



AMSCOPE

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

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Eating Just ONE of These Can Be Fatal to Your Pet

If you have pets in your home, be sure to be very careful where you store your loose change. A shiny, dirty (imagine all the smells) coin can be quickly gobbled up by pets — typically by dogs but also possibly by cats and birds.

Anytime a coin is eaten, there's a risk of potential problems, including intestinal blockage (this is especially true if a large number of coins are consumed). However, the even more urgent and potentially deadly issue isn't necessarily an obstruction, it's the toxic metal lurking in the coin, specifically certain pennies.

Pennies Minted After 1982 Can Kill Your Pet

Pennies minted after 1982 pose a serious risk to pets because they're made out of mostly (nearly 98 percent) zinc. Only the outer coating is copper (making up about 2.5 percent of the penny's metal). This is in sharp contrast to pennies minted prior to 1982, when they were made from about 95 percent copper.

The switch to zinc is important for pet owners to be aware of, as it's toxic to pets when consumed in excess. Once in your pet's stomach, stomach acid will begin to corrode the coin and in so doing rapidly release zinc into his bloodstream.

This excess zinc exposure can destroy red blood cells and cause liver damage, kidney failure and heart failure. You may notice the following signs and symptoms:

- Weakness
- Anemia (pale gums)
- Vomiting
- Increased heart rate and breathing
- Discolored urine (pink, brown)

- Jaundiced gums
- Lack of appetite
- Collapse
- Death

One penny contains about 2,440 milligrams of zinc,³ and while it's unknown what the toxic zinc dose in dogs is, it's known that the longer a penny sits in your dog's stomach, the more zinc that will be systemically absorbed.

Zinc inhibits the production of red blood cells and the longer the exposure to the zinc, the greater the damage to red blood cells. The problem is that many pet parents do not actually see their pet ingest the penny, and therefore may not associate the symptoms that follow with an ingested coin.

If your pet displays any of the symptoms noted above, seek veterinary attention immediately. An x-ray can reveal whether a metallic object such as a penny is in your dog's stomach. Laboratory tests to measure the levels of zinc in the pet's blood should also be run.

Just One Penny Can Fatally Poison Your Dog

Please don't assume that your pet must ingest an entire piggy bank to be in serious trouble. There are, sadly, many cases of dogs dying after ingesting just a single penny.

There are stories of hope as well, such as Jack, a Jack Russell terrier from New York City, who swallowed 111 pennies and survived after his veterinarian was able to surgically remove the coins.

In Jack's case, vomiting was the initial symptom, which highlights why it's so important to seek veterinary care if your dog is vomiting or seems otherwise ill. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) Animal Poison Control Center (APCC) highlighted another case of penny poisoning in a dog:⁶

"... [A] dog had been vomiting for three days and was suffering from anemia and elevated kidney values when his regular veterinarian called the APCC for help.

His owner had no idea if he'd eaten anything out of the ordinary, but the APCC suspected zinc toxicosis. Sure enough, x-rays revealed a metallic object in the stomach."

After the coin was surgically removed, this lucky dog made a full recovery after about 10 days. As mentioned, while dogs are most likely to be poisoned by pennies, even cats and larger pet birds can be at risk.

The easiest way to prevent this potentially deadly accident is to store your coins safely

out of your pet's reach.

In addition, wild animals and zoo animals also suffer if they ingest pennies, so be careful about dropping coins outdoors and definitely avoid tossing pennies into fountains, ponds or zoo-animal habitats.

Other Items That Pose a Risk of Zinc Toxicity

In addition to pennies, animals can be poisoned if they consume other sources of zinc as well. Top risky items to watch out for include:

- Human vitamin and mineral supplements
- Cold remedy lozenges
- Zinc oxide creams and ointments (such as sunscreen and diaper rash cream)
- Acne medications
- Galvanized steel nuts and bolts (such as those found on pet crates)
- Tacks
- Zippers from clothing and luggage
- Batteries
- Board game pieces

If your pet ingests a zinc-containing item, it will need to be promptly removed. Surgery may be necessary or in some cases the item may be able to be removed non-surgically using an endoscope.

First, however, your pet must be stabilized. Initial efforts should be focused on treating dehydration, shock, and electrolyte imbalances, and increasing urine output. After that, supportive care will be necessary depending on the extent of zinc poisoning.

This may involve fluid therapy to help prevent kidney failure, blood transfusion in cases of severe anemia and more. Prevention is the best strategy here, so keep all zinc-containing objects away from your pets. Also, be sure you're not intentionally giving your pet extra zinc.

There is a rare skin condition called canine zinc-responsive dermatosis that occurs in some northern breed dogs. Some pet owners wrongly assume supplemental zinc will help with their pet's dry, flaky or allergic skin and begin supplying zinc pills, which can cause fatal toxicosis in some cases.

Ed.'s Note: *One of my dogs went into convulsions. Each consecutive convulsion lasted longer than the one before because of the buildup of zinc. The owner was putting on a medicinal hand cream before making food balls for the dog. When the dog came back to me, all convulsions ceased.*

**The deadline
for the November issue
is OCTOBER 15**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|----------------------------|---|
| AKC.... | 3 |
| Behavior and Health | 3 |
| Bouquets & Biscuits | 5 |
| Eating Just One | 1 |
| Everyone of us can learn.. | 5 |
| Montgomery Weekend Info | 7 |
| NEW APPLICANTS | 4 |
| You'd Completely Miss This | 6 |
| Retinal Dysplasia... | 3 |
| Stand for Exam | 2 |

LOOK

Please let me know if you make a change

* **DECALS & PINS.** You can get AMSC decals (\$1.00) and replacement pins (\$7.50) from

Jacquelyn Ebersbach
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West Palm Beach, FL 33407
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***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.

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STAND FOR EXAM

Lynn Tamms

Having just returned from a weekend of Earthdog trials, I thought I would write about this sport. "The purpose of non-competitive Earthdog tests is to offer breeders and owners of small Terriers and Dachshunds a standardized gauge to measure their dog's natural aptitude and trained hunting and working behaviors when exposed to an underground hunting situation."

The sport has been around for a while and was first only sanctioned by the American Working Terrier Association. I was not able to determine when the AKC formally started offering titles.

Basically your dog has to go into a tunnel, reach the "quarry" (usually a caged rat protected by dowels so the dog cannot access it) and "work" the quarry for a set period of time. The dens are 30' long with 3 ninety degree turns. There are 3 levels of official titles....Junior Earthdog, Senior Earthdog and Master Earthdog. The level of difficulty increases at each title level.

In Junior, the dog must enter the den from a distance of 10', get to the quarry in 45 seconds and work the quarry (whining, barking, digging) for 60 seconds. The tunnels are buried wooden "liners". At the end the liner is exposed with a lid opening for removal of the dog.

In Senior, the dog must enter the tunnel from a distance of 20', get to the quarry in 90 seconds and work the quarry for 90 seconds. This tunnel contains a "false den" with an exit. The dog is expected to distinguish the real quarry den and work it. At the end of the 90 seconds the dog must recall out of the den and the handler must "retrieve" the dog within 90 seconds. (Believe me this is the hard part. The dogs do not want to leave the rats. Fortunately the rats are removed before this part.)

Master is different. Two handlers and two dogs work at the same time. The dogs are off leash and must "hunt" through a field looking for the quarry. There is a false den that must be checked and the real den (which is blocked temporarily) must be located by both dogs. The first dog to locate the den becomes the first dog to work the den. The other dog "honors" by being tied out about 10-15 feet from the den opening. Once inside the den, the dog encounters a "restriction"...den size which is normally 9 inches by 9 inches is restricted to 6 inches by 6 inches. The dog also encounters an

"obstruction" which is usually a 6" diameter PVC pipe placed across the den. There is also a false den and false exit. The dog has 90 seconds to get to the quarry and must work for 90 seconds. Sometime during the working period, the judge "digs" with a small shovel to simulate the "digging out of the terrier" that occurs in real hunting. After 90 seconds the handler retrieves the dog by lifting it out of the den. (The dog doesn't like that either.)

There are not a lot of Miniature Schnauzers who compete in Earthdog tests, but there have been some really good ones over the years. The AKC event calendar will list tests. If you get a chance to try it, I guarantee it will be fun. There is a non titling class called Intro to Quarry that is almost always offered at the tests. It's an opportunity to get acquainted with the sport and introduce your dog to it. The judge almost always helps you work with the dog and it's really a great warm up.

Often the test giving club will have "rat games" in the evenings and you can have a chance to work with your dog. I've attached a picture of Finch working an above ground tunnel with plexiglass sides. Finch is a "dedicated" earthdog who has her Master Earthdog title.



Behavior and Health

Researchers reported that humans have a natural tendency to look left first when they face each other. Dogs, when looking at humans, do the same, but not when they look at other animals. This, and other findings have led scientists to look at other related behaviors. For example, dogs can read human emotions. They interpret our body language and our moods which other animals cannot. They use barking as their behavior and language to communicate. These behaviors are being studied in Budapest, Hungary, by Dr. Alan Makhosi because these behaviors are not found in their wild canine counterparts. Another scientist, in Stockholm, Dr. Kerstin Moberg is studying oxytocin which is known to increase in mothers and their new born babies immediately after birth. Oxytocin increases can also be found in the dog-owner bond relationship. Dr Kerstin found that oxytocin, which is a powerful hormone located in the hypothalamus, helps mothers establish a maternal bond with their babies. Each time she breast feeds her baby there is an oxytocin surge in both mother and baby which produces a feeling of closeness. These peaks in oxytocin (bursts) can also be found in dogs and their owners when the owner touches their dog and looks into their dog's face. Why is this important? In humans oxytocin is known to lower the heart rate and blood pressure and can extend life. People who own dogs and pet them regularly are less likely to have a heart attack, and if they have one, they are 3-4 times more likely to survive it. Pass this finding on to your dog friends.

Retinal Dysplasia Test Breeding – An Announcement

December 29, 2015

To: American Miniature Schnauzer Club
c/o Health Committee Chair Patti Henderson

Dear Patti;

I'm sending this letter as a courtesy to the AMSC Health Committee and by extension, the AMSC membership. (Permission to republish is hereby granted.)

This is my formal notification that I'm discontinuing test breeding for inherited retinal dysplasia, and will no longer maintain the affected line of test dogs for this purpose.

The primary reason for this is simple – with the successful results for my own Ch.Minuteman Toxicology, along with Ch.Dreamaker High Flyer (owned by Ken and Elaine Allen), combined with earlier successful tests, I'm satisfied that the Ch.Benalta Batman line is now sufficiently represented by quality, non-carrying descendants and that further test-breedings here at Minuteman are no longer necessary.

At time of writing, I own the **only** known certified affected bitch. Her remaining test litters have been booked, and she'll be spayed upon their conclusion. While it's possible an affected bitch may be born as a result of these breedings, it will be up to others to continue with the program. This is not to say that I'll cease collecting case reports, or maintaining records — only that I won't be housing or providing test dogs. Should others wish to do so, I will be here to support and advise in any way I can. The list of RD test bred dogs is available upon request.

Retinal dysplasia is an autosomal recessive birth defect, easily diagnosed in a puppy eye exam. **Both of the families known to produce inherited retinal dysplasia are still active in the gene pool.** Thus, I urge that the AMSC remind all breeders **frequently** of the importance of eye exams for all litters, preferably before 12 weeks of age.

Yours truly,
Catherine McMillan
Minuteman Perm Reg.
Box 579, Delisle SK Canada

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: AKC Communications

Date: September 6, 2016

one of SEVEN BREEDING PROGRAMS NAMED AS 2016 AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB BREEDER OF THE YEAR GROUP HONOREES

**Terrier Group: Joan Huber,
Blythewood Miniature Schnauzers**

Blythewood Miniature Schnauzers has produced more than 850 AKC champions, including all-breed and specialty Best in Show winners. Joan believes that the great dog breeders of the past have contributed greatly to her education about the Miniature Schnauzer. Joan has also enjoyed mentoring many new fanciers who will continue breeding. In 2018, Joan will judge at Montgomery County, an honor that was voted on by the members of the American Miniature Schnauzer Club.

As a teenager, Joan Huber did a lot of research to get the best puppy she could find. After working hard to earn money by selling cakes and cookies at a Baltimore market for \$0.50 an hour, cutting lawns and selling ceramics, she purchased her first Miniature Schnauzer, sired by a Westminster Best of Breed winner, for \$75.00 from the Minquas Kennels of Marguerite Jones. This was in 1949 – 67 years ago!

Joan believes that the great dog breeders of the past have contributed greatly to her education about the Miniature Schnauzer. Blythewood Miniature Schnauzers has since produced more than 850 AKC champions, including all-breed and specialty Best in Show winners.

These achievements were accomplished with the help of staff members, clients and many knowledgeable professional handlers. Their friendship and encouragement have been an invaluable contribution to Blythewood's success. Joan has also enjoyed mentoring many new fanciers who will continue breeding.

In 2018, Joan will be the first breeder (non-AKC judge) to judge at Montgomery County, an honor that was voted on by the members of the American Miniature Schnauzer Club.

NEW APPLICANTS

Alberto Montila Sanchez

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Alberto has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 5 years (Regency's Great Bells of Fire, Regency's Play To Win, Regency's Sparkle Plenty, Regency's Fashionista. Alberto has bred one litter, has been involved with Conformation and Agility activities. He attends about 150 dog shows a year. He would like to help the club out with Electronic Media. Bev Verna was his mentor, who he worked with for 3 years. His goal besides showing is to further the breed by breeding quality and healthy dogs. He is young and eager to help and learn with whatever the club needs.

Sponsors are: Carol Hafner and Kathleen Soares

Amanda M. Ingram

601 S. Redwood Drive,
Visalia, California 93277
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Amanda1@ingramct.com

Amanda has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 15 years, owning two (2). She has also owned German Shepherds (3), Black Labrador Retrievers (1) and Rottweiler (1). Amanda has assisted in whelping two Miniature Schnauzer litters in the past year. She participates in Conformation, and Obedience activities. She has done 20 events this past year, including a seminar and an AMSC Board Meeting. Amanda is a retired business owner in the Human Resources field. She would like to assist us with Newsletter, Legislative Issues, Electronic Media, Public Awareness, Education, Membership, Obedience, Ethics and Health.

Sponsors are: Carol Hafner and Kathleen Soares

Karen Prokopetz

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Karen has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 6 years, and Scottish Terriers for 6 years...She is also a breeder, and has bred 6 litters, 3 litters of Miniature Schnauzers and 3 litters of Scottish Terriers (her other breed)...She does Conformation, and has Judged Sweepstakes...Karen attends approximately twenty events per year both in the USA and Canada... She belongs to the Saskatchewan Terrier Association, where she serves as President, Canadian Scottish Terrier Club, where she is their Webmaster and the Scottish Terrier Club of America...Karen is employed in the Ministry of Health as Director

of Communications...She is interested in helping out our club with Public Awareness, and Membership...

Sponsors are: Catherine McMillan and Vicki Stephens

Belinda Reynolds (Dicker)

225 Murray Road
Cora Lynn,
Victoria, Australia 3814
040 955 9185

belindadicker@gmail.com Belinda has been involved with miniature schnauzers for 8 years. She has been a breeder for six (6) years. She shows in Conformation, and Obedience. She attends about 10 shows/events per year. She belongs to All Dogs, Victoria. Belinda is currently involved with Belinda's occupation is farming and is also currently a student. Belinda uses her dogs in therapy for nursing home residents, autistic children and the deaf. Belinda is good at organization and very motivated to help the club with newsletter, public awareness, education, membership and health.

Belinda's Sponsors are: Lisa Sarvas and Krystal Mason

Carol Henning

1080 Field Street
Lakewood, CO 80215
303 489-9071

roverdogs@aol.com

Carol has been involved with miniature schnauzers for 3 years, standard schnauzers for 22 years and has bred six (6) litters. She shows in conformation, agility and barn hunt. She attends shows 20+ weekends and attends classes 2-3 times per week. She belongs to Standard Schnauzer Club of America, Centennial State Miniature Schnauzer Club, Denver, CO., and Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club, Denver, CO. She is an elementary school teacher...She would like to help the club out with electronic media, public awareness, education, membership, agility, ethics, health and junior showmanship.

Carol's Sponsors are: Patty Ledgerwood and Carma Ewer

Joanne Hoepfner Tuttle

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Ipswich, Mass 01938
And

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Joanne has been involved with miniature schnauzers for at least 14 years. Before

that her parents had schnauzers, so she grew up with the breed. She has bred one (1) litter in the past 5 years. Joanne shows primarily in conformation but also does agility. Joanne attends between 30 and 100 shows depending on her health. She belongs to the Atlanta Miniature Schnauzer Club. Joanne's passion is her dogs, and enjoying doing things with them. She would like to help the club with public awareness, education, ethics and health. Joanne has very strong presentation skills, the ability to work with Junior Handlers, has been involved with Take the Lead and Canine Health Foundation. She enjoys public speaking. Joanne has shown internationally, FCI and World Dog Shows. Joanne is a willing mentor to newcomers.

Joanne's Sponsors are: Brian Bogart and Sharon Edwards.

Monica Payne-Konkel

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Monica has been involved with miniature schnauzers for 25 years in conformation and golden retrievers (field & conformation) 12 years and labrador retrievers (field) 20 years. She has owned four miniature schnauzers, of which 3 have been show quality, from Sathgate, Jubilee, and Emerald Isles. She is not a breeder. She attends 12+ show/events per year. She is a Registered Nurse/CC Manager. Would like to help the club with newsletter, public awareness, education, health.

Monica's Sponsors are Patricia O'Brien and Stella Van Cleave.

Lisa "Jan" Seay

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251 508-5516

Jan has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 3 years. She is not a breeder...She shows in Conformation, Agility, Obedience, and Barn Hunt events. She has helped her breeder/mentor at a few conformation shows and plans to continue, along with at least 6 agility trials a year. She belongs to the Mobile Dog Training Club, Mobile, Alabama. Jan is a nurse practitioner...She would like to help our club out with Membership, Agility, and Health...

Jan's Sponsors are Patti Henderson and Hilde Haakensen.

NEW APPLICANTS, cont'd**Lisa K. Miller**6186 Rosecommon Drive
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770-361-1776 (cell)

Lisa has been involved with dogs (different breeds) for a total of 19 year. She has owned Miniature Schnauzers for the past 5 years: CH Axcium's Shine On (Finnigan) – 5 years and Axcium's Drive Me Crazy (Nelly) - 3 years Lisa is not a breeder, but her dogs are co-owned by Hilde Haakensen who retains breeding rights on them... Finnigan has never been bred...Nelly had her first litter this past Jan, and Lisa raised the litter Lisa has done Obedience for 3 years, Agility for 4 years, Conformation for 5 years, and Lure Coursing for 1 year, Rally for 4 ½ years, and Barn Hunt for 1 year Lisa works alongside of Hilde Haakensen at some of the shows and she attends about 30 events per year, including seminars. She belongs to the Atlanta Obedience Club, Norcross, Ga., (Agility Trial Chair, Hospitality), Canine Capers Agility Club, Norcross, Ga., (Building Cleaning), Past Member – Huntsville Obedience Training Club – (Instructor). Lisa's occupation is in the field of Accounting Software Support Lisa would like to help the club with Rescue, Agility and the 2018 Roving Atlanta Specialty

Lisa's sponsors are: Hilde Haakensen and Robin Ohrt

Bouquets and Biscuits

* **Southcross Double Feature UD BN GN RA AX OAJ SE RATO CGC** (GCH CH Southcross Bad Moon Rising X CH Southcross She's Got A Way MX MXJ MJB NF T2B) earned her Utility Dog title on July 17th, 2016 at Tri County Agility Club's Obedience Trial in St. Louis, MO. Violet was bred by Sonny Shanks Lelle and Richard Lelle, and is owned, loved, and trained by Christine Carter.

Ms Chevious Jumping Jack Flash OA OAJ GCH CH Ms Chevious Maitai's Sweet Leilani x GCH CH Lewis's Red Hot Chili Pepper. Flash received both of his Open Jumpers and Open Standard Titles on Sunday at the Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club show. He is a very fun dog. Thank you Ron & Doris Stoltenberg and Duane & Karen Lewis for this awesome boy. Renae Bagwell

**Here is something each and everyone of us can learn from****A Dog's Purpose? (From a Six Year Old Child).**

Being a Veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a Miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of Cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the Old Dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's Death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives.

Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. It has changed the way I try and live.

He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a Good Life — like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The Six-year-old continued, "Well, Dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."

Live Simply.

Love Generously.

Care Deeply.

Speak Kindly.

Remember, if a Dog was the Teacher you would learn things like:

When loved ones come home, always run to greet them.

Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride.

Allow the experience of Fresh Air and the Wind in Your Face to be pure Ecstasy.

Take Naps.

Stretch before rising.

Run, Romp, and Play Daily.

Thrive on Attention and let People touch You.

Avoid Biting when a simple Growl will do.

On Warm Days, stop to lie on your back on the Grass.

On Hot Days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady Tree.

When you're Happy, Dance around and Wag your Entire Body.

Delight in the simple Joy of a long Walk. Be loyal.

Never pretend to be something you're not.

If what you want lies Buried, Dig until you Find it.

When Someone is having a bad day, Be Silent,



Sit Close By, and Nuzzle Them Gently.

There comes a time in Life, when you walk away from all the drama and people who create it. You surround yourself with People who Make you Laugh, Forget the Bad, and Focus on the Good. So, love the people who treat you right. Think Good Thoughts for the ones who don't. Life is too short to be anything but Happy. Falling Down is part of LIFE . . . Getting back up is LIVING . . .

This article appeared in the September issue of AMSCOPE:

We are pleased to give you permission to link to the Kennel Club article

[Understanding Inbreeding and the Importance of Genetic Diversity](#) from the webpage of the American Miniature Schnauzer Club.

Furthermore, we give you permission to reproduce this article, in full without amendment to the text, including grammatical composition. This is to be reproduced in AMSCOPE, the newsletter of the American Miniature Schnauzer Club, which is published every month.

We do ask you to include the following notice with the text:

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You'd Completely Miss This, But These Dogs Pick It Right Up - Could Save Your Life

For years, diabetes service dogs have worked with people with type 1 diabetes who experience "hypoglycemic unawareness," meaning they do not sense that their blood sugar is dropping rapidly or is dangerously low until they have symptoms such as stomach cramping, nausea, dizziness and even seizures.

Diabetes service dogs learn to recognize symptoms of dropping or too-low blood sugar and alert their humans in time to avoid a medical emergency, called a hypoglycemic attack or "hypo." These specially trained dogs are often able to help people with type 1 diabetes live a normal, active life.

So, how do the dogs do it? What is it they feel or smell when a person's blood sugar is plummeting? This question has baffled scientists for years, but researchers in the U.K. think they may have unraveled the mystery at last.

Here's What a Diabetes Dog Senses When Her Human's Blood Sugar Is Too Low

The researchers, who published their findings in the American Diabetes Association journal *Diabetes Care*, believe the dogs smell a common natural chemical found in exhaled human breath called isoprene.¹

According to study co-author Dr. Mark Evans of Addenbrooke's Hospital, University of Cambridge:

"Isoprene is one of the commonest natural chemicals that we find in human breath, but we know surprisingly little about where it comes from. We suspect it's a by-product of the production of cholesterol, but it isn't clear why levels of the chemical rise when patients get very low blood sugar."²

The study involved eight female volunteers with type 1 diabetes. In a carefully controlled setting, the researchers lowered their blood sugar levels, and used special equipment to detect specific chemicals in their breath as they exhaled.

The scientists discovered that isoprene levels were significantly elevated while the women were experiencing hypoglycemia (critically low blood sugar levels). In some of the women, the isoprene level almost doubled.

Humans are unaware of the odor of isoprene, but dogs, with their keen sense of smell, can pick it up.

The researchers hope their study results can be used to develop new tests for detecting hypoglycemia, and reduce the risk of potentially life-threatening complications for people

with diabetes.

Two Levels of Diabetes Service Dogs

As all of us with canine companions know, dogs go through life nose-first. Their sense of smell is astounding. Dogs can pick up odors at around one part per trillion, which for humans would be the equivalent of smelling a teaspoon of sugar in two Olympic-sized swimming pools.³

It is their sense of smell that makes certain types of working and medical detection dogs invaluable. Diabetes service dogs are trained to know when their owners' blood sugar level is dropping or too low (based, as we now know, on the amount of isoprene on their breath), and to alert them by performing a specific behavior.

There are actually two different types of diabetes service dogs. There are medical response dogs, and diabetic alert dogs. Medical response dogs are trained to alert their owners once they show symptoms of low blood sugar.

Diabetic alert dogs, on the other hand, are trained to pick up changes in their owners' blood chemistry, and then alert either their owners or caregivers to take action. Typically, there is a 15 to 30 minute window in which to treat a low blood sugar situation before the person starts to experience symptoms.

How Diabetes Service Dogs Help Their Owners

In case you're wondering how a diabetes service dog alerts his owner, there are a number of behaviors they might be trained to perform, for example:

- Jumping up and putting his paws on his owner's shoulders

- Touching his owner with his nose

- Sitting and staring at his owner

- Holding a small, soft toy in his mouth that is always hanging from his collar

The dogs might also be trained in other assistance behaviors, including getting the attention of another family member if his owner needs help; bringing objects to his owner (e.g., medications); fetching the owner's cell phone; and even dialing 911 himself, using a special device.

Diabetes Service Dog Breeds and Associated Costs

The most common types of diabetic alert

dogs include Golden and Labrador Retrievers, Poodles and mixed sporting breeds. The dogs are usually 1 to 2 years old when they're placed into service with their owners.

The most highly trained dogs are bred for the work, and socialized and trained until they're 18 months old, at which time they begin their formal service training. It takes another six to 12 months to get the dog ready to go into service. Part of that training involves preparing the dog and his new owner to work successfully as a team.

As you might guess, training a diabetes service dog is expensive. According to Dogs4Diabetics, the dogs themselves are valued at \$15,000 before training. The cost of training the dog and the dog-owner team is about \$20,000, for a total of about \$35,000.

The only cost to the owner to acquire a service dog is a \$50 application fee and \$100 for training materials.⁴ After the dog is placed, the owner becomes responsible for all dog care costs, and must maintain pet health insurance to cover extraordinary expenses.

Ed.'s note. While many dogs are trained to pick up on certain things, most dogs can do it and do not know how to translate the info to us....or...we don't know how to pick up their signals.

I had a dog that told me when my mother's blood sugar was high. After greeting my mother in the morning, she would come and jump on my chest when the blood sugar was high. I only picked up on it because I checked my mother's blood sugar each morning. After a couple of weeks (I am slow) I realized that when the dog jumped on me, it coincided with the high blood sugar.

Right now, I have a dog that senses when I am going to be faint and when my pain level increases. I taught her to press my "alert" button if I needed help. I did have her certified.

Another dog I brought to hospice several days a week. She would jump on the beds, put her paws on the patient's shoulders. Then she stared into the eyes of each patient and proceed to lay exactly where they had their cancer.

Montgomery Weekend- Homewood Suites Hotel Reservation Information

It's time to make your hotel reservations for Montgomery. Due to popular demand, a block of rooms has again been reserved at the Homewood Suites in Audubon, PA. The below rates apply for reservations made by September 10, 2016. Pet fee is \$75 per room. 1st floor rooms are available but not guaranteed, so make your reservation and request the 1st floor ASAP.

The block includes the following room configurations at the rates listed:

| | Studio Suite \$149 per night 1 King Bed w/ pullou | One Bedroom Suite \$129 per night 1 King Bed w/ pullout | One Bedroom Suite \$149 per night 2 Queens w/ pullout | Two Bedroom Suite \$189 per night 1 king, 2 queens w/ pullout |
|-------|---|---|---|---|
| 10/4 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| 10/5 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 10/6 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| 10/7 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| 10/8 | 10 | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| 10/9 | 15 | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| 10/10 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

The hotel contact information:

Address: 681 Shannondell Blvd, Audubon, PA 19403

Phone: (610) 539-7300

Website: www.homewoodsuitesvalleyforge.com

Saturday evening reminder: Join the reception/Meet & Greet with Dr. Urs Giger and his research team at 6:30 pm, followed at 7:00 by Dr. Giger's one hour presentation on his MAC research. The member meeting will start around 8:00 pm.

Due to a full schedule, there are no current plans for a garage sale or for the sale of AMSC merchandise on Saturday evening. Details about the reception will be announced shortly.



AMSCOPE

Carla M. Borrelli, Editor
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UPCOMING SPECIALTIES

Greater Columbus MSC Nov. 19, 2016
Regular Classes: Paula Harding
Puppy Sweepstakes: Anne Beckwith
Portland MSC January 18, 2017

AMSC SPECIALTIES

Montgomery Co. Oct.9, 2016
Regular classes: Jon Cole
Sweeps:Linda Drost
Roving Specialty-Portland Jan 21,2017
Regular classes: David Alexander
Sweeps: Bonnie Keyes
Great Western June 25, 2017
Regular Classes: Peggy Beisel McIlwaine
Sweeps: Patty Ledgerwood
Montgomery County Oct. 8, 2017
Regular Classes: Geraldine Kelly
Sweeps:Brian Bogart

AMSC Montgomery Annual Reception Meeting

with Guest Speaker Dr. Urs Giger

Sat. Oct. 8, 2015 at the host hotel
Homewood Suites - Audubon, PA
6:30PM to 9 PM

Join us for a relaxed, casual event offering an array of wonderful hors d'oeuvres- a variety of appetizers, mini crab cakes, chicken skewers, fruit tray and deserts.

~ Beer and Wine cash bar~
\$15.00 per person

Name _____

of reservations _____

Amount enclosed \$15 x _____ = total _____

Make your reservations and payment on the AMSC

Website; link to Paypal in the Members Only Section

OR

Mail to
Bonnie Keyes - AMSC Treasurer
511 River Terrace - Endicott, NY 13760

Questions regarding the reception?
Email Barbara Donahue at
barbaramd_2000@yahoo.com

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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