the benefit of spaying decreases with each estrous cycle, some benefit has been demonstrated in bitches even up to 9 years of age. The exact cause-and-effect relationship between intact status and development of mammary neoplasia in female dogs has not been identified. The genetic and hormonal causes of breast cancer identified in women have not been consistently identified in female dogs despite extensive research.

Prostatic cancer in dogs is uncommon, with a reported incidence of 0.2 to 0.6%. Prostatic adenocarcinoma is a highly malignant tumor that cannot be cured medically or surgically. A 2.4 to 4.3 times increase in incidence in prostatic neoplasia with castration has been demonstrated, with that information verified in multiple studies.

Testicular neoplasia is a very common tumor in dogs, with a reported incidence of 0.9%. Unlike in humans, testicular tumors occur late in life in dogs, are readily diagnosed, and are rarely malignant. Ovarian and uterine tumors are very uncommon in bitches.

Several tumors of non-reproductive tissues have been reported to be increased in incidence after gonadectomy. Transitional cell carcinoma, a malignant tumor of the urinary tract, was reported in two studies to occur 2 to 4 times more frequently in spayed or castrated dogs than in intact female or male dogs. Exact incidence is not reported; estimated incidence is less than 1.0%. A breed predisposition exists. Surgical removal of transitional cell carcinoma may or may not be possible, depending on site of the pri-



mary tumor.

Osteosarcoma is a low incidence (0.2%), highly malignant tumor of bone. It is reported to be more common in large breed dogs with some specific breeds predisposed. Two studies have documented a 1.3 to 2.0 times increased incidence of osteosarcoma with gonadectomy. However, one study evaluated solely Rottweilers, a breed with a reported genetic predisposition. Treatment often includes limb amputation and radiation or chemotherapy. Hemangiosarcoma is a malignant tumor of vascular tissue, including the heart, major blood vessels, and spleen. Large breeds in general are at increased risk with some breeds specifically predisposed. Two studies have documented increased incidence, from 2.2 to 5 times, in gonadectomized males and females compared to intact animals. Overall incidence of hemangiosarcoma is low, at 0.2%. Surgical removal is the treatment of choice, if possible.

**Orthopedic abnormalities**

Long bones grow from growth plates on either end. The growth plates close after exposure to estrogen and testosterone, explaining why growth in height is largely completed after puberty. In bitches and dogs, removal of the gonads before puberty slows closure of the growth plates, leading to a statistically significant but not overtly obvious increase in height. There is no evidence that after gonadectomy some growth plates will close on time and some late, however most studies have only examined long bones of the forelimb. No studies have demonstrated increased incidence in fractures or other abnormalities of the growth plates associated with age at time of spay or castration.

Hip dysplasia is abnormal formation of the hip joint with associated development of arthritis. Genetic, hormonal, and environmental factors, including diet, are involved. In the one study describing increased incidence of hip dysplasia in female or male dogs spayed or castrated before 5 months of age, it is not clear that the diagnosis of hip dysplasia was made by a veterinarian in all cases.

The paired cruciate ligaments form a cross within the knee (stifle) joint. The cranial cruciate ligament (CCL) undergoes tearing or complete rupture when the stifle is stressed from the side, especially if the animal twists while bearing weight on that limb. CCL injury is very common, with reported incidence of 1.8%. Large breed dogs are generally at risk, with some breeds predisposed. Overweight female and male dogs also may be at increased risk. It has been demonstrated that CCL injury is more common in spayed or castrated animals than in intact animals. The basis may be hormonal, as it has been demonstrated that CCL injury in humans is more common in women than in men with incidence varying with stage of the menstrual cycle. A very recent study documented change in anatomy of the stifle joint of female and male dogs with CCL injury with gonadectomy prior to 6 months of age; further research is pending. CCL injury is treated with surgery and rehabilitation; treatment is costly and recovery protracted.

**Obesity**

Obesity is very common in dogs, with reported incidence of 2.8% in the general dog population; incidences of 34% of castrated male dogs and 38% of spayed female dogs were reported in one study. Multiple risk factors exist, including breed, age, and body condition and age of the owner. A very commonly reported risk factor for development of obesity is gonadectomy. In cats, it has been demonstrated that gonadectomy causes a decrease in metabolic rate. There are no reports documenting metabolic rate in female or male dogs relative to gonadectomy. Obesity is itself a risk factor for some forms of cancer, CCL injury, diabetes mellitus, and decreased life span. Obesity is controllable with appropriate diet and exercise.

**Urinary incontinence**  
A very common form of urinary incontinence, formerly termed estrogen-responsive urinary incontinence and now more commonly called urethral sphincter mechanism incompetence, occurs in spayed female dogs. Urine leaks from the spayed female dogs when they are relaxed and so most often is seen by the owners as wet spots where the dog sleeps. Reported incidence ranges from 4.9 to 20.0%, with female dogs weighing more than 44 pounds

Cont'd on p.7, col. 1.. **SPAY/NEUTER**

**WHO DOES WHAT?****Here's who to contact:**

Requests for additions/deletions from amsc-list:  
Wyoma Clouss <[clouss@wy-os.net](mailto:clouss@wy-os.net)>

Requests for addition/deletion from Breeders Referral :  
Chris Franck  
<[chris.franck@gmail.com](mailto:chris.franck@gmail.com)>

Roster Address changes, she will communicate to Carla B and Wyoma for updates  
Sharon Edwards  
<[rtesle@comcast.net](mailto:rtesle@comcast.net)>;

## AMSC FUTURITY 2013!!

We are officially announcing another exciting opportunity for AMSC members.

A futurity stakes competition will be held at the roving national specialty during the week long activities at Purina Farms in St. Louis Missouri in 2013!

Litter nominations have opened and can be received now. Futurity rules and both litter and individual nomination forms can be viewed and down loaded from the AMSC yahoo groups files or the AMSC website.

Any questions regarding the futurity can be directed to me Beth Santure, Futurity Chair. at: [bjasanture@peoplepc.com](mailto:bjasanture@peoplepc.com)

The larger the participation, the larger the stakes prizes to be won and the more exciting the competition will be.

Please support our clubs first ever National Futurity by nominating that special litter which is in whelp now or planned to whelp between now and November 9, 2012.

## WHAT IS A FUTURITY

A futurity is a contest for which the prize consists of stakes contributed by the various competitors. It's a bit like making a bet (nomination fees) that your unborn litter will produce a high quality individual who can win the money. The fun and challenge in a futurity is that the litter is nominated after its bred but before it is born. Or in our case up to 30 days after birth for a higher fee. This then allows all puppies from that litter to be eligible for nomination individually for the competition. The greater the participation the higher the stakes winnings. The winnings will be broken down into classes and placements with the largest portion going to the BREEDER of the futurity winner. Many breeds hold both sweepstakes and futurity shows. Breeds with very large entries have stakes winning in the thousands of dollars sometimes. Ours with good participation could have a stakes winner of several hundred dollars. I like to think of a futurity as a sweepstakes with "ATTITUDE"! Sounds like fun right? I hope you all will consider supporting our first ever futurity by placing litter nominations starting now. For detailed information please read all of the futurity rules and nomination forms provided in the AMSC yahoo group files that were published earlier.

## NEW MEMBER APPLICANTS For MARCH Board Meeting

### Helen Carter

921 Limewood Avenue  
DeLand, FL 32724  
Phone: 386-738-2327

Helen Carter has owned Miniature Schnauzer for 6 years. She does not breed her dogs. She is active in Conformation and Obedience, attending approximately 12 dog events each year. She belongs to the Central Florida Miniature Schnauzer Club and is the Vice President and to the Obedience Club of Daytona. She is an Office Manager.

### Nancy T. Owen Edwin A. Owen

19411 Conquistador Drive  
Sun City West, AZ 85375  
Phone: 623-521-5649

The Owens have had Miniature Schnauzers for 12 years and Std. Schnauzers for 15 years. They do not breed their dogs. They are active in Conformation attending approximately 12 dog events yearly. They are members of the Cactus State Miniature Schnauzer Club serving as Treasurer and Hospitality and Raffle Chairs. Mrs. Owen is in Real Estate and Mr. Owen is a retired DDS and in Real Estate.

### Donna Welborn

9101 Lemona Drive  
St. Louis, MO 63123  
Phone: 314-544-6863

Donna Welborn has had Miniature Schnauzers for 2 years. She is not a breeder. She has been active in Obedience for 20 years and Agility for 1 year, attending approximately 20 shows each year. She is a member of the Jefferson county Kennel Club and the Gateway Schnauzer Club. She is retired.

### Leslie & Paul Menddelsohn

105 Elderberry Court  
Lexington, SC 29072  
Phone: 803-917-0804

The Mendelsohn's have owned Miniature Schnauzers since 1995. The do not breed their dogs. They have participated in Conformation for 2 years, attending 15-20 shows yearly. They are members of the Columbia Kennel Club, the Schnauzer Club of Great Britain and the UK Miniature Schnauzer Club. Paul is a Nuclear Engineer and Leslie a Compliance Manager, Health Care. Areas of interest in the Club are, Newsletter, Public Awareness, Awards/Trophies, Education, Membership, T-Shirt Designs, etc.

Sponsors: Carole Weinberger  
Florence Bessemer

Email: [schnauzerluv@cfl.rr.com](mailto:schnauzerluv@cfl.rr.com)

Sponsors: Debbora Nestle  
Dee Ann Simpson

Email: [EANTOWEN@cox.net](mailto:EANTOWEN@cox.net)

Sponsors: Debbie McDowell  
Gale Schnetzer

Email: [d.welborn08@hotmail.com](mailto:d.welborn08@hotmail.com)

Sponsors: Donna Hills  
Paula Steele

Email: [zrules426@aol.com](mailto:zrules426@aol.com)

### 2012 Membership Dues

AMSC dues are payable by January 1, 2011. Notification has been sent to each one of you individually, and if you have not already paid and you want to beat the holiday rush, details are below.

**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. 2010) and Life members do not need to pay\*

Payment may be made either online or by check.

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**SPAY/NEUTER..cont'd from p. 5, col.3**

and some specific breeds predisposed. While multiple studies have documented correlation between gonadectomy and occurrence of this disorder, only one has demonstrated a correlation between incidence and age at gonadectomy. In that study, it was demonstrated that spaying before 3 months of age was significantly more likely to be associated with eventual occurrence of urinary incontinence in a given female dog than was spaying later. Urethral sphincter mechanism incompetence is easily controlled medically in most female dogs.

**Pyometra**

Pyometra is uterine infection overlying age-related change in the uterine lining. Incidence increases with age; 23 to 24% of dogs developed pyometra by 10 years of age in one Swedish study. Specific breeds are at increased risk. This very common disorder of aged intact bitches is treated surgically.

**Benign prostatic hypertrophy/prostatitis**  
Benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH) is age-related change in prostate size. By 6 years of age, 75 to 80% of intact male dogs will have evidence of BPH; by 9 years of age, 95 to 100% of intact male dogs will have evidence of BPH. The increased size of the prostate is associated with increased blood supply. The most common clinical signs are dripping of bloody fluid from the prepuce and blood in the semen. Development of BPH predisposes the dog to prostate infection (prostatitis). Medical therapy for BPH can be used to control clinical signs but surgical therapy (castration) is curative.

**Diabetes mellitus**

Only one study has demonstrated a possible increased incidence of diabetes mellitus in dogs associated with gonadectomy. That study did not consider the effect of obesity, a known risk factor for diabetes mellitus.

**Hypothyroidism**

Two studies have demonstrated increased incidence of hypothyroidism in female and male dogs after gonadectomy. Genetic factors also are involved. Cause-and-effect has not been described, nor has a specific numerical factor for increased incidence been reported.

**Life span**

Several studies have demonstrated that spayed and castrated female and male dogs live longer than do intact bitches or dogs. Cause-and-effect has not been described. It is possible that gonadectomized dogs are less likely to show risky behaviors or that owners who have invested in animals by presenting them for spay or castration continue to present them for consistent veterinary care.

**Conclusion**

So how do you reconcile all this information in helping make decisions for individual animals? Considerations must include evaluation of incidence of various disorders, breed predisposition, and health significance of the various disorders

For female dogs, the high incidence and high percentage of malignancy of mammary neoplasia, and the significant effect of spaying on decreasing its incidence make ovariectomy prior to the first heat the best recommendation for non-breeding animals. The demonstrated increased incidence of urinary incontinence in bitches spayed before 3 months of age and possible effect of CCL injury in bitches spayed before 6 months of age suggest that spaying bitches after 6 months of age but before their first heat is most beneficial. For bitches of breeds predisposed by ovariectomy to highly malignant tumors and for breeding animals, spaying at a later age may be more beneficial.

For male dogs, castration decreases incidence of disorders with little health significance and may increase incidence of disorders of much greater health significance. For non-breeding animals, evaluation of breed and subsequent predispositions to disorders by gonadectomy should guide when and if castration is recommended.

As dog breeders, you are a source of information for people seeking a dog for companionship, to show or work as a hobby, or to grow up with their children. As veterinarians, we are one of the guardians of safety and good health for all animals in our society. It behooves all of us to thoughtfully consider why we recommend spay or castration for dogs, to ensure we are not putting our own convenience above their good health. For every individual bitch or dog, careful consideration of their breed, age, lifestyle, and suitability as a breeding animal must be a part of the decision as to when or if they should undergo gonadectomy.

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Cont'd on p.8, col. 1.. **SPAY/NEUTER**

**SPAY/NEUTER..cont'd from p. 5, col.3**

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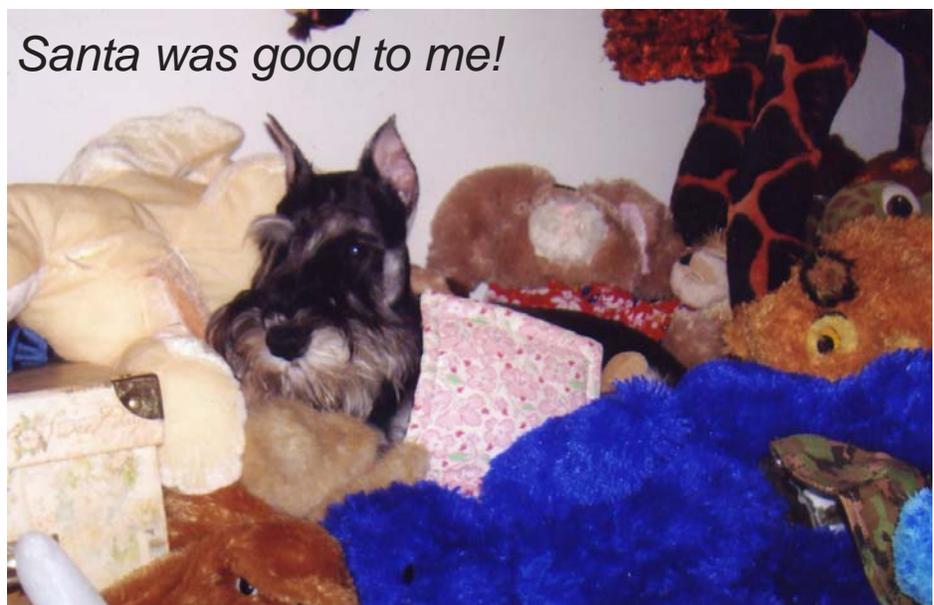
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Note - there will be NO sweepstakes

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Regular Classes: Judy A Smith  
Sweeps : William (Jim) Livsey ,III

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Regular Classes: Richard Miller  
Sweeps: Chris Walkowicz

MSC of Southern California June 22, 2012  
Regular Classes: Desmond Murphy  
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MSCSC/GWTA June 23, 2012  
Regular Classes: David Kirkland  
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Montgomery Co. October 7, 2012  
Regular Classes: Ken McDermott  
Sweepstakes : Linda Drost

Roving, Grays Summit, Mo. May 11, 2013  
Regular Classes: Clay Coady  
Sweeps: Brian Bogart  
Futurity: Amy Gordon

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Regular Classes Michelle Billings  
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