



# AMSCOPE

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

May 2013

Volume CB22

Issue 5

## WOW WINS!



Smash earned his Bahamas Championship and his Bahamas CD this weekend. He earned 3 high in trials and 2 group 1's and 1 Best in Show.

He is now, **AKC/UKC/Bah CH Krystal's Smash & Grab CD, BN, CGC, U-CD, Bah CD.**

Kristy Lockard

## BEST IN SHOW

**GCH. Kelly's Tamar's Made of Steele**

Steele has the honor of being one of five Miniature Schnauzers in breed history to earn a BIS.

He won at the Ft Lauderdale Dog Club on March 17, 2013.

(Ch. Kelly Steele The Triple Crown x Ch. Kelly's Tamar Breath of Fresh Air)...bred and co-owned by Geri Kelly and Linda Tamar.

The other BIS winners were:  
Am/Can/Ber Ch Kelly's Ebony Show Stopper  
Am/Can/Ber Ch. Kelly's Pebwin's Hallelujah  
Ch. Kelly's Rught on the Money  
Ch. Kelly's Charwin's Bar None

## These Symptoms Could Mean a Fatal Stomach Rupture - Act FAST

**ED.s Note:** *Please read this article no matter what your breed. Though it generally affects the larger breeds, I lost a Miniature Schnauzer to this several years ago. The diagnosis was dismissed at the early stages because this was not a large breed. Don't make the same mistake. CB*

Recently the American Kennel Club's Canine Health Foundation put out a call to researchers interested in receiving \$250,000 in funding to study gastrointestinal physiology, and specifically, the fatal condition known as bloat, or gastric dilatation volvulus (GDV) in dogs.

The Foundation is also making training available to veterinarians on surgical techniques used to prevent bloat that can be accomplished when a dog is undergoing a spay or neuter procedure.

According to Dr. Shila Nordone, chief scientific officer of the Foundation:

*"Bloat is devastating for dog owners when it occurs. Through this major funding effort, researchers, for the first time, will have the resources they need to work towards establishing the causes and pre-dispositions for bloat. Once we understand why bloat occurs, we will have better treatment options and possibly be able to prevent the syndrome from occurring in the first place."*

In addition to the research grants and continuing education for vets on surgery to help prevent bloat, the Canine Health Foundation is scheduling a free webinar in mid-2013 for dog owners who want to learn about the possible causes of bloat, what breeds are more susceptible, bloat symptoms, and medical treatment of the condition.

### What Exactly is "Bloat" in a Dog?

If your pet has bloat, or gastric dilatation, it means the stomach has filled up with gas and air but remains in position. Gastric dilatation volvulus is when the bloated stomach then twists around on itself, squeezing off the blood supply and creating the potential for significant damage to other internal organs. GDV is a life-threatening event in dogs. Tragically, 30 percent of the time it proves fatal.

That's why it's important for dog owners to know which breeds are at highest risk for the disorder and the symptoms to look for. It's vitally important that dogs suspicious for GDV

be seen by a veterinarian immediately.

### Symptoms of GDV are Hard to Miss

These include a belly that has suddenly grown very large with air; belching, retching or vomiting that is mostly unproductive as your dog tries to get rid of the gas and air in her stomach; abdominal pain that makes it very difficult for her to move around; restlessness that is quickly followed by a rapid decline in the dog's condition; and shallow, rapid breathing and pale gums.

If your dog has simple bloat without the twisting action, he should be able to relieve the pressure by belching. But with full GDV, there's no way to expel the gas and air from the stomach because both the entry and exit are pinched off by the torsion (twisting).

Since the spleen is attached to the stomach, when the stomach twists on itself, it also cuts off the blood supply to the spleen and splenic vessels. When abdominal vessels are pinched off, no blood can flow to other organs in the area and the blood flow back to the heart is also compromised. This can put your dog in a state of shock, and it can all happen very quickly — in as little as 20 minutes to an hour after the volvulus develops.

Chances are you won't be able to tell whether your pet is experiencing simple bloat or bloating with volvulus, so you still need to get to your vet's office or an emergency animal hospital right away. The only way to know for sure what is happening is with an x-ray, and since GDV is associated with a high mortality rate, you want to err on the side of caution and have your dog seen immediately.

Without urgent veterinary care, the stomach will ultimately rupture and cause peritonitis, a fatal abdominal infection.

### Risk Factors to Be Aware Of

There seem to be as many opinions on risk factors for gastric dilatation volvulus as there are researchers studying the condition and vets treating it. The fact is we just don't know at this time all the causes of the disorder. So it's important to understand that you can do everything in your power to try to prevent the problem, and your dog may still

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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  
maplewylnd@stny.rr.com

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

The deadline  
for the June issue is  
May 17.

Report all changes to  
the roster to:

[treasurer@AMSC.us](mailto:treasurer@AMSC.us)

Sharon Edwards

21301 Golf Estates DR.

Laytonsville, MD 20882

## Don't Make This Popular 'Oral Care' Mistake With Your Pet

If you're like a lot of pet owners, you may have recently learned your dog or cat has plaque buildup on his teeth and is in danger of developing gum disease. With that concern in mind, you might also have suddenly noticed how many commercial pet foods and treats claim to be beneficial for your pet's teeth. Before you pick up a bag of one of those "oral care" formulas, you might want to understand a little more about how such products can make the claim that they help keep your pet's teeth clean.

According to PetfoodIndustry.com:

*"Regardless of the claim or labeling, a 'dental product' is limited to the foods' 'mechanical (e.g., abrasive) action' on the teeth (AAFCO, 2012). No references to chemical or antimicrobial additives are permitted without prior Food and Drug Administration approval. Despite this, most of the products with a dental message depend on food additives to enhance the 'mechanical action.' Generally these are mineral sequestering agents-a leading one being sodium hexametaphosphate (SHMP)."*

Pet food manufacturers coat their "dental care" kibble and treats with this additive. SHMP has an insulating effect on calcium and other minerals in your pet's mouth that has been shown to discourage the formation of dental plaque and periodontal disease.

### Is Sodium Hexametaphosphate Safe?

According to the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for sodium hexametaphosphate, in humans the chemical can be hazardous if ingested, and slightly hazardous if it comes in contact with the skin or is inhaled. Potential health effects on humans include skin irritation, eye irritation, respiratory tract irritation with coughing and shortness of breath, GI tract irritation with nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, behavioral/CNS/PNS symptoms, renal failure, acute tubular necrosis, heart disturbances, decreased levels of calcium in the blood, systemic metabolic acidosis, and muscle spasms or tremors.

In a study published in the *International Journal of Toxicology*<sup>1</sup>, rats fed a 10% concentration of SHMP developed pale and swollen kidneys. Chronic use in animals resulted in growth inhibition, increased kidney weights, bone decalcification, parathyroid hypertrophy and hyperplasia, inorganic phosphaturia, hepatic focal necrosis, and muscle fiber size alterations. The chemical is also a severe skin irritant in rabbits at certain concentrations.

DogFoodAdvisor considers SHMP a controversial ingredient and describes it as "a man-made industrial polymer with no

known nutritive value." The substance is found in soaps, detergents, water treatment products and photographic products. It is also used in the manufacture of paper, for scale removal, and for metal finishing.

I agree with DogFoodAdvisor that "food is not the place for tartar control chemicals or any other non-nutritive substances."

### Tips for Keeping Your Pet's Mouth Clean and Healthy

Rather than roll the dice on a commercial "dental care" pet food or treat that won't, by itself, keep your pet's mouth healthy (and quite likely isn't optimally nutritious), I recommend taking the following steps instead:

- Practice dental home care. In other words, learn how to brush your pet's teeth and do it consistently (daily if your pet is older or at least several times a week for younger pets).
- Feed a balanced, species-appropriate raw diet. As your pet chews the bones in her raw diet, they help to scrape away tartar and plaque on her teeth. The cartilage, ligaments and tendons in the raw meat act as a natural dental floss.
- If your pet is a dog, offer an all-natural, fully digestible, high-quality dental chew bone.
- Schedule regular oral exams with your vet, and professional cleanings under anesthesia as required.

If you choose to use dental care products for your pet, it's important to remember they don't take the place of daily brushing, a raw species-appropriate diet, or regular veterinary oral health exams

## Black Ribbons

Abacus In The Black (Inca)

11/2/2000 - 4/14/2013.

Inca, my husband's heart dog, is at the rainbow bridge today. She left for the bridge this morning snuggled next to me.

Inca was from my very first litter, her littermate Chad lives with my son, Lance Moore. Inca was the first dog that I really tried showing myself. I'll never forget the Group 3 that we won under Anna Katona with me on the other end of the lead 10 years ago. Inca was fun to show as she had tons of attitude. Inca never finished, but she taught me so very much. She will be missed.

Linda Wahlquist-Soos

# Would You Recognize Signs of Heart Disease in Your Dog?

Dilated cardiomyopathy, also called DCM, describes a diseased heart muscle that doesn't contract or pump efficiently. As the disease progresses, the heart chambers become enlarged, heart valves may leak, and congestive heart failure can develop.

## Cause of Dilated Cardiomyopathy Still a Mystery

The cause of DCM is unknown. Unlike heart muscle dysfunction in humans, when it happens in dogs and cats, it's very rarely the result of chronic coronary artery disease.

Nutritional deficiencies of taurine or carnitine have been linked to DCM in certain breeds. Male dogs seem to develop the condition more often than female dogs. And certain breeds, primarily large breeds, are more prone to DCM, including the Doberman pinscher, Boxer, Scottish deerhound, Irish wolfhound, Great Dane, Saint Bernard, Afghan hound, and Cocker spaniel.

Once in a while, DCM-like heart muscle deficiency develops secondary to an identifiable cause like exposure to a toxin or a heart infection.

## Symptoms of DCM

Early in the disease process there may be no obvious symptoms. Some dogs may have a reduction in exercise tolerance. Sometimes a slight heart murmur or other abnormal heart sounds or rhythms can be detected by a veterinarian during a physical exam.

As the heart disease progresses, the heart's ability to pump declines, so blood pressure in the veins behind the heart can increase.

Congestion of the lungs and fluid accumulation are common. Fluid can also build up in the abdomen and around the lungs, if the right side of the heart is also involved. Congestion and fluid buildup indicate heart failure. Dogs with DCM-induced heart failure often have left-sided congestive failure.

Symptoms include decreased ability to exercise, tiring quickly, increased respiration, and excessive panting and coughing. There may be recurrences of sudden episodes of weakness or fainting. Some dogs with DCM have enlarged abdomens and heavy breathing due to fluid accumulation.

Sudden death can also occur from heart rhythm disturbances, even though there aren't obvious external signs of heart disease. Advance signs of heart failure include labored breathing, reluctance to lie down,

and the inability to get comfortable. A worsening cough, reduced activity level, loss of appetite, as well as collapse, can all be symptoms.

Often owners of dogs with DCM feel as though their pet developed heart failure very quickly. But the underlying disease and damage to the heart muscle has actually been going on for months or even years in most cases.

## Diagnosis

In addition to a physical examination, your vet will need to run medical tests to confirm a diagnosis of DCM and determine the severity of the disease.

Keep in mind your vet can't, for example, know the size of your pet's heart by listening with a stethoscope. Sometimes a heart can sound pretty normal on auscultation (which is what vets do when they listen with a stethoscope), but there can be really significant changes going on inside the heart that are undetectable without additional tests.

The proBNP test is a simple blood test with a fast turnaround time that can detect a problem very early in the disease process by measuring the amount of peptide hormone in your pet's blood. This hormone is only released when the heart is pushed beyond its capacity. If your vet doesn't suggest a BNP blood test, I recommend you ask for it.

X-rays may also show enlargement of the heart chambers, and can also indicate the presence of fluid in the lungs.

An EKG can reveal atrial fibrillation and tachycardia, which means a rapid heart rate.

A heart ultrasound called an echocardiogram is also necessary for a definitive diagnosis of this disease. This test looks at the size of the heart and its ability to contract. If DCM is present, the heart chambers are enlarged and there's compromised contraction of the muscle. The echocardiogram can also be used to detect signs of early DCM in breeds that are at higher risk for the disease.

## Treatment Options

Treatment of dilated cardiomyopathy focuses on improving heart function and treating symptoms of congestive heart failure.

Conventional treatment involves the use of a variety of medications. ACE inhibitors are often prescribed to slow down the pro-

gressive changes to the heart that can lead to heart failure.

As the disease progresses, different drugs can be used to help the heart contract. Drugs can be administered to slow down a rapid heart rate, to manage accumulation of fluid in the lungs, or to dilate blood vessels. There are actually some drugs that can help the heart beat and pump more efficiently as well.

All of these drugs require careful monitoring for side effects. And unfortunately, side effects are rampant and can include electrolyte imbalances, reduced appetite, diarrhea and vomiting, depression, a drop in blood pressure, as well as kidney disease.

Veterinary cardiologists often combine medications, which makes careful monitoring of the patient that much more important.

Therapy for DCM is individualized for the patient's specific symptoms. In recent years, a small number of dogs have had defibrillators surgically implanted to manage life-threatening arrhythmias.

Unfortunately, because the disease is irreversible and heart failure is typically progressive, the drugs and dosages required to manage DCM usually increase over time.

Alternative therapies that can support heart function include herbs such as Hawthorne berry and cayenne. Supplements can also be very beneficial, including acetyl L-carnitine, the amino acid taurine, arginine, D-ribose, omega-3 fatty acids, and ubiquinol.

Of course, feeding a fresh food diet that is rich in naturally occurring amino acids will be the very best food therapy for a dog with DCM, and can also help nourish breeds predisposed to this medical problem.

## \* 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!**

## MEMBER APPLICANTS

### Marie Murphy

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

Sponsors: Dr. Karl Barth  
CharlotteStuckey

**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](http://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.

### Sandra Hartfiel

E8941 Lyn drive  
Fremont, Wisconsin 54940  
(920)667-4364  
email: Hartfiel@centurytel.net

Sponsors: Lynn Tamms, Dianne Armstrong  
**Sandra** currently has her first Miniature Schnauzer who is 4 years old. She also has an 11.5 year old Lab mix and has had other mixed breeds for over thirty years. She is not a breeder. Sandra has participated in obedience for 3 years, tracking for 2 years and Agility for 1 year. She attends approximately 12 events per year. Sandra belongs

to Oshkosh Kennel Club, Winnegamie Dog Club and the Tracking Club of Wisconsin. She has worked as an obedience steward at trials and is the editor of the newsletter for the tracking club. Her interests are in obedience. Sandra is a Registered Nurse by occupation. She really enjoys working and training with her dog and is now working toward her Utility title. Sandra enjoys learning and sharing information and is persistent and sticks with an assignment or job until it is finished.

### Keri L. Cathey

10303 S. 198th East Avenue  
Broken Arrow, Oklahoma 74014  
(918)381-0732 (cell)  
Email: keri-c@cox.net

Sponsors: Cindy Stoll, Kaye Kirk  
**Keri** has had Miniature Schnauzers since 1981. She is not a breeder. She has been doing obedience for 30 years, Agility for 4 years, therapy for 2 years and nosework for 1 year and attends 12-16 events per year. Keri belongs to the Tulsa Dog Training Club and the Companion Dog Club of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Her occupation is as a Senior Financial Forecast Analyst. Keri's interests lie in Obedience, Agility, Rescue and Awards and Trophies. Her dog, Solo is a rescue dog and her partner in the many activities that they are involved in.

### Marjorie Sue Phillips

113 Hill Castle Ct.  
Colombia, Illinois 62236-4543  
(618)281-0622  
Email: msp@htc.net

Sponsors: Teresa Handlen, Nancy Lincoln  
**Marjorie** has had Miniature Schnauzers since 1967. She is not a breeder. She attends approximately 40 agility trials, 12+ obedience trials and 2-4 seminars per year. Marjorie has been competing in agility for 6 years and obedience for approximately 3 months. She is a member of Gateway Agility Club, Gateway Miniature Schnauzer Club and Greater St. Louis Agility Club, all in St. Louis, Missouri and Triune Agility Club in Lawrence, Kansas. Marjorie is a retired music teacher and her interests lie in Obedience and Agility. She has an 8 year old rescue dog and another that she got as a puppy but does not list her age. She does fundraising for her local no-kill shelter and was a co-conference chair for the American Orff-Schulwerk Music and Movement Association 2012 Convention.

Cont'd p.5,col 1... APPLICANTS

**MEMBER APPLICANTS Cont'd**

**George S. Jacobus**

10711 W Caton Road  
 Corning, NY 14830  
 (607)962-0304  
 email: GJacobus@stny.rr.com

Sponsors: Vicki Kubic, Bonnie Keyes

**George** has had 9 Miniature Schnauzers and co-owns three Pugs. He is a breeder, listing that he has had 30 litters in the past five years. His interests are breeding, conformation and loving his dogs and he attends approximately four events per year. At this time, he does not belong to any other clubs. George is a retired corporate accountant. He would be interested in helping out with newsletter, membership, ethics and health. George has had Miniature Schnauzers for about 54 years, breeding sporadically. In the past few years, he has bred two Grand Champions and is showing another dog currently.

**Julio Parisi and Jorge Pedroza**

622 C. San Bruno Ave  
 Morgan Hill, CA 95037  
 (408)710-7687  
 email: gypsykaloa@yahoo.com

Sponsors: John Constantine,  
 Stephanie Davis Rae

In the past four years, Julio has finished 6 Champion Miniature Schnauzers, two of those being home bred. He is a breeder and has had three litters in the past 5 years. He enjoys conformation shows and tries to go to a show every weekend possible. He also belongs to the Miniature Schnauzer Club of Northern California. Julio is a dog groomer and Jorge is a driver. Their areas of interest are newsletter, education, ethics and health. Julio has been grooming for over 20 years and got his first Miniature Schnauzer over 23 years ago and this is the dog that got him started in grooming. Julio enjoys mentoring new people who are interested in the breed, show grooming, stripping and showing.

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

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

**BLOAT ...cont from p.1,col3**

develop GDV.

Large and giant breed dogs with deep, narrow chests seem at highest risk for bloat and GDV. The breeds most commonly diagnosed include the Great Dane, Basset Hound, Saint Bernard, Doberman Pinscher, Weimaraner, Old English Sheepdog, Irish Setter, German Shorthaired Pointer, Gordon Setter, Newfoundland, Standard Poodle and German Shepherd.

Other dogs at increased risk include those who are underweight and older animals. Dogs with a happy personality may have less risk.

An older study of GDV done at Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine suggested that elevated food dishes increase a dog's risk, and then there are those who believe elevated dishes help to prevent the problem. In my opinion, it's not so much about the dog's bowl as how fast he eats. Dogs that seem to inhale their food and swallow plenty of air in the process are in my experience at higher risk for GDV.

Other dietary habits considered to be risk factors for GDV include eating large amounts at each meal, eating just once a day, exercising shortly after a meal, drinking large quantities of water right after eating, and being in a stressful situation right after eating.

A study by veterinary faculty at the University of Pennsylvania published last year in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* points to dry kibble as a significant factor associated with increased risk of GDV. This makes all kinds of sense, since the majority of commercial dry dog food is loaded with grain-based carbohydrates that are highly fermentable. Fermentation, of course, produces gas. Recommendation, as always, is to feed a balanced, species-appropriate diet, which will reduce fermentation of food in the stomach and the risk of gas buildup and bloat.

A retrospective case-control study conducted in the U.K. and published last year concluded that gastric foreign bodies

are a significant risk factor for GDV. A gastric foreign body is defined as "nondigestible or slowly digestible material palpated during gastrointestinal tract examination that was causing clinical signs or was > 10 cm in length or > 2 cm in width."

Other suspected risk factors include increased gastrin concentration (gastrin is a hormone that controls release of acid in the stomach); decreased stomach motility and delayed gastric emptying (meaning food stays in the stomach longer than normal); and removal of the spleen.

In terms of recovering from gastric dilatation volvulus, according to a retrospective study published in 2010 involving over 300 dogs who underwent surgery for the condition, the factor that proved to be the most significant in decreasing the overall mortality rate was time from presentation to surgery. This is why I can't stress enough the importance of getting your dog immediate veterinary care if you suspect bloat or GDV.

**Things You Can Do to Help Prevent GDV in a High-Risk Dog**

Feed a species-appropriate diet with no grains or other fermentable carbohydrates, and feed two to three smaller meals a day vs. one large meal.

Don't exercise your dog for an hour after he eats, and also withhold large amounts of drinking water during that time.

If your dog eats too fast, try spreading the food out on a cooking sheet, or use a bowl designed to slow down eating.

Be very careful not to allow your dog to have bones, dental chews, toys or other foreign objects that are difficult or impossible to digest.

Minimize stress on your pet. Make sure she is well exercised (though not right after meals, as I've discussed). Most large breed dogs need lots of daily physical activity to maintain muscle tone and range of motion, decrease cortisol levels, and relieve boredom. You'll also want to keep vaccines to a minimum to reduce immunologic stress, and keep a lid on the amount of chemicals your pet is exposed to orally, topically, and in the environment.

A surgical procedure some vets offer for high-risk GDV dogs is called gastropexy, and it is typically performed at the same time the pet is spayed or neutered. Gastropexy tacks the stomach to the body wall so that it cannot move and twist around on itself in the event the dog becomes bloated. My first recommendation would be to try to prevent GDV with the right diet and other lifestyle choices, however, if your dog is a breed prone to the disorder and eats a primarily dry food diet, gastropexy may be your best option.

**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.)

## Highlights from the March 2013 AKC Delegate and Board Meeting

· The following Delegates were elected to the AKC Board of Directors Class of 2017:

- o Lee Arnold, Southern Colorado Kennel Club
- o Carl C. Ashby III, United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club
- o Alan Kalter, American Bullmastiff Association
  - o Harvey M. Wooding, Westminster Kennel Club

· The AKC Bylaws were amended to add the advancement of canine health and well-being to the objects of AKC and to make Agility Clubs eligible to apply for AKC membership. Both changes are effective immediately.

· The following AKC Staff promotions were announced:

- o Gina DiNardo, Vice President, Assistant Executive Secretary
- o Mark Dunn, Vice President, Registration Development and Customer Services
  - o Daphna Straus, Vice President, Business Development

Highlights from the March 12-13, 2013 AKC Board Meeting are as follows:

· The following Board Officers were elected:  
o Alan Kalter, Chairman  
o Dr. William R. Newman, Vice Chairman

· The following Executive Officers were elected:

- o Dennis B. Sprung, President/CEO
- o Daryl Hendricks, Chief Operating Officer
- o Peter W. Farnsworth, Chief Operating Officer
  - o James P. Crowley, Executive Secretary

· The Board interpreted Chapter 4, Section 2, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* as permitting clubs to only send electronic copies of the premium list, making the mailing of paper copies unnecessary.

Report by the Shows Sub Committee

- Put dog's call name and a cell phone # on crates.
- Cars and RVs – Hang card with info on vehicle.
- Affinity Insurance Service offers Show Stoppers – hard copy received at previous meeting.
- The entire committee report will be placed on All Breed Club resources site.
- Bring to shows:
  - Picture of dog
  - Vaccination record
  - Check with your veterinarian to see if they can provide a card to carry with photo ID and updated vaccines.

In addition to these highlights, I think the most important item we voted on at this meeting was a change in the Objects of the AKC. Even though it's always been an understood part of AKC, prior to this vote, there was nothing in AKC's Charter or Bylaws which stated plainly and specifically that AKC is concerned with the health and well-being of dogs. And the AR groups have capitalized on this over and over claiming we don't care about the health of our animals as long as they are "pretty" or can "win ribbons."

The Delegate Bylaws Committee proposed this amendment, and the Border Terrier Club proposed it be moved to the beginning of the objects. We passed this amendment overwhelmingly. Health and well-being is now the first object stated in Article III: Objects of the Club:

"The objects of the Club shall be ***to advance canine health and well-being***, to maintain and publish an official stud book, to adopt and enforce uniform rules regulating and governing purebred dog events, to regulate the conduct of persons interested in breeding, registering, selling, purchasing, exhibiting and running purebred dogs, to prevent, detect, and punish frauds in connection therewith, to protect the interests of its members, to publish an official kennel gazette, and generally to do everything to advance the study, breeding, exhibiting, running and maintenance of purebred dogs."

One additional note: Alan Kalter, Chairman, in his address to the Delegates made a significant commitment to the Delegates and our Clubs: He said "... AKC will proactively take the messages of the good things we [AKC] do to the public," and "we will always be aggressive in responding to AR propaganda posing as media stories." In addition he stated "While the cost to have a day-in and day-out public outreach program and an immediate response program is significant, we can afford it. In fact, we can't afford not to have it. With Churchill as inspiration, our mantra now is this: we will fight with growing confidence and growing strength; we will defend our rights, whatever the cost may be; and we will never stop fighting."

Don Farley

## Bouquets & Biscuits

\* **Am. Ch. Lakeside's Well Well Well** (Black) by Ch. Orleans's Fils Noir de Twister (B) X Lakeside's Heart Like a Wheel (S/P) finished her requirement for AKC championship title in January 2013. "Duffy" was bred by and is owned by Darlene Petche and Patricia Bond. She is the SEVENTH FEMALE champion for her sire, "Sonny", and the THIRD champion for her dam making her a TOP PRODUCER!

\* **Am. Ch. Lakeside's Panama Hattie** (Black/Silver) by Ch. Lakeside's Night and Day [B/S] X Ch Orleans' la Pois Noir [B] finished her requirements for AKC championship title in February. "Hattie" was bred by Darlene Petche and Patricia Bond, and is owned by Patricia Bond. She is the third champion for her sire and the second champion for her dam.

## YOU WHO...!

Report all changes to the roster to:

[treasurer@AMSC.us](mailto:treasurer@AMSC.us)

Sharon Edwards

21301 Golf Estates DR.

Laytonsville, MD 20882



Put snow BEHIND you and think of Spring!

## Why You Shouldn't Ignore Your Dog's Obsessive Licking

By Dr. Becker

Canine acral lick dermatitis (ALD), also known as lick granuloma, is an injury to the skin caused by chronic licking. ("Acral" pertains to or affects a limb or other extremity.)

Persistent licking causes the skin to become inflamed, and over time, it thickens. The area can't heal because of the constant licking. Also, the licking and inflammation cause itching, which causes more licking, which creates a vicious cycle of itching and licking. Secondary problems that can result from ALD are bacterial infection, ruptured hair follicles (a condition called furunculosis), and ruptured apocrine glands (a type of sweat gland in dogs). Any of these secondary conditions can make the itching worse and perpetuate the itch-lick cycle. The most common (though not the only) location for a lick granuloma is on the front side of a front leg between the elbow and toes. The condition is seen most often in middle-aged, large-breed dogs.

Many veterinarians believe itchy skin triggers excessive licking. It is also thought a painful condition can set it off – perhaps there's been trauma to the leg, a fracture, post-surgical discomfort, osteoarthritis, or peripheral neuropathy (damage to the nerves of the peripheral nervous system).

A bacterial or fungal infection can also trigger itching, as can the presence of skin mites.

In addition to physiological causes, incessant licking is also a common obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) in dogs. The act of licking may trigger the release of endorphins (natural substances that promote a sense of well-being). The dog learns that licking brings about this pleasant feeling, and keeps on licking.

There can also be psychological factors involved in obsessive licking, including boredom, stress, and separation anxiety. It is important to determine the cause of the licking so it can be treated effectively.

### Determining the Cause

If your dog has a lesion that could be ALD, there will typically be a raised area of ulceration, hair loss, and thickened skin around the lesion.

Your veterinarian should rule out any potential underlying allergic diseases first. A dog with recurrent skin or ear infections, hot spots, or itching in other areas of the body very likely has a generalized allergic condition that needs to be addressed. A possible allergy to fleas, food, or something in the dog's environment should be investigated.

Several tests are necessary to definitively diagnose lick granuloma,

including deep skin scrapings and fungal cultures. Skin biopsies and cultures of the inflamed tissue are also necessary to rule out conditions with similar symptoms, and to look for infection.

The vast majority of ALD cases involve bacterial infection. It's crucially important to identify the specific organism in order to determine the most effective treatment – especially since these organisms are often resistant to antibiotics, and 25 percent are methicillin resistant.

Other tests, including x-rays, may be required in the absence of an allergic condition or itching elsewhere on the body. If the dog has no behavioral abnormalities other than constant licking, while the licking may escalate into an obsession over time, chances are it isn't rooted in OCD or another psychological disorder.

### Treating Acral Lick Dermatitis

In addition to treating the wound, the underlying physical and/or emotional causes of ALD must also be addressed. Otherwise, the problem will recur.

To keep your dog's mouth away from the wound while it heals, an Elizabethan (E-collar) or BiteNot collar may be required. The collar can also be useful in curbing the behavioral component of obsessive licking by breaking the cycle.

Sometimes "out of sight, out of mind" also works, so applying a light, nonstick bandage may keep your dog from licking the wound. However, most dogs choose to eat the bandage, so don't take this approach if your dog will ingest the bandage! The most important point: the dog cannot lick the wound.

Keeping the wound clean is imperative. I recommend disinfecting the wound with dilute betadine twice daily. You'll also need to deal with any psychological or emotional factors that may be contributing to your pet's obsessive licking. Large breed dogs need lots of physical activity, so that's a good place to start. Most dogs will develop behavior problems of one kind or another if they spend a lot of time alone and don't get much exercise.

Changes in your dog's environment that create stress can also trigger behavior abnormalities. For example, if another pet in the family has died, or a new pet has been introduced, it can create stress for the existing dog. Make sure everyone in the family pays extra attention to your dog when there's any sort of change in household dynamics or routine.

Address any conflict in your dog's life, for example, separation anxiety, problems between animals in the home, or long periods of confinement and boredom.

In addition to making sure your pet is well

exercised, he also needs play time and activities that stimulate his brain, a species appropriate diet, a consistent daily routine, and clear and regular communication from you.

Crating or otherwise confining a large breed dog for several hours every day is asking for trouble – especially with dogs who are already displaying anxiety-based behaviors like incessant licking. If you're gone from home for long periods during the day, consider doggy day care or a dog walking service to give your pet opportunities for companionship and exercise while you're away.

### Drug Therapy

Some veterinarians prescribe antidepressants or anti-anxiety drugs, either short or long-term, for dogs with lick granuloma. Examples are clomipramine (Clomicalm®), fluoxetine (Prozac®), paroxetine (Paxil®), sertraline (Zoloft®), fluvoxamine (Luvox®) and citalopram (Celexa®). These drugs are powerful and have side effects, so I consider them an option of absolute last resort – for short-term use only – while other treatments and behavior modification therapies are being undertaken. At my hospital, I recommend starting with safer options, such as L-theanine, GABA, 5-HTP and Chinese herbs to Calm the Shen.

### Tip for Preventing Acral Lick Dermatitis

The best way to avoid a painful, infected lick granuloma in your own dog is to deal with obsessive licking behavior as soon as you become aware of it. Some lick granulomas can develop very quickly – within a matter of hours. Others take longer to appear. If you can avoid it, don't wait until there's an obvious injury to your dog's skin before seeking advice from your veterinarian.

- Develop the habit of running your hands over your dog – especially down the front legs – to check for damp fur or any sort of sensitivity.

- If your dog tends to place himself outside your line of vision, check on him frequently to insure he isn't hiding his obsessive licking from you.

- If he's licking a certain spot but there's no injury yet to the skin, try wrapping the area in an Ace bandage to discourage further licking. You can also try massaging a drop of the essential oil of lavender into the skin, or a dab of homeopathic Arnica gel over the area.

You'll still need to see your vet to identify and deal with the underlying reasons for the licking, but in the meantime, anything you can do to prevent your dog from self-injury will be tremendously beneficial.



<sup>®</sup> **AMSCOPE**

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

#### UPCOMING SPECIALTIES

Gateway MSC (Schnauzapalooza) May 10, 2013

Regular Classes: Claudia Seaberg  
Sweepstakes: David Owen Williams  
Rally and Obedience: Diane Propst.

Greater Cincinnati MSC May 23, 2013

Regular judge: John Constantine  
Sweeps: Donna Cambron

Centennial State MSC May 31, 2013

Regular Classes: David Kirkland  
Sweepstakes: David Williams

Chicago MSC (GLTA) June 15, 2013

Regular Classes- Al Ferruggiario  
Sweepstakes - Susan Schnell

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: Marie Pletsch

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/>