



AMSCOPE

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

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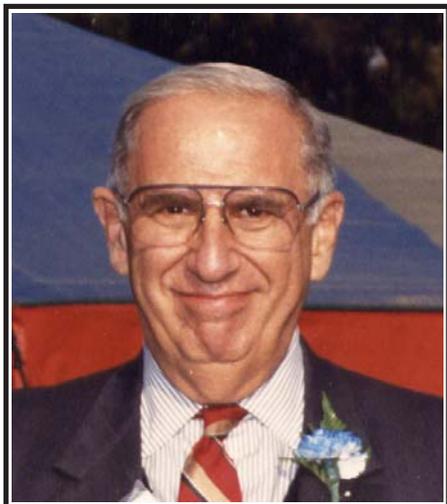
Issue 6

THE WAY WE WERE

This month we have as our guest breeder Mr. Louis Auslander, whom many of you know as a well-known and respected judge, and as the guiding light behind the International Dog Show Cluster. What many of you might NOT know is that he is a former breeder of Miniature Schnauzers and was famous then for his Alpine Miniature Schnauzers.

Just a note to those of you who have not sent your bios to me, we don't want to miss anyone and while we understand that you are all probably very busy, just a few short notes will do so we can share your story with the club members. Please send us your answers to the questionnaire!!!!

And now, Mr. Auslander:



My Kennel name came from my construction company which was named Alpine Construction. I began showing Miniature Schnauzers around 1967. My first Miniature Schnauzer was Alpine Maxamillion. I purchased this dog from Dan Doessel, whose kennel name was Dansel. He became my mentor.

My first important dog was Ch. Alpine Baby Ruth. She was either the first or second schnauzer bitch to win an all breed Best in Show. I sometimes handled my own dogs but Dick Cooper showed most of them for me.

I learned to groom from Dick Trubee, from Bob Condon and George Ward.

I believe not much has changed, however Black and Black and Silver Miniature Schnauzers were not very well known in the early years. Most everyone these days groom their dogs well and there are a lot of owner handlers showing today!

I think eye problems are still the biggest health issue.

I see too many very small and weedy entries in the breed. Coats are sometimes suspect and some are show that lack merit. On the other hand the blacks and black and silvers have come into their own.

Don't remember who I mentored, but I stay involved by judging them.

Carole Weinberger

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Please update your bookmarks and links on your web pages.

AMSC address: <http://amsc.us>

In addition, there are some new generic email addresses:
president@amsc.us
secretary@amsc.us
rescue@amsc.us
webmaster@amsc.us

These email addresses will automatically forward email to the current office holder.

The Top Six Canine Skin Ailments

By Jeff Grognet, DVM

Canine skin disease is the most common health problem presented to veterinarians. It can be frustrating to diagnose, because many diseases look the same yet require different treatments. But because just a few diseases account for the majority of dermatologic cases, the odds are good that the veterinarian will make the correct diagnosis and create an appropriate treatment plan.

The most common skin ailment — and the one that generates the most itch for dogs and pity from their owners — is allergies. Three types of allergies plague dogs, and each is treated in a different way.

• **The first is flea allergies** — a reaction to flea saliva left behind when the flea takes a blood meal. Once fleas have ingested enough blood, they lay eggs — a tremendous number of eggs. These minute white spheres are so smooth they are sometimes called 'Teflon balls.' They fall off the dog and into cracks in the couch, deep into the carpet, underneath the skirting boards, or wherever your dog spends time, including outdoors. Flea eggs hatch when it's warm and humid. Vibrations and exhaled carbon dioxide generated by a suitable host are the triggers for fleas to explode from their shells. Once they find their next victim, they consume blood, lay eggs, and start the cycle all over again. Obviously, flea allergies occur only if the insects are around to cause them. Look for evidence of fleas, such as flea dirt in the dog's hair, especially on the back above the tail. Controlling the fleas will control the allergy.

• **The second common allergy is a reaction to specific proteins in food.** Though food allergies get a lot of attention, they are actually quite rare, only comprising about five percent of allergies. Feeding a hypoallergenic food is the solution.

• **The third allergic reaction, atopy,** accounts for more than 80 percent of allergies in dogs.

continued on p. 6, col. 1...**SKIN AILMENTS**

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

Luana Nedich
29 Jackson Hill Road
Underhill VT 05489
luaned@aol.com

Stephanie Davis-Rae
148 Dover Way
Vacaville CA 95687
luvwaltdisney@comcast.net

Marcia Dawson
1403 Schooner Court
Clifton Park NY 12065
maestropepper@nycap.rr.com

AND to: Carla Borrelli (cborr@aol.com)
1799 South Creek Road
Derby, NY 14047

***E-MAIL...** If you would like to send your
wins to AMSCOPE via E-MAIL, use the fol-
lowing address:
CBORR@AOL.COM

The deadline
for the
July issue
is June 20th.

....from the President....

As you all know we had a membership vote on a Constitution and Bylaws amendment in August 2008. Five hundred and thirty (530) ballots were mailed, and three hundred (300) returned. Of the 300 returned ballots, 273 were in favor of the change, and 27 were opposed. So the amendment passed by the required 2/3 affirmative vote. AKC approved the change and it, thus became effective on March 9, 2009. The amendment was as followed (changes underlined);

Section 3. Election to Membership

Each applicant for membership shall apply on a form approved by the Board of Governors, which shall provide that the applicant agrees to abide by these Constitution and By-Laws, the rules of the American Kennel Club, and the policies of the AMSC. The application shall carry the endorsement of two Life or Regular Club members in good standing for a minimum of at least 3 consecutive years and not members of the same household, and dues payment for the current or ensuing year shall accompany the application.

The change for only "Life or Regular" members with "a minimum of at least 3 consecutive years" does not impact any current members, of course. Only members elected into membership after the amendment will held to this criteria.

Your board will be discussing strategies to combat the recent onslaught of "rare" colors into our breed, no not really our breed IMO, but our breed registry. AMSC member Richard Isley keeps a close watch on this and he reports in January nearly 20% of the Miniature Schnauzers registered by AKC were non-allowed colors. This fact is disturbing, indeed. To this effect, Kate McMillan has written a very good article to be published in our AKC gazette column and on our website. Do not miss it.

As you probably know from the Board Minutes, there was approval to host a pedigree page on our website, for members only. This is currently being worked on and should be available this summer. We will be starting with a database of over 50,000 Miniature Schnauzers. I know many of you have requested this for a while and I am happy to report it will be a reality soon.

Be sure to also send new information to:

Sharon Edwards
21301 Golf Estates Drive
Laytonsville, MD 20882-5109
301-947-8811
rtesle@comcast.net
treasurer@amsc.us

Nowadays new anti-dog legislation is showing up virtually everyday. It is seemingly never-ending. We must stand vigilant against it. In most cases reasonable laws are already on the books. We cannot just stand by and let these micro-managing initiatives become law. The crux of the matter is that decisions concerning the health and well being of our dogs should be made jointly between us and our veterinarians, not politicians and bureaucrats. In the past 2 months alone, AMSC has written multiple letters opposing such legislation in New York, California, Texas, and North Carolina. We can all help by keeping abreast of the latest information posted at AKC's new Government Relations webpage, http://www.akc.org/canine_legislation/, as well as other sites:

National Animal Interest Alliance, <http://www.naiaonline.org/>
Sportsmen's And Animal Owners' Voting Alliance, <http://saova.org/>
American Dog Owners Association, <http://www.adoa.org/index.cfm>
US Sportsman Alliance. <http://www.ussportsmen.org/>

Although there are only 2 shows at Great Western this year, I know it will be a great weekend. The show site alone will be awesome. Just think of the rings with the water and the Queen Mary in the background! As always the hospitality of Miniature Schnauzer Club of Southern California will be top notch! Plus we have 2 great breeder judges at our specialty, Brian Bogart doing sweeps and Penny Hirstein doing the regular classes. In addition, we will be having our Obedience National Specialty on Friday before the conformation shows. Hope to see many of you there!!!

John

AMSC MEMBERSHIP

The AMSC is open to all persons interested in the breed.

Prospective members must be sponsored by two AMSC members in good standing with the American Kennel Club. If you know someone that is interested in becoming a member of AMSC, please direct them to the web site at:

www.amsc.us
Current and updated membership applications are available at the website. If you wish additional information, please contact:

Mary Ann Shandor
2303 Cumberland Court, SW
Decatur, AL 35603-2617
membership@amsc.com

Training a Performance Sports Dog Starts Early

I must confess... it can be a lonely world out there and I often feel like the proverbial Maytag repairman at canine performance sports events. Why? More often than not, my mini schnauzers are the only ones at local events for agility, flyball, freestyle (canine dancing), earth dog, lure coursing, tracking and other venues. Which leads me to wonder if it's time for all of us that know and appreciate the capabilities of mini schnauzers to be their "sports" advocates. As AMSC members, we appreciate and love the characteristics of our breed, many of which make them good and enthusiastic athletes, although sometimes a bit pernickety. Whether for fun or to reach the top levels in competition, performance sports are a great outlet for MS's. So I'd like to share a few thoughts on how we can help get our breed off the couches and into the sports rings.

As breeders, owners, and enthusiasts we can educate potential and new owners on how to maximize enjoyment of and with their new miniature schnauzer. Assist every new owner by encouraging (and perhaps providing information about) professional training in the area in which the new owners live. Whether a dog is homed at 8 weeks or 8 years of age, positive reinforcement training forms a lifelong bond and builds socialization skills that will lay the foundation to establishing a healthy team relationship. This is especially important for those that will participate in canine performance sports. But every performance dog success story started with basic manners and obedience training.



The question of course is... as the advocates for the breed and the trusted advisers to our dogs' new owners, where can we turn for guidance? Help is at hand via the American Kennel Club (AKC), the Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) and some other organizations. The AKC has long stressed the importance of training and dogs having good basic manners.

This is the foundation of the AKC Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Program that advocates and evaluates the ten basic skills every dog should be able demonstrate as a welcome member of a family and the community.

In February 2009 the AKC announced the S.T.A.R. Puppy Program. "S.T.A.R." stands for what every puppy needs - Socialization, Training, Activity and a Responsible owner. The program provides dog owners with the early guidance needed to get their puppies off to the best possible start in life and set them up to thrive as adult dogs. Classes are taught by AKC Approved CGC Evaluators and include tips such as how to housetrain and practical skills such as coming when called. Puppies can begin training as soon as they have the necessary vaccines. Additional information on AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy can be found online at www.akc.org/starpuppy.

The Association of Pet Dog Trainers (APDT) is an independent organization that recognizes ten approved designations from seven different organizations including the Animal Behavior Society, Certification Council of Professional Dog Trainers and the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists. Dog trainers must possess at least one of the certifications to be an APDT member. A list of APDT members and certified trainers can be found on the web site at www.apdt.com. Try to be familiar with some trainers and training locations in your area.

My 20 years of experience with AMSC breeders is that upon purchase of my puppy I received an information packet with some good information. For those that are interested in enhancing their information packet, the AKC provides wonderful FREE brochures on the STAR Puppy and Canine Good Citizen Programs. There are also terrific no charge "Beginners Guides" for Agility, Obedience, Rally Obedience and Tracking, as well as Junior Showmanship and Conformation. All the brochures can be ordered directly from AKC by contacting Customer Service at 919-233-9767 or via e-mail at OrderDesk@akc.org. CGC and STAR brochures can be ordered in quantities up to 100, while the beginner guides are limited to 15 of each brochure. Orders are generally received in 10 days, so don't be deterred if you're told it could take up to seven weeks for delivery.

Alternatively, any AMSC breeder that would like a few Canine Good Citizen or STAR Puppy program brochures can contact me and I'll drop them in the mail to you. I can be reached via e-mail at barbaramd_2000@yahoo.com

or by phone 610-380-7064 (work) or 610-380-8884 (home). Also consider adding links from your web site to training information on the AKC or APDT web sites.

For those of us that participate in performance sports, how can we help John Q Public to understand mini schnauzers are great athletes? Seeing is believing! Show off your dogs' capabilities every chance you get by participating in community outreach events. Some of the things I do are having my MS boys function as our dog training club ambassadors at rescue organization and pet supply store events, providing demonstrations of various canine sports at community events that are dog and non-dog oriented, and having them at our clubs Responsible Dog Ownership Day events. Two crowd favorites are having kid/dog flyball relay races (the kids never beat the dogs) and allowing children to take kid friendly agility dogs around a simple agility course.



We all know a busy mini schnauzer is a happy dog. So let's do our pals a favor and educate owners about the positive ways to keep them busy and out of trouble.

Submitted by Barbara Donahue

AMSC Board Meeting

Saturday, June 20

Queen Mary
6:30 P.M.

Bouquets & Biscuits

* **OTCH MACH3 Southcross Rocky Road UDX3 RE** (Ch Classic Midnight Cowboy X Ch Southcross Yellow Brick Road UD), at age 11, finished the requirements for his third Master Agility Championship (MACH3) on April 24, 2009, at the Show-Me Agility Club trial in Columbia, Mo. He has had a wonderful agility career, earning 111 double Qs, and will now move to the Preferred classes to continue having fun. Rocky is the only miniature schnauzer in breed history to obtain both an Obedience Trial Championship (OTCH) and an agility championship (MACH). He was bred by Sonny Lelle, who knew just what we wanted. He is owned and loved by Clay and Nancy Lincoln and shown in agility by Nancy.

* **Southcross Majority Vote AX AXJ** (Ch Bravo's The Great Gatsby X Ch Cholet's Dangerous Devotee) finished the requirements for his AXJ on 4/12/09 and for his AX on 4/25/09. Major is only 2 and started his agility career just 7 months ago. He was bred by Sonny Lelle and is owned and loved by Clay and Nancy Lincoln and shown by Nancy.

* **Southcross Sensible Shoes VCD2, UD, AX, AXJ, RE, NAP, NJP** (CH Wards Creek Extreme Commitment x Ragtime Southcross Kick It Up) aka "Cindy" competed in the Terrier Only Performance Summit held in Greeley, CO May 15 thru May 17th. She won the Utility B class on Sunday the 17th, was High Combined scoring dog (Open B and Utility B) which gave her enough points to win the High Scoring Miniature Schnauzer in trial. Sonny Lelle is her breeder and she is loved, trained and shares her home with Sharon Bloss.

Early Spay-Neuter Considerations for the Canine Athlete One Veterinarian's Opinion

© 2005 Chris Zink DVM, PhD, DACVP

Those of us with responsibility for the health of canine athletes need to continually read and evaluate new scientific studies to ensure that we are taking the most appropriate care of our performance dogs. This article provides evidence through a number of recent studies to suggest that veterinarians and owners working with canine athletes should revisit the standard protocol in which all dogs that are not intended for breeding are spayed and neutered at or before 6 months of age.

Orthopedic Considerations

A study by Salmeri et al in 1991 found that bitches spayed at 7 weeks grew significantly taller than those spayed at 7 months, who were taller than those not spayed (or presumably spayed after the growth plates had closed).(1) A study of 1444 Golden Retrievers performed in 1998 and 1999 also found bitches and dogs spayed and neutered at less than a year of age were significantly taller than those spayed or neutered at more than a year of age.(2) The sex hormones, by communicating with a number of other growth-related hormones, promote the closure of the growth plates at puberty (3), so the bones of dogs or bitches neutered or spayed before puberty continue to grow. Dogs that have been spayed or neutered well before puberty can frequently be identified by their longer limbs, lighter bone structure, narrow chests and narrow skulls. This abnormal growth frequently results in significant alterations in body proportions and particularly the lengths (and therefore weights) of certain bones relative to others. For example, if the femur has achieved its genetically determined normal length at 8 months when a dog gets spayed or neutered, but the tibia, which normally stops growing at 12 to 14 months of age continues to grow, then an abnormal angle

may develop at the stifle. In addition, with the extra growth, the lower leg below the stifle likely becomes heavier (because it is longer), and may cause increased stresses on the cranial cruciate ligament. In addition, sex hormones are critical for achieving peak bone density.(4) These structural and physiological alterations may be the reason why at least one recent study showed that spayed and neutered dogs had a higher incidence of CCL rupture.(5) Another recent study showed that dogs spayed or neutered before 5 1/2 months had a significantly higher incidence of hip dysplasia than those spayed or neutered after 5 1/2 months of age, although it should be noted that in this study there were no standard criteria for the diagnosis of hip dysplasia.(6) Nonetheless, breeders of purebred dogs should be cognizant of these studies and should consider whether or not pups they bred were spayed or neutered when considering breeding decisions.

Cancer Considerations

A retrospective study of cardiac tumors in dogs showed that there was a 5 times greater risk of hemangiosarcoma, one of the three most common cancers in dogs, in spayed bitches than intact bitches and a 2.4 times greater risk of hemangiosarcoma in neutered dogs as compared to intact males.(7) A study of 3218 dogs demonstrated that dogs that were neutered before a year of age had a significantly increased chance of developing bone cancer.(8) A separate study showed that neutered dogs had a two-fold higher risk of developing bone cancer.(9) Despite the common belief that neutering dogs helps prevent prostate cancer, at least one study suggests that neutering provides no benefit.(10) There certainly is evidence of a slightly increased risk of

Continued on p.5, column 1....Early Spay Neuter

CHIC NUMBERS ISSUED OR UPDATED:

| Animal | Date | CHIC # | Reg # | Owner |
|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|------------|---------------------|
| ESSEX RIVERSONG TALK OUT LOUD | 1/13/2009 | 54632 | RN10618701 | KUBIC/MARKS |
| SCANDALS I HOPE YOU DANCE | 3/23/2009 | 55843 | RN17103203 | CONSTANTINE/WILFORD |
| KMS SOME R W EARS SOME ARNT | 3/23/2009 | 55844 | RN13446305 | DODGE |
| KATCHA'S KROCODILE ROCK | 3/23/2009 | 55845 | RN12198803 | DODGE |
| TOMAR'S SHE'S ALL THAT | 3/23/2009 | 55846 | RN13754002 | ALEX/ PAISLEY |

NOTE: The Health Committee wishes to acknowledge and commend those members who have demonstrated their support and effort for the breed through their participation in the CHIC program.

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

Early Spay-Neuter Considerationscontinued from p. 4, col. 3

mammary cancer in female dogs after one heat cycle, and for increased risk with each subsequent heat. While about 30 % of mammary cancers are malignant, as in humans, when caught and surgically removed early the prognosis is very good.(12) Luckily, canine athletes are handled frequently and generally receive prompt veterinary care.

Behavioral Considerations

The study that identified a higher incidence of cranial cruciate ligament rupture in spayed or neutered dogs also identified an increased incidence of sexual behaviors in males and females that were neutered early.(5) Further, the study that identified a higher incidence of hip dysplasia in dogs neutered or spayed before 5 1/2 months also showed that early age gonadectomy was associated with an increased incidence of noise phobias and undesirable sexual behaviors.(6) A recent report of the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation reported significantly more behavioral problems in spayed and neutered bitches and dogs. The most commonly observed behavioral problem in spayed females was fearful behavior and the most common problem in males was aggression.(12)

Other Health Considerations

A number of studies have shown that there is an increase in the incidence of female urinary incontinence in dogs spayed early (13), although this finding has not been universal. Certainly there is evidence that ovarian hormones are critical for maintenance of genital tissue structure and contractility.(14, 15) Neutering also has been associated with an increased likelihood of urethral sphincter incontinence in males.(16) This problem is an inconvenience, and not usually life-threatening, but nonetheless one that requires the dog to be medicated for life. A health survey of several thousand Golden Retrievers showed that spayed or neutered dogs were more likely to develop hypothyroidism.(2) This study is consistent with the results of another study in which neutering and spaying was determined to be the most significant gender-associated risk factor for development of hypothyroidism.(17) Infectious diseases were more common in dogs that were spayed or neutered at 24 weeks or less as opposed to those undergoing gonadectomy at more than 24 weeks.(18) Finally, the AKC-CHF report demonstrated a higher incidence of adverse reactions to vaccines in neutered dogs as compared to intact.(12)

I have gathered these studies to show that our practice of routinely spaying or neutering every dog at or before the age of 6 months is not a black-and-white issue. Clearly more studies need to be done to evaluate the effects of prepubertal spaying and neutering, particularly in canine athletes.

Currently, I have significant concerns with spaying or neutering canine athletes before puberty. But of course, there is the pet overpopulation problem. How can we prevent the production of unwanted dogs while still leaving the gonads to produce the hormones that are so important to canine growth and development? One answer would be to perform vasectomies in males and tubal ligation in females, to be followed after maturity by ovariectomy in females to prevent mammary cancer and pyometra. One possible disadvantage is that vasectomy does not prevent some unwanted behaviors associated with males such as marking and humping. On the other hand, females and neutered males frequently participate in these behaviors too. Really, training is the best solution for these issues. Another possible disadvantage is finding a veterinarian who is experienced in performing these procedures. Nonetheless, some do, and if the procedures were in greater demand, more veterinarians would learn them.

I believe it is important that we assess each situation individually. For canine athletes, I currently recommend that dogs and bitches be spayed or neutered after 14 months of age.

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<http://www.akcchf.org/pdfs/whitepapers/>

Join us for our 2nd Annual Miniature Schnauzer Photo Contest Show off your beautiful dogs and your talents!!!

---ENTRY DETAILS---

- Four categories
- 1. Portrait 2. Puppy 3. Comedy 4. General
- Put entry information on back of photo (include: name of photographer, address, telephone #, e-mail address and category)
- \$5.00 entry fee per photo.
- Make checks payable to AMSC
- Entries must be received September 20, 2009

---ENTRY RULES---

- Photo size .8x10 matted in black or white
- All photos must in a mat or they will not be accepted (be sure to mount to allow for safe removal of photo from mat for publication!)
- Photo must include a Miniature Schnauzer(s)
- Color or black & white photos accepted
- Open to amateur photographers only
- The person submitting the photo, must also be the photographer
- No show pictures...please
- No identifying items can be on the front of photo (i.e. name, initials)

---JUDGING---

- Judging to be held at the annual dinner/meeting in October
- Everyone at the annual dinner will get to cast one vote for his or her "Best in Show" pick.
- Ribbons & prizes awarded for top three winners in each category at specialty dinner and to be judged by a panel of 3 judges
- Best in Show rosette/prize and other winners awarded at the Annual Meeting

Best in show and first place winners from each category will be published in the AMSCOPE and on the website!

Best in Show and the 3 placements from each category will be used to produce our AMSC Calendar to be ready for Christmas.

Send Entries with Entry Fee And Direct All Inquires To:
John Constantine
2165 West Chester Rd
East Fallowfield, PA 19320
215-527-0056 John@adamis.org

* Non-winning photos may be picked up at the end of the Annual Dinner. Photos will not be returned otherwise.

* Photos not picked up at the Annual Dinner become the property of AMSC for use in various projects and/or publications.

*Winning photos will be retained and used by AMSC for use with various projects or publications.

The Top Six Canine Skin Ailments...continued from p. 1, col. 3

This is a reaction to allergens in the air, such as house dust, molds, fungi, and pollens, that are either inhaled into the lungs or absorbed through the skin. Dogs shouldn't produce antibodies against these allergens, but for some unknown reason their immune systems go out of control. The combination of antibody and allergen cause the release of histamine, generating intense irritation. It's been likened to being bitten by hundreds of mosquitoes.

Most atopic dogs itch only in one particular season. It could be spring or summer, when certain pollens appear. It may be winter, if the reaction is to house dust or molds. But some dogs have yearlong allergies, reacting to pollen in the summer and house dust in the winter.

Prednisone has been used for decades to treat atopy. It's usually effective, but is fraught with side effects—excessive drinking, weight gain, skin infections, and lack of energy. The drug Atopica, introduced recently, is a canine-specific form of cyclosporine that controls the itch associated with atopy yet has no side effects.

Number Two: Fleas Again

Skin parasites — fleas and ticks — are the second most common skin ailment. Even when a dog does not have an allergic reaction to them, fleas are extremely irritating. They scoot around on the skin surface and take their blood meals by biting the poor dog, causing physical trauma to the skin. If your dog is suffering from fleas, use a product that kills them before they bite. Many topical products are available for this purpose, and some control ticks as well. Ask your veterinarian for advice.

Number Three: Bacterial and Yeast Infections

The third most prevalent canine skin problem is recurrent bacterial and yeast infections. Healthy skin normally resists infection, so we see these problems only when other diseases, such as chronic allergies, thyroid imbalance, or Cushing's disease, impair the dog's immunity. In fact, if you see a skin infection in an older dog that does not usually have skin problems, look for an underlying disease.

There is also a serious problem looming on the horizon: methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). MRSA is the number-one infectious cause of human emergency-room admissions. This "super-bacterium" possesses a gene that makes it resistant to methicillin and other common antibiotics: It is very hard to kill. Veterinary dermatologists be-

lieve the same pattern of resistance in *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteria will erupt in dogs. The key is to control allergies and other diseases so that immunity is not compromised.

Number Four: 'Ear! 'Ear!

The ear is just a specialized type of skin, and otitis—ear problems—rank fourth on the list of common skin problems. Ear ailments can be in the outer ear (otitis externa) or the middle ear (otitis media). Usually categorized as inflammatory or infectious, they are often both. Many are secondary to allergies.

The problem with otitis is that it's self-perpetuating. The glands that line the ear canal respond to inflammation by stepping up wax production. The wax keeps the ear moist, promoting bacterial and yeast growth. As these organisms grow and produce more inflammation, they perpetuate the cycle.

There is no point putting ointment in a dirty ear, because the medication will never reach the skin surface. Therefore, the first step in treating otitis is to clean the ear. Then, a steroid medication is used to quiet down the glands, reduce wax production, and break the cycle.

Ear problems require early detection and treatment. This means checking the ears on a regular basis —perhaps weekly — and if wax is present, cleaning it out. A mixture of 50:50 water and vinegar can help clean the ear and kill infectious organisms.

Number Five: Mighty Mites

The number-five skin ailment is mites, both on the skin and in the ears. Ear mites—tiny bugs that feed on ear debris—defecate in the ear canal. This induces inflammation, which leads to itching and secondary infections. There are many effective treatments for mites, but all dogs that come in contact with an affected canine must be treated to eliminate carriers.

Skin mites (*Demodex* and *Sarcoptes*) cause mange. *Sarcoptes* (scabies) creates a persistent itch that can trigger skin damage, especially on the ear flaps and elbows. It is easy to treat with one dose of Revolution or ivermectin. (Some breeds are sensitive to ivermectin; your vet can prescribe the appropriate treatment for your dog.) In contrast, *Demodex* mites live deep in the hair follicles. They tend to concentrate on the face and legs and create infections that only later become itchy. Demodectic mange is very hard to treat and sometimes requires lifetime therapy.

Sixth and Last

The last of the common skin issues is keratinization disorders. These tend to occur in particular breeds, such as Cocker and Springer Spaniels, Doberman Pinschers, West Highland White Terriers, and Irish Setters. Commonly called seborrhea, it is due to a fault in the proliferation and maturation of surface skin cells. The result is dry or greasy accumulations of scale on the skin surface. Dogs with this type of dermatologic problem have a rancid odor, can be very itchy, and lose their hair. A related syndrome is sebaceous adenitis, a hereditary disease in standard Poodles, Akitas, and Samoyeds.

The only treatment available for sebaceous adenitis and the keratinization disorders is supplementation with certain forms of vitamin A, controlling infections with antibiotics, and copious bathing and moisturizing. Treatment is lifelong.

For anyone who has changed address, email, phone information lately, please let us know so we can update the AMSC roster. Also, if you are listed on the AMSC website (<http://amsc.us>) in our Breeders List, Rescue pages or Local Clubs section, you should check those listings to make sure they are current.



GWTA 2009

Great Western Terrier Association will be moving from California State Long Beach to the Queen Mary Events Park

1126 Queens Hwy, Long Beach, CA 90802

This move was a result of the all breed clubs leaving and the higher cost at the college.

There will be 2 shows with Great Western:

Saturday, June 20, the Miniature Schnauzer Club of Southern California will hold a Specialty with GWTA

Sunday, June 21, the American Miniature Schnauzer Club will have their Specialty with GWTA.

This will be a 2 day event this year, but next year we will go to 3 shows again. Unfortunately, after working so hard for Agility, it cannot be accomodated this year.

The park is located right next to the Queen Mary and right on the water. The location is very beautiful. Some of the rooms on the Queen Mary will accomodate 4 people.

ATTENTION EXHIBITORS

In order to preserve the grass at The Queen Mary Events Park, please NO MATS or other devices that cover the grass. We appreciate your cooperation to help maintain this outstanding show site.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Block rates are available at the following hotels under Great Western Terrier Association:

1126 Queens Highway, Long Beach, CA (562) 432-6964

Special Rate: \$119 per night + a one time non-refundable pet fee of \$75.

Due to the popularity of this hotel, the busy travel season and the overwhelming demand for hotel rooms on board The Queen Mary, an early cancellation policy will be in effect for The Queen Mary. If for some reason you are not able to keep any part of your hotel reservation, please keep in mind you MUST make all CANCELLATIONS by 5 PM local time Tuesday, **May 19, 2009**.

The Marriott Long Beach Airport

4700 Airport Plaza Dr., Long Beach, CA (562) 425-5210

SPECIAL RATE – Listed under “DOG SHOW” block: \$109 + \$100 non-refundable pet fee per stay

Reservation Deadline: May 27, 2009

Holiday Inn, Long Beach Airport

2640 Lakewood Blvd., Long Beach, CA

(562) 597-4401

SPECIAL RATE: \$124 Per Night + \$10 per night per pet charge w/refundable deposit of \$100 upon inspection of the room

Reservation Deadline: May 19, 2009

The Guesthouse

5325 East Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach, CA

(562) 597-1341 or (800) 990-9991

SPECIAL RATE: \$95 Per Night, No Pet Deposit

Reservation Deadline: June 1, 2009

MAKE RESERVATIONS DIRECT WITH HOTELS

The following area motels and hotels also allow dogs. Some require a non-refundable pet cleaning deposit:

Residence Inn By Marriott: 4111 E. Willow St., Long Beach, CA (562) 595-0909

Residence Inn By Marriott: 4931 Katella Av., Los Alamitos, CA (714) 484-5700

Motel 6, Long Beach: 5665 E. 7th St., Long Beach, CA (562) 597-1311

Please Note: Any hotel or motel listed in the premium list is subject to Bench Show Committee Rules. We expect our exhibitors to be responsible guests. A report that an exhibitor at this show has abused hotel or motel property during this weekend may result in disciplinary action. The Great Western Terrier Association of Southern California (GWTA) and any specialty breed club associated with GWTA reserves the right to decline future entries from the offending party in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 11, Section 15 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows.

ATTENTION ~ INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

Join us in the Show Services Hospitality Tent on our show grounds.

INFORMATION ~ COFFEE ~ REST

Tours ... Both self guided and group tours are available on board The Queen Mary. If anyone is interested in a tour or organizing a group tour, please contact Julie Arroyo, Queen Mary Attraction Sales Manager, 562-499-1716 or julie.arroyo@queenmary.com

FLEECE VESTS

These high quality polar fleece vests have the new logo embroidered on the left side of the vest. They come in men's sizes in two colors-royal blue and light grey. The women's sizes come in two colors-raspberry and heather.

\$45.00, which includes shipping

also

White Polo Shirts with same logo
Unisex sizes S-XXL
\$35 includes shipping



new logo on floor mats and vests

AMSC FLOOR MATS

These striking logo mats are dye injected and are made of high quality nylon and are 100% launderable in cold water. They can be used indoors or outdoors, since they can be washed but will last longer if not subjected to extreme weather. They will be perfect for grooming room, offices, motor homes, condos, or to stack your puppies on. They measure 22" X 33". Cost of the mat is 65.00 plus 15.00 shipping and handling.



AFGHAN

This beautiful colorful woven 100% cotton afghan of Miniature Schnauzers in a garden setting will be a keepsake. Black, Salt/Pepper and Black/Silver Minis are at home on green grass with colorful shrubs, trees and flowers in the background.

Lori Bush and Mildred Shultz collaborated with the artist at We Love Country on this very unique design.

\$75. Includes Shipping

APRONS

stone, red or royal

\$25. includes postage



NEW GYM BAGS

water-resistant fabric
outside and end pockets

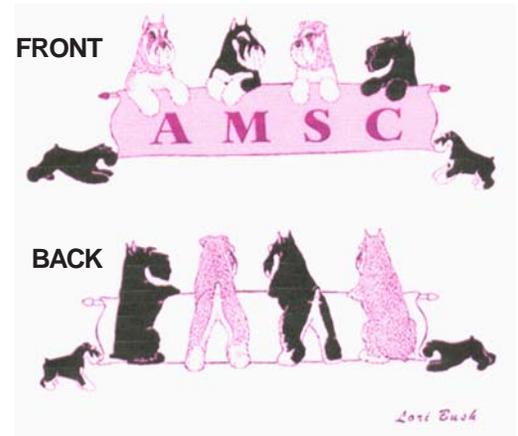
bright red color

\$55. includes postage

SWEATSHIRT in STEEL BLUE

SIZES: SMALL, MEDIUM, LARGE, XL, XXL

\$45. includes postage



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Shipping Overseas add \$10.00 (US)



AMSCOPE

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UPCOMING SPECIALTIES

Twin Cities MSC June 5, 2009
Regular Classes: Sonny Lelle
Sweepstakes: Manuel Itriago
Obedience/Rally: Donna Larson

Chicago MSC June 13, 2009
Regular Classes: JoAnne Dutton
Sweepstakes: Marilyn Laschinski

MSC of Southern California June 20, 2009
Regular Classes: Norman Patton
Sweepstakes: Jeri Muntis

Milshore MSC July 24, 2009
Regular Classes: Dr. Jerry Klein, DVM
Sweepstakes: Nadine Hersil

Greater Columbus MSC November 14, 2009
Regular Classes: James Reynolds
Sweepstakes: Victoria Jordan

AMSC SPECIALTIES

Great Western Terrier Assoc. June 21, 2009
Regular Classes: Penny Hirstein
Sweepstakes Brian Bogart

Montgomery Co.KC October 4, 2009
Regular Classes: James Reynolds
Sweepstakes Jean Heath

Palm Beach County DFA March 14, 2010
Regular Classes: Marcia Field
Sweepstakes: Carma Ewer

Great Western Terrier Association June 26, 2010
Regular Classes: Claudia Seaberg
Sweepstakes: Beth Santure

Montgomery County Kennel Club October 10, 2010
Regular Classes: Edd Bivin
Sweepstakes: Terrie Houck



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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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