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AMSCOPE

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

June 2018

Volume CB33

Issue 6

American Miniature Schnauzer Club

Board Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2018

Location: Show sight, Perry Georgia
Officers and Board members in Attendance:
President – Carole Weinberger
Vice President – Patti Henderson
Treasurer – Bonnie Keyes
Secretary – Carma Ewer
Board Members: Amy Gordon, Donna Hills,
Marie Murphy, Patricia O'Brien, Beth Santure,
Cathi Rohrer, Sonny Lelle.

Committee members, local club delegates, and visitors: Jan Taylor, Jackie Ebersbach, Marie Pletsch

Carole called the meeting to order at 6:40. She read the Board Policy set June 17, 1983 "Voting Procedure at Board Meetings." There were two additions to the agenda concerning Judges Selection and Membership. A motion was made by Marie and 2nd by Amy to adopt the revised agenda.

Minutes from the October 6 meeting, the fall Mini Board meeting, and the annual club meeting were approved. There was a discussion about the Phone meeting minutes in January and some board members present did not receive, so they will be resent to the board. Key points in the January Board minutes were read to those attending.

Report of the President – Carole gave an update on the status of MCKC Judge Joan Huber, stating that the AKC has yet to act and is waiting for an appeal. The board voted at the January phone meeting to wait until March 16 for a decision from AKC. If no decision was

forthcoming by that date from AKC, the board voted to replace Joan with one of the 2019 judges. Steve Hayden was contacted and has agreed to accept the assignment for MCKC 2018. Carole contacted Joan to notify her of the boards actions.

Carole also brought up the importance of attendance at the board meetings and making sure that the new Nominating committee will have success nominating board members who are willing to attend the board meetings.

Report of the Secretary – The board had several action items from the board discussion list.

1. Permission to move forward on having the Grooming Charts and Illustrated Discussion converted to downloadable PDF files and CD converted to file with text. Cost \$400.00. Yes votes – 13, no votes – 0. (12/1)

2. Authorize Treasurer to issue a check for \$700.00 to Nadine Tare to pay for the Heartworm and Tick Preventative for the Foster Dog's in her care. Yes – 5, no – 1. (12/2)

Membership as of 3/01/2018 is 378 regular, 4 life, 29 foreign with voting privileges, and 28 foreign without voting privileges for a total of 439 and thirteen new member applicants. (11 regular and 2 foreign). There have been 7 deceased members in 2017 and 30 members did not renew.

There are presently 17 local clubs that are active and licensed to hold specialty shows.

Report of the Treasurer - Bonnie provided the board with copies of the 2017 Year end Financial Statement, a Financial Statement for the first three months ending March 31, 2018. And also copies of the budget for 2018. Donna moved and Patti seconded that the board approve and accept the budget for 2018.

Bonnie also informed the board that the 2017 Financial information has been given to the Auditor, and she is awaiting the report. The 2018 Roster has also been updated and is on the website.

Donna moved, and Patti seconded accepting the Treasurer report.

Committee Reports:

Special Committees:

2018 Montgomery County Specialty: Lloyd Amodei Lloyd reported that all expenses (judges/stewards) should remain the same. Replacement judge for Joan Huber will be Steve Hayden.

2018 Roving Specialty – Perry, GA : Amy Gordon - Amy reported that all is in order for the specialty on Sunday. Entry is great and the committee is hoping everyone has a wonderful time.

2018 Summer Specialty - Tania Kidd.

There was a discussion of the fact that the Miniature Schnauzer Club of Southern California does not want to host the specialty at Great Western anymore. For 2018, Tania Kidd has volunteered to be specialty coordinator with assistance from Kathy Colby and Karen Smith (Great Western). The board discussed the future of having an AMSC specialty with Great Western. Patti Henderson moved that starting in 2019, the AMSC will eliminate our AMSC Specialty with Great Western, and reduce the number of specialties to 2. The Roving and Montgomery County. Sonny seconded the motion. It passed unanimously. Our original judge for Great Western 2019 was Steve Hayden, who is moved to Montgomery 2018. Cheryl Coffman, the sweepstakes judge for 2019 will move to the top of the list for 2020 sweepstakes.

The board also received a letter from the Northern California Club that was scheduled to hold the Roving specialty in 2020, asking to be relieved from that responsibility citing the problems of being a small club with not enough members to hold a National Specialty. After much discussion, and to ensure that the West Coast AMSC members could establish an alternate West Coast Speciality site which will serve as the Roving location and perhaps share among local clubs, the board instructed the Secretary to contact the local clubs in the area and

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**The deadline
for the July issue is
June 10**

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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
3721 Eastview Avenue
 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
 48570 McKenzie Hwy
 Veda, OR 97488
 swdesign@ymail.com

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

Marilyn Oxandale
 10117 Maebern 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

NEW APPLICANTS

SUMIKO IKEDA

3435-1 Akiya Yokosuka Shi 240 0105
 Kanagawaken, Japan
 +81-468-575514
 Summy5515@gmail.com
 WEB: Sunshine-Palace-dog.com
 Sumiko has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 30+ years... She is a breeder.
 Sumiko belongs to the Shonan Miniature Schnauzer Club, Kanagawa Shonan Club Unions and Japan Kennel Club...
 She is interested in Conformation, Breeding, Agility and Judging. She attends 5 – 6 dog shows a year...
 Sumiko is a retired housewife. She would like to help out with the Newsletter and Education...
 Sumiko is an All Breeds Judge under Japan Kennel Club and FCI, and an AKC Foreign All Breed Judge...
 Sumiko's Sponsors are: Luana Nedich and Carole Weinberger

SUE ALLEN BROWN

1754 Castle Rock Road,
 Tampa, FL. 33612
 Sallen1948@aol.com
 813-833-6137

Sue has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 12 years. Her other breed is English Springer Spaniels which she had for 9 years. Sue is not a breeder. She has participated in Agility for 10 years and Obedience for 8 years. She and her dogs attend Agility, Obedience and Barn Hunt events an average of 3 weekends a month, about 36 events per year. Sue belongs to the Dog Training Club of Tampa, Tampa, FL. She is an active member and has been substitute instructor, ring steward, and leadership positions within the club. She is a retired public school educator. She would like to help the AMSC out with Public Awareness, Membership, Obedience and Agility. She enjoys traveling, hiking and camping out with her dogs. As a retired English Teacher and School Administrator, she has solid communication and leadership skills to offer.

JULIE COOPER

1675 West Manrad Drive
 Wickenburg, AZ 85390
 cooperjewels@yahoo.com
 928-671-1672

Julie had been involved with Miniature Schnauzers since 1976. She is a breeder. She has had 20 litters from her stud dog and 10 litters from her bitches in the last 5 years. Julie competes in Conformation, Barn Hunt and Sweeps Matches. She attends about 46 events each year. Julie belongs to Cactus State Miniature Schnauzer Club, is an AMSC Delegate and Trophy Committee. Julie is retired. She would like to help the club out in Awards/Trophies, Mentoring Judges and Health. She has served on the Show Committee for Cactus State Miniature Schnauzer Club for 4 years, searching and purchasing for the Clubs 2 specialties trophies. She also has an interest in research, health and mentoring. Julie's Sponsors are: dEe Ann Simpson and DeBorra Nestle.

Montgomery Weekend

The AMSC has again contracted with Homewood Suites and they are now accepting hotel reservations for Montgomery week. For those that have not joined us in the past, the Homewood Suites Valley Forge is located at 681 Shannondell Blvd, Audubon, PA 19403 and is conveniently located near restaurants, shopping and major roadways.

The room rates and available configurations are:
 \$139 for studio suite (1 King bed with pullout sofa)
 \$159 for one bedroom suite (1 King or 2 Queen with pullout sofa rooms)
 \$189 for two bedroom suite (1King and 2 Queen with pullout sofa)

Book your rooms by Sept 12, 2018 to guarantee the below rates. Additional 10% room tax applies. There is a \$75 pet fee per room. Studio and one bedroom suite rates increased \$5 per night; the two bedroom suite rate is the same as last year.

Guests may book one of two ways:
 Call the hotel at 610-539-7300 and mention you are booking with the American Miniature Schnauzer Club, group code AMS
 Go online to <http://bit.ly/2CXWjIX> and under the "Book a Suite" reservations on the home page, enter the group code AMS to receive our discounted rate.

Details for the member reception and meeting on Saturday evening, Oct 6th, will be released closer to Montgomery week.

Regards,
 Barbara Donahue, MCKC Hospitality

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request a representative from each club to assist with the Roving Specialty committee.

2019 Roving Specialty – Schnauzapalooza – no report**Standing Committees:**

AMSCare: Jana King – Jana is working on the guidelines, they will state that if a member would like to place a dog through AMSCare they should contact Jana. Jana will send them a form that asks approximately 20 questions about the dog. These answers help rescue find a foster home that can take this dog, and also an idea what type of permanent home they will need (ie no cats, older kids, etc.)

Jana will also send them a form email stating what is required when a dog is placed through Rescue.

Proof of: Rabies, DHPP, Bordatella, Fecal test for parasites, and Heartworm Test

Jana will then put out an email to the rescue that is closest to this person and ask for assistance in placing the dog. Jana will contact the breeder and let them know when there is an available foster.

Patti moved that the board authorize Jana to contact Alice McBride about recouping our expenses and setting up guidelines for reimbursement for dogs rescued. This was seconded by Cathi. Motion passed unanimous.

Donna moved that Jana be given the authority for developing AMSCare guidelines. Seconded by Sonny. Passed unanimous. The board also discussed changing the name of the Rescue Fund account to the AMSCare Account and make those monies available to AMSCare with Board approval. This was moved by Patti and seconded by Carma. Motion approved.

Awards: Kathy Colby, Lynn Tamms, Versatility Award: Lynn Baitinger

Versatility – Beth moved that the only companion events added to the Versatility awards are events approved by the AKC, with the exception of Barn Hunt, which is a Breed trait. This was seconded by Amy and passed unanimously. Carole also asked that Lynn send her a list of Versatility Award winners quarterly.

Constitution and By Laws: Chris Levy, John Constantine, Wyoma Clouss – this report was moved to unfinished business.

Education: John Constantine – John has received a request from Show Sight Magazine for information on Miniature Schnauzers for an upcoming magazine issue. The board authorized John to put an article together.

Health: Patti Henderson, Paula Steele DVM, Lisa Sarvas DVM, Kurt Garmaker, Patricia O'Brien, Sheila Marks Anderson

Patti shared the information on Type B PRA in the Miniature Schnauzer by Dr. Jerold Bell DVM. The board agreed that this information should be posted on the AMSC List. Patti will do this.

The Health committee is also requesting funds to pay for a Calendar for fundraising. Katerina Cechova has offered to help with a calendar that will have original artwork of some of the top Miniature Schnauzers that have played a significant roll in the Breed and which were deceased by 2000. Tania Kidd has gone through Dan's archives and is sending Katerina photos of the 18 dogs selected. These collectible calendars will be for sale at Schnauzerpalooza 2019. The original artwork for the calendar will be auctioned off. Patti made a motion requesting \$6500 for 600 calendars and seconded by Amy. Motion passed unanimously. The profits from the calendars will go back to the Health Committee after the club is reimbursed for the original \$6500.

At the last Board meeting the Health committee proposed support for Dr Eva Furrow's research on Stone Disease "Identifying practical risk factors for the prevention of calcium oxalate uroliths recurrence in dogs" which was approved by the Board for DAF. Due to administrative technicalities despite its scientific merit, the proposal could not be approved by the CHF. It was modified to meet Morris Animal Foundation criteria and was approved for funding. Health Committee would like to fund this research through Health Committee funds as opposed to DAF. Patti motioned the board approve funding from the Health Committee funds in the amount of \$2000 in support of this research. could not be supported by CHF as originally approved. Donna seconded and Board unanimously approved the change.

Historian and Policy Records: Richard Isley – Richard will be resigning at the end of this year and is asking for a replacement. Anyone interested should contact Richard or Carole.

Judges Selection: Carma and Galen Ewer Carma reported that the Nomination forms have been published in AMSCOPE and on the website. Balloting will begin in May. Also, Steve Hayden has agreed to fill in the vacancy at Montgomery County Kennel Club 2018.

Membership: Jackie submitted information on new applicants Greg Cook, Doug Weaver, and Jerene Weiss. Their information was shared with the board.

AKC has also informed the club of IRS rules regarding 501c(7) clubs:

Limited Membership - ... The fact that a social club may have an associate (nonvoting) class of membership won't be, in and of itself, a cause for nonrecognition of exemption. However, if one membership class pays substantially lower dues and fees than another membership class, although both classes enjoy the same rights and privileges in using the club facilities, there may be an inurement of income to the benefited class, resulting in a denial of the club's exemption.

There was also a discussion on how long an applicant must know their sponsor. Jackie will check other club membership forms and report back to the board at the next meeting.

Publications and Literature: Patricia O'Brien

The committee requests a motion to approve an expenditure of \$200 to have 50 grooming charts printed. This was seconded by Cathi and approved unanimously.

Grooming charts and CD are also available for download on the webpage.

Trophies: - Amy Gordon and Barbara Donahue

All trophies are set for the Specialty on Sunday. The committee hopes that everyone likes what we chose. We realize that everyone has different tastes and try our best to choose things that are unique. The committee is always open to suggestions on what to give for trophies. Let Barbara or Amy know about any ideas you might have. They are working on the Artists/craftsmen for next years trophies.

Unfinished Business:**1. Constitution and ByLaws. – Chris Levy**

Below are the changes requested by AKC (with my comments in blue). I made all the changes (or in some cases, reversal back to the original) in a new document with those changes tracked.

Their email also included a new version of the Parent Club Sample Constitution and Bylaws and I used some wording to improve our Constitution's Objectives (c) and (d).

Board Decisions Needed:

1. We need to specify a maximum amount of dues for Foreign Membership. We can make it the same as Regular Membership - \$75. But I need a number to plug in. Patti moved, Amy seconded to set dues at \$75.00 Passed
2. The Board needs to review the changes recommended by AKC and approve (or not) those changes. (Then I will make up a new version with the changes since 2009 tracked in order for the membership to vote on the final changes.)

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Cathi moved, and Donna seconded to approve the Changes made by AKC. Passed

AKC Comments/Changes to submitted C&B (with comments by Chris in blue):

C o n s t i t u t i o n
Article I, Section 2e. While submitted for review, please adjust the sentence to include the most current AKC-approved language: "...and any other events for which the club is eligible under the Rules and Regulations of The American Kennel Club".

Chris: From Parent Club Sample Constitution and Bylaws: **Article I**, Section 2(c), add "and to encourage sportsman-like competition at all events held under AKC Rules and Regulations". I added that phrase.

Chris: From phone discussion with AKC – they forgot to mention this one so it's not on the original email from them. **Article I**, Section 2. Add another Objective to be in line with the parent club sample Constitution and Bylaws: "(g) To encourage the organization of independent local specialty clubs in those localities where there are sufficient fanciers of the breed to meet the requirements of The American Kennel Club."

Bylaws

Article 1, Section 4. Please include a maximum dues amount for each membership type, e.g. "dues for Foreign members shall not exceed \$ _____ per year". Additionally, please also see the attached Advisory for Clubs with 501 C-7 Exemption Status regarding equalized dues structuring with respect to Life membership types. Chris: we are a 501c(7) organization to the IRS. This type of organization does not allow differences in member benefits for the amount of dues paid. **In other words, Lifetime Membership, since they do not pay dues, in a 501c(7) organization, may not vote nor run for office.** Bonnie is looking at changing us to a 501c(4) which would allow us to continue our Life Member status as is. The Board also needs to determine the maximum amount of dues for Foreign Membership.

AKC pointed out that if we have a "Life Membership" class that doesn't pay dues, then they also cannot hold office or be allowed to vote. Bonnie reviewed the differences between the 501c exemptions and explained why the AMSC cannot be identified in an exemption category that would allow full privileges for lifetime members.

The Board discussed that we don't want to reward someone with a lifetime of service to the club with a "Life Membership" and then take away their voting rights. Patti

suggested that rather than remove the Life Membership designation that the club should pay the dues FOR the lifetime members to address the "equalized dues" restriction and made a motion that the club will pay dues for all so-designated lifetime members. Sonny seconded. Passed unanimously.

In Sections 4(b), please revert back to the original language "on or before".

In Section 4(c), please identify the person sending out dues notices, e.g. "The Treasurer shall send a statement of dues payable for the ensuing year to each member at least one month prior to the due date."

In Section 4(d), please revert back to the original language and remove "as of the closing date of the vote".

In Section 5(a), while not submitted for review, please replace the 2nd sentence with most current AKC-approved language, "Obligations other than dues are considered a debt to the club and must be paid prior to resignation."

Article II, Sections 1(b) and 3(a), and **Article III**, Sections 2(a) and 2(b), we recommend terms for officers and directors/Board of Governors of either "1 year" or "2 years". Additionally, the terms for all officers (Article III, Section 2) and directors/Board of Governors (Article II, Section 3) should be the same. In Article III, Sections 2(a) and 2(b), please adjust the term for the Treasurer to be the same as the officers. I checked with AKC on this because our Board of Governors have multiple-year terms. They are OK with that, just not having different officers with different lengths of terms.

Article III, Section 3(d). Please include the most current AKC-approved language and insert "which shall be sent to any member in good standing upon written request, not more than once every club year" immediately after "keep a roster of club members with their addresses".

Article VI, Sections 1(a), 2(a), 3(a) and 4(a). Please insert the word "Written" immediately before "Notice" in all 4 sections. Please refer to the attached letters dated June 15, 2004 and March 6, 2003 (page 2) in which we advised the club of this adjustment. Additionally, please include "Section 4(b) The quorum for any such meeting shall be a majority of the Board".

Article VII, Section 2. Since the club is including teleconference and videoconference in the Board Business section, please remove "or membership meeting" and "and of the Club" in the 2nd sentence. Teleconference and videoconference are only applicable to Board meetings. Please refer to Article III, Section's 1 and 2 in the attached sample bylaws. In Sections 2, 2(a), 2(b) and 2(c), please

replace "telephone and/or" with "teleconference or videoconference".

Article VIII, Sections 1(a) through 1(f). Please . With the annual meeting taking place in the month of October (per Article VI, Section 1 of these bylaws), we suggest the following schedule be utilized for the nomination/election process: select the nominating committee by May 1st; the nominating committee mails the slate of candidates to the Recording Secretary by June 1st; the Recording Secretary mails the list of candidates to the membership by June 15th; additional nominations are sent to the Recording Secretary by July 15th; (if no additional nominations are received by July 15, the slate shall be declared elected and no balloting will be required); if one or more additional nominations are received, the Recording Secretary (or professional independent firm designated by the board) mails ballots to the membership by August 1st; ballots are returned to the Secretary (or independent firm) by September 1st and the results of the election are announced on the club's website, as well as at the annual meeting. In Section 1(f), please replace "deadline for filing the July issue" with a specific date for the July issue in conjunction with mailing or emailing the membership. I made all these changes to have hard dates. The Board needs to discuss if "mailing the list of candidates to the membership" can be done by AMSCOPE by June 15.

In Section 1(g) per the above schedule, petitions for additional nominations must be received no later than the third month preceding the annual meeting, or "July 15".

Article X, Section 1. Please adjust the additional wording to read: "...suspended from any of the privileges..."

Sections 2 and 3. Please remove Section 2 completely. In Section 3, please revert back to the original language. If the club is interested in a board hearing committee, that language must be uniform throughout the bylaws and wherever mentioned. In the Disciplinary Article, it's either the Board or Board Committee that sends a copy of the charges to the each member of the board. I discussed with AKC about our Ethics Committee process, and they had no problem with that – they just don't want it codified in the Constitution and Bylaws. They were firm about all clubs having the Article on Discipline be consistent between all clubs.

In Sections 4 and 5, please replace "Board or Committee" with "Board or Board Committee" in all instances.

Election of New Members: Jacquelyn Ebersbach

Jackie presented Greg Cook, Doug Weaver, and Jerene Weiss for membership. They were

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approved by the board. Welcome to our new members.

New Business**1. Discussion of Merle Miniature Schnauzers**

The AMSC was contacted by a breeder (non member) who was concerned about a group of people who were breeding merle miniature schnauzers and advertising them on the internet as registerable with AKC. After some detective work, Carole and Vicki Kubic were able to find proof that Merle miniature schnauzers are being registered as Black/Silver. Carole wrote a letter to AKC which she shared with the board. We are waiting for some action by AKC, however, Carole will send the letter on to several dog publications if there is no response from AKC.

2. Discuss the pros and cons of mailing the Roster to all members. Also, we discussed the need to change the password on the member section of the website. In the past 3 years the club has lost 90 members, however, the password has remained the same. Bonnie moved and Donna seconded that the password be changed every years at Vicki's direction. Passed.

3. Election of the Nominating Committee:

The following members were elected to the Nominating Committee:

Patti Henderson (board member) – Chairman, Sonny Lelle (Board Member), Rhonda Smith, Debbie Herrell, and Jan Taylor with Patti Ledgerwood as an alternate.

4. There was a request by several members to designate a miniature schnauzer specialty at the Terrier Association of Oregon in the summer of 2018. The club policy is to have each specialty sponsored by a local club. The local club in this case would be the Portland Miniature Schnauzer Club and they have stated that they were not interested in sponsoring this specialty. The secretary will respond to the members with a letter explaining the Roving Specialty process and as an alternative discussions of location will be directed to the Roving Committee

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm EST. The next board meeting will be a teleconference on Tuesday, June 5 at 8pm Eastern.

Respectfully submitted
Carma Ewer, Secretary

Regrettably, Our AMSC Secretary has notified us that she will not be seeking re-election for the important AMSC Secretary's role for the upcoming year. If anyone would be interested in serving in this position please notify me or any one of the committee members listed below of your interest. This is a pivotal position in the club and we will be earnestly seeking a willing replacement. Please feel free to contact any one of these members if you would like to be considered to serve a 4-year term on the Board

Patti Henderson (Board member & Chairman),
aristosms@comcast.net
Sonny Lelle (Board Member),
sonnysprint@gmail.com
Ronnie Smith,
schnauzer@q.com
Debbie Herrell,
sercatep@yahoo.com
Jan Taylor
pipnms@cox.net
Thank you in advance
Patti Henderson, Chairman, Nominating Committee 2018
Vice President, American Miniature Schnauzer Club, Inc
Cell: 404-401-1173
Email: Aristosms@comcast.net
FAX: 678-389-3961

Bouquets & Biscuits

January, 15th 2018

GCH CH Abacus Profit Margin CD RA OA AXJ AXP MJP OF XFP CGC AMSC-VA RATO CZ8B "Emmy" earned her Novice A Obedience title for her CD, earning two qualifying runs with first placements in one weekend.

GCH CH Abacus T-Lan's Break The Money Mold RANJP CGC AMSC-VARATN "Breaker" earned his Advanced A Rally title with two qualifying runs in one weekend, one a third placement.

February 18th, 2018

GCH CH T-Lan's Rainy Day Money For Abacus RN NAP OJP NFP RATO AMSC-VA CGC "Rainy" earned the last leg she needed for her Novice Preferred Fast title with a first placement. She also qualified that weekend with her first T2BP run.

March 18th, 2018

GCH CH T-Lan's Rainy Day Money For Abacus RA NAP OJP NFP RATO AMSC-VA CGC "Rainy" earned the last leg she needed for her Rally Advanced A title with a fourth placement.

**For some Clubs,
Contact names and
emails are definitely out
of date. Some members
of AMSC also need to
update their
information
For the webpage, we
want our local club
information to be as up
to
date as possible.
Please check your
club's current listing on
our web site
and send any
corrections to
Bonnie Keyes
(treasurer@amsc.us)
and to
Carla Borrelli
(cborr@aol.com)
Thank you!**



The Real Reason Your Dog Smells Like Fish

Anna Burke

Dogs can smell like many things, depending on what they have most recently rolled in, but one of the more unpleasant aromas dogs commonly develop is one of fish.

If your dog smells like fish, it is probably not because he figured out how to spray himself with Eau de Sardine. A fishy odor is usually the result of secretions from the [anal glands](#).

What Are Anal Glands?

[Anal glands](#), which are also called anal sacs, are small sacs located on either side of your dog's anus. These sacs are full of specialized sweat glands that produce an unpleasant secretion that acts as a scent marker for your dog. When your dog poops, these secretions pass onto the feces, letting other dogs know important chemical information about your dog. This explains why your dog is so interested in other dogs' poop, not to mention the tail sniffing that goes on when two dogs meet.

Dogs also "express" their anal sacs when they are scared, which is perfectly normal, if a bit odorous.

Anal gland secretions have a distinct smell that many people describe as fishy. If your dog smells like fish, chances are there may be something going on with her anal glands.

Anal Sac Disease

[Anal sac disease](#), which is a term used to describe problems with the anal glands, is very common, particularly among [small dog breeds](#).

Impactions

Normally, your dog's anal glands are expressed in small amounts each time she defecates. Sometimes, however, these anal sacs become impacted. Impacted anal sacs cannot express properly, which is very painful for your dog. The sacs feel hard to the touch, and when expressed manually by a veterinarian or other professional, produce a thin ribbon of pasty, brown material.

Impactions can happen for several reasons. There could be an abnormality in your dog's anal sacs, or your dog could have soft stool, which is not firm enough to express your dog's anal glands when she defecates. Obese dogs are at an increased risk of impacted anal glands, as their sacs do not empty well

Infections and Abscesses

Anal glands can also get infected. Infected or abscessed anal sacs are very painful, and the area may appear discolored or swollen. If left untreated, these abscesses can rupture through the skin.

Anal Sac Tumors

Anal gland tumors limit your dog's

ability to express his anal glands himself, and and they make the anal glands feel firm and enlarged. In most cases, anal sacs with tumors will not express at all, and your veterinarian may take a biopsy and perform an ultrasound to diagnose it.

Symptoms of Anal Sac Disease

There are other symptoms of anal sac disease besides a fishy smell. Dogs with irritated anal sacs may scoot on the floor, bite at their anus, or have difficulty defecating. Although scooting is a fairly common sign that may seem laughable, it is a helpful symptom and warning of anal sac disease. If you notice any of these signs, or any discoloration around the anus, call your veterinarian and get your dog in for treatment.

What to Do About Your Dog's Fishy Smell

If you notice a fishy smell, call your veterinarian. Your dog may simply need his anal glands manually emptied, or expressed, which should resolve the odor.

Some dogs, especially small dog breeds, require their anal glands expressed regularly. Veterinarians and groomers both perform this service, and you can even learn how to do it yourself if you don't mind the odor.

Compacted anal sacs require your veterinarian's assistance. These are carefully expressed, and your veterinarian may need to use a softening agent or saline rinse if the compaction is particularly dry. Once the compacted material is removed, your veterinarian may recommend a higher fiber diet for your dog to help him express his anal sacs naturally.

Infected or abscessed anal sacs are cleaned with an antiseptic and are then typically treated with antibiotics. Your veterinarian may recommend hot compresses applied to the area if she suspects an abscess, and it may take a few flushings for the infection to resolve.

In some cases your veterinarian will remove the anal sac or sacs. Anal sac disease that does not resolve with treatment, as well as anal sac tumors, usually need to be dealt with by surgical removal. While there are potential complications, such as incontinence, most procedures are successful and do not negatively affect your dog's quality of life.

Preventing Anal Sac Disease

While anal sac disease is not always possible to prevent, there are a few things you can do.

- Feed your dog an appropriate diet with the right amount of fiber
- Keep an eye on your dog's stool to make sure it is well formed

- [Exercise your dog regularly](#) and keep an eye on his weight
- Provide your dog with plenty of fresh, clean water

Luckily, anal sac problems are relatively easy to treat. Once the underlying issue is resolved, the fishy smell should go away. For owners of dogs that require regular anal gland expression, that fishy smell is a reminder to get your dog in to the veterinarian's office or to the groomer for their next visit.

This is a tip that I hope you'll never have to use, but one that I feel strongly that every dog owner should know. It's an acupressure point taught in almost every canine first-aid class because you can use it to keep your dog alive, in emergency situations until you reach veterinary care.

Although some may scoff at acupressure thinking it is too weird or fringe, there are many stories of how this simple technique has resuscitated dogs that have been pronounced "clinically dead."

If your dog suffers a seizure or traumatic injury and loses consciousness this techniques isn't only worth a try, it could save his life.

Simply rest one hand comfortable on your dog, and place your thumb just above your dog's upper lip, halfway between his nose and mouth and gently apply about 2 pounds of pressure for approximately 30 seconds. It should help your dog regain consciousness.

Does Your Pet Fear Storms? Why You Can't Ignore His Discomfort

By Dr. Becker

Thunderstorms can strike fear in the heart of even the most normally laidback dog or cat. And what many pet parents don't realize is it's not just the loud clap of thunder that generates a fear response in phobic pets. Lightning, wind, rain, dark skies, changes in barometric pressure, and even odors can trigger a panicked reaction in susceptible dogs and cats.

Since dogs are naturally more demonstrative than cats and more apt to look to their owner for help, a dog's storm phobia symptoms are usually quite obvious. Common signs of phobia-related stress include dilated pupils, drooling, rapid heartbeat, panting, pacing, trembling, potty accidents, and destructive behavior.

Your cat, on the other hand, may simply scoot quietly under the bed or head for another protected spot in your home.

Fear of storms in pets is no laughing matter. In a study of storm-phobic dogs, their plasma cortisol levels jumped over 200 percent from exposure to an audio recording of a storm. And even though we can't scientifically evaluate the emotions of sensitive pets during a thunderstorm, we can safely assume they feel fear and perhaps even terror.

Storm phobia causes extreme anxiety and discomfort not only for four-legged companions, but also for human family members who feel helpless to ease their pet's suffering. If your pet is afraid of storms, don't lose hope. There are things you can do to help your furry friend remain calm when the weather outside is frightful.

Create a Safe Place Where Your Pet Can Go to Avoid the Storm

If your companion is a cat, observe where she goes to "hide out" when she feels the need, and if possible, turn the area into a cozy little safe spot for her. For example, if she heads for a corner of your bedroom closet, considering placing a cat bed on one of those plastic storage tubs most of us have. This will turn her closet hideout into a warm, slightly elevated safe spot.

For dogs, your basement may be just the ticket, or alternatively, a room with sound-proofing wallboard and heavy window coverings. Your dog's safe place should ideally have small covered windows or no windows so he can't see the storm. In the space you set aside, add a solid-sided crate, and leave the door open. The crate should contain food, water, treats, and toys. When you know a storm is approaching, turn on the lights in the room so lightning flashes will

be less obvious.

Play calming music (MusicMyPet.com, PetMusic.com) in your pet's safe spot at a volume just loud enough to drown out distant thunderclaps.

Make sure to spend time playing with your dog in his safe room when it's not storming, and then see if he'll go there on his own when he senses a storm is on the way. Your pet should have access to his safe spot at all times, and especially when you're not at home.

Behavior Modification, Desensitization, and Counterconditioning

One behavior modification technique that may work for a storm phobic dog is to engage him in a behavior that earns a reward. Ask your dog to perform a command or trick he knows and reward him if he does. This activity distracts not only him, but also you, in case you're tempted to inadvertently reinforce his phobic behavior by petting and soothing him while he's showing anxiety.

Another behavior modification you can try involves engaging your dog in a fun activity. Play a game with him, or give him a treat release toy or [recreational bone](#) to chew on. One of my favorite ways to distract dogs is with [nose work](#). Use your dog's natural senses to divert his attention, or have fun with [Dr. Yin's Manners Minder](#). Just keep in mind that if your dog's fear response to storms is intense, you may not always be able to soothe him with food rewards or other distractions.

Desensitization involves using a CD with recorded [storm sounds](#) to try to desensitize your dog. This is best done during times of the year when real storms are few and far between.

Unfortunately, desensitization isn't always as effective with storm phobias as it is with other types of anxiety disorders. That's because it's difficult to mimic all the various triggers that set off a fear response in a storm-phobic pet – in particular changes in barometric pressure, static electricity, and whatever scents they notice with an impending change in the weather. In addition, desensitization has to be done in each room of the house, because a new coping skill learned in the living room will be forgotten in the kitchen. These problems make desensitization more of a challenge in treating storm phobias.

Counterconditioning involves consistently and repeatedly pairing a negative trigger with a positive one, until your pet makes a positive association. For example, if your dog exhibits a fear response each time she hears a thunderclap, offer her a treat each time it happens. The goal is to condition her to

associate a treat with the sound of thunder.

Additional Storm Stress Relief Tools for Pets

- Try putting gentle, continuous pressure on your pet to calm her. If she will allow it, try leaning gently on or against her without petting or stroking. If this is helpful to her, you'll feel her muscles begin to relax. If instead she seems to grow more anxious, stop the activity.

If your pet does seem to respond well to pressure applied to her body, there are wraps available (Thundershirt.com, Anxietywrap.com, Stormdefender.com) that many pet owners and veterinarians have found extremely helpful. You might also consider a [ThunderCap](#).

- [Ttouch](#) is a specific massage technique that can help anxious pets. You can also consider trying

- [EFT](#) to help your four-legged companion.

- Invest in a pheromone diffuser. Species-specific pheromones are chemical substances that can positively affect an animal's emotional state and behavior. There's the

- [D.A.P. diffuser](#) for dogs and

- [Feliway](#) for kitties.

- Consult a holistic veterinarian about homeopathic, TCM (Traditional Chinese Medicine) and Bach Flower Remedies that could be helpful in alleviating your pet's stress. Some products I use, always in conjunction with behavior modification, include

- [Calm Shen](#), homeopathic aconitum

- or • [Hyland's Calms Forte](#),

- [Bach Rescue Remedy](#), or other

- similar remedies depending on the animal,

- [Spirit Essence Storm Soother](#), and

- [OptiBalance Fear & Phobias Formula](#).

- Calming nutraceuticals and herbs that I've found helpful include holy basil, l-theanine, rhodiola, ashwagandha, GABA, 5-HTP, and chamomile. Consult your holistic vet about which option is right for your pet.

- The essential oil of lavender has also been proven to reduce a pet's stress response. I recommend placing a few drops on your dog's collar or bedding before a stressor occurs, if possible, or diffuse the oil around your house for an overall calming effect.



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Lone Star MSC of Dallas July 5, 2018
Regular Classes: Mr. Kerry Lee
Sweeps: Larry Abbott

Paul Revere MSC July 8, 2018,
Regular Classes: Geri Kelly;
Sweeps: Dustin Wyatt.

AMSC SPECIALTIES

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

Montgomery County October 7, 2018
Regular Classes: Steve Hayden
Sweeps: Susan Atherton

Schnauza Palooza April 6, 2019
Regular Classes - David Kirkland
Sweepstakes Classes - Patricia O'Brien

Great Western 2019
Regular Classes - Steve Hayden
Sweepstakes Classes - Cheryl Coffman

Montgomery County 2019
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Sweepstakes Classes - Carla Nickerson

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