



AMSCOPE

Newsletter of the AMERICAN MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB

October 2020

Volume 41

Issue 10

How Much of a Dog's Personality Comes From Their Owner?

Kendall Curley

Reviewed for accuracy on May 13, 2019 by Dr. Wailani Sung, MS, PhD, DVM, DACVB

You may know dogs and people whose personalities are mirror images of each other: a low-key pet parent with an equally mellow pup or an outgoing pet parent with a dog who greets everyone with wet kisses. This might not actually be just a coincidence, as scientists say that dog personality is strongly linked to human personality.

But, just how similar is a dog's personality to their caretaker? Is the human-animal bond so strong that a dog can adopt personality traits from their owner, and vice versa?

Personality Similarities Between Dogs and Their People

In a study published in Applied Animal Behaviour Science, researchers asked pet parents to rate themselves on five major personality dimensions (as well as on corresponding personality traits of dogs). "The Big Five," as they're referred to in the psychology community, are:

Neuroticism (a tendency towards feelings like anxiety and fear)

Extraversion

Conscientiousness

Agreeableness

Openness (level of creativity, curiosity and being open to new ideas)

Pet parents overwhelmingly responded that

they share all five personality dimensions with their dogs. To be certain the results weren't mere projection by pet parents, independent peers also assessed the dog and human duos. The independent peers also rated them as sharing all the dimensions, except for openness.

Why Is Dog Personality Linked to Human Personality?

One explanation why dog behavior and personality is so intertwined with that of their humans is a tendency for people to select animals who complement their own lives. A calm human will often choose a calm dog, or an anxious person will adopt a frightened dog, for example, says Jenn Fiendish, a veterinary behavior technician who runs Happy Power Behavior and Training in Portland, Oregon. She believes people do this on a subconscious level.

"When my husband and I went to pick up our new puppy 12 years ago, I immediately chose the one who was more active, feisty and a little scared of things, which is much like my own personality. My husband chose the laid-back, calm and not-bothered-by-things puppy, a perfect match for his personality. This also happened with my other two dogs that we own, both of whom I picked out because they were feisty and a bit out of control (me again!)." Through the years, she says that the dogs have maintained, and even strengthened, some of these personality traits.

Dr. Patrick Mahaney, a veterinarian who owns Los Angeles-based California Pet Acupuncture and Wellness (CPAW), Inc., says he's seen clients with seemingly neurotic tendencies gravitate towards higher-energy dogs. "Such neurotic owners seem to seek out Weimaraners, Vizslas, herding dogs and other breeds and their mixes that often would feed off of the amped-up energy of their owners."

Dog Emotions Mirror Human Emotions
Given that people and pups have shared a relationship for at least 15 thousand years

(scientists debate this timeline), it's no surprise that dog personality has been impacted.

Fiendish says that dogs have an ability to read and match human emotions. "When a person is very anxious, our dogs understand this and often become anxious as well. If the anxiety is chronic, the dog may also develop chronic anxiety," she says.

Dr. Mahaney has witnessed this in his practice. "I have observed pets in households where the owners are under a lot of stress [who will] subsequently exhibit behavior problems which could be attributed to the owners' lack of calming energy."

Some of the behavior problems he sees include inappropriate urination and defecation, destructive tendencies, barking and howling, and decreased appetite.

Dogs are true empaths, says Dr. Lisa Pinn McFaddin, DVM, GDCVHM, CVSMT, CCOAC, CVA, CVFT, medical director at Independent Hill Veterinary Clinic in Manassas, Virginia, and host of a podcast called Vetsplaining. "They can sense minute physiologic changes in people and other animals and respond accordingly."

The closer the human-animal relationship, the greater the response, adds Dr. McFaddin. "Dogs frequently try to comfort and calm upset owners. People do not always recognize these cues from dogs, as they may be subtle: laying down next to the person, putting their head on the person's leg, making physical contact with the person or trying to distract the person with a toy."

Can a Dog's Personality Rub Off on Humans?

While experts say it's more common

PERSONALITY...con't on p. 2

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

BARK	3
New Applicants	2
PERSONALITY	1
Specialties	2

LOOK

Please let me know if you make a change

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

Debbie Herrell

13445 Phal Road
Grass Lake, MI 49240
Phone: 517-522-4173
sercatep@yahoo.com

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

Bonnie Keyes
511 River Terrace
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.

PERSONALITY...from p. 1

for dogs to acquire personality traits from their pet parents, it's possible for dog emotions and behavior to impact humans, says Dr. McFaddin.

Dr. McFaddin explains, "I most often observe this when people own dogs who are innately anxious. The dog's anxiety often results in owner anxiety. The person feels helpless to alleviate the anxious behaviors expressed by their pet. This helplessness makes the owner feel uncomfortable, vulnerable and, thus, anxious."

Physical cues and behaviors that an anxious dog might exhibit—like panting, whining, pacing, destruction of items and incessant barking—can also overstimulate a pet parent, Dr. McFaddin says.

"The constant movement and noise become annoying and disruptive to the owner's lifestyle, which causes anxiety. On the flip side, some insanely calm dogs (I call them Buddha dogs) help calm owners. The dog's innate serenity is contagious, physically and emotionally," she adds.

"Numerous studies have shown a reduction in anxiety, slowing of heart rate, lowering of blood pressure, and increased release of calming hormones and neurotransmitters in the body of both humans and dogs following positive interactions, primarily after petting," says Dr. McFaddin. So it seems that both parties can benefit from the human-animal bond.

By: Paula Fitzsimmons

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. He 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 he is willing to help future new comers.

Sponsors: Patricia Bond and Krystal Mason

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

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

7 Reasons Why Dogs Bark and How to Make Them Stop

Different Barks for Different Occasions

Hello! Good to see you! — If your dog shows excitement when he encounters other people or dogs, his body is relaxed and he's wagging his tail, the barking he does at those times is his way of being neighborly.

What was that? Did you hear that?

— If your dog barks at what seems like everything — every movement or noise he's not expecting — he's distress barking. His body is probably held stiffly during this activity and he may jump forward a bit with each bark.

Hey! Stop right there! — Your pup considers your home, yard, car, his walk route and other places he spends a lot of time, his territory. If your dog barks continuously when a person or another animal approaches his domain, he's communicating that a stranger is invading his turf.

Look at me! Look at me! — Some dogs bark simply for attention — from you or another animal. Your dog might also bark in the hopes of getting food, a treat or some playtime. The more you reward the behavior by giving him what seeks, the more likely he'll be to continue to bark for attention.

Hello all you other barking dogs out there! — If your dog answers when he hears other dogs barking, it's a social thing. He hears the barking of nearby dogs, or even dogs at some distance, and he responds in kind. This type of social barking is often heard at animal shelters and boarding facilities.

Help! I can't stop this annoying barking! — If your dog barks continually, perhaps while performing a repetitive movement like running back and forth along the fence in your yard, he's demonstrating a bit of a compulsion. You might want to try to find a better outlet for his energy — like a rigorous walk or a long game of fetch. A tired dog is a quiet dog.

Let me OUT of here! — If your dog is behind your fence and another dog passes by within view, your pup might bark excessively to signal his frustration that he can't greet his buddy out there on the sidewalk. This type of barking is usually seen in dogs who are confined or tied up to restrict their movement.

As you can see, there are some types of barks that require your attention in the form of environment or lifestyle changes

that help soothe your dog and reduce or eliminate his need to bark. And then there are the barks that serve no real purpose and require an intervention.

In under-exercised dogs who don't receive adequate physical or mental stimulation on a daily basis, excessive barking can be a way to alleviate boredom. Dogs with **separation anxiety** also often bark nonstop or howl when they're left alone.

Teaching Your Dog That Silence Is Golden

Since barking is a natural behavior and means of communication for dogs, it's counterproductive to try to prevent it. Instead, your goal with a dog who barks excessively is to teach her to stop barking on command.

This training will be easier if you're starting with a puppy, but it can also be done with an adult dog. With a puppy, you'll need to train yourself first to ignore his cute little yips and squeaks so as not to reinforce the behavior. Keep reminding yourself those adorable puppy barks will grow louder and more annoying the older she gets.

"You don't punish barking, you reward silence," says Dr. Nicholas Dodman, founder of the Animal Behavior Clinic at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine.¹ It's a brilliantly simple approach, but it doesn't come naturally to everyone.

"There are many benign ways of training a dog not to bark," writes Dodman. *"Most of them involve utilizing a voice command, such as No bark! Some of them simply entail patience, where you wait until the dog eventually does stop barking and then you reward it with some highly sought after treat ..."*

If you're consistent in your response to your dog's barking, she'll start to reduce the length of time she barks. You may be able to speed up the process a bit by immediately following your verbal command to stop barking with words that indicate a treat is part of the bargain in exchange for her silence. When she starts barking, you say "No bark," followed immediately by "Want a treat?"

Gradually reduce the number of treats she receives until you're rewarding her with food only once in a while, and be sure to use only tiny pieces of **healthy treats**. (However, remember to always reward her with verbal praise and petting when she does what you ask her to do.)

Dodman also points out that some dogs may require negative reinforcement (which is not the same as punishment) through the use of a head halter with a training lead. When the dog barks, tension is applied to the training lead to remind him he's performing an undesirable behavior. The reward for his silence is release of tension on the lead.

"Most owners make the mistake of feeling that they have to chastise or otherwise punish their pup for barking but the commotion and anguish that this causes does little to improve the situation," writes Dodman. *"In fact, in yelling at a dog that is barking may seem to it as if you're barking, too."*

3 More Tips to Curb Excessive Barking

- If loud noises set your dog off, a crate of his own that he can go in and out of at will, coupled with soothing music or a television on in the background can help. **Tips and tricks for crate training your dog (including fearful dogs).**
- If he's barking out of boredom, increase his exercise and playtime, take him on walks, to the dog park, or find other activities that give him both the physical activity and mental stimulation all dogs require to be well-balanced. The best way to create a quiet dog is to exhaust him with exercise.
- Changes in your dog's routine and environment can cause stress, so as much as possible, stick to a consistent daily schedule he can depend on. You might also consider talking with an **animal behavior specialist** about desensitization and counter conditioning exercises for a stressed-out pet. Lifelong **socialization** and positive training are also essential for your dog's mental and emotional well-being.





AMSCOPE

Carla M. Borrelli, Editor
1799 South Creek Road
Derby, NY 14047-9729

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS

51 YEARS

Lynda Berar

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

Mary Froats
Kurt Garmaker
Linda Isley
Marilyn A. Lande
Leslie Marshall
Eva Monsén
Gay Oltjenbruns
Judy I Richey
Vicki Stephens

FIVE YEARS

Lloyd Amodei
Beverly Barrone
Donna E Mullin
Pamela Opanowitz
Kathleen M Rager
Carol Reid
Joanne Ridley
Susan C Shelton
Dustin Wyatt



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.

PRESIDENT

John Constantine-Amodei
27159 Terra del Fuego Circle
Punta Gorda, FL 33963-5437
Phone: 215-527-5437
john@adamis.org

VICE PRESIDENT

Vicki Kubic
513 River Terrace
Endicott, NY 13760
Phone 607-725-3662
vickikubic@aol.com

SECRETARY

Kaye Kirk
5528 North Barnes
Oklahoma City, OK 73112-7729
405-245-2099
ostategop@gmail.com
secretary@amsc.us

MEMBERSHIP

Debbie Herrell
13445 Phal Road
Grass Lake, MI 49240
Phone: 517-522-4173
sercatep@yahoo.com

TREASURER

Bonnie Keyes
511 River Terrace
Endicott, NY 13760
(607)742-3828
treasurer@amsc.us

AMSCOPE

Carla Borrelli
1799 South Creek Road
Derby, NY 14047
Phone: 716-572-7010
cborr@aol.com

AMSC Web page: <http://amsc.us>

AKC home page: <http://www.akc.org/akc/>

**American Miniature Schnauzer Club
Final Ballot for Selection of Judges for Spring and Fall (2023)
Specialties**

The nominees who received the most nomination points, and have indicated a willingness to accept an assignment, if selected, are listed below in alphabetical order. Please vote for TWO (2) Judges for Regular

Classes and TWO (2) judges for Sweepstakes Classes. List your choice as 1st, and 2nd for both Regular and

Sweepstakes Classes.

IF THESE INSTRUCTIONS ARE NOT FOLLOWED YOUR BALLOT WILL BE INVALID.

This Ballot provides a place for two members of the same household to vote. Members living in the same household will receive only one ballot. However, any person who wishes a separate ballot, may request one

from the Chairperson of the Judges Selection Committee.

**BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OCTOBER 30, 2020
VOTE FOR 2 1st, 2nd**

Regular Classes

John Constantine-Amodei _____
Geri Kelly _____
Mary Paisley _____
Richard Powell _____
Carole Weinberger _____

Sweepstakes Classes

Shawne Imler _____
Vickie Kubic _____
Patti Ledgerwood _____
Joseph Wake _____
Dustin Wyatt _____

Be Sure to Sign and Date and Print Your Name and Date

Members Signature _____
date _____

(Required)
Printed Name _____ date

(Required)

Members Signature _____
date _____

(Required)
Printed Name _____ date

(Required)

PLEASE NOTE: Signed Ballots may be returned by Regular Mail, Email or Text Message. For your ballot to be counted, it must be received no later than (insert date).

Return to Bonnie Keyes,
511 River Ter, Endicott, NY 13760.

Email: maplewynd@gmail.com Phone/Text: 607-742-3828. Please follow directions carefully as we want your votes to count.

