



# AMSCOPE

Newsletter of the AMERICAN MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB  
November 2020 Volume 41 Issue 11

## The Most Outlandish Way Your Dog Mirrors Your Emotions

If like most doggy devotees you're absolutely sure your furry pal can read your mind, you'll be pleased to know you're right. Almost. As it turns out, according to a recent study, dogs can sense our emotions using of all things, their adorable noses. And once your canine companion sniffs out your mood, he adjusts his own accordingly.

It's already scientifically proven that dogs can see and hear human emotions, but until now, no one knew for certain that they also use their incredible sense of smell to inform them about how their humans are feeling. It actually makes perfect sense when you remember that unlike people who typically respond most often to what they see, dogs lead with their noses and respond most often to what they smell.

Study Participants: 8 Sweaty Humans and 40 Retrievers

A team of university researchers in Italy and Portugal 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 (Labrador and Golden retrievers)?"<sup>1</sup>

For the study, eight human study 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 Labs and Goldens 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 five-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.

### Dogs Are Stressed by the Smell of Human Fear and Become Fearful in Response

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. This indicates the dogs felt relaxed enough to check out strangers, and didn't need to seek reassurance from their owners.

In contrast, the dogs exposed to the fear sweat sample displayed more frequent and longer-lasting stress-related behaviors, in some cases, for the entire five-minute period. These dogs also sought out their owners rather than the strangers, indicating they were looking for reassurance because they felt stressed. The dogs exposed to the fear sweat sample 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."<sup>2</sup>*

A bigger question for me, as a veterinarian, is how long-term exposure to human stress and emotional imbalances in the home (fear, anger, frustration, etc.) impact our pets' health without our knowledge.

I just finished filming a dog cancer documentary with Rodney Habib, and almost every researcher we interviewed brought up the role of stress in canine disease, a topic

that hasn't been studied. This Italian study brings up the question of how negative human emotions play into health and disease patterns in pets.

Rodney and I are so intrigued by this research that we're meeting up with the authors of this article in Italy in a few weeks to ask this very question; could human stress impact animal health? I'll keep you posted on what we discover.

### Why It's so Important to Let Your Dog Sniff

Dogs are brilliant sniffers by design, and I often wonder if pet parents truly understand their dog's need to explore the world with their nose. Some dog owners seem in such a hurry to get their walks over with, they don't give their pets a chance to satisfy their urge to sniff their environment.

Here's some excellent insight from animal behaviorist Marc Bekoff, Ph.D. on the potential for sensory deprivation and stress in dogs who aren't allowed adequate sniffing opportunities:

*"Being smell-blind can be aversive to dogs. My recommendation is to let dogs sniff; let's not hijack one of their vital connections to the world. Let them sniff to their nose's content when they're tethered on a leash, or when they're walking and hanging out with friends and others and running freely.*

*As mentioned, not allowing dogs to exercise their nose and other senses could be a form of sensory deprivation that robs them of information they need to figure out what's happening in their world. Being smell-blind can indeed be stressful to dogs because they need odors and other information to assess what's happening around them."<sup>3</sup>*

Now, not every walk you take with your dog has to be a leisurely sniff-fest. But at least once a day, let your canine BFF sniff to his heart's content and feel good that you're letting your dog be a dog! Evaluating the emotional environment of your home is also a good idea. I have a hunch future research will validate what we very much suspect is true — that pets in happy homes tend to be healthier and more balanced than pets who live in stressed or sick homes.

**The deadline  
for the December issue is  
November 10**

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# 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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**Report all changes to the Roster to treasurer@AMSC.us**

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**Endicott, NY 13760**  
**(607)742-3828**

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

Password is: **2020Schnauzer**

It is case sensitive.

Here's the link to the Members Section:

<http://amsc.us/members-log-in>

Please write down or save the User Name and Password as there is quite a bit of pertinent information in our Members Section.

## AMSC Health Committee Board Report

1 Annual Summary Report October 2020  
This serves as the year-end report of the Health Committee activity during the past year and meets the requirement for annual reports to the Board for all standing Committees. Although this year has been somewhat unusual with the temporary closure of all Dog Shows the work of the Health Committee has continued.

1. The Lohi (University of Helsinki) study has been the most exciting research activity that we have participated in and has resulted in a significant finding in the area of the elusive PRA. The Health Committee is asking the University of Minn DNA Research Labs to begin using this testing methodology for PRA. As a reminder of the findings, an excerpt from this study is provided below  
Report to Grant Sponsor from Investigator:  
We have studied a clinically investigated sample cohort in Miniature Schnauzers (MS) with PRA to identify its genetic cause. We found two different types of PRA in the breed, type 1 and type 2. We mapped the chromosomal region that harbors the causative gene for type 1 PRA. Various genetic analyses revealed a causative variant in a novel PRA gene. This is a breakthrough and enables the development of a diagnostic test for breeding purposes. This is critical since another recent study (Murgiano et al. G3, 2018; doi:10.1534/g3.118.200859) suggests a different gene (PPT1) and risk

variant with incomplete penetrance, which we do not believe is the correct one. Our study will be submitted for publication\* early 2019.

For those of you who might be interested the link is provided to the paper published in PLOS

\* <https://journals.plos.org/plosgenetics/article?id=10.1371/journal.pgen.1008659>

2. Persistent Mullerian Duct Syndrome (PMDS) has been another significant finding and additional information is being developed working with Dr Eva Furrow and the University of Minnesota. Be aware that fully 50% of Miniature Schnauzers are potential carriers or Affecteds,.

PMDS remains an enigma of sorts as to what the ultimate action should be for active breeders. We continue to gather information and recommendations previously published remain viable. Pockets of affected/carrier dogs are essentially self-contained and limited. The use of prescribed careful breeding strategies are encouraged. AVOID at all costs removing dogs from the gene pool. Eliminating cryptorchid breeding stock has been a standard viable method which has contributed to curtailing PMDS by design.

AMSC Health Committee Board Report 2

3. A CATARACT cluster has been reported in one family in a specific geographic location. The breeder is involved with the Health Committee and work continues within the AMSC. This was reported to the AHT which unfortunately has, after 47 years, 1 has entered liquidation due to funding and the effects of the coronavirus.

4. There has been one report of SLO (symmetrical lupoid onychodystrophy), another auto-immune

**Health Report...cont'd on p. 4**

### UPCOMING SPECIALTIES

Roving – Grays Lake, IL  
June 20, 2021

Regular Classes: John P Wade  
Sweeps: Linda Drost

Montgomery County  
October 19, 2021

Regular Classes: Bruce Schwartz  
Sweeps: Tatiana Meyers

2022

Roving – Northern Calif Terrier Assn  
April 16, 2022

Regular Classes: Marcia Feld  
Sweeps: Amy Gordon

Montgomery County  
October 9, 2022

Regular Classes: Bergit Coady-Kabel  
Sweeps: Cheryl Coffman



## Is My Dog Getting Enough Sleep?

By John Gilpatrick

There's no easier way to protect your health than consistently getting eight hours of sleep. And we have plenty of products and strategies—from Egyptian cotton sheets and memory foam to ambient noise machines and pharmacological aids—available to help make it happen.

Canine sleep is a different animal. While dogs who live with us tend to get their sleep when we do, that's more a product of their environments than what comes naturally, according to Dr. Joan C. Hendricks, the Gilbert S. Khan Dean of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. "They're not strictly nocturnal or diurnal. They're social sleepers," she adds.

The average dog should get somewhere in the area of 10 hours of sleep per day, says Dr. Nicholas Dodman, professor emeritus at Tufts University and author of *Pets on the Couch*. This will almost certainly vary from canine to canine, and puppies and senior dogs tend to get a lot more than that each day.

Learn more about potential issues that can disrupt your dog's sleep and discover ways to help your pup get the rest he needs.

### Signs Your Dog Isn't Getting Enough Sleep

While there hasn't been a lot of research on sleep deprivation in dogs, many of the symptoms experienced by sleep-deprived people are similar to those that we'd expect to see in dogs. "If your dog seems grumpy, forgetful, disoriented, or has difficulty concentrating or performing his usual tasks, sleep deprivation is one possible diagnosis," says Dr. Jennifer Coates, veterinary advisor for petMD. Coates recommends that any dog who develops symptoms like these be evaluated by a veterinarian.

### Do Dogs Experience Sleep Disorders?

It's not exactly the same as human sleep apnea, but Hendricks says a canine variety of this common sleep disorder does affect dogs—especially Bulldogs, Pugs, and other short-faced breeds. The underlying condition goes by the name "brachycephalic airway syndrome," says Coates. "Affected dogs have narrowed nasal openings, a thin trachea (windpipe), a long soft palate, and extra tissue that partially blocks the larynx (voice box)." All of these problems can make it difficult for dogs to breathe.

"While apnea causes us to stop breathing right away and prevents us from entering deep, dream sleep, dogs will continue dreaming and stop breathing for a much longer time," Hendricks adds. This means dogs with apnea are even harder to wake up than humans with

the condition, and they're also generally sleepier during the day.

If you have a brachycephalic breed, and he's snoring loudly and frequently, there's a good chance he's suffering from sleep apnea. Hendricks says dogs don't live long enough for the apnea to negatively impact their cardiovascular systems the way the disease does in humans, but it's still worth getting diagnosed and treated since brachycephalic airway syndrome and poor sleep quality may negatively impact a dog's health in other ways.

Hendricks says dogs can also suffer from narcolepsy, which occurs when dogs fall asleep suddenly and at inappropriate times. "This tends to happen to dogs when they're being fed or playing," she says. "One Rottweiler I saw lost 40 pounds because they regularly fell asleep while being fed."

Some dogs with narcolepsy experience fewer symptoms as they age, Coates adds. "Treatment is generally not recommended unless the dog is having multiple episodes per day," she says. "When treatment is necessary, medications are available that can help improve the dog's quality of life."

Finally, there's REM sleep behavior disorder that has been diagnosed in dogs. Dodman explains it this way: "When mammals sleep, they have two phases. In one, the body is somewhat active, but the mind is idle. In the other, it's reversed. Normally, muscles are paralyzed during dream sleep. When that doesn't happen, individuals may act out their dreams."

Dogs with a REM sleep behavior disorder typically "howl, bark, growl, chew, bite, or have episodes of violent limb movement while they are asleep," Coates says. "Treatment with the medication potassium bromide seems to reduce the severity and frequency of episodes in many dogs."

### Other Sleep Disruptors for Dogs

Age is another factor when it comes to sleep disruptions—with older dogs sometimes having more trouble falling asleep than puppies or younger adult dogs.

Hendricks says that like many older people, some senior dogs (especially those diagnosed with canine cognitive dysfunction, a condition similar to Alzheimer's disease) go through sundowning. This means they may get

confused and restless as night falls. They tend to pace a lot, and they may have trouble falling asleep.

Dodman also says dogs who have been in combat or have experienced something else that was extremely distressing may have PTSD. Trouble sleeping is a symptom owners should be aware of, especially if they're adopting and don't know much about their dog's past.

### How Important Is Sleep for Dogs?

The short answer: very.

"All day long, electrical activity is happening in our brain, and random, disorganized data gets stored in various places," Dodman says. "We organize that in our sleep, and dogs do, too. It's very therapeutic, and if you deny dogs that, they'll kind of lose it."

Hendricks adds that sleep helps a dog's brain development, memory, and learning capacity, as well as his immune system. "Sleep-deprived animals and people are more prone to infections," she says.

Many experts also assume that lack of sleep may contribute to your dog being in a bad mood—waking up on the wrong side of the doggy bed, if you will. Hendricks says this has been clinically tested on lab rats and humans, and results showed those whose sleep was disrupted had trouble learning and being flexible. It hasn't been similarly tested on dogs, however, because of concerns that deliberately interrupting a dog's sleep is cruel.

### How to Help Your Dog Get a Better Night's Sleep

If your dog is having trouble sleeping, regulating his exercise and stress levels can help. Hendricks recommends getting a solid walk in during the day and says that it's even more important not to do anything with your dog before bed that might throw off his sleep routine, like playing an exciting game. Coates adds that if your dog is inactive and napping most of the day, it shouldn't be too surprising if nighttime sleep becomes difficult. "Increasing the amount of physical activity and mental stimulation a dog gets during the day will help many dogs sleep at night."

But if simple solutions like these don't work, "talk to your veterinarian," Coates says. "Depending on the underlying cause of a dog's sleep problems, treatment with prescription medications, herbal remedies, nutritional supplements, or acupuncture could all help your dog get the sleep he needs to be happy and healthy."

## Review of the Current State of Genetic Testing (in Dogs) - A Living Resource

This report has been prepared by Liza Gershony, DVM, PhD and Anita Oberbauer, PhD of the University of California, Davis. The 40 page article is available on the AKC CHF website at:

[https://www.akcCHF.org/educational-resources/library/articles/CANINE\\_GENETIC\\_TESTING\\_07-28-2020\\_FINAL\\_with-links.pdf](https://www.akcCHF.org/educational-resources/library/articles/CANINE_GENETIC_TESTING_07-28-2020_FINAL_with-links.pdf)

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## AKC PAC Masks Are Here!

AKC Political Action Committee (AKC PAC) face masks help protect you and your rights as a dog owner. Masks are available for a minimum \$12 donation to the AKC PAC. 100% of your contribution to the AKC PAC goes directly to electing dog-friendly legislative candidates.

PLUS! Send AKC Government Relations a picture of yourself wearing the mask with your dog. We'll feature it on social media and other media platforms.

Click here to make your donation.

Scroll to the bottom of the page. Select your club affiliation and check the box to proceed. Enter in your contact and other information. In the AKC-affiliated club box, please type "face mask donation".



## Health Report...from p. 2

manifestation but fortunately a rare occurrence in Miniature Schnauzers in the AMSC population. One case of FACTOR VII DNA deficiency (Carrier status) has been identified.

This was found quite by happenstance and has no relevant clinical significance for Miniature Schnauzers and in the carrier bitch.

5. NON-SELECTIVE DNA Testing is the newest and MOST SIGNIFICANT concern surprisingly brought about by the move from Optigen's single testing to the multiple testing capabilities through a new lab, Wisdom Health. As a result, the AMSC has and now continues to investigate breeder education possibilities directed toward "indiscriminate" testing which may add additional gene pool pressures that are not entirely obvious or appropriate. Population genetics is a subset of traditional genetics that breeders need to understand.

CLEARLY, epigenetics plays an important role that remains difficult to define and does impact our small and contracting gene pool. Educational information, seminars, discussion panels as well as other educational tools for using DNA testing and interpreting results will be developed for Breeders. Indiscriminate (shot-gun testing) can be nothing but a rabbit hole.

As tools for breeders, the Health Committee is planning and is making preparations materials/future seminars/etc to help our breeders who have an interest and desire "to know." Your support and participation are strongly encouraged for every opportunity availed. The educational materials being provided thru the AKC, AKC/CHF are excellent and may serve as a basis:  
[https://www.akcCHF.org/educationalresources/library/articles/CANINE\\_GENETIC\\_TESTING\\_07-28-2020\\_FINAL\\_with-links.pdf](https://www.akcCHF.org/educationalresources/library/articles/CANINE_GENETIC_TESTING_07-28-2020_FINAL_with-links.pdf)

Respectfully Submitted  
 FOR  
 AMSC HEALTH COMMITTEE

# American Miniature Schnauzer Club, Inc.

## Income Statement

### For the Nine Months Ending September 30, 2020

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Year To Date</u>
Membership Dues	\$ 2,602.50
Ways & Means – Merchandise	281.35
Trophy Income	885.00
Publications & Literature	474.58
Purina Parent Club Program	470.40
Health Income	150.00
Rescue Income	390.00
Meet the Breeds – NYC	150.00
Roving Spring Show	90.00
Montgomery – 2019	94.50
Miscellaneous Income	20.00
Interest Income	4.84
Total Revenues	<u>\$ 5,613.17</u>
<u>Expenses</u>	
Advertising	\$ 65.00
AKC Delegate	775.92
AKC Fliers	257.19
Insurance	1,512.00
Meet the Breeds – NYC	84.89
Meet the Breeds – Orlando	296.55
Seminars/Meetings	173.23
PayPal fees	117.15
Treasurers Expense	25.79
Website Maintenance	235.48
AMSCOPE	901.47
Ways & Means	339.88
Trophies	861.73
Historian Fees	28.54
Awards – Versatility	256.45
Awards Breeder	1,339.40
Awards – Statistic Reports	785.00
Legislative – NAIA Dues	250.00
Montgomery – Sweeps Gift-, 2019	100.00
Montgomery – Agility Site & Equipt.	606.25
Miscellaneous Expense	20.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 9,031.92</u>
Net Income / (Loss)	<u>\$ (3,418.75)</u>

**PACH RACH4 Angel Sylvie Williams CDX  
BN RM12 RAE25 OA OAJ MXP5 MXPS  
MJP7 MJPG PAX NF XFP THDD RATN  
CGCA CGCU TKP**

Angel is the one and only pet I have ever had. She came into my life when I least expected and needed her the most...hence the name "Angel". She definitely has proven to us to be an amazing angel, sent down from heaven for us to make everyone's life she touches, better. I am so blessed to have her in my life. She has been a joy and a comfort since the first day I laid eyes on her when she was only four weeks old, approximately 12 ½ years ago.

Angel became a Certified Pet Therapy Dog just a few weeks after turning one year old. We started competing in AKC events when she was 2 ½ years old, starting out in Agility, then later in Rally, Obedience, Barnhunt, and Trick Dog.

Angel earned her Obedience CDX Title all in one weekend. We then started competing in Rally in June of 2012 after only a few Rally classes, and immediately fell in love with it, thus starting our Rally journey together. After earning our Rally Excellent Title, we were excited to enter the RAE class. When AKC started the Masters class, we jumped right in and earned our Master Title in December 2017 in only three weekends. We earned our 4<sup>th</sup> RACH (Rally Championship) two years later.

For the RACH, Angel was not the first Miniature Schnauzer to earn the title, but was the first Miniature Schnauzer to earn the RACH 2 and RACH 3 Titles...and the first dog to earn the RACH 4 Title. Since AKC started listing the TOP RALLY DOG....Angel has been ranked **AKC #1 Top Dog in Rally Competition for All AKC-Recognized Breeds.**

Angel is a dog who works hard, and loves to please and bring joy to others. She has proven over and over again that she is an amazing dog...and can pretty much do anything. She is MOST DEFINITELY a VERSATILE dog, we are so proud to have earned the AMSC Versatility Award.





## How Will Dog Shows Change as We Hit the Reset Button? By Allan Reznik

Like many of you in the sport, I haven't been to a dog show since early March. The cancellation of shows nationwide began a little later that month, as we sheltered in place to deal with the pandemic. Of course, our lives in dogs continued during that forced hiatus; we whelped litters, groomed, kept up with our paperwork, dealt with inquiries, and conducted virtual kennel club meetings. Throughout these six months, we've speculated on how and when dog shows could begin again, safely and in compliance with state and county bylaws.

A handful of matches and circuits have been held so far this summer, and from posts on social media, videos streamed and AKC.TV coverage of Groups at a Pennsylvania cluster, it appears that we are overall adjusting to the new normal. So how ARE shows changing, aside from the obvious social distancing and the wearing of masks?

The entry  
With all the litters born during our shutdown, there will probably be an abundance of puppies shown. Hopefully, they will have been trained to take masked exhibitors and judges in their stride. With

so many class dogs that had been expected to finish in the past six months but had no place to go, we should be seeing some lovely animals in the ring. By the same token, some people chose not to keep adult class dogs in full coat while waiting out the moratorium on shows, but breed them instead. It will be interesting to see if entries are down in Poodles, Old English Sheepdogs, Shih Tzu, and other coated breeds as a result.

The first weekend of shows in July offered two clusters, and professional handlers from around the country converged on

Pennsylvania and the Carolinas. One Best in Show lineup I saw online boasted two Westminster Group winners vying for the top award. Before the pandemic, many in the sport would lament quite vocally that we had too many shows and quality suffered in that embarrassment of riches. Now that shows are slowly opening here and there, with exhibitors rushing to enter before closing time, we may be seeing higher quality across the board, with nationally ranked dogs competing head to head in the same ring, something that typically might have happened only at the Garden and in Orlando. That can't be a bad thing for our breeds.



**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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