



# AMSCOPE

Newsletter of the AMERICAN MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB

February 2019

Volume 38

Issue 2

## What to do When Your Dog Eats Something They Shouldn't



We all have experienced a time where our best friend sticks their nose some place they shouldn't. Maybe it was the trash, the kitchen table, or one of the many other places they're able to sneak into. Either way, you move on and begin to clean up when you notice a path of scraps trailing away from the scene of the crime to your dog's bed and that's when you see pieces of dark chocolate littering the trail.

Chocolate, when consumed in large amounts, can be potentially fatal for dogs. Would you know what to do in this or any similar situation? Acting quickly can lead to a better outcome for your best friend.

**Step 1:** Get any remains away from the dog. Be sure to immediately take away anything your dog is still trying to eat and remove your pup from the area. Depending on what is eaten, the more consumed (like chocolate), the worse it may get. Be on the lookout for any type of plastics, wrappers, or packaging that could either have been eaten or hidden away as well.

Additionally, if you can determine how much your dog consumed it will be very helpful to share with your veterinarian later on. If possible, save any wrapper or a sample of the material as well.

**The deadline  
for the March issue is  
February 10**

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**Step 2:** Check your dog for any signs of illness

Check to make sure your dog isn't choking, gagging, or having difficulty breathing. Depending on what was eaten, your dog may naturally vomit on their own. If your dog does seem to be experiencing any difficulties, do not try to feed them a homemade medicine of any kind. Even if your dog isn't showing any symptoms, don't wait for any warning signs. Problems can take 6 to 12 hours to even show up.

**Step 3:** Call your Veterinarian

Your veterinarian is the best person to tell you what to do in this situation. The veterinarian's office will ask you a series of questions. They can then advise how to best handle your situation.

What you'll need to tell them:

- Your Dog's age, breed, weight
- What was eaten
- How long ago
- How much
- Any strange behavior (ex. Pacing, shaking, extreme thirst, rapid breathing)

If your veterinarian's office is closed, they may suggest an emergency veterinarian in your area. If not, the next step would be to search for an emergency pet hospital near you and to contact them via phone.

**If All Else Fails**

If you find your dog to still be at risk then you should immediately take them to the nearest vet or emergency vet. What your pet needs can vary on a case by case basis. Or, if you are unable to go, you can call the [Pet Poison Helpline](#) at 855-764-7661. Note: The Pet Poison Helpline charges a per incident fee, so be sure you know what the costs are when you first call.

Always Remember...

The best thing you can do for your dog is to always take preventative measures. Make sure anything that can be potentially harmful for your best friend is far from their reach. For your

reference, here's a short list of items that can be harmful depending on the amount eaten by your dog:

Chocolate	Milk
Grapes/Raisins	Macadamia
Nuts	Garlic
Onions	Avocado
Yeast Dough	Apple Cores
Xylitol (often found in	Cleaning
Products	gum and candy)
Caffeine	Alcohol
Salt	Peach/Plum
Pits	Human

Medicine/Vitamins

Please note:

This advice is not a substitute for a proper consultation with a veterinarian and is only intended as a guide. The best way you can help your dog will vary on case by case basis. Please contact your local veterinary practice for advice or treatment immediately if you are worried about your pet's health.

## Specialty Wins

Central Florida MSC Dec.14,2018

**Judge: Ms Linda C. More**

- WD/Sumerwynd ShenanigansBogart**
- RWD/Yvana LePrince Lupin/Yvan Methot**
- WB/Beauideal Purple Rain/Sarvas/Rohrer**
- RWB/Obsession Mad Queen Juana/Clark**
- BOB/GCHB Carmel Sky High Wish Upon a Star/Ewer/Coulter/Soos-Kazel/Phelps**
- BOW/Beauideal Purple Rain/Sarvas/Rohrer**
- BOS/Ch ZRules Full Throttle/Carter/Mendelsohn**
- Sel/GCHG Carmel Just in Case/Isco vich/Lande/Ewer**
- Sel/Ch Tajinastes Gomera/King/MartinDel Rio**
- BBBE/Beauideal Purple RainSarvas/Rohrer**
- BP/Lonestar-Mystique's Music of the Night/Rohrer**

# 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

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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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## The Science Behind Calming Dogs With Sound

By Diana Bocco

Extensive research has been done on the effects of sound and music on the human brain, but what about the effect it has on dogs?

"A few studies have been done specifically in dogs and other companion animals that support the beneficial effects of certain music on these species," explains Dr. Mark Verdino, DVM, senior vice president and chief of veterinary staff at North Shore Animal League America.

### Research Shows That Classical Music Helps in Calming Shelter Dogs

The most notable study—which looked into the [effects of relaxing music for dogs in stressful environments](#)—was performed by Dr. Kogan from the Colorado State College of Veterinary Medicine and published in the Journal of Veterinary Behavior.

"It evaluated the behavior of 117 shelter dogs exposed to classical music and heavy metal music," says Dr. Verdino. "The study found a significant calming effect with classical music, while there was an agitating effect by the metal music; subsequent studies found similar calming effects with easy listening music."

### The Science Behind Calming Music for Dogs

Despite these promising results, Dr. Verdino points out that the effect of calming music for dogs is not fully understood. "Multiple areas of the brain are known to be involved in the process—the *auditory* cortex and multiple parts of the *limbic* system that regulates emotion," says Dr. Verdino. "In human and animal studies, the levels of cortisol (the stress hormone) in the blood drops as a result of hearing classical music." Although scientists aren't sure why and how music affects the brain, they do know one thing: Relaxing sounds and music affect physiological processes in the autonomic system, according to Dr. Christie Cornelius, DVM, president and founder of [Lastwishes.com](#).

"The autonomic system controls both the fight-or-flight response and the rest-and-digest response," says Dr. Cornelius. "Relaxed dogs, in general, have slower heart rates, rest more easily and are less vocal—similar to what the brain experiences during a rest-and-digest situation."

### Calming Dogs With the Right Tempo

A 2002 study conducted by animal behaviorist Dr. Deborah Wells shows that [classical music helps dogs relax](#). The dogs rested more, spent more of their time being quiet, and spent less time standing than when exposed to stimulation such as heavy metal music, pop music and conversation. Why classical music in particular? Because dogs seem to relax when exposed to music with a tempo of 50-60 beats

per minute, says Dr. Cornelius. This usually includes classical music, reggae and some types of soft rock. "Classical music with a single instrument at a slower tempo has been especially shown to produced relaxed behaviors in dogs," Dr. Cornelius adds.

On the other hand, Dr. Cornelius points out that faster-tempo hard rock and heavy metal music have been shown to cause an increase in restlessness, anxiety and agitation.

"Short, choppy tones tend to be more excitatory than long, continuous tones," says Dr. Verdino. "Logic would say to avoid deep base tones and loud percussion as these are the types of tones that typically have an adverse effect of dogs—similar to the sound of fireworks, thunder, etc." If you are looking to help calm your dog with sounds, a good place to start is with the [Pet Acoustics Pet Tunes calming music dog speaker](#). This speaker features 90 minutes of calming sounds for dogs.

### Going Beyond Music

For dogs who are particularly anxious about being left alone, the Ruff Dawg Om Dawg Stress Reduction System could help. First, use the ball to tire your pup out, then play the soothing CD before you step out of the house. The Calmz Anxiety Relief System for dogs might also be a good option. "The music portion of this product would certainly have a calming effect," says Dr. Verdino. "Generalized pressure, as found with this product and other products like the Thundershirt, have also been found to have a calming effect too—similar to the swaddling of a baby."

### What's the Best TV Program for Dogs?

Ever wondered why dogs seem to do better alone when the TV or radio is on in the background? This could be due to an effect that's similar to what we experience when we use white noise to sleep.

"A dog's hearing is generally very *acute*. In a quiet environment, they will pick up and potentially react to small sounds, even ones their human may not even hear," says Dr. Verdino. "By leaving the TV on, it would be more difficult to isolate smaller sounds."

When it comes to the best TV for dogs, Dr. Verdino suggests avoiding any programming with loud, jarring sounds, such as action movies, or the sounds of dogs barking or other animals. It might be worth looking into buying DVDs made especially for your furry companion that play soothing music for dogs. "Since dogs have a shorter attention span, television programs geared toward canines are usually 3-5 minutes in length and have soundtracks that contain soothing classical music," says Dr. Cornelius. "The bottom line is that although many dogs seem to lose focus on the picture and sounds of television, there are some that may feel like it provides companionship."

## Microchip vs Smart Collar: What's the Difference

Keeping track of your pet's location has never been easier. Thanks to GPS technology, the "lost dog" flyer tacked to a telephone pole is increasingly a thing of the past. With recent advances, technology can help you monitor more than just your dog's location. When you're evaluating the merits of a microchip and a GPS dog collar, there are three key considerations to keep in mind.

A pet microchip is a device the size of a grain of rice that's painlessly embedded between a dog's shoulder blades. The chip includes a unique code linked to your information that's available upon it being scanned. Unfortunately that's one of the limitations to having **just** a microchip; it's helpfulness depends on someone finding your dog and taking it to be scanned, more than likely by a local vet. Because the chip is not linked to one of your devices, it's impossible to independently track your pet's movements. Another important consideration of having a microchip is that you need to keep your information up-to-date.

Unlike a microchip, [the LINKAKC Smart Collar](#) provides multiple functions. In addition to tracking your dog's location and giving you timely answers if your dog goes missing, it stores vet records and alerts you of appointments, and includes a sound feature to assist in recall or positive reinforcement, clicker-style training. Just like a human fitness tracker, the [Smart Collar](#) keeps track of your dog's [daily and historical activity](#), an important data point as obesity becomes increasingly prevalent in dogs. The collar also has a built-in LED light that, like the collar's other features, can be accessed by a tap on your phone screen.

Just as it enhances other parts of your life, technology can help do the same for your beloved canine companion. When thinking about the best device for you and your pet, you've got options. While a microchip can ensure your dog is safely returned home if found and scanned, a GPS dog collar is a comprehensive approach to your dog's health and safety. Both give you peace of mind and provide a technological safety net to bring your pup home.

### Can You Motivate a Lazy Dog?

You don't have a lazy dog just a poorly trained one. As surprising as that sounds, the takeaway from our interview with Dr. Steve Neuenschwander of Brentwood Animal Hospital in Raleigh, NC, is dogs will do whatever it takes to make you happy, but they can't do something they have never been taught to do. With 36 years experience as a vet, Neuenschwander says one of the most common problems he sees is obesity in dogs from lack of exercise. But how do you motivate your dog to exercise? This time-tested vet says a lot of dog's motivation comes from her owner. Let's see what else he has to say on the topic of motivating your "lazy dog" to exercise.

Why do you think obesity in dogs is such a common problem?

There are a stunning number of people who think if you have a fenced in yard the dog will go out and play, but that's not the case. So they think the solution for them is high-priced prescription diet dog food. To stay trim, dogs are a lot like humans. They need a combination of exercise and food reduction.

Why don't dogs just go and play in the yard?

Many times, having a treadmill in your bedroom most frequently results in it being used to hold the clothes you toss on it. The same is true for dogs. Just be-

cause you have a yard doesn't mean they are motivated to go out there and run around for the pure joy of it. To keep track of your dog's activity, try using the LINKAKC Smart Collar to record exactly how much exercise your dog is getting out there in the yard by himself. A dog is most motivated to play when his owner is playing with him.

What can dog owners do to be active with their dogs?

Dogs are very special and want to be with their owners. If the owners likes to lie on the couch and encourages the puppy to lie down with them, then the dog learns to be inactive. That's not to say you should take your puppy out and run five miles every day. Breeds prone to orthopedic joint issues will only aggravate and accelerate the opportunity for injury with an aggressive exercise schedule. But it does mean you should find some type of enjoyable activity to do with your furry friend on a regular basis.

How do you motivate your lazy dog to play in a safe way?

Exercise for dogs is like exercise for people. If you do too much at once it becomes work and not fun. Dogs will refuse to do it, or will injure themselves trying to make you happy. Find an exercise your dog likes and give her as many opportunities as possible to do it. Be mindful it takes just as long to develop an exercise habit for your dog as it does for humans. The best motivator is hanging out with you best friend, so be prepared to exercise with her.

Is it easier to motivate a puppy to play than an older dog?

A puppy's primordial instinct is to chase things, so work to channel that in play when young. By establishing play routines, it becomes a way of life. If you play with your dog as a puppy and then stop, it is harder to get him to find that motivation again. So be consistent in your efforts.

## Please Heed This Poison Alert or You Could Live to Regret It

Dr. Karen Shaw Becker

Recently, a 3-year-old dog named Canon in Tennessee got into some Mentos sugar-free gum. The dog's heartbroken mom, Christy Figlio, didn't realize until after he had been euthanized that the source of Canon's illness and rapid deterioration was the result of xylitol poisoning from the gum.

*"We really wanted everybody to know so they don't have to go through this because it was horrible," Figlio told Inside Edition. "Always check the label."*<sup>1</sup>

### Xylitol Poisonings in Dogs More Than Doubled in 7 Years

Each year as the number of products containing xylitol expands, sadly, so do the cases of poisoning in dogs. In 2007, the first year the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (ASPCA-APCC) started tracking cases of xylitol toxicity in dogs, the Center received 1,764 calls. In 2014, they handled 3,727 xylitol calls.<sup>2</sup>

That's over a 200 percent increase in just seven years, and includes only the cases called into the ASPCA-APCC. There are other animal poison control centers that receive calls, as well as unreported cases of xylitol-related illnesses and deaths.

### Xylitol Is Only Toxic for Certain Species

Although xylitol is safe for humans, the sweetener's effect varies by species. In people, rhesus monkeys, rats and horses, it causes little to no insulin release. However, it has the opposite effect on dogs, ferrets, rabbits, cows, goats and baboons. At the present time, xylitol's effect on cats is unknown. Fortunately, cats aren't typically attracted to sweet tastes.

Humans absorb xylitol slowly, and the sweetener when ingested orally is absorbed at from 50 to 95 percent. However, in dogs, xylitol is rapidly and fully absorbed within about 30 minutes. Just a small amount of xylitol can cause a dangerous insulin surge and a rapid drop in blood sugar.

The toxicity of xylitol in dogs is dose-dependent. The dose required to trigger **hypoglycemia** (low blood glucose) is approximately 0.1 grams/kg, while the amount needed to cause liver failure is about 0.5 grams/kg. Most gum and

breath mints typically contain 0.22 to 1.0 gram of xylitol per piece of gum or mint.

This means just a single piece of gum or one mint may cause hypoglycemia in a 10-pound dog. For more detailed information and graphics on how much xylitol is dangerous to different sized dogs, as well as a comparison of xylitol versus chocolate toxicity in dogs, take a look at this [Preventive Vet](#) page.

### The List of Products Containing Xylitol Is Long and Getting Longer

**Xylitol poisoning** in dogs is reaching epidemic proportions according to some sources. The sweetener is being used in an ever growing list of products because it's as sweet as sucrose, but with only two-thirds the calories of sugar. It's less expensive than other sugar substitutes, tastes better and causes little if any insulin release in humans.

Just a few years ago, xylitol could be found in less than a hundred products in the U.S., primarily limited to sugar-free gums, candy and foods. Today it can be found in a wide range of health and beauty products, food products, over-the-counter drugs and supplements, and prescription medications.

Xylitol was originally found primarily in products not normally given to dogs. However, the sweetener is now being used in certain peanut and nut butters. As most dog guardians know, our pets love these creamy butters. Many people use a dab of peanut or nut butter to hide pills or supplements they give to their dog, or they fill a Kong with the gooey stuff as a special treat.

The nut butter brands containing xylitol are No Cow (formerly D's Naturals), Go Nuts, Krush Nutrition, Nuts 'N More and P28 Foods.<sup>3</sup> These are specialty nut butters sold primarily in nutrition stores and online, but the fact that xylitol is being used in these products is a heads-up for dog parents everywhere of the importance of reading ingredient labels.

It's probably just a matter of time before more mainstream peanut and nut butters also contain xylitol. Dr. Ahna Brutlag, associate director of veterinary services for **Pet Poison Helpline** explains the seriousness of the situation:

*"First, dogs fed straight peanut butter as a treat or fed treats baked with*

*xylitol-containing peanut butter may certainly be at risk for harm. Second, a dog that nabs the entire jar of xylitol-containing peanut butter and happily gorges on his or her treasure without anyone knowing could quickly become extremely ill. If this occurred during the day while the owners were not home, it's possible the dog could die before people returned."*<sup>4</sup>

You should be aware of any product in your home containing xylitol, and especially anything you might consider offering to your dog.

### Determining the Amount of Xylitol in a Product

Currently, product manufacturers aren't required to list the quantity of xylitol on package labels, and while some companies will reveal the amount in their products, many are reluctant to do so.

In some cases, you might be able to use the placement of xylitol on an ingredient list to estimate how much is in the product. In the U.S., ingredient lists for foods must be organized in descending order based on weight. The ingredient weighing the most is at the top of the list.

In most chewing gum ingredient lists, xylitol appears in fourth or fifth place, making it clinically insignificant. But if it appears as one of the first three ingredients, extreme caution should be taken. In fact, I recommend dog guardians avoid or very carefully secure any product that contains any amount of xylitol, no matter how small.

When it comes to medications and dietary supplements, U.S. regulations do not require manufacturers to list xylitol by name on package labels. This is because the sweetener is often categorized as an "inactive" or "other" ingredient, and such ingredients don't have to be listed in order by the amount contained in the product.

To confuse matters further, when xylitol is named in these products, it's often part of an alphabetized list, which could lead pet owners to assume, perhaps in error, that there is a very small amount in the product. That's why it's best, in my opinion, to either avoid or very carefully store any product that contains xylitol in any amount.

**XYLITOL...con't on p. 5**

XYLITOL...from p. 4

## Symptoms and Treatment of Xylitol Toxicosis

Symptoms of xylitol intoxication in dogs include vomiting, weakness, **lethargy**, loss of coordination, seizures and collapse. Hypoglycemia is usually evident within an hour or two after a dog ingests xylitol, but symptoms are occasionally delayed for several hours.

Treatment depends on how quickly it is given. **Vomiting is induced** in cases where the xylitol has just been ingested. Once a dog develops hypoglycemia, intravenous (IV) dextrose must be administered until the animal can self-regulate his blood glucose concentrations, which typically takes from 12 to 48 hours.

In dogs who ingest enough xylitol to cause liver toxicity, **liver enzymes** must be closely monitored, as evidence of hepatic necrosis can show up one to two days after ingestion. Should the liver begin to fail, the dog will require IV fluids, dextrose, hepatoprotectants (substances to help support and repair the liver) and regular monitoring of blood clotting activity.

When xylitol exposure is caught early in a dog and treated effectively, the prognosis for a full recovery is excellent. The prognosis for dogs who develop hepatic failure is less optimistic.



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Bonnie has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 40 years. She is not a breeder. She competes in Obedience (15 years) and Agility (2 years). Bonnie attends about 20 Obedience trials and 10 Agility trials each year. She belongs to Salisbury MD Kennel Club, where she is Secretary/Treasurer, Hospitality @ point show and Obedience Trial Chair. She also belongs to the Mt. Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club. Bonnie's occupation is a Secretary. She is interested in helping out with Obedience, Agility, and Awards/Trophies. Bonnie's special skills are in Obedience Trophies, Rally Trophies and Hospitality.

**Bonnie's Sponsors are** Shawn Imler and Lisa Sarvas.

### LORNA ABREU

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Lorna has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers since 2011... She is a breeder and has bred six (6) litters... She has shown in Conformation for five years and Obedience for three years... She has traveled to the USA to compete in our AKC shows... She attends about seven dog events each year... She does not belong to any clubs as they are limited in Puerto Rico... Lorna is an Attorney at Law... She is interested in helping the club with Newsletter, Legislative Issues, Public Awareness, Education, Ethics and Health... Her special skills are in Legal Research, Market Research, Project Coordinator and Bilingual (Spanish-English)...

**Lorna's Sponsors are:** CAROLE WEINBERGER and DONNA HILLS

### GLEN and MARLENE LARSON

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Glen and Marlene have been involved in dog showing since 1969, and have finished 55+ Old English Sheepdogs, under the name of Wullyweather. They have been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 18 months and are currently showing a dog they purchased from Carma Ewer as a puppy. They were breeders of Old English Sheepdogs for many years. They were active in conformation showing and breeding. They attend many shows each year.

## NEW APPLICANTS

They belong to the Old English Sheepdog Club of America (1970-2018) and Inland Empire Kennel Association, (Glen President for 17 years and Show Chair for 3 years). Glen is a Corporate Executive and Marlene is a teacher. They are interested in Legislative Issues and Public Awareness.

**Glen and Marlene's Sponsors are:** Carma Ewer and Laurie Moore

### BARRY BONDS

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Barry has owned Miniature Schnauzers for 21 years.

CH. Jubilee – Kaos Shadow In The Night (A top producing Black Male – 2016), CH Kaos Life Of The Party, GCH Kaos Holding On To A Dream, Kaos Taken The Party On The Road, Kaos Crossed The Line For Love, Kaos Who's Zoomin' Who?

He is a breeder and has 4 stud dogs and 2 bitches. He attends about 10 dog events each year. Barry has competed in Conformation – 10 years, Breeding – 9 years. He does not belong to any local dog clubs. Barry is a Retired Professional Baseball Player. His interests lie in bringing PUBLIC AWARENESS to the Breed.

Barry finished Grand CH titles on two of his puppies in 2018. He is looking forward to showing his dogs in 2019.

**Barry's Sponsors are:** Cheryl Dugan and Terrie Houck

### TIM SAMPSON and MARY JANE SAMPSON

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Tim and Mary Jane have been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for over 12 years, competing in:

Conformation – 12 years, Agility – 10 years, CGC – 10 years, Therapy Dog – 3 years, Barn Hunt – 2 years, Obedience and Rally – 1 year.

They attend about 20 events each year. They are not breeders. They belong to South Plains Obedience Training Club, Lubbock, TX, where they teach Conformation and Puppy Obedience Classes. Mary Jane is Vice President of this local club. They are retired professional managers in the fields of Insurance and Teaching. They would like to help the club out with Obedience, Agility, Rally, Barn Hunt and Therapy Dog.

They are great ambassadors of the breed. **Their sponsors are:** CARL BENSON and TERESA JANSSON



# AMSCOPE

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## UPCOMING SPECIALTIES

Cactus State MSC March 1, 2019

AM Judge: Ms. Janet A Smith

AM Sweepstakes: Alice Gough

PM Judge: Mr. Sidney L Marx

PM: Sweepstakes: Kathy Thom

Gateway MSC April 5th, 2019

Judge: Lydia Coleman Hutchinson

Sweepstakes: Janet L. Taylor

Obedience: Mrs. Virginia Kinion

Rally: Mr. James Comunale

## AMSC SPECIALTIES

Schnauza Palooza April 6, 2019

Regular Classes - David Kirkland

Sweepstakes Classes - Patricia O'Brien

Great Western 2019

Regular Classes - Steve Hayden

Sweepstakes Classes - Cheryl Coffman

Montgomery County 2019

Regular Classes - Brian Bogart

Sweepstakes Classes - Carla Nickerson

Roving Specialty April 11, 2020

Sacramento, CA

Regular Classes - Mrs Marcia Feld

Sweepstakes - Gail Wilford

Montgomery County 2020

Regular classes - Mrs Bergit Kabel

Sweepstakes - Cheryl Coffman

**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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