



# AMSCOPE

Newsletter of the American Miniature Schnauzer Club

June 2023

Volume 43

Issue 6

## New FDA Warning About Flea And Tick Medications

By: Emily Vey -

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is warning dog owners about flea and tick medications. This comes after reports of the drugs causing serious adverse reactions.

Is the FDA finally paying attention to **how dangerous these meds can be** for dogs?

Don't get too excited ... they're not.

The FDA Report

Last month, the FDA stated that flea and tick meds are causing neurologic issues in pets. The symptoms most often reported include **muscle tremors, ataxia and seizures**.

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The side effects reported for these drugs are:

- Tremors
- Seizures
- Ataxia
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Skin irritations
- Lethargy

According to the FDA, the products affected are:

- Bravecto
- Nexgard
- Simparica
- Credelio (received FDA approval in 2018)

These drugs all contain an ingredient called isoxazoline.

How Do These Drugs Work?

Isoxazolines are non-competitive GABA (gamma-aminobutyric acid) receptor antagonists. This means they bind to chloride channels inside the flea or tick. They then block nerve signals ... which will paralyze and kill the bugs.

When you give your dog Isoxazolines, they work systemically. This means they affect the entire body. They're absorbed into his blood. When fleas and ticks feast on your dog's blood, they also eat the chemicals Isoxazolines. They become **paralyzed and die**.

What Are The Dangers For Your Dog?

The problem with poisoning fleas and ticks is that you have to first poison the host ... that's your dog.

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The premise behind Isoxazolines is that your dog is a lot larger than a flea ... it's assumed a little bit of poison won't hurt him. And that might be true in most cases.

The problem is, nobody has asked this question ... what happens if I give my dog a **small amount of poison every month for years?**

While there is some testing on the safety of these drugs, the safety studies have only been for a few months. **That's a problem.**

The second problem is the FDA doesn't believe tremors and ataxia are something to worry about. But these symptoms show that dogs are being poisoned along with their pests ... just at a slower rate. They're suffering the same neurological issues that kill their fleas and ticks.

In reality, every dog is at risk.

**NATURAL FLEA AND TICK SPRAY FOR DOGS**

Copy: Finally a chemical-free spray that both helps protect your dog from potentially disease-ridden pests like fleas and ticks AND helps soothe itching and swelling from bites.

What Vets Say About Flea And Tick Meds

"This is no surprise. Every known **insecticide/pesticide** chemical has been shown to have severe neurological side-effects.

I've been practicing for 20 years. My first question for seizure patients is about insecticides in the home. I mean oral, topical and environmental. We'll likely never adequately be able to keep up with insect resistance mutations. And toxicity build up is real and has real impacts. We all need to use safe natural alternatives and educate and empower ourselves."

"The public assumes the FDA adequately tests new products to see if they're safe. I've learned to "wait and see" for a couple years after the release of new pharmaceuticals. The safety testing is usually only done over a few months. But people are using these products monthly for years at a time on their animals.

**All of the flea and tick preventatives are toxic**, they're made to kill insects after all.

A few weeks ago I had a seizure case referred to me. It was a 1 year old dog, rescued from the streets in North Carolina. He was neutered and vaccinated by the shelter, then fostered until a nice woman came and adopted him. She had him for about a month before she administered **Bravecto** to him for flea and tick preventative. Three days later **he seized for the first time**, not once or twice but four times in a row. She took him to a veterinary teaching hospital. Then another acupuncturist and then to the local neurologist. No structural abnormalities were found on the MRI. The problem was, the dog was not responding to any of the treatments. This included quadruple doses of multiple anticonvulsants. He continued to have cluster seizures 1-2 times a **TICK MEDS**. cont's on p. 2

**The deadline for the July issue is June 8**

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# LOOK

Please let me know if you make a change

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## TICK MEDS...from p. 1

week. The longest he has gone seizure free is 10 days, after starting CBD. No one told her not to use Bravecto and she applied it a second time.

And now the announcement from the FDA.

The second problem is, it's very hard to prove the Bravecto or any other toxin caused the seizures. That's how these companies get away with no repercussions. I actually have 5 other cases of dogs and cats with neurological signs and ocular signs. These cases coincide with heavy organophosphate spraying for mosquito control. Again, proving cause and effect is difficult. **City and county governments continue spraying, even after public protests and hearings.** The public outcry made a difference. Now they're no longer publicly announcing spray dates. Great.

We must all stay vigilant and research products and testing. If you're unsure, use something you know will do no harm. I recommend returning those products to the manufacture, demanding a refund. And please call and report any adverse reactions so the FDA can add them to the database."

"It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that **products that kill fleas and ticks aren't healthy.** Any oral or spot on (and collar) product is concentrated in your dog's tissues and bloodstream. These last for a month to three months.

Isoxazolines bind to specific channels in cells, blocking the transmission of neuronal signals. The bugs get paralyzed and die when they're exposed to it. Isoxazolines are supposed to be much more selective in fleas and ticks than in mammals. But does that matter? **Neurological signs show that these chemicals are also blocking signals in our dogs.** And they stay in high concentrations in our dogs for one to three months, depending on the product.

*"The FDA is working with manufacturers of isoxazoline products to include new label information to highlight neurologic events because these events were seen consistently across the isoxazoline class of products."*

The FDA has decided to put a warning on the label due to all of the reports they've received. But how many pet owners and or veterinarians never think to report a pet with

adverse reactions. In fact, one of the adverse reactions reported is death.

That said, how many pets are, in reality, having adverse reactions. Then, there's the pet who has the reaction they can't talk about. They might feel weak, or dizzy or slightly out of balance? I've seen dogs who act this way after administration of one of these products. Vomiting is also a very common side effect.

Here's my opinion. There's no pharmaceutical product that kills fleas and ticks without harming your dog. I've written all about many other products in Dog's Naturally Magazine. Even the pyrethrins products have had the highest incidence of death as a side effect. This is because they have to use so much of the product to make it effective.

*The problem with poisoning fleas and ticks is that you have to first poison the host ... that's your dog.*

If your pet doesn't have a tendency to ever get fleas and ticks, simply don't use any of these products. Heavens, the stuff works instantly so if you did get fleas one dose would do it. There are good preventives out there on the market that really work and are totally natural.

I have to be totally honest. I've been a veterinarian for 40 years. I've watched veterinary medicine become a corporate production line. Vets are administering unnecessary vaccine after vaccine. They're handing out unneeded toxic products like candy from a candy shop. But not only is it not candy, it's unhealthy for everything but their bottom line."

For years we've been raising awareness about the risks of flea and tick medications. Needless to say, we're happy that the FDA is finally letting people know as well, even if it isn't in the best way.

dogs - naturally

**WHAT THE FDA SAYS ABOUT FLEA & TICK MEDS**

**WARNING**



## Dementia Symptoms Increasing in Older Dogs

Written by [Dr. Karen Shaw Becker](#)

Not many years ago, people with aging dogs focused only on keeping their pets healthy from the neck down, forgetting that such issues as weight control, possible arthritis and major organ support only go so far if their dog's brain health is overlooked. Including your dog's brain health in the overall picture is even more important as they get older, especially since more and more reports are emerging that show a "startling" number of older dogs starting to show signs of dementia.

According to veterinarian Melissa Bain, professor of Clinical Animal Behavior at UC Davis, **canine cognitive dysfunction**, or CCD, usually starts when the animals reach 9 or 10 years of age, and there are five typical signs that point to a dog's cognitive decline:

- Loss of **house training** or other previously acquired knowledge
- Changes in **sleep habits** and reversed sleep cycles, e.g. sleeping all day
- Failure to recognize their owners or other pets in the household
- **Anxiety** in the form of excess panting, shivering, moaning and/or nervousness
- A decrease in purposeful activity

Dog owners should also know about other signs to watch for. Witnessing certain behaviors may help you recognize something is happening with **your dog's cognitive abilities**, especially if you've never seen them before. Examples that may indicate CCD, otherwise known as **geriatric dementia**, include:

- Getting lost in the house
- Getting stuck behind furniture
- Becoming overly aggressive

Vetstreet<sup>1</sup> notes other signs that indicate something might be wrong; such as noticing your dog staring at walls for long periods of time, repetitive behaviors like walking in a circle or pacing, changes in hearing and vision, and/or vocalizing at inappropriate times. My ancient Boston terrier, Rosco (over 18 years old in this picture), would often get "stuck" in the narrow space between the toilet and the wall and was unable to navigate himself out without assistance, a common sign of CCD in older dogs.

### What Causes Canine Cognitive Dysfunction?

Helping your companion animals maintain bright, strong brain function throughout their senior years is even more important as you start noticing changes. If changes look as if they're a mental or behavioral problem, it may actually be physical. Three main signs of age-related changes in dogs that cause gradual impairment stem from three main contributors:

- Oxidative stress from free radical damage is physiological and impacts your dog's brain tissue more than any other parts of their body, and can be evidenced both by decreased cognitive function as well as nerve disease, similar to Alzheimer's disease in humans.
- The formation of lesions on the brain may include nerve-damaging beta amyloid deposits, proteins that form "senile plaque" buildup that interferes with the transmission of brain signals.
- Alterations in brain metabolism can diminish due to decreased availability of oxygen and energy, at least in part due to environmental stressors, including your dog's diet.

Although human and canine brains are significantly different, they have remarkably striking similarities both anatomically and physiologically, and the way the diseases manifest themselves appear "almost identical," Washington State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital explains further:

*"More, dogs' brains react to dementia treatments exactly as human brains do, making them ideal human dementia testbeds. As with human dementia, causes of CCD are not well known."*

*But accumulations of sticky proteins called beta-amyloid plaques around neurons, and the breakdown of neurons resulting in so-called neurofibrillary tangles, are considered leading causes. As in humans, both phenomena impact the brain by interrupting nerve impulse transmission."<sup>2</sup>*

Studies estimate that more than 60 percent of dogs between age 15 and 16 can show at least one symptom of CCD, but according to Bain, one reason more dogs have been showing signs of mental aging in recent years is simply because **dogs are living longer** due to advances in veterinary medicine.<sup>3</sup>

### Danish Study: 'Support' Is Key for Dogs With CCD

A Danish study during which 94 dogs 8 years of age were investigated with a CCD questionnaire and observational sleep studies, subsequently published in the Journal of Veterinary Internal Medicine, notes that vitamin E was investigated

as a potential marker of CCD. The researchers reported:

*"Four key clinical signs dominated in dogs with CCD: sleeping during the day and restless at night, decreased interaction, disorientation at home, and anxiety ... CCD did not influence survival negatively. Small breeds did not show better survival than large breeds and there was no difference between sexes."*

*A few key questions addressing sleep-wake cycle, interaction, and signs of confusion and anxiety can be used as a clinical marker of CCD. Special attention should be paid to anxiety in dogs with CCD because it may be especially stressful to both dog and owner. Dogs with CCD seem to have a good chance of living a full lifespan if supported by the veterinarian and the owner."<sup>4</sup>*

Significantly, most veterinarians are becoming more aware of CCD and asking questions earlier rather than later in the lives of the dogs they treat, but some experts maintain that as many as 80 percent of older dogs have CCD that is both unrecognized and undiagnosed.<sup>5</sup>

### How a Dog's Diet Influences His or Her Health, Including Cognitive Health

Rather than assuming it's an age-related cognitive issue, investigating the underlying cause of what appears to be CCD with the help of a professional veterinarian is important, especially if the dog in question is young, such as 5 or 6 years old.

To view the overall picture of your dog's health, Bain says taking a look at their diet may be a significant key. I couldn't agree more. She also notes, "There could be anything from hypothyroidism to urinary tract infections to blindness to deafness that all can mimic the signs of canine cognitive dysfunction."<sup>6</sup>

These and other physical problems can be addressed to the greatest degree by providing a balanced, fresh food diet that includes "brain food" coming from omega-3 fatty acids, such as krill oil, MCTs coming from coconut oil and plenty of food-based antioxidants (only found in fresh fruits and vegetables), which are crucial for cognitive health.

You may also be surprised to learn that aging dogs require more rather than less

**DEMENTIA...cont'd on p. 4**

## DEMENTIA...from p.3

protein, but it should come from quality sources and include a variety of living, whole, easily-digestible, moisture-rich fresh meats that are suitable for a carnivore. Animal meat should be the foundation of your healthy dog's diet throughout his life.

In some cases, a species-appropriate diet for your dog is also about what should be eliminated. Unfortunately, many **commercial dog foods** are loaded with processed ingredients, such as refined carbohydrates that turn to sugar.

Also, eliminate grains, potatoes and legumes in your aging dog's diet and pay attention to the amount of fiber your dog consumes, as it's often just unnecessary filler, displacing crucial meat-based protein your aging dog requires. Additionally, the byproducts of high heat processing, known as advanced glycation end products, or AGEs, negatively impact the aging process and may play into premature cognitive decline.<sup>7</sup>

Needless to say, exercise and lots of time outside is also important for dogs of any age. It not only keeps their blood pumping, but keeps them limber and enhances detoxification. Additionally, one of the most important aspects of maintaining cognitive health in aging humans is social interaction, but it's also true for dogs.

Exposure to other humans besides his or her immediate family is helpful, and being around other animals is beneficial for them, as well. Continuing mentally engaging exercises on a daily basis is also important, including fun nose work games and treat release puzzles.

One of the most important things for dog owners to do is work with an integrative or functional medicine veterinarian early on in the disease process. I was able to manage my dog's age-related dementia very well because I addressed it immediately, as soon as symptoms became noticeable.

Proactive vets have been using nootropic supplements for pets (used to enhance memory and brain health) for years, including specific B vitamins, rhodiola, phosphatidylserine, lion's mane mushroom and a variety of specific brain-supportive herbs.

# The Health Benefits Of Coconut Oil For Dogs

Although supplements can be a confusing topic for many pet owners, most dog owners have heard of the benefits of feeding fish oils. There are however, a variety of oils that you can also use to your dog's benefit, each with different actions and benefits.

Coconut oil consists of more than 90% saturated fats, with traces of few unsaturated fatty acids, such as monounsaturated fatty acids and polyunsaturated fatty acids. Most of the saturated fats in coconut oil are Medium Chain Triglycerides (MCTs). The main component (more than 40%) of MCTs is lauric acid, followed by capric acid, caprylic acid, myristic acid and palmitic. Coconut oil also contains about 2% linoleic acid (polyunsaturated fatty acids) and about 6% oleic acid (monounsaturated fatty acids).

Most of the coconut oil benefits come from the MCTs. For example, the lauric acid in coconut oil has antibacterial, antiviral, and anti-fungal properties. Capric and caprylic acid have similar properties and are best known for their anti-fungal effects.

In addition, MCTs are efficiently metabolized to provide an immediate source of fuel and energy, enhancing athletic performance and aiding weight loss. In dogs, the MCTs in coconut oil balance the thyroid, helping overweight dogs lose weight and helping sedentary dogs feel energetic.

According to Dr. Bruce Fife, certified nutritionist and naturopathic doctor, coconut oil gently elevates the metabolism, provides a higher level of energy and vitality, protects you from illness, and speeds healing. As a bonus, coconut oil improves any dog's skin and coat, improves digestion, and reduces allergic reactions.

Fed regularly to pets, coconut oil may have multiple benefits:

## Skin Conditions

- Clears up skin conditions such as eczema, flea allergies, contact dermatitis, and itchy skin
- Reduces allergic reactions and improves skin health
- Makes coats become sleek and glossy, and deodorizes doggy odor

- Prevents and treats yeast and fungal infections, including candida
- Disinfects cuts and promotes wound healing
- Applied topically, promotes the healing of cuts, wounds, hot spots, dry skin and hair, bites and stings

## Digestion

- Improves digestion and nutrient absorption
- Aids healing of digestive disorders like inflammatory bowel syndrome and colitis
- Reduces or eliminates bad breath in dogs
- Aids in elimination of hairballs and coughing

## Immune System, Metabolic Function, Bone Health

- Contains powerful antibacterial, antiviral, and anti-fungal agents that prevent infection and disease
- Regulates and balance insulin and promotes normal thyroid function
- Helps prevent or control diabetes
- Helps reduce weight, increases energy
- Aids in arthritis or ligament problems

Integrative Veterinarian and Naturopathic Doctor, Dr. Karen Becker, says "Medium-chain triglycerides (MCTs) have been shown to improve brain energy metabolism and decrease the amyloid protein buildup that results in brain lesions in older dogs. Coconut oil is a rich source of MCTs. I recommend 1/4 teaspoon for every 10 pounds of body weight twice daily for basic MCT support."

Why not give coconut oil a try and introduce it to your dog? It offers many benefits for your dog and is a more sustainable and less toxic source of oils than fish.

## NEW APPLICANTS

### Lisa Lavender

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Facebook business: Dog Training with Lisa

Lisa would like to become a member because she is very much into the Miniature Schnauzer breed and is supportive of reputable show breeders. All her minis have come from a reputable show breeder and she wants to do her part to support the breed and breeders. She states that she has read and agrees to comply with the Breed Standard and Code of Ethics. Lisa is not a breeder. Her dogs come from Linda Drost of Attaway. She belongs to MVMSC and is a professional dog trainer with her own business and is a Veterinary Technician. Her Ch. Attaway Dots and Dashes hikes with her. Lisa has been a dog show handler finishing dogs to Championship, CD, CDX, UD titles. Her skills are knowledge of dog training and Veterinary medicine.

**Sponsors:** Linda Drost, Amy Gordon

### Connie Krohn

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Connie would like to become a member to connect with a community of Min. Schnauzer breeders/lovers and keep abreast of issues in the breed. She is a Breeder and has bred one litter in the past five years. Connie is a member of Canadian Kennel Club and Canadian Professional Handlers Association. She attends approximately thirty weekends of shows per year. Connie is also an outstanding artist. Her first Min. Schnauzer was purchased from Kate McMillan approximately thirty years ago and have always had at least two in her house since. **Sponsors:** Carol Henning, Jackie Harris

### Elizabeth Rank

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Such Fun

Elizabeth would like to join the AMSC to learn and be more involved with the breed. To be more aware and up to date on issues affecting health and breeding issues affecting the breed. She states that she has read The Breed Standard and the Code of Ethics and agrees to comply and support both. She owns a Min. Schnauzer bred by Dale Miller, herself and Kurt Garmaker. She has produced two litters in the past five years. Elizabeth is involved in Conformation, Obedience and Breeding. She will start to show again this year. She checked almost every box under the activities that she is willing to volunteer for. Her special skill is that she is an educator and a writer. Dale Miller is a dear friend and mentor. She states that her dogs are family pets first, but she is honored to continue learning about the breed. **Sponsors:** Dale Miller, Vivian White

### Patricia Pierre

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Patricia would like to join AMSC to help support the club and to learn more about the Miniature Schnauzer so she can knowledgably promote and advocate for the correct breed standard. She has read and agrees to abide by the Breed Standard and Code of Ethics. She would like to connect with other breed enthusiasts. She is not a breeder and has received all of her dogs from respective breeders. Patricia is involved in Conformation, Agility, Obedience, Dock Diving and Barn Hunt.

She attends approximately 60 events per year. She is a member of Oriole Dog Training Club (Chair) and Black Russian Terrier Club of America (Health committee, National Specialty 2022). She checked all the boxes for activities she is willing to volunteer for. Patricia is a Mathematician and Senior level Healthcare data analyst and researcher.

**Sponsors:** Barbara Donahue, Shawne Imler

### Shantel Julius Rischette

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Shantel would like to join AMSC to better represent the breed. She has read and agrees to abide by both the Breed Standard and the Code of Ethics. She owns three Standard Schnauzer, two are AKC and one is PAL registered. She also owns two AKC registered Miniature Schnauzers. She does not consider herself a breeder, but is involved in Conformation, Agility, Scent work, Rally and Barn Hunt. Shantel attends roughly twenty-four dog events per year. She is a member of Twin Cities Mini Schnauzer Club, Heartland Standard Schnauzer Club of Greater Twin Cities and Standard Schnauzer Club of America. As a veterinarian specializing in rehab, chiropractor, acupuncture she is very interested in the overall health of the dog and extending the quality of their lives as long as possible. She can offer assistance in education especially in sports medicine.

**Sponsors:** Naomi Houle, Donna Bonnicksen

### Vickie Boechler

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Vickie has taken an active role in the development of Miniature Schnauzers since 2014 when she attended her first dog show to watch Kate McMillan show a dog they co-own. She has since then learned to strip, groom and show her dogs. She states that AMSC is part of the MS world and she should have applied sooner. She agrees to abide by the Code of Ethics and Breed Standard. Vickie co-owns dogs with Kate that are AKC & CKC registered. In the past five years her stud dogs have produced six litters and she has whelped two litters. She is Vice-President of the Miniature Schnauzer Club of Canada. Skills are Program Planning, Evaluation, Computer Skills + + +, Chairing Meetings, Project Management, Research, excellent writing skills and Educator.

**Sponsors:** Kate McMillan, Krystal Mason

### Kevin E Holmes

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Kevin feels it is time to join AMSC because of his involvement in Miniature Schnauzers. He imported his first Mini from Spain in 2018. 2019 he imported a bitch from France and she was shown to her AKC Championship. Last year he had his first litter of Minis that produced his first bred by champion. He has read the Code of Ethics and Breed Standard and agrees to abide by them. He is a breeder and has produced 12 litters over the past five years. Kevin is involved in Conformation, Agility, Obedience, Stewarding and breeding. He attends approximately 50 dog events per year. Clubs he belongs to: Standard Schnauzer Club of America (current treasurer), Arizona White Mountain KC (past President,) Affenpinscher Club of America (current Recording Secretary), German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, Pincher-Schnauzer Club of Germany, Mid-Atlantic Stewards Association, Eastern Stewards Club, Inc and New Mexico Stewards Association. He states that Minis, even though a lot of grooming, are the breed for him. Kevin states that he is "over educated" with two Master's Degrees, three Bachelor's Degrees, among many other accomplishments. **Sponsors:** Andrew Deer, Shawne Imler

**NEW APPLICANTS...cont'd on p. 6**



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## NEW APPLICANTS ..from p. 5

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Gloria and Carlos support the Code of Ethics and the Breed Standard. They have owned Miniature Schnauzers for over 18 years and say that promoting the breed standard is really important to them.

They have purchased their dogs from breeders and wanted to join AMSC for many years but didn't know anyone to sponsor them. They love their dogs and consider them best friends. They have bred two litters in the past five years. They met Patricia Bonds while doing research for a stud dog. They have learned so much since meeting Patricia including how to prepare for the show ring. The dog they co-own only needs one point to finish. Special skills they possess are organizational, baking, cake decorating, computer skills, woodworking, carpentry, drawing, painting and calligraphy.  
Sponsors: Patricia Bond, Kristy Lockard

**Taylor Truluck**  
**Ande Williams**  
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Taylor and Ande are dedicated to preserving the integrity of their heart breed, and feel they will be a valuable asset to the club and breed as a whole. They agree to comply with and support both the Code of Ethics and the Breed Standard. They have AKC Mini. Schnauzers and Shiloh Shepherds registered with TSSR. All from a breeder. They have not bred any litters in the past five years. Their dogs have shown in Conformation the past two years. Obedience, Fast Cat, Barn Hunt, Trick Dog, Training, etc., over nine years. They usually attend trials or events every other weekend. They do not belong to any clubs at this time. They were active in The Orlando Dog Training Club when they lived there. They checked several boxes of the club activities that they are willing to volunteer for. Taylor has been a professional and accredited Force-Free dog trainer since 2014. Her assistant is basically her husband despite his career in forestry. They purchased the first well bred Mini named Hank in 2021. Taylor finished his Conformation Championship and has put 11 other performance titles on him. As a trainer, she has the expertise to help those who may be struggling to work through behavioral problems and is happy to offer consults and encouragement to people to do things with their "furry companions".

Sponsors: Terre Houck, Helen Carter

**FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: The following information is given to help conduct AMSC business, Please remember that the Secretary and AMScope editor should BOTH be notified of address chnges.**

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