



AMSCOPE

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

June 2017

Volume CB30

Issue 6

Bouquets and Biscuits

***CH Orleans' Tujagues les Crevettes Remoulade de Sonny.** "Jague" (black) finished his AKC championship before 9 months of age with 4 BOB in a row over 3 specials from the 6-9 month puppy class. Jague is the 10th champion for his sire Ch. Orleans' Fils Noir de Twister "Sonny" (black). Sonny is one of only five black son's of the top producing sire of all times, Ch. Regency's Twist of Fate "Twister". All points were obtained by his owner – handler, Darlene Petché.

TICK...TICK....TICK...Time is running out....Tick Time is here!

TICK REPELLENT RECIPE

20 Drops Lemongrass Essential Oil
20 Drops Eucalyptus Essential Oil
4 oz. of Water

Add all ingredients in a spray bottle...
Shake Well!

Spray on shoes, socks, and pant cuffs

SAFE FOR HUMANS AND DOGS

rawforbeautytroom

The deadline for the July issue is June 15

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The Surprising Way Children View the Death of a Pet By Dr. Becker

Because the lifespans of most companion animals are so short, in homes with children, youngsters can be witnesses to the circle of life — the birth, life and death of a family pet.

A recent research project examined the reactions, ideas, and feelings of children when they lose a pet.

Pets Are More Than 'Just Animals' to the Children Who Love Them

The researcher, Joshua J. Russell, Ph.D., assistant professor of animal behavior, ecology and conservation (ABEC) at Canisius College in Buffalo, NY, concluded that pets are more than "just animals" to kids. Russell conducted one-on-one interviews with 12 youngsters between the ages of 6 and 13.

"They often see themselves as the center of their pets' affections," says Russell. "They describe their pets as siblings or best friends with whom they have strong connections."¹

One 13-year-old boy whose cat was struck and killed by a car told Russell he felt his "life was over" at the time, and was still shaken by the event two years later. Russell believes kids "have a distinct sense of existential fairness around whether or not an animal lived until an appropriate age."

Youngsters understand that some pets, for example hamsters, have very short lifespans, but they expect a dog or cat to live much longer. And the type of death a pet experiences is also significant.

"Children whose pets lived the extent of their potential lifetimes — or beyond — expressed acceptance upon their deaths," Russell says.

Kids Distinguish Between 'Good' Pet Deaths and Bad Ones

An 11-year-old girl Russell interviewed suffered the loss of a beloved guinea pig. She was sad and upset about the death of her pet, but she also felt her guinea pig had lived a good life and it was "her time to die."

The kids viewed euthanasia as the right thing to

do to end a pet's suffering, but if a pet died suddenly or unexpected, they were more likely to view the death as "emotionally and morally unfair." In those situations, the children had a much harder time accepting the loss.

Like Adults, Children Have Different Ways of Coping After a Pet Dies

The children Russell interviewed received support from family and friends in dealing with the death of their pets, although some of the kids preferred to mourn privately. They wanted to "go to their room and feel sad and deal with it on their own terms," said Russell.

Many families held religious ceremonies or events such as a memorial tree planting in honor of a pet's passing. The results suggest parents should give kids opportunities to talk about their feelings when a pet dies, and then follow their lead. It's also important to offer youngsters some alone time to grieve.

Not all the kids Russell talked to were sure they wanted another pet. "There were those who felt it would be wrong to move on to a new pet because they had to honor their relationships with the deceased one," he said.

Other children, however, thought getting a new pet would help them feel better. "They explained it as an opportunity to start over and suggested that replacing a companion animal is more about beginning a new relationship than erasing memories of an old one," said Russell.



con't on p.2.... Death

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

Jacquelyn Ebersbach
424 45th Street

West Palm Beach, FL 33407
saxonyms@comcast.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 Bulleting Committee.**

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

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

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

Report all changes to the Roster to treasurer@AMSC.us
Bonnie Keyes
511 River Terrace
Endicott, NY 13760
(607)742-3828

Death...from p. 1

The 13-year-old who lost his cat summarized it best, according to Russell, when he stated, "Sometimes death is tragic, like when a cat is run over by a car. But ultimately, death is part of life and life does go on."

Tips for Helping Your Child Deal with a Pet's Death

- It's best not to make assumptions about what your child is or isn't feeling, does or doesn't understand, or his beliefs about what has happened to his pet. Kids get input from many sources beyond their parents.

Often mom and dad mistakenly believe their child forms opinions and ideas identical to their own, but youngsters filter information in their own way and reach their own conclusions and beliefs about experiences and events.

- Talk to your child about the death in an open, honest manner, and share your own feelings as a way of encouraging him to share his.

Keep the lines of communication open and you'll likely discover either your youngster has a good understanding of what has happened, or he's harboring some misconceptions you can clear up for him.

- One of the most important things you can do when your family loses a beloved pet is to avoid telling your child how she should feel. Children should not be criticized for crying or told to "be strong."

- You can help your youngster grieve in a productive way by being open about your own sense of sadness and loss. Be honest about how you're feeling and don't try to hide your emotions, but take care not to frighten your child with an out-of-control expression of grief.

Crying is fine. Wailing, screaming or other highly dramatic displays of emotion are not appropriate in front of a child who views you as her safe harbor. Share in your child's sadness, but don't overwhelm it with your own. Be your youngster's protector, even during periods of intense sorrow.

- When you model a healthy way of dealing with grief, it helps your child realize others experience pain and sadness just as she does, her feelings are normal and acceptable, and she isn't alone during this difficult time.

- Grief is a process, not an event. It takes time to work through the process. The good news is the vast majority of kids will adjust in a normal, healthy way to the loss of a pet if the parents' approach is gentle, simple and honest.

Lap of Love brings end-of-life care to pet owners' homes

Steven Schultz, DVM, of Lap of Love project, and owner Robyn Eckhardt with her dog Gemma during a check-up on the lawn of Eckhardt's Lockport home on Monday, April 17, 2017. (Robert Kirkham/Buffalo News)

• **By Anne Neville**

The end of a pet's life can be difficult for the animal and for its people.

But an innovative approach to those final months, weeks or even hours is easing the way for both people and their beloved cats and dogs. Lap of Love mobile veterinary hospice care has been offered in Western New York since 2014 by a longtime Lockport veterinarian.

Dr. Steven M. Schultz provides both home hospice care for dogs and cats with any terminal diagnosis, care that can go on for months, and gentle at-home euthanasia. And Schultz said the gratitude of the people whose pets he cares for eases the burden of what could be a depressing job.

"What we are doing is so much less stressful for the pets," said Schultz. "They're at home, they're relaxed, we're relieving their pain and suffering. People, especially the elders, are so appreciative that we come to their homes, they don't have to put their little cats in a carrier and haul them off to the vet, which is totally stressful, or try to get their big dogs into a car and get them to the vet because they can't walk anymore."

"End of life for our pets is a heartbreaking and extremely difficult time," said Robyn Eckhardt of Lockport, whose 17-year-old dog, Gemma, a Lab-border collie mix, has been Schultz's hospice patient for more than a year. "Dr. S. is the perfect vet for this. If we can help our pets go peacefully, without unnecessary stress on them – and you, which your pet can pick up on – it is better for everyone."

The concept of veterinary hospice, which involves providing pain relief and life-improving measures for pets, rather than surgery, chemotherapy or other drastic treatments, is relatively new.

cont'd on p.3,col 1.. **LAP OF LOVE**

LAP OF LOVE ...from p. 2

Years ago, the concept of the human-animal bond was quite different than it is today," said Kathryn Jennings, executive director of the International Association of Animal Hospice and Palliative Care, a nonprofit that was founded nine years ago in Chicago. "Today, people are doing more for their pets when it comes to diagnosis and treatment. So when we're looking at end-of-life, people also want to have more services available."

Schultz dealt with many animal health issues that sometimes included serious illness and death at Countryside Veterinary Clinic in Lockport, which he operated for almost 30 years before selling the practice in 2012.

"By sheer coincidence," he said, he and his wife, Sara, who have three adult children, sold their house at the same time. "So I said, let's go out on the road," he said.

During their travels, including a stay in the Virgin Islands and Texas, Schultz learned about two young veterinarians in the Tampa area, Dani McVety and Mary Gardner, who had started a hospice and in-home euthanasia practice called Lap of Love. "I said, 'We could really use something like that in the Buffalo area,'" he said.

In 2014, after returning to Western New York, Schultz opened the local branch of Lap of Love, becoming the first in New York State to offer the group's specialized services.

Schultz began reaching out to other local veterinarians to inform them of his new specialty. "Because I've been in this area for so long, I know most of the veterinarians, so I got a lot of referrals," he said.

Lap of Love provides guidelines, Schultz said, "which are good for new or younger veterinarians," but as an experienced veterinarian he has his own time-tested care protocols.

Schultz's practice accepts two kinds of referrals, he said. The first is for dogs and cats that "have a terminal diagnosis of some sort, which could be cancer, heart disease, kidney failure – those types of things that aren't going to be cured, most likely," he said. These animals are generally older and their owners have decided not to pursue expensive surgeries, invasive tests or chemotherapy, he said. "That's where hospice takes over and we just try to keep them as comfortable as we can, as long as their quality of life is good."

Schultz usually receives a records transfer from the animal's regular veterinarian, as well as any specialists. Schultz also examines the animal and talks with the owner, then provides

his opinion on what steps should be taken to preserve the pet's quality of life, and how to recognize when it is time to consider euthanasia.

"A lot of people wonder when is the right time to let go," he said. "We go through all the things that make up quality of life, we go through questions and answers. As long as their quality of life is pretty good, we'll keep going, but if it changes, we talk about peaceful euthanasia. How is their hydration, are they eating, are they able to keep themselves clean, how is their mobility, are they having more good days than bad days?"

More than 400 veterinary practitioners belong to the International Association of Animal Hospice and Palliative Care, said Jennings, although there are certainly more veterinarians providing mobile and hospice care. But membership "is on the rise, big time," she said.

"If a pet had a chronic illness, years ago, veterinarians might suggest euthanasia, but today we have many more options," she said. "Pet families are willing to do more for their pets, based on the fact that there is more availability in health care."

Depending on the pet's needs, Schultz may prescribe appropriate animal or human medication, as well as home-prepared food or prescription diets.

Anne Banas, of Clarence, has a unique perspective on end-of-life issues: She is a physician with Hospice Buffalo. "I've learned that knowing time is short can be a blessing," she said. "Death is a natural part of life, and it doesn't always have to be a medical emergency. When we know that time is short, we can focus on making the best of the time we have, and we can plan for a good death."

In August, the Banas family was devastated by the death of feline Charlie, 16, who hid the symptoms of a lung tumor until it was a medical emergency. "It broke my heart that my 10-year-old daughter did not get the chance to say goodbye to her lifelong friend," said Banas.

The family's gray-and-brown-striped tiger cat, Daphne, is almost 15 and is living with either inflammatory bowel disease or lymphoma. "Pursuing diagnosis and treatment would not have changed her outcome in a way that justified the burden and distress," said Banas.

"Dr. Steve is exactly what we needed," said

Banas. "He focuses solely on Daphne's comfort and quality of life."

When Daphne first became ill, the family had to drive her to the vet for injections of anti-nausea medication and steroids, Banas said. "Dr. Steve has been able to offer us options to treat her symptoms at home, avoiding the distress of car rides," she said. "For now, she tolerates her medications well, and she seems to be quite happy."

Banas said, "We don't know how much time we have left with Daphne, but we take comfort in knowing that, with Dr. Steve's help, we can keep her comfortable at home, and when it's time, she can pass peacefully at home in our arms."

Another part of hospice care is emotional support for the grieving pet owner, who, unlike those who lose a human companion, may be belittled for an emotional reaction. "This has been a disenfranchised grief in our society, at the end of a pet's life and after the loss of a pet," said Jennings. "Part of the concept of hospice is not only care for the patient, but also the concept of being able to offer compassion and support for the family and what they're going through as well. And they want that."



Robyn Eckhardt shares a moment with 17-year-old Gemma, who has seizures and is under the care of Dr. Steven Schultz through his Lap of Love practice. (Robert Kirkham/ Buffalo News)

Eckhardt said Schultz "was my dogs' regular vet before he retired from his practice. I trust him implicitly." When she heard that his new practice was offering hospice care, she said, "I was extremely relieved and happy ... The thought of having to take Gemma, transport her to the vet's office and have her last life experience be of stress, fear and in a cold, clinical environment is not something I want for her. I want her to be home, where she's lived and been loved all her years."

About a year ago, Schultz visited the Buffalo home of Laurie Reagan to euthanize 13-year-old Chloe, a Lab-cattle dog mix who was suffering from lymphoma. "She had always been very nervous and stressed-out at the

cont'd on p.4, col 3.. **LAP OF LOVE**

NEW APPLICANTS

BRENDA GRASSLEY

10324 Falls Church Avenue,
Las Vegas, NV 89144
702-285-5006

bjgkcmo@gmail.com

Brenda has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 4 years with Obedience and 2 years with Conformation activities. She is a breeder and has bred two (2) litters, between 2014 and 2016. She

presently owns three (3) Miniature Schnauzers. She is a member of the Cactus State Miniature Schnauzer Club, Phoenix, Arizona. Brenda is employed in the Contract Administration and Accounting field. She would like to help the club with Awards/Trophies, Education, Obedience, and Health. Brenda enjoys educating others about the breed, and has been involved with the Boy Scouts of America for 25 years.

Brenda's Sponsors are Jeri Muntis and Brooke Walker

ARTHURA (ARTI) WINSTON

823 Fox Hollow Lane
Golden, CO 80401-0908

artij@comcast.net

303-215-9858

Arti has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 45 years and presently has one Miniature Schnauzer. She competes in Agility, Barn Hunt, Rally and starting Nose Work. Arti is not a breeder. She participates in about 24 - 36 Agility Trials per year and all of the Centennial State Miniature Schnauzer Club Specialty Shows and Training Programs, which equals about 4 - 6 Training Events. Arti belongs to the Centennial State Miniature Schnauzer Club (CSMSC) since 2010 (General Member, V.P. and 3 year Board Member. Arti also belongs to the Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club, Denver, CO. Arti is retired from Education endeavors. She is interested in assisting the Club with Newsletter, Public Awareness, Education, Membership, and Agility.

Arti's Sponsors are Carol Luzovich and Leanne Teasey

JOY WEEKS

2465 Hucklberry Lane,
Langley, WA 98260-8215

joyjoy2006@yahoo.com

360-395-8765

Joy has been involved with Dogs for 24 years...She has owned 6 Miniature Schnauzers. She has shown in

Conformation as well as Obedience. She is a breeder of 10 litters. Joy attends 3-5 events a year. Joy belongs to the Portland Miniature Schnauzer Club, Portland, OR. Joy's occupation is Dog Grooming. She would like to help the club out with Education and Health.

Joy's Sponsors are Elizabeth Alfano and Laurie Moore

JERENE WEIS

38996 Groshong Rd., N.E.
Albany, OR 97321

weisacre_jerene@yahoo.com

541 990-8286

Jerene has been associated with Miniature Schnauzers 3 ½ years. She is not a breeder.

She has previously been showing Afghan Hounds since the early 70s. She currently owns four (4) Miniature Schnauzers. She has shown in conformation for 7 years. Jerene belongs to the Portland Miniature Schnauzer Club and is currently their Club Secretary. She is retired. She is interested in helping our club with the Newsletter. Jerene is currently showing two (2) of her Miniature Schnauzers and just finished her boy at the AMSC Roving Specialty in Portland, OR

They are now on a quest for his Grand Championship.

Jerene's sponsors are Rhonda Smith and Stella Van Cleave

BRENDA GRASSLEY

10324 Falls Church Avenue,
Las Vegas, NV 89144

702-285-5006

bjgkcmo@gmail.com

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Brenda's Sponsors are Jeri Muntis and Brooke Walker

LAP OF LOVE ...from p. 3

vet," said Reagan, "so I thought this would be a great alternative."

Although Chloe had not been in hospice care, Reagan knew the end was near. "I had to carry her in the final few days, I had to hand-feed her, I couldn't see her continuing through this process," said Reagan. "I called my own vet to see if they offered a house-call visit, and they said no, but there was a service locally."

The euthanasia visit was as peaceful as she had hoped, Reagan said. "It was amazing. He was very calm and quiet and I had set up a blanket, to make her comfortable."

Although saying goodbye to a beloved animal is difficult, Reagan said she was comforted by the visit. "He was so sympathetic and kind, and understanding and empathetic about an owner going through this," she said. "I would absolutely recommend this service, and I did, to a friend of mine in a similar situation. And I would do it again."

The euthanasia is a gentle two-step process that begins when Schultz sedates the pet deeply. Afterward, he said, "a lot of people like to make their own arrangements, which could mean a lot of things, from burying them in their backyards to taking them to the SPCA, to taking them themselves to one of the pet crematories," said Schultz. "If I take care of it for them, which does make it easier for the pet owner, I arrange for either a private cremation, which can be somewhat expensive, or a communal cremation, which can be less expensive. We use the same crematory services any veterinarian can offer."

<https://www.lapoflove.com/homepage.aspx>

Ed.'s Note.

This is a nationwide organization of veterinarians.

I was invited by the owners of one of my dogs to be present when Dr. Schultz came to the house for my Boaster.

Dr Schultz was so supportive and wonderful. I was very impressed with the whole procedure.



It Is That Time Of Year Again and Yet AGAIN

The Nominating Committee is seeking VOLUNTEERS who are interested in serving on the Board. We will be electing four officers; President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer (1- year term), and four Governors (4- year term).

If you are interested or know a member who may be interested in serving our Club in this capacity, please consider the following requirements.

-1 Nominee should be prepared to dedicate the time and effort necessary to be a productive member of the Board.

- 2 Nominee should be able to attend meetings (in-person and teleconference)

- 3 Nominee should have the ability and interest to assume a leadership role.

- 4 Nominee should be respected by fellow AMSC members.

If you are interested in learning more, please contact any of the Nominating Committee members listed below. The Deadline for volunteering is Friday, May 5.

2017 Nominating Committee members:

Linda Drost

minischnauzers@verizon.net

Carma Ewer

carmelms@comcast.net 801-943-5077

Carla Nickerson

nicknack2@cableone.net 208-232-4191

Pat O'Brien

emerald_isle_95661@yahoo.com

Dr. Lisa Sarvas

lisasarvas@gmail.com 516-455-7979

TROPHY DONATIONS!

Dear AMSC Member,

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

Generous donors like you are the key to our success and make it possible for the AMSC to provide the earned recognition these awards furnish to deserving individuals and their canine companions/athletes. We hope that we can count on your support to help us meet our 2017 goal of \$5000.00! Your donation will be acknowledged in show catalogs to recognize your generosity to this worthy cause. Please mail your donation to the AMSC Treasurer, Bonnie Keyes 511 River Terrace, Endicott NY 13760 and memo it for the trophy fund to pledge your support. You may also donate online using paypal.

The paypal link is on the AMSC trophy donation page:

<http://amsc.us/trophy-donations>

We thank you for your time and consideration.

How to React When a Neighbor Complains About Your Dog - Don't Get Defensive!

Five things to do when your neighbor complains about your dog.

By Pat Miller, CBCC-KA, CPDT-KA

The natural thing to do when someone complains about your dog is to get defensive. "My dog? Causing a problem? How dare you?!"

You can't assume your dog has been a saint all day just because he's asleep when you get home.

Don't go there. Defensiveness exacerbates hostilities, escalates tension, and encourages your neighbor to make a mountain out of what you perceive to be a molehill. Remember, it's all about perception, and your neighbor's perception is his reality. Instead of being defensive, try these things:

1. Listen

Unless one of you plans to move, defusing the situation beats all-out war. Set defensiveness aside, and listen to what your neighbor says. Assume there's some nugget of truth to his complaint. You need to find it, so you can figure out what to do with it. He says your dog barks all the time, underneath his bedroom window, and wakes him up. That may be an exaggeration, but chances are your dog is barking some of the time, especially if you leave her out in the yard, or if she has free backyard access through a doggie-door.

2. Empathize and Apologize

Without admitting guilt, empathize with your complainer. "It must be frustrating to have to listen to barking dogs when you're trying to sleep." Be sincere. Tell him you're sorry he's being disturbed by barking. Reassure him that you don't want your dog to be a nuisance, and you want to help find a solution to his concerns. Ask him to bear with you while you work on the problem. Bake him chocolate chip cookies.

3. Investigate

Ask questions that won't make your neighbor defensive. "Is there a time when it's most annoying?" "Are there other dogs that are barking too?" "Other than giving up my dog, what would make you happy?" Set up a video camera or voice-activated tape recorder to document your dog's activities when you aren't home. Alternatively, take a day off and watch your own house from a distance, to see what goes on that might make your dog bark. Check the neighborhood to see if there are other dogs whose barking might be blamed on your dog. Ask other neigh-

continued on p. 6...HOW TO REACT

How You Can Speak Dog Too

Communicating with your dog is a two-way street. While you're teaching her to understand and accept primate language, you can also learn and use canine body language. This will greatly enhance your relationship and your training program, since your dog can respond very quickly when she realizes you are speaking Dog. It's also a useful skill to have for when you're meeting or interacting with a strange dog. The following tips on humans' body language are applicable when interacting with any dog, but are especially important when dealing with a fearful dog, or any dog who appears worried or unsure about an interaction. Adopt these mannerisms and teach others who interact with your dog to do so as well.

1. Let the dog come to you. If a dog is frightened, she must be allowed to decide whether or not to approach. It's never a good idea to restrain a dog and force her to accept contact from others. Remember the "fight or flight" response; if the opportunity for flight is taken away, a dog's choices are limited.

2. Turn to the Side. Facing a dog directly is more confrontational than keeping your body turned partially or completely to the side; even turning your head to the side will make a frightened or worried dog feel less anxious.

3. No staring, please! A direct stare is a threat in the animal kingdom. It is perfectly fine to look at a dog; just soften your expression and don't hard stare directly into her eyes. Do not allow children to put their faces near your dog's face or to stare into her eyes. Adults who insist on direct eye contact with strange dogs also tend to get bitten.

4. Don't hover. Leaning over a dog can cause the dog to become afraid and possibly defensive. When we bend over dogs to pet them or to cuddle them, we are unwittingly offering a posture of threat and intimidation.



5. Pet appropriately. Approaching dogs by petting them on the head is ill-advised. Envision the interaction from the dog's point of view; a palm approaching from above can be alarming. It's not that dogs should never be petted on top of the head, but that head-petting (or petting over the dog's shoulders, back, or rump) should not be used as an initial approach. It is wiser to make a fist, hold it under the dog's nose to allow her to sniff, then pet the dog on the chest, moving gradually to the sides of the face and other body parts, assuming the dog is comfortable. Likewise, a hand moving in quickly to grab for a dog's collar is more potentially fear-inducing than a hand moving slowly to a dog's chest, scratching it, then moving up to take hold of the collar.

6. Stoop, don't swoop. Small dogs in particular are often swooped down upon when people want to pick them up. Fast, direct, overhead movements are much more frightening than slow, indirect ones. To lift a small dog, crouch down, pet the dog for a moment, then gently slip your hands under her belly and chest, and lift.

7. Watch your smile. While humans interpret a smile as friendly, a dog might not be as fond of seeing your pearly whites. A show of teeth is, after all, a threat in the animal kingdom. Smile at dogs with a closed mouth.

How to React...from p. 5

bors if they hear your dog, and if so, when and how much.

4. Be Legal, Be Considerate

Make sure your dog is currently licensed, and obey all local animal control laws. Maybe your neighbor is complaining because your dog runs loose and he feels threatened (even though you know your dog is a pussycat), or because you don't clean up when you take her for walks. Those are legitimate grounds for complaint (as is excessive nuisance barking) even if your dog is a pussycat. You don't want animal control to find you in violation of anything. Obey leash laws and scoop laws, and respect your neighbor's discomfort with your dog – don't let her off-leash even if you're just walking out to your car. If she runs over to happily greet him, you'll fuel the fires.

5. Take Action

Make changes to accommodate your neighbor and protect your dog. If his complaint is early-morning noise and she's barking when you let her out at 6:00 am while you shower, alter your routine. Get up earlier and go out with her. Let her eliminate, then play with her. Keep her quietly occupied rather than leaving her to find her own entertainment. If it's random throughout-the-day backyard barking while you're away, bring her in and close the dog door. She doesn't have to be outside all day. If things get ugly, leaving her out unattended exposes her to great risk from an irate neighbor. If necessary, pay someone to let her out for a noon potty break. If the complaint is about barking even when you are home, behavior modification is in order. (See "Modifying Your Dog's Barking Behavior," WDJ July 2007). If it's something other than barking, determine how you can modify the situation to mitigate the problem. Some examples:

-Your dog charges the fence. Your neighbor fears for his children's safety. Make the fence solid, or put up an inner fence so there's an "airlock" between dog and kids.

-Your dog came over and attacked his dog. You think your dog was just playing, but whatever. Vow that your dog is never off her leash in your neighborhood. Even just walking to your car.

Keep your neighbor informed of your efforts to address his concerns. Document your actions in a journal in case you do have to face animal control. Ask your neighbor to let you know if he sees improvement – and document that. Save receipts for anything you buy to modify your dog's environment. If you see your neighbor deliberately antagonizing your dog, document that with a video camera. Keep your dog safe. Be considerate. Keep baking chocolate chip cookies.



The liver is a vital organ. That means your dog can't live without it.

Yet a staggering number of dogs suffer from liver disease, affecting not just their overall wellbeing, but their survival.

When your dog's liver is working well, you don't really think about it. But you should be thinking about the health of your dog's liver ... before problems happen.

Here's why liver health is important ... Your dog is exposed to toxins from his vaccinations and other drugs, flea, tick and heartworm preventatives, poor quality foods, the cleaning products you use in your home, as well as fertilizers and pesticides outside his home. Even if you don't use these products, your neighbors probably do.

Eliminating these chemicals and using natural, non-toxic alternatives is an important first step to protect your dog's liver.

The second step is recognizing when your dog's liver may be out of balance. Let's talk about the signs of liver imbalance and the steps you can take to help ... but first, let's look at some of the things the liver does.

How Your Dog's Liver Protects Him

Most of us think of the liver as the detox organ because it helps remove toxins from the body. But it does much, much more than that.

The liver has at least 500 different functions in the body, so it's so critical to good health. In Traditional Chinese Medicine, the liver is known as the Official of Strategic Planning because it's in charge of so many operations.

The liver metabolizes everything your dog swallows, inhales or absorbs through his skin. It filters out excesses as well as toxins and it makes nutrients and hormones that the rest of your dog's body needs

One of the liver's many important functions is to produce bile. Bile is stored in the gallbladder and is used to digest foods, especially fats. Bile also helps your dog's body eliminate toxins by carrying waste products through the body so the liver can detoxify

The liver produces glucose, which it stores in the form of glycogen, ready to be used when the body needs it for energy.

The liver makes cholesterol, which the body needs to produce hormones and metabolize fats. The liver produces proteins that are important in blood clotting.

It stores vitamins A, D, K, B12 as well as the minerals iron and copper, and releases them into your dog's body when they're needed.

And of course, the liver is vitally important in

gently detoxifying natural metabolic wastes from the body.

Get the step-by step guide to safely detox your dog from harmful toxins.

When The Liver Is Out Of Balance

There are symptoms you'll want to watch for ... they can mean your dog's liver is out of balance. Here are some of the more common signs:

Mood

Your dog may be irritable or even show aggressive behavior. He may show overly controlling behavior, acting like a hall monitor.

Digestion

He may experience digestive disorders such as gas and bloating ... even if he's on a healthy raw food diet. You may see alternating constipation and diarrhea.

Nails

When you trim his toenails, you may find they're dry and brittle; the nails may fray or even get infected.

Pain

We don't think of dogs as getting headaches, but they can. You may notice your dog's eyes are dull and he doesn't feel good, perhaps lying with his head on his paws. If you can feel heat on his head, that can mean a headache, especially if you see other symptoms of liver imbalance. Gently rub the area where the head meets the neck (called the occiput); if you feel the heat go away that can help relieve your dog's headache.

Eyes

Eye issues like a discharge or pink eye, and even more serious eye problems like corneal or retinal disorders, can also suggest liver imbalance.

Other signs that the liver is out of balance can be sinus problems as well as ligament and tendon issues.

If you start to notice any of these symptoms in your dog, it's a good idea to add some foods that can help strengthen and protect his liver.

Foods For Liver Support

Many of the foods that support the liver are seasonal in the spring. In Traditional Chinese Medicine, the liver is associated with spring – a time of renewal and growth.

This means spring is an especially good time to give your dog some extra nutritional support with foods that are fresh and in season. Below are some herbs and foods recommended by homeopathic veterinarian Dee Blanco DVM to help strengthen and protect your dog's liver from liver disease.

Dandelions

Don't get rid of those dandelions in your yard! Dandelions are a great way to strengthen your dog's liver. As they start to come up in spring, pick some of the young leaves. Try to harvest the leaves in early spring before the plant buds; once the buds appear the leaves will taste bitter.

Dr Blanco suggests just chopping a few fresh leaves and adding them to your dog's food.

Herbalists Gregory L Tilford and Mary L Wulff recommend drying the leaves before using them. You can do this outdoors by placing the leaves on a drying screen (or use a window screen covered with cheesecloth) in the shade (do not place in direct sunlight), for three or four days. If you want to dry the leaves indoors, tie them in a bundle and hang them in a dry airy spot until they're crackly-dry.

Feed your dog 1 teaspoon of the dried herb daily per 20 lbs of your dog's body weight, stirring it into your dog's food.

You can also make a tea, using 1 teaspoon of dried leaf in 1 cup of boiling water. Steep it for 3 to 4 minutes, then strain, and let it cool before giving it to your dog. Or you can use organic unsalted meat or vegetable broth instead of water to make a tastier drink for your dog.

Give 1/3 cup of tea per 20 lbs of body weight up to 3 times a day.

Caution: Only use dandelions from your yard if you don't spray pesticides or herbicides. Otherwise, you can buy fresh dandelion leaves, dried herbs, tinctures and teas at many health food stores.

Foods

In general, raw foods support the liver and help it cleanse.

There are many foods you can add to your dog's diet to support his liver:

Sprouts like clover, alfalfa or radish.

Lemon and apple cider vinegar: your dog may not like the taste of lemon but many will tolerate a few drops of apple cider vinegar added daily to their water.

Greens, especially spring vegetables like spinach, broccoli rabe, celery or asparagus. Greens help support the detox mechanisms in the liver. Give them to your dog any way he likes them – chopped, pureed, steamed, mashed, or even with a little butter!

Liver: eating liver supports liver health, so feed chicken, beef or lamb liver. If you can, buy organic liver from, grass fed, naturally raised animals. Dairy foods like yogurt, sour cream, butter and cream, preferably from pasture raised animals. Fermented foods like kefir or fermented vegetables.

Exercise

Walking your dog and getting out in nature is one of the best ways to enjoy time with your dog. Brisk walks, especially in the morning, will stimulate his liver and gallbladder health.

Spring Detox Bath

You can also give your dog a detox bath to help him shed his winter coat in the spring (although any time is a great time). This will help to open up the pores to release toxins on the skin, in the hair and in his blood. With a little effort, you can protect your dog's liver so it can continue protecting him. Try these tips and watch your dog glow with good health, inside and out!

About the Author [Julia Henriques](#). Julia Henriques is Managing Editor of Dogs Naturally Magazine. A former international banker, she lives in Chicago with her partner Marc and two rescue Samoyeds. She volunteers on the board of Playing Again Sams (Wisconsin Samoyed Rescue).



AMSCOPE

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

UPCOMING SPECIALTIES

Lone Star MSC, Dallas July 6, 2017
Regular Classes Margo Klingler
Sweeps Ms Clark Pennypacker

Milshore MSC July 28, 2017
Sweeps: Randahl Hoffman
Reg classes : Brian Bogart
Reg classes : Nancy Liebes
Back to Back Shows

AMSC SPECIALTIES

Great Western June 25, 2017
Regular Classes: Peggy Beisel McIlwaine
Sweeps: Patty Ledgerwood

Montgomery County Oct. 8, 2017
Regular Classes: Geraldine Kelly
Sweeps: Martin G. Marks

Roving specialty-Perry GA. April 15, 2018
Regular Classes: Terry Stacy
Sweeps: TBA

Great Western June 24, 2018
Regular Classes: John Constantine
Sweeps: Kim Griffin

Montgomery County October 7, 2018

LOOKING AHEAD to MONTGOMERY COUNTY

In an effort to get an early jump on planning for Montgomery County week, hotel reservations are already being accepted. After investigating a number of reasonably priced, comfortable hotel options within reasonable distance to show grounds, restaurants and other amenities, it

was determined we'd continue to use the Homewood Suites Valley Forge, 681 Shannondell

Bldv, Audubon, PA 19403

The room rates and available configurations are:
\$134 for studio suite (1 King bed with pullout)
\$154 for one bedroom suite (1 King or 2 Queen with pullout rooms)

\$189 for two bedroom suite (1King and 2 Queen with pullout)

Additional 10% room tax applies.

Guests may book one of two ways:

1. Call the hotel at [610-539-7300](tel:610-539-7300) and mention you are booking with the American Miniature Schnauzer Club, group code **AMS**

2. Go online to

www.homewoodsuitesvalleyforge.com and under the reservations tab enter the group code **AMS**.

Barbara Donahue
215-896-9666

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.

PRESIDENT

Carole Weinberger
5897 Buford St,
Orlando, FL 32835
Phone: 407-822-8103
bandsman@earthlink.net

VICE PRESIDENT

Sharon Edwards
21301 Golf Estates Drive
Laytonsville, MD 20882
Phone: 919 247-2090 cell
sletex@verizon.net

SECRETARY

Carol Hafner
576 East Quincy Avenue
Fresno, CA 93720-2125
(559) 435-6207
cnhafnish@sbcglobal.net
secretary@amsc.us

MEMBERSHIP

Jacquelin Ebersbach
424 45th Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33407
Phone: 561-644-8420
saxonyms@comcast.net

TREASURER

Bonnie Keyes
511 River Terrace
Endicott, NY 13760
(607)742-3828
treasurer@amsc.us

AMSCOPE

Carla Borrelli
1799 South Creek Road
Derby, NY 14047
Phone: **716-572-7010**
cborr@aol.com

AMSC Web page: <http://amsc.us>

AKC home page: <http://www.akc.org/akc/>