



AMSCOPE

Newsletter of the AMERICAN MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB
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What to Consider Before Taking Your Dog Hiking

Analysis by Dr. Karen Shaw Becker

You'll also want to be sure to bring along all the gear you and your dog will need on your hike

Once you're home, it's a good idea to check your dog carefully for ticks, bites, scrapes, and other injuries

Hiking can be a fun activity and great exercise for both you and your dog. There's nothing like a few hours on the trail in the great outdoors to clear your mind, challenge your lungs and leg muscles, and explore the natural world right along with your canine BFF. It can also provide a wonderful opportunity for some bonding time.

Of course, both human and canine hikers need to be reasonably fit before setting out on this type of adventure. If you're not sure your dog is in good enough physical condition for a hike, consult with your veterinarian. If she doesn't typically get much exercise, is overweight, a senior, a flat-faced breed, or has arthritis or another condition that limits mobility, you'll want to consider those things before setting off on even a mildly challenging hike.

The last thing you want is for your dog to get injured, and you also need to think about whether you'll be able to carry her the distance if something happens or she tires out earlier than expected.

It's also important to keep in mind what temperature it will be during your hike. Depending on where you live, a lovely morning can turn into a sweltering afternoon and

put both of you at risk. Planning accordingly and being well prepared during the hike makes for an enjoyable outdoor experience for both of you.

First Things First: Is Your Hiking Destination Dog-Friendly?

It's a good idea to plan ahead for hikes with your dog to ensure the trails you're interested in are dog-friendly, because for a variety of reasons, including the ones below from the National Park Service, not all trails allow four-legged hikers:1

Dogs can carry disease into wildlife populations

Dogs can chase and threaten wildlife, keeping them from nesting, feeding and resting sites

A dog's scent left behind may disrupt or alter the behavior of wildlife in the area

Dog barking disturbs the quiet of the wilderness

Pets can be endangered by larger predators like coyotes and bears

Many people are frightened by dogs and uncontrolled dogs can present a danger to other park visitors

Get in the habit of checking park websites for dog regulations, trail renovations, closings and weather alerts. And when on the trail with your dog, be sure to follow park rules, such as the National Park Service's notice that, "Pet excrement must be immediately collected by the pet handler and disposed of in a trash receptacle."

Things to Consider Before Setting Out

1. Does your dog respond reliably when called? — If you're planning to hike with your pet off-leash, he should be in the consistent habit of coming when called and responding to basic commands. He should also be well-socialized around unfamiliar people and other dogs, and have a manageable prey drive (especially with snakes, in case you encounter any).

When you're outdoors and your dog is off-leash, his responsiveness to your commands can quite literally save his life. It can also prevent him from annoying or scaring

other hikers, clashing with another dog on the trail, or sampling wildlife poop.

If your dog isn't consistently responsive when you call him or give him a "no" or "drop" command, it's a very good idea to arrange for some positive reinforcement behavior training before you allow him off-leash on hikes. In the meantime, keep him on a standard leash attached to a harness, and regardless of whether you plan to hike with him on or off-leash, be sure to keep a leash with you at all times.

2. Obvious next question: Does your dog have good leash manners? — If trail signs say all dogs must be leashed, or you're hiking steep or rugged terrain or around fast-moving water, or if there's another compelling reason to keep your dog tethered to you, you'll want to make sure she's comfortable on-leash.

Use a standard leash (not a retractable leash) attached to a harness, not a collar. If you need to snatch your dog away from the edge of a cliff, or she loses her footing on a steep incline, or she jumps into fast moving water, the tools you'll need to save her are a standard flat 6-foot leash and a harness. The harness will allow you to lift her if necessary and will also prevent a serious neck injury.

While hiking, hold your end of the leash securely, but don't wrap it around your hand or wrist, especially in areas where your footing is unsure. If your dog takes a tumble, she could pull you down with her, which will put both of you in danger. If she should fall and get hurt, you want to be able to carry her to safety or if that's not possible, go for help.

3. Do you have appropriate dog hik-

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**The deadline
for the September issue is
August 10**

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LOOK

Please let me know if you make a change

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The log in information for the Members section is as follows:

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HIKING...from p. 1
ing gear? — Make sure your dog has an up-to-date ID tag or collar, even if he's also microchipped or tattooed. The fastest way for someone who finds your dog to get him back to you is to call the number on her ID tag.

Your dog will need frequent water breaks along the trail, so be prepared with a lightweight, collapsible travel bowl or a simple plastic container and plenty of fresh water for both of you. Stop often to offer him a drink, and especially if he's panting a lot. Keeping him well-hydrated will also prevent him from drinking from a stagnant water source. Standing water can harbor all kinds of pathogenic bacteria and parasites, so it's best to keep him a safe distance away. You'll want to pack a few healthy snacks to feed him along the way as well, and don't forget dog poop bags, especially if you'll be hiking on heavily traveled trails. I also recommend bringing along a small first aid kit with essential emergency items like gauze, scissors, or tape. And don't forget your cell phone.

After Your Hike

No matter where you live or hike, it's always a good idea when you return from an outdoor adventure to give your dog a nose-to-tail inspection to check for ticks and other pests, foxtails, insect or spider bite marks, scrapes and other wounds. Pay particular attention to the footpads and between the toes. Also, check in, under and around your dog's ears.

You might also want to give him a foot soak to wash away allergens, dirt, and debris. If you think he might have come in contact with poison oak, ivy, or sumac, it's a good idea to give him a full bath.

Preparing ahead of time for a hike with your dog will help make your time together in nature safe and more enjoyable. If you're new to hiking, or your pet is, you may just find that your time on the trail together strengthens the bond you share with your canine companion.



The Uncanny Ways Your Dog Reads Your Moods

Analysis by Dr. Karen Shaw Becker

As dog parents, most of us are convinced our canine family members **read our moods** and respond accordingly. What else could explain the sweet way your dog tries to comfort you when you're sad, slinks away when you're mad, or appears happy when you're happy?

In case you had any doubt, you're not imagining things — your furry friend really is able to read your emotions and really does react to your moods, for better or worse.

Dogs Can Distinguish Between Happy and Angry Faces

A 2015 study confirmed that pet dogs can most definitely discriminate emotional expressions in human faces.¹ A group of dogs were first trained to associate pictures of happy or angry faces with a **treat** reward. The dogs were shown pictures of half faces (either the upper half or lower half of a face) showing happy or angry emotions.

Half were given a treat when they touched their nose to a happy face while the other half were rewarded for touching the angry faces. The dogs were then tested using pictures of faces they hadn't seen before or showing parts of the face that were new to the dog (so a dog that had previously seen the lower half of a face would be shown the upper half).

The results showed the dogs were able to differentiate between the different emotions. According to Dr. Kun Guo, a psychologist and expert in human-animal interaction at the University of Lincoln:

*"Showing dogs only half of the face and then the other half separately means they can't rely on the shape of the eyes or the mouth — they must have some sort of template in their mind ... So it looks like they can really discriminate between happy and angry."*²

The researchers speculated that dogs probably used their memories of real emotional human faces to help them complete the experiment successfully. Interestingly, during the training portion of the study it took the dogs about three times longer to learn to touch an angry face. It seemed to the researchers the dogs didn't like and didn't want to touch an angry face.

Our Dogs Pick Up Emotional Cues When We Speak

MOOD...cont'd on p. 3

MOOD..from p. 2

The average dog understands about 165 different words, although they may learn many more if you train them to.³ It's known that dogs pay attention to the tone of voice and the pitch and rhythm in human speech. In addition, research suggests dogs also sense a difference between the verbal and emotional components of speech.⁴

Dogs appear to **process emotional cues** and meanings of words in different hemispheres of the brain, similar to humans. They also pay attention to human body language, taking note of posture and **eye contact**, for instance.

Dogs will follow your gaze similarly to a 6-month-old infant, but only if you convey the intention of communication, which suggests they're quite in-tune with your communicative signals.⁵ Dogs have even been shown to experience cross-species empathy in response to a crying baby.

In humans, levels of the stress hormone cortisol tend to rise in response to an infant crying, which is said to be a primitive form of empathy. Research shows that dogs, too, experience increases in cortisol levels at the sound of a baby's cry. They also display a combination of submissive and alert behavior in response to the cries. According to the study, published in Behavioral Processes:

*"These findings suggest that dogs experience emotional contagion in response to human infant crying and provide the first clear evidence of a primitive form of cross-species empathy."*⁶

Dogs Also Detect Emotion Through Scent

Believe it or not, in addition to being able to sense our emotions through our facial expressions, our vocal tone and the sounds we make, dogs also use their **amazing sense of smell** to inform them about how we're feeling.

In 2018 I visited Dr. Biagio D'aniello and his team of Italian researchers who set out to answer this question: "Do human body odors (chemosignals) produced under emotional conditions of happiness and fear provide information that is detectable by pet dogs (in this case, Labrador and Golden Retrievers)?"⁷

For the study, 8 human volunteers watched a 25-minute video designed to provoke emotional states of either fear or happiness. The volunteers' sweat was collected on pads as they watched the video, and then the samples were pooled to obtain composite "fear sweat" and "happiness sweat" samples. There was also an unscented control sample.

The 40 study dogs were fitted with heart rate monitors. Each dog was placed in a

small room with his owner and a stranger who had not provided a sweat sample. The two people were seated, reading magazines, and not purposely interacting with the dog.

The samples (either fear or happy sweat, or no scent) were diffused into the room from an open vial containing the sweat pads. The dogs were able to sniff the vial itself, but they weren't able to directly touch the pads.

Behind the scenes, for 5-minute periods the researchers evaluated the dogs' heart rate, body language, movements toward and away from the owner and the stranger, and **stress-related behaviors**. To goal was to learn whether the dogs would show a consistent set of behaviors in response to the three conditions.

The dogs exposed to the happy sweat sample had fewer and shorter interactions with their owners, and more interactions with the strangers in the room, indicating they felt relaxed enough to check out strangers, and didn't need to seek reassurance from their owners.

The dogs exposed to the fear sweat sample displayed more frequent and longer-lasting stress-related behaviors, in some cases, for the entire 5-minute period. These dogs sought out their owners rather than the strangers, indicating they were looking for reassurance because they felt stressed, and also had consistently higher heart rates than the dogs exposed to the happy sweat sample and the control sample.

"While the dogs were clearly responding emotionally to the scent of fear," writes dog expert Stanley Coren Ph.D., "it seemed as though their response mirrored the emotion that they were detecting in that they were acting in a fearful manner themselves."

*There was no evidence of aggression toward either the owner, the stranger, or the scent dispensing apparatus."*⁸

Now that science has proved dogs can see, hear and even smell our emotions, and that they react to all that sensory input, you can take steps to increase your own pet's comfort and happiness, and decrease his stress by modifying your interactions with him. Your goal should be to gain and maintain his trust by making him feel safe and loved in your presence.

Toward this end, it's important to **pay attention to how you're feeling when you're around your dog**, as well as the emotions you direct toward him. This is especially critical in situations you know will be stressful for him, for example, veterinary visits.



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With the AMSC specialty at MCKC as well as the Hatboro, Devon and M&E shows cancelled for 2020, I want to remind everyone to cancel their hotel reservations.

**AMSC has cancelled our blocks of rooms and the member meeting activities. But you are responsible for cancelling any room reservations you made.
Barbara Donahue**

Is a Full Body Sniff-Scan by a Trained Dog in Your Future?

Analysis by Dr. Karen Shaw Becker

The canine sense of smell is one of many irreplaceable gifts dogs offer us

It may be just a matter of time before scent detection dogs are employed as often as the latest technology in medical offices

Cancer-sniffing canines tend to grab all the headlines, but there are likely many other human diseases and disorders that can be detected by dogs as well

Among the countless one-of-a-kind gifts that dogs offer humans is their miraculous sense of smell. Most of us recognize that canines have sharp noses, but the degree to which they're able to detect "odorant molecules" is rather beyond our comprehension. Some of the specifics of dogs' super sniffers are described in a 2012 study comparing the canine ability to detect the odor of cancer to laboratory testing:

Dogs possess an extraordinary dimension of their olfactory epithelium (up to 170 cm vs. 10 cm in humans)² (the olfactory epithelium is a specialized type of tissue inside the nose)

They also possess a huge number of olfactory receptors (over 200 million vs. 5 million in humans)

There is also a "dense innervation of [dogs'] olfactory mucosa and their ability to 'sort' meaningful incoming odors from those that are unwanted or unnecessary"

Bottom line: These very special anatomic features of the canine nose give dogs the ability to detect even minute amounts of a particular odorant — an ability estimated to be one million times more efficient than in humans!

Dogs Are Able to Detect Cancer Odors With a High Degree of Accuracy

In an article for veterinary publication *dvm360*, researcher Ed Kane, PhD, compiled a sampling of fascinating case reports and studies of dogs detecting human cancer:³

Year

Case Report or Study

1989

A 44-year-old woman's Border Collie-Doberman cross continuously sniffed at her left thigh, which was later biopsied, and a malignant melanoma diagnosed.⁴

2001

A 66-year-old man's Labrador Retriever repeatedly sniffed at his leg through his trousers; he was found to have a basal cell carcinoma.⁵

2004

Two dogs, a 4-year-old Standard Schnauzer and a 6-year-old Golden Retriever, were trained to identify melanoma tissue samples hidden on the skin of healthy volunteers. One of the dogs positively identified samples at first tested negative, but fur-

ther histologic examination revealed a small number of cancerous cells.⁶

Six dogs of varying breeds and ages were trained to detect the urine of patients with bladder cancer. The dogs correctly determined bladder cancer urine in 41% of the cases.⁷

2006

Researchers used a food-reward system to train five household dogs to identify exhaled breath samples of lung and breast cancer patients, distinguishing them from healthy controls. The sensitivity and specificity were 99% for lung cancer patients and 88-98% for breast cancer patients; results were remarkably similar across all four stages of disease.⁸

2008

A dog was taught to identify ovarian carcinoma samples consisting of 31 different histopathological types of various grades and stages. In double-blind tests, the dog was capable of correctly identifying all cancer samples with 100% sensitivity and 97.5% specificity, as well as discriminating ovarian carcinomas from other gynecological carcinomas with 100% sensitivity, 91% specificity.⁹

2010

Two dogs were trained to detect ovarian cancer from normal ovarian tissue and distinguish blood plasma of patients with ovarian carcinomas. Tissue test sensitivity was 100% and specificity 95%; blood plasma sensitivity was 100% and specificity 98%.¹⁰

2011

A Belgian Malinois was clicker-trained to scent and identify prostate cancer patients from their urine. The dog correctly identified cancer in 31 of 33 patients, with 91% sensitivity and specificity.¹¹

A Labrador Retriever was trained to scent-detect colorectal cancer from breath and watery stool samples. Compared with colonoscopy, dogs showed their ability to detect cancer from breath samples at 91% sensitivity and 99% specificity. With stool samples, sensitivity was 97% and specificity 99%. Accuracy was high even for early cancer.¹²

2012

Trained dogs successfully detected lung cancer from human breath with sensitivity of 90% and specificity of 72%.¹³

2015

Two 3-year-old explosion-detection German Shepherds were trained to identify human prostate cancer from specific volatile compounds in urine samples from 362 patients with prostate cancer. For the first dog, sensitivity was 100% and specificity 98%; for the second dog, sensitivity was

99% and specificity 98%.¹⁴

2017

Researchers investigated the feasibility of whether dogs could use olfactory cues to discriminate urine samples from dogs with diagnosed urinary tract transitional cell carcinoma versus control dogs.¹⁵

Researchers investigated the detection of hepatocellular carcinoma from human breath using canine olfaction. Results showed an accuracy rate of 78%.¹⁶

The first item in the above list — the 1989 case report — was also the first published account of the ability of canines to detect cancer, and as you can see, the dog spontaneously sniffed out the disease. It was that first case that planted the seed with scientists that if dogs are able to naturally express the behavior, they can be trained to offer it on command.

Advertisement

Is a Sniff-Scan in Your Future?

As you read this, formally trained veterinarians are helping to train cancer detection dogs across the globe — in Costa Rica, Canada, Slovenia, Finland, Norway, the U.K., France, Germany, the Netherlands and Poland.

With what looks to be clear evidence that trained sniffer dogs can be as or in some cases more effective than other cancer screening methods, as researcher Michael McCulloch, PhD points out to *dvm360*, the next step is for entrepreneurs and scientists to collaborate to turn scientific results into a commercial service, if feasible.

While dogs that can sniff out cancer tend to grab the headlines, the keen canine sense of smell also has the potential to be helpful in detecting other diseases with characteristic odors, including:

Urinary tract infections

Gastrointestinal (GI) disorders (e.g., gastritis due to a *H. pylori* infection)

Diabetes

Psychological disorders

Endocrine disorders (e.g., Cushing's syndrome)

Thyroid disorders

Cirrhosis

Candida esophagitis

Sinusitis

Alcohol abuse

So, maybe one day in the future while visiting your doctor's office you'll be asked to undergo a full body sniff-scan by a four-legged, fur-covered physician's assistant! I don't know about you, but I'll take a wet nose scan any day over the less benign alternatives!

12 Science-Based Reasons Why Pets Improve Our Lives Analysis

by Dr. Karen Shaw Becker

In the mid-1970s, the Delta Society was founded to serve as a clearinghouse for studies into animal-assisted therapy and the human-animal bond. Then came Pet Partners, which provided the first comprehensive, standardized training program in animal-assisted activities and therapy for healthcare professionals and volunteers. In 2012, the Delta Society formally changed its name to Pet Partners Therapy Animal Program. From the program's website:

"The human-animal bond is a mutually beneficial and dynamic relationship between people and animals that positively influences the health and well-being of both. While many of us intuitively understand the benefits of positive interactions with animals in our lives, an emerging body of research is recognizing the impact the human-animal bond can have on individual and community health."¹

12 Science-Backed Reasons Pets Make Us Healthier and Happier

According to Pet Partners, the following are just a few evidence-based examples of the benefits of the human-animal bond to both pets and people:²

A therapy dog has a positive effect on patients' pain level and satisfaction with their hospital stay following total joint arthroplasty.

Fibromyalgia patients spending time with a therapy dog instead of in an outpatient waiting area at a pain management facility showed significant improvements in pain, mood and other measures of distress.

A walking program that matched sedentary adults with therapy animals resulted in an increase in walking over a 52-week graduated intervention with the participants stating their motivation for adherence was "the dogs need us to walk them."³ The presence of an animal can significantly increase positive social behaviors among children with autism spectrum disorder.

Children made fewer errors in match-to-sample categorization task in the presence of a dog relative to a stuffed dog or human. Similar studies may indicate presence of a dog serves as both a source of motivation and a highly salient stimulus for children, allowing them to better restrict their attention to the demands of the task. Therapy animals in pediatric cancer stud-

ies improved motivation to participate in treatment protocol, to maintain their motivation over time, and to want to "get better" or stay optimistic.

Pet ownership, perhaps by providing social support, lowers blood pressure response to mental stress.

Pet owners have higher one-year survival rates following heart attacks.

Recognizing and nurturing the connection between animals and humans has potential implications for individual stability and health, improved economic outputs and healthcare cost savings. This conclusion was based on a number of studies.

Pet ownership, particularly dog ownership, may be reasonable for reduction in cardiovascular disease risk.

Pet ownership was associated with a reduced risk for non-Hodgkin's lymphoma and diffuse large cell lymphoma.

Human health savings of \$3.86 billion over 10 years have been linked to pet ownership as related to a decrease in doctor visits in studies in Austria and Germany.

Whether it's a dog who prompts his human to get outside for daily exercise, a cat who provides cozy company for a shut-in, or a therapy pet who helps her person manage anxiety, animal companions have a tremendous positive effect on human health and happiness.

Pet Parents and the Bond They Share With Their Animal Companions

In 2016, the Human Animal Bond Research Institute (HABRI) sponsored an online survey of 2,000 pet owners to learn more about how their knowledge of the health benefits of the human-animal bond impacts pet care and welfare. Some key findings from the survey:³ 98% of pet owners agree that their pet is an important part of their family

Up to 55% of pet owners reported physical health improvements from pet ownership in themselves or friends or family members

Up to 75% of pet owners reported mental health improvements from pet ownership in themselves or friends or family members

Up to 88% of pet owners are aware that pets reduce stress, depression, and anxiety, increase our sense of wellbeing, and help with conditions like PTSD in military veterans

Up to 68% of pet owners are aware that pets support health aging, help with conditions like autism and Alzheimer's disease, and improve heart health

Up to 47% of pet owners are aware that pets support child cognitive development and reading skills and classroom learning, and help prevent childhood allergies

95% of pet owners could not imagine giving up their pet for any reason

How the Bonding Magic Happens

Research on the human-animal bond indicates there is genuine chemistry between

dogs and their humans. Daily interactions with your canine companion have a measurably positive effect on your biochemistry, thanks to the hormone oxytocin.

Oxytocin goes by a number of nicknames, including the "hug hormone." Oxytocin is what makes skin-to-skin contact feel good; it's what makes a great meal so satisfying. This amazing hormone can also act as a natural painkiller and can lower stress levels and blood pressure. It's a well-known fact that human-to-human contact, for example, bonding with children or partners, triggers the release of oxytocin. But studies also reveal that bonding with a completely different species also promotes release of the "love chemical."

A 2009 study of 55 dogs and their owners showed that the people whose dogs gazed at them for two minutes or longer showed higher levels of oxytocin than owners whose dogs gazed at them for less time.⁴ A 2011 study found that owners who kissed their dogs frequently had higher levels of oxytocin than other owners.⁵

And in a study published in 2003, dog owners were put in a room and asked to sit on a rug on the floor with their dogs.⁶ For a half hour, the owners focused all their attention on their dogs, talking softly to them, and stroking, scratching and petting them. The owners' blood was drawn at the beginning and again at the end of the 30-minute session.

The researchers found that the dog owners' blood pressure decreased, and they showed elevated levels not only of oxytocin, but also several other hormones. These included beta-endorphins, which are associated with both pain relief and euphoria; prolactin, which promotes bonding between parent and child; phenylethylamine, which is increased in people involved in romantic relationships; and dopamine, which heightens feelings of pleasure.

Incredibly, all the same hormones were also elevated in the dogs, which suggests that the feelings of attachment are mutual.

These studies and others are really just the tip of the iceberg. Understanding the mechanisms of the relationship between humans and animals, and their implications for all species, will keep researchers occupied well into the future.

In the meantime, if you're a dog parent and need a little boost — or if your dog seems to — try engaging her in a long, loving gaze. If she's the shy type, give her your undivided, loving attention for a half hour. You'll both feel healthier and happier for it!



AMSCOPE

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AMSC SPECIALTIES

Montgomery County **October 3, 2021**
Sweeps: Tatiana Myers
Regular: Bruce Schwartz

NEW APPLICANTS

Patricia L Hartzell

855 Wild Rose Dr.
Kamas, UT 84036

Patricia L Hartzell has owned Schnauzers for over 20 years. She loves the breed and wants to ensure the Standard is preserved for future owners. She would like to share her knowledge, help educate, and promote healthy purebred dogs. She agrees to comply with both the AMSC Code of Ethics and Breed Standard. She has bred nine litters in the past five years. She currently has two Minis. She is a previous member of the Golden Spike KC in Ogden, UT. Due to a move she is now in the process of applying to Bonneville KC and The Terrier Group in Salt Lake. Occupation is Social Worker.

Sponsors: Carma Ewer and Marilyn Lande

Ronie Coronado

2483 Hastings Boulevard
Clermont, Florida 34711

Ronie Coronado has been showing dogs in conformation for over 30 years and plans to continue as well as breeding according to the Standard. She owns six dogs, a Ch. Miniature Schnauzer and two Ch. Westies. She belongs to The Welsh Terrier Club of America and has read and agrees to comply and support both the AMSC Code of Ethics and Breed Standard. Her occupation is Guest Services and she is willing to help future new comers.

Sponsors: Patricia Bond and Krystal Mason

Jamie Morgan

3813 Lamar Ave
Chattanooga, TN 37415

Jamie would like to become a member of AMSC to support the club and associate with other Schnauzer owners and to also support preservation of the breed. She has read and agrees to abide by the Code of Ethics and the Breed Standard. She has three Miniature Schnauzers, one from a breeder, two from rescue. She also has owned Toy Poodles, some AKC, some rescue.

Jamie is involved with Agility, Barn Hunt, FASTCAT, CGC and Trick dog and attends twelve to fourteen dog events per year. She belongs to the Obedience Club of Chattanooga.

Sponsors: Marie Murphy and Karin Kinnan

STAY WELL!

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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