



AMSCOPE

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

October 2014

Volume CB24

Issue 10

SPECIALTY WINS

SWEEPSTAKES

JUDGE: Della Highley

1/BSV/G1 GCH CH SASQUEHANNA I
AM YOUR LOVE/Taylor.

REGULAR CLASSES

JUDGE: Wood Wornall

WD/BW DYNASTY SPARKS A

MIDNIGHT DREAM/Rice/Luzovich.

RWD TEXAS MASTER OF
MISCHIEF/Gish.

WB DEN SCHWARZEN WIRBEL
MUST HAVE//Elliott/

RWB LONEACRE'S DRESSED TO
KILL/Lelle /Santure.

BOB GCH CH SASQUEHANNA I AM
YOUR LOVE./Taylor.

BOS CH GCH GANGWAY'S MISSION
ENGINEER/Brown/Larsen.

SEL RIVERS POWERFUL STORM OF
NATURE/Gish/Scott

**The deadline
for the November
issue is October 16.**

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Coping With Car Sickness

We've all seen dogs that seem like they were born to go for drives with their family. As soon as they realize it's time to go for a drive, they jump in the car with energy and enthusiasm. It's as though they can't wait to start sniffing the passing landscape.

Some dogs, however, are the exact opposite: they dread car rides because they are prone to carsickness—and they know what's coming when the doors close and the engine starts.

How common is carsickness in dogs?

If your dog gets carsick, you may find some measure of comfort in the adage, "Misery loves company." The fact is, more dogs than you may have suspected suffer from this condition. According to research conducted in Europe*:

- About 1 in 3 dogs that travel suffer from travel sickness.
- 75% of dogs experience travel sickness for the first time when they are puppies.
- 47% of dog owners would travel more with their pet if they did not suffer from travel sickness.

Know the symptoms

Dogs that are prone to carsickness usually aren't subtle about it. If you notice that your dog is hesitant—or downright anxious—about entering a car, that may be a signal that he doesn't find car rides a pleasant experience. Once you're on the road, you may find your dog displaying one or more of these symptoms: excessive drooling, obvious panting, trembling, heaving, and vomiting.

Helpful tips

Desensitization training: Some pet psychologists think the problems begin with a dog's first car ride, which is often the day when he leaves the security of his mother and littermates. An early trip in the car might also include a traumatic visit to the veterinarian.

These first encounters leave a powerful impression on your pet. That's why he might be associating fear and stress

with the car.

In those cases, desensitization training may help. Though this potential solution requires patience, it is often effective in reversing problems. The key is to reprogram your dog's attitude by replacing negative triggers with positive conditioning.

First, put your dog in the car (in the place he will be sitting) and let him settle and relax for five minutes. Leave the doors open. Don't go anywhere. Don't even start the car. Praise and reward him with words, affection, and small treats.

Next, start the car—but don't drive. Observe your dog for signs of stress, which might include shaking, drooling, or drooping ears. If these are present, turn off the car until your dog calms down. Do not attempt to calm him, as soothing and attention as a result of his anxiety can actually reinforce the behavior. Eventually, when your dog is able to deal with the sound and vibration of the engine running, go for a short drive to a place he enjoys, like a park or dog run. Reward him with a toy, treat, or praise. You can continue this desensitization process until your dog is no longer queasy in the car. This generally takes several sessions.

Make sure your dog travels on an empty stomach: Many owners have discovered that an empty stomach is an effective way to prevent carsickness.

The security of a crate: It might also help

Continued on p. 3, col. 3... **CAR SICK**



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
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 Bulleting Committee.

Chair: Laurie Moore
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21301 Golf Estates Dr.
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STAND FOR EXAM by Lynn Tamms

This month I asked Clay Lincoln, the owner and trainer of the first Miniature Schnauzer in the history of the breed to earn both an Obedience Trial Championship and a Master Agility Championship to tell us what it takes to achieve that honor. For those of you who don't know, an OTCH requires that a dog earn 100 points (earned by placing in either Open B or Utility B), earn a first place in Utility B with at least 3 dogs in competition, earn a first place in Open B with at least 6 dogs in competition, and earn an additional first place in either class. A MACH requires that the dog qualify in the Standard Master class and the Jumpers with Weaves Master Class on the same day twenty times.

Here is Clay's and Rocky's story.



After 18 years of marriage, I finally convinced my wife Nancy, definitely not a "dog person", that I needed a dog - her choice. After attending several conformation shows, she picked miniature schnauzers. Two weeks later, we came home from a local breeder with a nine week old little girl named "Lee". Lee and I earned a UD and she was also an outstanding hospital therapy dog certified to work in ICU units. She lived to be almost 16 and gave me the first big high point of my dog life. Our first time in a ring with 24 other Novice A exhibitors and we got first place. Needless to say we were hooked.

Lee was not that excited to continue in obedience, so we checked around and made a trip from St. Louis to Austin, TX for a boy dog from Sonny Lelle's Southcross Schnauzers - the best decision we ever made. Sonny told me Rocky was going to be one inch over size and needed a job and she was right on the money. Little did I know what our future held.

My initial goal was a UD with great scores, so obedience training started right away. We took classes from a wonderful trainer/

mentor Caren Rohlfing, and trained regularly. There was lots of work on attention and accuracy. All treats came from my mouth to his using one or both hands. Rocky and I began building a lifetime bond that there are no words to describe - it's like there are six feet on the floor with one brain. He had wonderful drive and temperament, and loved to work. We entered our first Novice B trial when Rocky was three. In Sept. 2002, at age four, Rocky finished his UD, earning two high in trials from Novice, one from Open and many placements along the way. At this point, I began thinking about an OTCH.

At the same time, we were also taking classes and showing in agility. By this time, Rocky was working toward his MACH. He really loved agility and I decided to concentrate on that for a while - figuring I could do obedience as I got older, but maybe not agility! I am not a track star and the road was rough - seven trials in a row one second over jumpers course time. How can I speed him up, especially in the weaves? Aha - I placed a target with a treat at the end of the poles and we raced - whoever got there first ate the treat. We really started to click and earned our first MACH in April, 2005.

While training and showing in both obedience and agility, it was clear that Rocky preferred agility. We were showing regularly in obedience, and were in the 190s with some 2nds, 3rds and 4ths - but no 1sts! I was beginning to think that an OTCH was not in the future as competition is tough in our area. Then in March 2006, Rocky got an Open B first and high in trial. We decided to let Nancy finish his MACH2 so I could concentrate on obedience. The change in his obedience attitude was immediate. We started practicing every day at a local ring, half work half play and I got the surprise of a lifetime - I had a new and excited obedience dog. Maybe doing just one sport each was it. We worked hard and played hard, doing all kinds of funny things and keeping it light. He loved agility with Nancy, but he also loved obedience with me. A weekend with no trial was rare.

Then in Nov. 2006, I had surgery and Rocky and I just hung out for three months. We started showing again in Jan. 2007 - without training and with 27 OTCH points - and by the middle of March we had earned two Utility B firsts and one Open B first giving us 96 points! On April 28, 2007, at a trial in Arkansas we got an Open B first

Continued on p. 3, col. 1... **STAND**

and ten points for our OTCH! Sonny was our long distance cheerleader and I will never forget calling from the trial to tell her we had the first OTCH MACH miniature schnauzer in the history of AKC.

During all of this, Rocky was doing pet assisted therapy at our local hospital twice a week in Physiological intensive care, Physical Therapy and Skilled Nursing units. He also earned two more MACHs before he retired. No couch potatoes around here. Looking back, I think there are two keys to the OTCH. The first is attention! This is crucial for accurate heeling and ring performance. Second is daily training for perfection and keeping it fun. My main man Rocky is now pushing seventeen, laying here snoozing in his bed next to my desk. It was a wonderful six year journey from Novice to OTCH MACH - but best of all is the bond we have.

Clay Lincoln lincolnbow@aol.com

TROPHIES!



There are two ways to make your donation:

1. Mail a check, payable to AMSC (note Trophy Fund) to:
AMSC Treasurer, 2131 Golf Estates Drive, Laytonsville, MD 20882
2. At PayPal.com; must have a PayPal account and pay in US currency

Beautiful Trophies Help Acknowledge the Best of Our Breed

Bouquets & Biscuits

* **MACH5 PACH Southcross Fascinating Rhythm UDX3 OM3 VER RE XF MXC2 MJC2 MXP4 MJP3 PAX** (Ch Southcross Blockbuster x Ch MACH2 Southcross The Strong Survive) earned her Preferred Agility Championship (PACH) on April 12, 2014 at the Greater St. Louis Agility Club trial in St. Louis. She also earned her obedience Versatility (VER) title on August 11, 2014 at the Tri-Country Agility Club obedience trial. Tempo just turned 12 and still loves to play! She was bred by Sonny Lelle, is owned and loved by Clay and Nancy Lincoln and trained and shown by Nancy.

* **MACH Bravo's Eden Flynn Mtneer Alias RA, MX, MXB, MXJ, MJB** (Ch. Repition's Busta Rhymes x Ch. Bravo's Just Fabulous) earned his MACH title on August 15, 2014 at Carolina Piedmont Agility Club. Bristow was bred by Donna L. Hills and is owned, handled and loved by Margaret V. Mills. Bristow is now a 2x Champion in agility for CPE and AKC venues. Bristow has been such an amazing agility partner and companion for my first dog. Thank you, Donna Hills, for this wonderful boy!!

* **MACH4 Southcross Majority Vote CDX BN GN XF MXB2 MJB2** (Ch Bravo's The Great Gatsby x Ch Cholet's Dangerous Devotee) earned his fourth Master Agility Championship (MACH4) at the Greater St. Louis Agility Club trial on August 15, 2014. Major was bred by Sonny Lelle, is owned and loved by Clay and Nancy Lincoln and trained by Nancy

***Southcross Road Rage "Fury" UDX OM VER RN NA NAJ** (CH Wards Creek's Extreme Commitment x CH Classic Southcross Eclipse CD RN). Fury completed the requirements for her Obedience Trial Champion (OTCH) Title on August 16, 2014, at the Marshfield Kennel Dog Show in Wisconsin. Fury is my second miniature schnauzer to earn this coveted Obedience Title. These special dogs, OTCH Fury (2014) and OTCH Chrissy (2010) were bred by Sonny Lelle, Elgin, Texas, and are owned, trained and loved by Louise Botko.

to travel with your dog in his crate, if it can be securely fastened on the car's seat or floor. The crate generally comforts your dog and gives him a place to lie down, which can reduce motion sickness.

Make frequent rest stops: If your dog realizes that he's not going to be confined to a moving car for too long a period, he may enjoy the trip more. So take frequent rest stops for him to stretch his legs and relieve himself.

Open the windows for fresh air: If you've ever been carsick, you know how fresh air can help revive you. So open the windows a safe amount—not enough for your dog to escape or stick his head out—and let the air (and its distracting and ever-changing array of odors) refresh your dog.

Medication: If all else fails and you must travel with your dog, consult your veterinarian about possible medications that can be prescribed.

*Harris Interactive, February 2008



* 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!

**Send information to
Carla Borrelli
1799 South Creek Road, Derby, NY
14047
716-627-3206
cborr@aol.com**



A Little History of The AMERICAN MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB MEDALLION

August 28, 2003

Gerald M. Kyser

310 Brook ridge Drive, NW

Camden, Arizona 71701-31 06

Dear Jerry:

I am sending you in the next few days by Federal Express the AMSC medallion model. I am including with it a background statement about its development. If you think the background I have prepared is of interest, I hope you can find someone to print it up in larger letters so it can be easily read by those who come to see it. I have not looked at the model since I received it (IT IS ABOUT 2 FEET SQUARE) because I did not want to take off the bubble wrap which protects it. I have added some more wrap to areas which did not seem to be completely covered. I hope it arrives safely, i.e., no wear and tear that has not resulted from the several moves it has been through in 40+ years. The shipping box is 32" X 25+" X 22+" and weighs about 24 pounds. It takes lots of packing chips.

I hope the members who come to see it will find it; and its history of interest and will understand the dedication of those who worked on it and Walter House who kept it safe for the AMSC to have as part of its archives.

cc: Hirstein, AMSC President (but not the details on box size and weight)

Sincerely,

Margaret W. Pratt

The idea of having an American Miniature Schnauzer Club (AMSC) Medallion originated in the 1960s during the presidency of Walter House (Crown-Post Kennel). The idea was approved by the Board and a Special Committee was set up to work with an artist to design the medallion. Those involved wanted a symbol for the AMSC which was more elegant and eye-catching than the black and silver diamond with an MS face and the block letters which had been used for club stationery for a number of years. It was also during Walter's presidency that the club began the preparation of various of our publications (some still pretty much as they were developed at that time). We wanted them to be copyrighted and marked with a symbol identifying them as "official" publications of the AMSC.

As with many ideas initiated within the AMSC, it was not welcomed by all club members.

The concept of a round base with a "raised" Miniature Schnauzer head in profile and the club name -- all in brass -- was strongly opposed by a few and there was opposition by them to use of club funds for development of the medallion model and its use for various purposes. These purposes include:

- The AMSC Best of Breed Medallions awarded at AMSC Specialty Shows
 - * AMSC Stationery
 - AMSC membership pins
 - Identification for AMSC Publications
- To set aside as much negative

reaction as possible, Walter asked the Board members who had approved and supported the project to put up their own money to pay for development of the "model" of the medallion. This was not greeted with universal enthusiasm, but we did contribute the money to pay for the design and development of the prototype of the medallion which you see here. The club paid for use of the model to generate the various versions needed for the uses cited above.

As the club has noted through the years, many of our members have not appreciated the importance and value of historical documents, pictures, and other items. And to be truthful, many members did not have space to use to house items such as the medallion model.

Nonetheless, through several moves in New Jersey and Virginia, Walter provided a safe home for the Medallion model. He hung it on a wall and would point it out with pride to those of us who would find it of



MONTGOMERY COUNTY...

THE AMSC HEALTH COMMITTEE AND THE AMSC BOARD OF GOVERNORS PROUDLY ANNOUNCE AN EVENING WITH DR. URS GIGER,

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA'S SCHOOL OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE & AMSC FUNDED RESEARCHER.

WHEN: **Thursday, October 2, 2014 @ 6:30pm**

WHERE: Homewood Suites Valley Forge

681 Shannondell Blvd.

Audubon, PA 19403

610.382.3985 direct line

PARTICIPATION: Open to the Public/Friends and Guests of
AMSC Members

TOPIC: Canine hereditary disorders and genetic
predispositions: Updates on avian mycobacteriosis and other
diseases in Miniature Schnauzers.

PRESENTOR: Urs Giger, PD Dr. med. vet. MS FVH
Dipl. ACVIM & ECVIM (Internal Medicine)
Dipl. ECVCP (Clinical Pathology)
Charlotte Newton Sheppard Professor of Medicine
School of Veterinary Medicine
University of Pennsylvania
3900 Delancey Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104-6010
Phone 215 898 8830; fax 215 573 2162

FORMAT: LECTURE/SLIDE PRESENTATION/UPDATE WITH
EXTENSIVE Q&A PERIOD

REFRESHMENTS: AVAILABLE IN THE LOBBY BEFORE THE
EVENT

If you need additional information please contact Patti
Henderson at email aristosms@comcast.net



“BE THERE!”

HOST HOTEL: Homewood
Suites by Hilton Philadelphia-
Valley Forge
681 Shannondell Blvd.,
Audubon, Pennsylvania,
19403,
USA TEL: +1-610-539-
7300FAX: 1-610-539-2970

We are having our dinner
Saturday night at the hotel in the
meeting room (the same room
where Dr. Giger will be speaking.)

The cost of the event is only
\$15.00 not including drinks at the
bar which will consist of beer,
wine, soft drinks and water.

We will also have mixes for those
who care to bring hard liquor. We
will have stationary and hand
passed hearty hors'doeuvres .

This gathering begins at 6PM and
goes through 8:30.

Chairs will be available for seating
during the general meeting and
awards.

This year is designed with the
intention of getting better
participation, cutting costs to
exhibitors and friends, and getting
us to bed earlier.

Please let the planning committee
know if the evening worked for you
or not and why.

Dognapped! Pooch Thefts Are on the Rise, Animal Advocates Say

Dognappings were up 33 percent in 2013, statistics show
By Hilary Shenfeld

When Sunny, a 1-year-old Pomeranian, ran out of his Chicago backyard and into an alley, the pup's owner tried to chase after him, but the dog scampered away too fast. She caught up just in time to see a woman escaping with Sunny under her arm. Her shouts didn't stop the thief, but it wasn't long before she got a ransom call. Using contact information from Sunny's tags, the alleged dognapper called the woman, 66, on Thursday, demanding \$250. "I have your dog, but what's the reward?" the caller reportedly said, according to DNAinfo Chicago. "Because I ain't giving it back unless I get a reward."

Sunny's owner went to police, who hatched a sting operation to ensnare the culprit. As they listened in, the victim phoned the dognapper and said she would meet the demands if her little Pom was returned, Chicago police tell PEOPLE. The thief agreed but threatened to shoot the elderly woman if she "got anyone else involved," according to DNAinfo.

It's just the latest example of an increasingly common crime. In 2013, dognappings were up 33 percent over the year before, with 609 dog thefts reported across the nation, according to 2013 statistics from the American Kennel Club. The full number could be even higher because not every theft is reported to the organization, Hillary Prim, AKC spokeswoman, tells PEOPLE.

A Crime with Two Victims

Police consider dogs as property, but it's a particularly heartbreaking crime "with two victims at play, the owner and the dog," she said. "Unlike other forms of property, victims of pet theft are often suffering from the loss of valued family members."

Pit bulls and pit mixes were the most stolen dogs last year, followed by Yorkshire terriers, Chihuahuas, French bulldogs, Labrador retrievers and Pomeranians, the AKC says. And the rate shows no signs of slowing – so far in 2014, dog thefts are on pace to match last year's numbers, though this year thieves seem to be targeting pit bulls and pit mixes, Yorkies, Chihuahuas, Rottweilers, German shepherds, bulldogs and Shih Tzus.

It's a crime largely driven by economic factors, with thieves often motivated by the chance to get a ransom or to resell to others, Prim said.

Benadryl for Dogs: What You Need to Know

by Wendy Gould

If your dog has itchy skin or cold or flu-like symptoms, your vet might prescribe a human medication, Benadryl, for use with your dog.

As part of a Paw Nation series providing background about the medical problems your pet may suffer from, we spoke to Dr. Jean Hofve, holistic veterinarian and author living in Denver, Colorado, to get some insights about the use of the drug.

Of course, you should always consult your veterinarian before giving medicine or supplements to your pet.

What is Benadryl for dogs?

Benadryl is a brand name, but the drug's name is diphenhydramine.

Can you buy it over-the-counter?

Benadryl for dogs is available over-the-counter under many generic labels. However, it is not FDA-approved for veterinary use.

What is the most common use of Benadryl for dogs? It's mainly used as an antihistamine for allergic skin disease. It is also used to treat motion sickness and, on occasion, to prevent anaphylaxis. For example, when an animal has had a bad reaction to a vaccine, Benadryl may be administered prior to the next vaccine.

What are the main benefits of Benadryl for dogs? Antihistamines such as diphenhydramine may be somewhat helpful for dogs who are itchy due to inhalant allergies.

They are usually used together with other drugs, because antihistamines are not reliably effective alone.

What are common risks? Drowsiness is the main side effect. Since dogs don't drive or operate heavy machinery, it is relatively safe for them.

Are there long-term concerns with Benadryl for dogs? Long-term potential adverse effects have

not been well studied. Many allergies in dogs are seasonal, so the drug isn't usually used for more than a few months at a time. The maker (McNeil PPC) cautions that Benadryl may cause cardiac symptoms.

In older adult humans, long-term use may lead to cognitive dysfunction — a condition that also affects older dogs. It is also dehydrating, which may be an issue for animals with bladder or kidney disease.

How expensive is Benadryl for dogs and are there alternatives? It is the same as any generic diphenhydramine.

There are alternative antihistamines including chlorpheniramine, cyproheptadine, and hydroxyzine. Most of these require a prescription

A Dangerous Trend in Pet Health: Fat is the New Normal

Well, the latest depressing results are in, and I'm sad to report U.S. pets continued to get fatter during 2011.

A survey of veterinarians conducted by the Association for Pet Obesity Prevention (APOP) found that 53 percent of adult dogs and 55 percent of adult cats are officially overweight or obese. In terms of how pet owners view their overweight four-legged companions, not surprisingly, fat has become the new 'normal.'

Fifteen percent of cat owners and 22 percent of dog owners view their too-heavy pets as being of normal weight. Oddly, over 90 percent of pet owners are aware pet obesity is a problem, yet many don't acknowledge the furry obesity statistic living under the same roof with them.

Dr. Ernie Ward of APOP considers a major contributing factor to be commercial pet food and treats. He points out that a typical dog treat fed to a 20 pound dog is the equivalent of a human eating 2 double-stuffed fudge cookies. A pig ear fed to a 40 pound dog is like a human drinking a six-pack of 12 ounce sodas.

As Your Pet's Waistline Grows, His Lifespan Shrinks

The number of obese pets, defined as animals who are 30 percent or more above normal weight, or have a body condition score of 5, is on the upswing. The APOP study found 25 percent of all cats and 21 percent of all dogs were obese in 2011, which is a jump up from 2010, when 22 percent of cats and 21 percent of dogs were considered obese.

According to Dr. Ward, "What this tells us is that more and more of our pets are entering into the highest danger zone for weight-related disorders."

Common weight-related health conditions seen in heavy pets include osteoarthritis, diabetes, hypertension, respiratory problems, kidney disease, and a reduction in both quantity and quality of life.

According to Dr. Steve Budsberg, Director of Clinical Research at the University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine: "The prevention of obesity needs to be at the forefront of all discussions people have about the health of their pet with their veterinarian. The body of evidence that

Continued on p. 7, col. 1 ... **OBESITY**

OBESITY....con't from p. 6, col.3

shows the negative impact of obesity on all the body's systems is overwhelming. As an orthopedic surgeon I see, on a daily basis, the effects of obesity on dogs and cats with osteoarthritis. It is very frustrating to see how much pain and discomfort excess weight has on my patients.

Veterinarians and owners have the ability to stop obesity in our pets. No animal goes to the refrigerator or the pantry and helps themselves. We enable our pets to get fat!" I couldn't agree more with Dr. Budsberg on this issue. In fact, in a recent article I discussed how little effort it actually takes – and the huge impact it makes – when an overweight dog who's having trouble getting around takes off a few pounds.

I also agree with Dr. Ward when he states, "Pet obesity is plainly a people problem, not a pet problem. The most important decision pet owners make each day regarding their pet's health is what they choose to feed it." According to almost half the owners of overweight cats, their vet has never mentioned the problem to them.

Three quarters of dog owners, however, report their vet has discussed the problem of obesity with them.

And less than 50 percent of cat owners have ever discussed nutrition or food choices with their vet, yet nearly 90 percent of dog owners report a discussion with their vet on the subject.

This is a disturbing trend I certainly hope my peers in the veterinary community take note of.

More Pet Obesity Statistics

Even though almost 7 million dogs and 22 million cats in the U.S. are obese, less than 10 percent of their owners acknowledge the problem. According to Dr. Ward,

"The fact that few pet owners admit their pet is obese leads to a lack of interest in helping their pet lose weight."

A 95 pound male Golden retriever is the equivalent of a 214 pound 5'9" male or a 184 pound 5'4" female. Since Golden Retrievers are more inclined than many other breeds to suffer everything from allergies to hip and joint disease to cancer, I wish owners of these wonderful dogs would not add to their potential health problems by allowing their pets to grow overweight or obese.

A 10 pound Chihuahua? Now the 5'9" man is 282 pounds and the 5'4" woman is 242 pounds. Or how about that 15 pound domestic short-haired kitty? Picture 218 pounds on a 5'4" female frame, or 254

pounds on the 5'9" male.

The vast majority of dogs and cats are quite a bit smaller than adult humans, so it stands to reason that added weight on a smaller body has more significant, more immediate ramifications than added weight on a bigger body. And when you factor in the short lifespan of the average dog or cat, what you have is a pet whose already brief life will be cut even shorter, and the quality of that life will not be optimal as the animal develops the inevitable diseases that come with overweight and obesity.

Let's Turn This Trend on Its Head in 2012

If you feel as I do and want to be boasting about your pet's healthy weight loss and improved quality of life over the next several months, there's a vast amount of help available

for you .

Some common sense tips to help you get started:

- Feed a · balanced, species appropriate diet to your pet. Regardless of her weight, your dog or cat still needs the right nutrition for her species, which means food that is high in animal protein and moisture, with low or no grain content.

- Practice · portion control — usually a morning and evening meal, carefully measured. A high protein, low carb diet with the right amount of calories for weight loss, controlled through the portions you feed, is what will take the weight off your dog or cat. And don't forget to factor in any calories from treats.

- Regularly exercise your pet. An overweight body gets back in shape by taking in fewer calories and expending more energy. Daily exercise, including at least 20 minutes of consistent aerobic activity, will help your pet burn fat and increase muscle tone.



This week I had my first experience with Lap of Love. Lap of Love is a Veterinary hospice and carries out in-home euthanasia.

When it was obvious that it was "time", the owners of my wonderful boy, Boaster (CH Carbor Big Talk) asked me if I would like to be with him when he was euthanized. They explained Lap of Love to me - I had never heard of it. Of course I wanted to be there. Boaster was one of my favorite little boys. He lived with me for six years before he was placed in a new home. There are two other Miniature Schnauzers in that home. One is

JUST A DOG!

From time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, it's just a dog," or, "that's a lot of money for just a dog." They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a dog."

Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog."

Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a dog," but I did not once feel slighted.

Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a dog," and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a dog" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "just a dog," then you will probably understand phrases like, "just a friend", "just a sunrise" or "just a promise".

"Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust and pure unbridled joy.

"Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of "just a dog" I will rise early, take long walks, and look longingly to the future.

So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a dog" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past and the pure joy of the moment.

"Just a dog" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a dog" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a man."

So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog," just smile, because they "just don't understand."

LAP OF LOVE www.LapOfLove.com

a lively, boisterous little boy and the other is a black/silver little girl who likes to think she is alpha.

I arrived at the home early so that I could spend a little time with Boaster. The other two gave me a boisterous greeting.

The vet that came was very considerate and caring as he explained the procedure. The owner wanted to hold Boaster in his favorite chair in his favorite room.

After the drugs had taken effect, the vet brought in a basket and swaddled Boaster in a blue blanket. That was how he took Boaster to be cremated.

The other two dogs were so quiet and respectful...they both leaned against the owner.

This was very sad but meaningful to the owners.



® **AMSCOPE**

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UPCOMING SPECIALTIES

Greater Columbus MSC Nov. 15, 2014
Regular Classes: Michael Buckley
Sweepstakes: Carol Ann Patterson

AMSC SPECIALTIES

Montgomery Co. October 5, 2014
Regular Classes Margo Klingler
Sweeps Carla Nickerson

Roving Specialty- Denver Feb.15, 2015
Regular classes, Wyoma Clouss
Sweeps-Kurt Garmaker

Great Western June 21,2015
Regular classes, Judy Smith
Sweeps-Shawne Imler

Montgomery Co. Oct.4, 2015
Regular classes: Michae Dougherty
Sweeps:Sharon Edwards

Roving Specialty-Purina Farms Apr.3 2016,
Regular classes, Carol Weinberger
Sweeps-Janet Taylor

Great Western June 26,2016
Regular classes, Linda More
Sweeps-Mary Paisley

Montgomery Co. Oct.9, 2016
Regular classes: Jon Cole
Sweeps:Linda Drost

Correction for the roving speciality in February will be held at the Hall of Education at the Coliseum, not at the Stapleton area. The Coliseum is located off I-70 in Denver.

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: The following information is given to help conduct AMSC business more efficiently. Please remember that the Secretary and the AMSCOPE editor should **BOTH** be notified of address changes, club officers and specialty results.

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