



AMSCOPE

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

March 2013

Volume CB22

Issue 3

Blood Disorder Could Be Triggered by Too Many Vaccines

Immune-mediated thrombocytopenia (IMT) is a very serious autoimmune disease in which a dog's body attacks its own blood platelets as though they are a pathogenic bacteria or virus. Thrombocytopenia is the technical word for low platelet count.

Platelets are components of blood produced in bone marrow. They are critical to blood clotting during what is called primary hemostasis — the clotting that takes place immediately after an event that damages a blood vessel.

When the body's platelet count is depleted, severe bruising or uncontrolled bleeding can occur. Excessive bleeding and bruising can lead to anemia (a low red blood cell count), and if left untreated, death can result.

Symptoms of Immune-mediated Thrombocytopenia

Most of the clinical signs of IMT are bleeding-related. Common symptoms include lethargy, weakness, increased respiratory rate, bruising, bleeding from the mouth or nose, pale gums, and dark, tarry stools that indicate the presence of blood in the GI tract.

Less common signs of IMT are breathing difficulties, including significantly increased respiratory effort, and sudden death.

Diagnosis and Treatment Options

Diagnosis involves confirming the problem is immune-mediated thrombocytopenia by ruling out all non-immune related causes and other primary conditions that can bring on thrombocytopenia as a secondary condition. Dis-

orders associated with secondary thrombocytopenia in dogs include viral, parasitic, fungal and bacterial diseases, certain types of cancer, and the administration of certain drugs.

Diagnostic tests will include some or all of the following: a complete blood count (CBC), chemistry profile, coagulation testing, titers for infectious diseases, an anti-nuclear antibody (ANA) test to evaluate immune response against DNA, urinalysis, chest x-rays, and abdominal ultrasound.

IMT is a complex and variable condition, so treatment is individualized. Often aggressive care is required when the disorder is initially diagnosed, and many dogs need to be hospitalized.

The immune system response to blood platelets must be controlled quickly, which, unfortunately, means immunosuppressive drugs like steroids, azathioprine, cyclosporine A and others to save the pet's life. Homeopathic vets will use homeopathic remedies for vaccinosis before turning to drug therapy. However, if animals don't respond to natural therapies, immunosuppressive drugs will be required to save the pet's life.

If anemia is present, a blood transfusion may be required.

Supportive care in the form of oxygen and fluid therapy may be given.

Underlying diseases must be identified and treated to help control the IMT and lower the risk of recurrence.

Longer term, the dog will require immunosuppressive and other drugs based on symptoms. It's not unusual for a dog to be on immunosuppressive drugs for several months after initial diagnosis. Supportive herbs, such as milk thistle can be used at this time to help reduce stress on the organs of detoxification.

Any drugs or vaccines the dog received prior to developing IMT should be avoided for the rest of the dog's life, as should all vaccinations and other immune system stimulants (more about this shortly). Most dogs with IMT can live normally if they respond well to medical treatment. Generally speaking, if a dog does well during the acute phase of the disease and throughout treatment, he has an excellent chance of doing well long term.

Many dogs can be weaned from all medications, but occasionally a dog may require intermittent drug therapy for the rest of his life. These dogs are good candidates for integrative medical care, which can help reduce flare-ups of autoimmune reactions and reduce the need for long term drug therapy.

Controversy Over What Causes IMT

A study conducted by the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at Purdue University and published in the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine, failed to confirm a link between idiopathic immune-mediated thrombocytopenia (IMT) and recent vaccination.

Thankfully, the Purdue researchers also noted that, "... the possibility of an association cannot be completely ruled out based on the small sample populations and requires further investigation."

Dr. Robert Runde, writing for dvm360.com, points out other limitations of the study, including lack of information on the number of vaccines the dogs in the study received throughout their lives. According to Dr. Runde, "... it is difficult to conclude whether recent or cumulative vaccinations may or may not increase the risk of idiopathic IMT."

It's the opinion of most holistic veterinarians that the vast majority of immune-mediated diseases, including IMT, are triggered or exacerbated by vaccines, particularly bacterins (vaccines against bacterial organisms, such as the leptospirosis and lyme vaccines), as well as killed vaccines (rabies vaccine).

Studies like this one that look only for associations between recent vaccinations and immune-mediated disease have very limited use, in my opinion. Some animals' immune systems are reactive the very first time a foreign and potentially toxic agent like a vaccine is introduced. The response in these pets is immediate and often overwhelming. Other animals' immune systems (the majority, in my experience), respond to cumulative vaccinations over a period of months or years.

Sometimes it's a vaccine alone that triggers immune disease in a pet. More often, it's vaccinations coupled with other medications, environmental toxins, poor quality diet, and other lifestyle stressors.

The strength and balance of every animal's immune system is different, so there's no way to predict — unless your dog or cat has had a reaction in the past — how much danger your pet is in from exposure to the modified virus contained in any given vaccine or the many toxic ingredients it also contains.

That's why it is strongly recommended to pet owners to avoid all unnecessary vaccines and re-vaccinations.

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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:

Stephanie Davis Rae
148 Dover Way
Vacaville, CA. 95687
Phone: 707-330-5010
luvwaltDisney@att.net

*LOCAL CLUBS...please be sure to include *all* information when sending Specialty tear sheets for inclusion in AMSCOPE e.g. Judges, dates, entry, obedience.

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

Brian Beitz (chair)
146 Maple Avenue
Milton, PA 17847
570-412-2479
drbeitz@gmail.com

Bonnie Keyes
P.O. Box 35
Wellsburg, NY 14894-0035
607-742-3828
maplewynd@stny.rr.com

Tatiana Myers
1133 State Road
Duncannon, PA 17020
717-957-3337
shazzamofoz@aol.com

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

**Report all changes to
the roster to:**

treasurer@AMSC.us

Sharon Edwards

21301 Golf Estates DR.

Laytonsville, MD 20882

2013 Membership Dues

Your 2013 membership dues for the American Miniature Schnauzer Club are due **by January 1, 2013**. Dues will be in arrears after that date and you will be ineligible to vote. Membership will lapse if dues are not paid before March 1, 2013.

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

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

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

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

A few important notes to remember:

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

- The amount of your dues payment will serve as notification of your preferred newsletter delivery method. If you do not currently have an email address on file and you are switching from hard copy to soft copy delivery for 2013, please include your email address with your payment. Once you have paid your 2013 dues, you cannot change your AMSCOPE delivery method during 2013. This can be changed once per year when dues are paid.

Payment may be made either online or by check.

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

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

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

Sharon Edwards

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

Finally, please review the AMSC roster to confirm the accuracy of your address/phone/email. The roster is available at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AMSC-L/>. You must be a member of the AMSC-L email list and have a Yahoo ID to access this online roster. If you are not currently on the AMSC-L list and wish to be, contact Wyoma Clouss at: clouss@wy-os.net. Send any changes to your contact information to Treasurer@amsc.us or send a note with your payment.

Lone Star Miniature Schnauzer Club of Dallas Annual Specialty

Dallas Market Hall ...July 4, 2013
Classes - Mary Jane Carberry
Sweepstakes - Kim Griffin

(This is a move from the Ft Worth /
March venue of the past several
years.)

* MOVING?

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

The “Other” Type of Diabetes

By Dr. Becker

Diabetes insipidus, or DI, is also referred to as water diabetes. The more common form of diabetes, diabetes mellitus, is known as sugar diabetes. The two conditions are actually very different, though they have some symptoms in common.

Diabetes mellitus is a disorder of sugar metabolism involving the hormone insulin. Diabetes insipidus is a metabolic disorder in which the kidneys aren't able to reabsorb normal amounts of water, so the dog or cat eliminates large quantities of very dilute urine. The word “insipid” describes this colorless, tasteless characteristic of the dilute urine.

DI is also called the “other type of diabetes.” There are two forms of DI: central diabetes insipidus and nephrogenic diabetes insipidus.

Central Diabetes Insipidus

In central DI, called CDI, the hypothalamus in the brain and/or the connected pituitary gland doesn't release enough antidiuretic hormone. This hormone is called ADH and it's also known as vasopressin.

The job of ADH once it enters the bloodstream is to travel to the kidneys and bind to receptors on specialized cells. This action tells the kidneys to increase reabsorption of water rather than excreting it in urine, which produces the appropriately concentrated urine.

The hypothalamus mixes ADH, and the pituitary stores it. If either doesn't do its job, there's an ADH shortage. Pets with CDI don't produce enough ADH to signal the kidneys to perform their normal fluid regulation function.

Central DI is thought to be caused by a congenital defect, trauma, bacterial or viral infection, a pituitary cyst or tumor, or some other factor that causes the ADH-secreting tissues to degenerate and die.

Nephrogenic Diabetes Insipidus

Nephrogenic diabetes insipidus or NDI is a much more rare form of diabetes than CDI. With this form of diabetes insipidus, there's an adequate amount of ADH being produced, but the kidneys don't respond to the hormone as they should. It could be that something interferes with the ability of ADH to bind to the receptors on the kidney cells. The outcome is the same as it is with an insufficient supply of ADH — the kidneys don't receive the signal to reabsorb more water.

It's thought the decreased binding ability of ADH could be caused by an endocrine or metabolic disorder such as Cushing's disease, hypercalcemia, high levels of aldos-

terone, or low levels of potassium. Sometimes potential toxins caused by *E. coli* bacteria, kidney disease, or an infection can also be contributing factors to NDI.

Psychogenic Diabetes Insipidus

There's actually also a third type of diabetes insipidus caused by either a neurologic thirst-control disorder or a behavior problem that involves excessive water drinking. This form of the condition is caused by excessive water intake called polydipsia and excessive urination called polyuria. Veterinarians call this combination of polyuria and polydipsia PU/PD.

Psychogenic diabetes insipidus does not involve a primary problem with kidney or pituitary gland function.

Symptoms and Diagnosis

Pets with congenital or nephrogenic diabetes insipidus are often diagnosed in their first year of life. Those with central diabetes insipidus are usually not diagnosed until middle age.

The most obvious symptoms of diabetes insipidus are passing abnormally large amounts of dilute urine and extreme thirst with increased water intake. Other symptoms can include dehydration, electrolyte imbalance, house soiling (with a house-trained pet), weight loss, poor coat condition, disorientation, loss of coordination, and in severe cases, stupor, seizures, tremors, and collapse.

Diagnosing diabetes insipidus is quite challenging, actually, and involves a lot of different tests. Blood tests, urinalysis, and a urine culture will all be necessary in part to rule out other causes for the symptoms, including diabetes mellitus, Cushing's, pyometra (a uterine infection in female dogs), hypothyroidism in kitties, and problems with either the kidneys, bladder, or liver.

Other tests can include measuring pituitary hormone levels, an MRI or CT scan to check for a mass on the pituitary gland, an abdominal ultrasound, as well as a water deprivation test to see if the animal can produce a more concentrated urine when water intake is restricted.

Sometimes veterinarians do a desmopressin stimulation test. Desmopressin is the drug used to treat DI. If an animal has a positive response to the drug, it's a good indicator the problem is truly diabetes insipidus.

Treating Pets with Diabetes Insipidus

The treatment goal for pets with diabetes insipidus is to identify and resolve any underlying cause, and to correct the excessive water drinking and urination. In some

cases, if increased water intake and urination is tolerable, and the pet's organ function and metabolic function are otherwise healthy, it's not always necessary to treat the condition.

Any pet that has diabetes insipidus must have free access to clean, fresh water at all times. Water must never be withheld from an animal dealing with this particular condition.

If the diagnosis is central DI, then a synthetic form of the hormone ADH can be given orally or more commonly as an eye drop. Supplementing ADH in pets with nephrogenic DI or psychogenic DI is useless, because the problem isn't low levels of this hormone in the first place. A low sodium diet has been proven beneficial for some of these pets.

Unless your pet's DI is acquired rather than congenital, and unless the condition can be resolved by treating an underlying problem, your dog or cat will have DI for the rest of his life.

Caring for a Pet with DI

Important considerations for your DI pet are to keep plenty of fresh drinking water available 24 hours a day, and ensure your dog or cat has a convenient place to urinate whenever he needs to. A doggy door leading to a fenced backyard is often ideal for dogs with the condition.

DI pets can become severely and life-threateningly dehydrated without constant access to water, so never limit water intake for any reason with these animals.

I think the biggest frustration for most owners prior to a diagnosis is the amazing amount of urine these pets can produce. Remember that most DI pets can't go for more than an hour or so without urinating, so there will be accidents. It's not your pet's fault, so don't blame her. She can't help it. It's important that you are prepared to do lots of cleanups with an enzyme-based cleaner, urine remover, or odor remover.

Most importantly, if your pet suddenly begins drinking and peeing excessively, visit your veterinarian to determine the medical reason for this behavior. In many instances, all the basic tests will come back normal, and it's only a positive response to treatment that ultimately confirms the diagnosis of central diabetes insipidus.

**TROPHY DRIVE... please
don't forget the trophy drive.**

**Sharon Edwards
21301 Golf Estates DR.
Latonsville, MD 20882**

Bouquets & Biscuits

* **MACH Southcross Gold Dust Woman TD, RN, T2B** (Stevie) by CH Ruedesheim's Tycoon II x CH Classic Southcross Eclipse CD, RN completed her requirements for her MACH (Master Agility Champion) on 1/20/13 at the Sunflower Kennel Club Agility Trial. Stevie was bred by Sonny Lelle. She is loved and handled by Kim Krohn but she is owned, loved and pampered by Sharon Bloss

Black Ribbons

Ch. Sathgate Black Watch Yachtsman.

Bred by Susan Atherton and Jean Heath. "Salty" was a loyal companion of Ruth Quire, a former longtime member of the AMSC and the Miniature Schnauzer Club of Northern California.

Ruth passed away on Dec. 6 and Salty on Jan. 11.

Brodie

1/13/2001 to 1/21/2013

AKC Cabachon's Ray of Light.
Owners Todd McCuen and Scott Crouse.



Spring is almost here!

MEMBER APPLICANTS

Marie Murphy

1634 S. Observatory Drive
Nashville, TN 57215
(615)297-6955
marphymarie@comcast.net

Sponsors: Dr. Karl Barth
Charlotte Stuckey

Marie Murphy has had Miniature Schnauzers for 17 years. She has had one litter over five years ago but does not plan to have more. She is involved in conformation, agility, obedience, rally and flyball and attends approximately 24 events per year. Marie belongs to the Nashville Kennel Club and the Music City Road Dogs, which is an organization for flyball. Marie is an attorney. She volunteers with 4-H and other community events.

Rhonda Smith

150 W. Linda Vista Road
Grants Pass, OR 97527
(541)415-1415
schnauzer@q.com

Sponsors: Kim Cox Griffin, Cynthia Mulheron Klein

Ronnie Smith has been breeding Miniature Schnauzers for 20 years. She has had a total of 14 litters averaging three a year for the past four years and prior to that, maybe one litter per year. Her stud dog has provided three stud services in the past two years. Rhonda attends 6-12 shows per year. She belongs to the Portland Miniature Schnauzer Club, where she has been the club Secretary and Social Events Coordinator. She also belongs to the Southern Oregon Terrier Club, where she has served as a board member and publicity and website administrator. Rhonda is active with several non-profit organizations.

Sue Tubman

70 San Simeon Place
Rancho Mirage, CA 92270
(760)-321-5459
PSCASTAI@aol.com

Sponsors: Beverly Verna and Susan Atherton

Sue Tubman has had Miniature Schnauzers from 1969 to the present. She is not a breeder. She has attended a couple of shows this past year. Sue is retired. She grooms her own dogs and is interested in furthering her education in conformation. Sue has advanced skills in computing.

Linda Maxwell

404 South Elder Ave
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
Email: jmaxbaoko@windstream.net
(918) 258-1227

Sponsors: Laurie Darman-Owen
Kim Cox Griffin

Linda Maxwell has owned Beagles for 23 years and Miniature Schnauzers for 22 years. She has been doing obedience for 21 years, agility for 16 years, tracking for 2 years and Rally for 5 years. She attends approximately 18 dog events per year. Linda belongs to the Tulsa Dog Training Club where she works as their phone committee chair and assistant chief ring steward. She is a retired teacher. Her areas of interest are obedience, agility, ethics and health. Linda says that she truly enjoys dog sports, especially agility. She states that she is a willing volunteer for her local club and while trialing at other clubs. Linda is also involved in training classes.

Mikko Samuli

Co-Applicant: **Niino Rovio**
Lauritsankusa 13
FI 20740 Turku, Finland
tel +358 400 742219
email: samuli@netti.fi
web: www.kennelimbrez.com
Sponsors: John Constantine
Wyoma Clouss

Mikko Samuli and **Niino Rovio** are breeders and have had Miniature Schnauzers for approximately 16 years. They are members of the Finnish Kennel Club, the Finnish Miniature Schnauzer Club, Finnish Dog Breeders Association, Danish Miniature Schnauzer Club and the Swedish Schnauzer-Pinscher Club. The applicants' state their occupations as accounts manager and advertising partner and list their interests as being in Newsletter, Electronic Media, Education, Ethics and Health.

Don't Forget Schnauzapalooza!!

Go to the website for updated information, <http://schnauzapalooza.com/>.

Entries close 1 week early on April 17, 2013.

RESERVED GROOMING

Gateway Hall & Great Hall

MAY 8-12, 2013



Reserved Schnauzapalooza inside grooming space is \$40.00 for a 5x10 space for the specialty week. There are 6 dog bathing tubs and 2 sinks in the grooming area. Grooming spaces will be assigned on the basis of date reservation(s) are received. In addition to the inside grooming area, a tent will be set up in the RV area for additional grooming space.

Limited unreserved grooming space will be available inside and in the tent set up in the RV parking area on first come first serve basis. Unreserved grooming area has power available via the 50 amp RV pedestals adjacent to the tent.

Overnight security will be available for those who want to leave their dog(s) in the indoor grooming area overnight. If you plan to leave your dog(s) overnight, you will need to purchase a reserved grooming space. Dogs cannot be left overnight in soft crates. A contact sheet must be attached to the crate in case an emergency should arise during the night. No x-pens in the grooming area.

Competitors in agility, obedience and rally may crate their dogs by the rings devoted to those events, first come first serve. No grooming set-up allowed in the ringside area and aisles must remain clear.

Exhibitors are responsible for clean-up around their set-up. Do not discard dirty water into the trash containers.

Deadline Reserved Grooming: April 8, 2013.

No refunding of grooming reservation after April 8, 2013.

E-mail or telephone reservations will not be accepted.

Returned checks or insufficient payments will be subject to a \$25.00 service fee.

RESERVED GROOMING REQUEST FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____ E-Mail _____

of Spaces _____ # of Dogs _____

\$40.00 per space = _____ Total \$: _____

Please check below your primary breed for grooming space assignment.

AMSC

GSCA

SSCA

Signature _____

WELCOME/MEET & GREET GATHERING

Sponsored by the Standard, Miniature & Giant National Clubs

Event Center Purina Farms

Wednesday, MAY 8, 2013

Pre-Registration is required.

Deadline: April 17, 2013 Music, Dancing, Food and Cash Bar #

Name: _____ N/C

Kennel Name: _____

Name: _____ N/C

Kennel Name: _____

Name: _____ N/C

Kennel Name: _____

Total Attending _____

Structure In Action Seminar

Seminar: "Structure In Action: The Makings Of A Durable Dog"

- ④📌 The basics of canine structure
- ④📌 How to evaluate the structural quality of your adult dog
- ④📌 What leads to the damage and injuries
- ④📌 How to read and listen to your dog

Speaker: Mrs. Pat Hastings

④★ Popular seminar speaker and well known author of "The Puppy Puzzle"

Where: Founders Room - Purina Event Center

Date: Wednesday, May 8, 2013

Time: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

I plan to attend the seminar:

Seminar Fee: \$20.00/Person

Deadline: April 17, 2013 Name:

Name: _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Total Fee _____

PLEASE NOTE:

The Reserve Winners Dog and Reserve Winners Bitch in all likelihood will be awarded a 3 point major at our specialty at Schnauzapalooza.

AKC's rule in chapter 16, Section 1 of "Rules Applying to Dog Shows" concerning **Points For Reserve Available.**

+++++

"At the National Specialty the dog designated Reserve Winners Dog and the bitch designated Reserve Winners Bitch will be awarded a three-point major, provided that the number of dogs competing in the regular classes of the Reserve Winner's sex totals at least twice the number required for a five point major, in the region in which the event is held."

Division 6: Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska

Miniature Schnauzers
5 points..... Dog - 9/ Bitch - 14

So as long as we have 18 class dogs shown and 28 class bitches shown, Reserve will get a 3 point major. It is looking like we will easily surpass those numbers!

Janice Ramel....you will be missed

It is with great sadness that I say farewell today to my dear, dear friend, Janice Ramel, "Rampage" after a lengthy battle with cancer. Janice was truly one of a kind. I have known her since November of 1977. and almost anyone else who knew her, could attest to her very outgoing and sunny disposition. Janice had many friends, in dogs, and no enemies. She had a unique personality. Always interested in dogs, of all breeds, always willing to talk dogs with anyone, you quickly found her an excellent conversationalist, with a quick wit and a sense of humor. As a friend, you could call her almost any time of day and she would sit and talk with you patiently no matter what you had to discuss.

A very intuitive breeder, who had an excellent eye for a dog, Janice changed the way miniature schnauzers look today. Her stud dogs alone, i.e Ch. Rampage's Representative, Ch. Rampage's Express Mail, and Ch. Rampage's Waco Kid have had a huge impact. Ric Chashoudian, writing before his death, listed Rep as one of the three most influential miniature schnauzers in breed history. Her brood bitches (nearly all champions,) were as good as the dogs. They were very substantial, good headed, dogs who had a lot of body and ring presence. Ch. Rampage's Awesome Z was the number one mini two years in a row, and several others of her bitches were national specialty winners.

Janice had a unique way of expressing herself. I still remember, the first day I saw a young puppy who was to become Ch.

Kurt Garmaker and Janice Ramel with Rep



Rampage's Express Mail at the Grayslake June dog shows. Max was about five months old at the time. Janice brought both him and his brother. Sean and Carol and I looked them both over, and we all sort of liked the brother better, at which point, Janice became indignant, and said "You people do not know anything! Dis one (meaning Max) is the better puppy. Her prediction was right on the money as the brother went way over, while Max four months later was WD, BW at the Devon Dog Show ..

Aside from her dogs, Janice left us with a grand daughter, Kaleigh Gonzalez.. who if you know her, you know she is so much like her grandmother, in temperament and as dog crazy. I used to tell them that those Ramel women had a strong bitch line of descendancy, as Kaleigh's mother looks and sounds so much like Janice, and loves the dogs too. Janice is survived by her husband Leroy, a sister, her daughter Lori and two sons, Jamie and Eric, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.

A Growing Problem.....

ED.s Note: This is the 4th such story I have heard in the last two months.

On January 21, 2013, we lost our 12 year old black and silver miniature schnauzer named Brodie in a traumatic and gruesome manner. The neighbor's two dogs (60 lbs each), who had pulled Brodie through the fence, were hovering over Brodie as he lay perfectly still. His only movements were as the two dogs continued to bite and pull on his body. In the vet's words this was the worse outcome of a dog fight he had seen and that "those dogs meant to kill him."

Instead of spending money for court costs, we have decided to spend money on reinforcing the fence, driving stakes into the ground and attaching the base of the chain link to these stakes. Also we have called a fence company to come out and are going to install a second chain link fence within our yard. This new fence will put approximately 20 feet of distance from the

fences on both sides of our house creating what is called an air lock. This way, our dog and the neighbors' dogs will never be nose to nose again. We will have a second barrier of protection and plan on planting hedges in the air lock to create a visual barrier. If any dogs get through that first barrier, they will be considered to be on my property and I will be able to contact animal control. If that does happen then there is still a second barrier to prevent and contact. Also the hedges will create a visual barrier and hopefully decrease fence aggression. Fence aggression happens to dogs that do not leave their backyard and run up and down their fence line trying to get at another dog. The longer the dogs is unable to get to the dog, the more the aggression can increase. I learned about fence aggression too late. All of these measures are important considerations.

We want Brodie's death to serve a purpose and to educate as many people as possible. Check the perimeter of your fence for weak points on a regular basis. Holes

that have been dug are obvious but these dogs had bitten at our chain link fence and twisted it and weakened different points at the base. These were not obvious. Afterwards I discovered that a little pressure and that hole would enlarge a just enough to pull my dog through. Because these dogs had created these weak spots, when Brodie was nose to nose with these dogs, they were able to grab him and pull him through that small hole. There were blood marks on the chain link where he was pulled through and I'm sure this accounted for some of the wounds on his body.

This has been a wake up call and made us aware of a danger we never considered. Check your fences, tell your friends to check their fences, when you provide a puppy to a new home, share Brodie's story. Through Brodie's death we have realized our purpose within the AMSC. We do not breed miniature schnauzer nor do we show them but our greater purpose now is to keep them safe. Sharing this story is our start.

Todd McCuen



[®] **AMSCOPE**

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

UPCOMING SPECIALTIES

- Cactus State MSC April 4, 2013
Camelback Ranch
Regular Classes: Geraldine Muntis
Sweeps: Carla Nickersen
- Gateway MSC (Schnauzapalooza) May 10, 2013
Regular Classes: Claudia Seaberg
Sweepstakes: David Owen Williams
Rally and Obedience: Diane Propst.
- Centennial State MSC May 31, 2013
Regular Classes: David Kirkland
Sweepstakes: David Williams
- MSC of Southern CA June 21, 2013
Regular Classes: Jon Cole
Sweepstakes: Mary Bradley
- Lone Star MSC July 4, 2013
Regular Classes: Mary Jane Carberry
Sweepstakes: Kim Griffin
- Milshore MSC July 26, 2013
Regular Classes: Richard E. Lashbrook
Sweepstakes: Heidi B. Martin
- MSC of Southern CA June 22, 2014
Regular Classes: David Alexander
Sweepstakes: Ken Allen

AMSC SPECIALTIES

- Roving, Grays Summit, Mo. May 11, 2013
Regular Classes: Clay Coady
Sweeps: Brian Bogart
Futurity: Amy Gordon
- Great Western June 23, 2013
Regular Classes Michelle Billings
Sweeps: Patty Ledgerwood
- Montgomery Co. October 6, 2013
Regular Classes Penny Hirstein
Sweeps Joan Huber
- Roving, Scottsdale, AZ March 2, 2014
Regular Classes: John Constantine
Sweeps: Manuel Itriago
- Great Western June 22, 2014
Regular Classes Marcia Feld
Sweeps: Kim Cox Griffin
- Montgomery Co. October 5, 2014
Regular Classes Margo Klingler
Sweeps Carla Nickerson

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

Mr. John Constantine
2165 West Chester Rd
East Fallowfield, PA 19320
215-527-0056
john@adamis.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Beth Ann Santure
200 Begole
Milan, MI 48160-9540
bjsanture@peoplepc.com
734-439-8331

SECRETARY

Jane Nielsen
8335 South 2200 West
West Jordan, UT 84088-9513
rhapsody_jane@hotmail.com
secretary@amsc.us

TREASURER

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

MEMBERSHIP

Stephanie Davis-Rae
148 Dover Way
Vacaville, CA 95687
Phone: 707-330-5010
luvwaltdisney@att.net

AMSCOPE

Carla Borrelli
1799 South Creek Road
Derby, NY 14047
Phone: 716-627-3206
cborr@aol.com

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

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