



# AMSCOPE

Newsletter of the American Miniature Schnauzer Club  
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## No Puppies? A Look at Causes of Infertility in Female Dogs

By Erin Rakosky DVM & Paisley Lunchick RVT KPA-CTP

You have the right sire selected for your special female and a list of potential puppy buyers, eager for their new family member. But a few weeks after breeding, you get the disappointing news that your bitch is not pregnant.

There are several reasons a breeding may not result in a pregnancy or full-term whelping. Knowing more about fertility concerns in dogs can help breeders use best practice methods for breeding. We talked with Kate E. Withowski DVM, of Veterinary Medical Center of Easton, MD and a diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists, about common causes of infertility in female dogs.

### Mistiming

Mistiming of ovulation is the primary reason for breeding to not result in pregnancy. The canine heat cycle has three stages: proestrus, oestrus and anestrus. Ovulation occurs during oestrus, which begins approximately nine to 12 days after the heat cycle begins and lasts approximately nine to twelve days. This is the time when the bitch should be bred.

Dr. Withowski recommends that breeders work closely with a veterinarian who has experience in ovulation timing. The veterinarian will monitor your bitch's heat cycle through vaginal cytologies, progesterone and possibly LH testing to better predict

the right time to breed. Withowski suggests breeding twice during oestrus to ensure the best chances of insemination. CEH

Cystic endometrial complex (CEH) occurs over time because of progesterone following a normal heat cycle. The presence of CEH makes the uterus a more hostile place for fetuses to grow and increases a bitch's chances of developing a pyometra.

"I would encourage owners to think about planning to breed their bitch by the time she is 2 or 3-years-old to avoid age and CEH-associated infertility issues," Dr. Withowski said.

### Physical Health

The physical condition of the bitch can also affect her fertility. Dr. Withowski recommends that bitches be in good health, health tested according to their breed club recommendations, up to date on vaccinations, and free of any underlying disease.

They should be in healthy weight (neither over- or under-weight) and eating a well-balanced commercial diet approved by the Association of American Feed Control Officials or a homemade diet created with the aid of a veterinary nutritionist. If a bitch is due for vaccines, they should be performed no later than three weeks prior to her cycle. She should be kept on heartworm and flea/tick preventatives that are labeled safe for pregnant dogs.

### Semen & Breeding Methods

The semen sample and breeding method can impact the chances of pregnancy, even if the timing of ovulation is correct. Poor semen quality and sample type (fresh, chilled, or frozen) can be one reason for pregnancy not occurring. Dr. Withowski said the insemination method (natural, vaginal AI, intrauterine AI – transcervical or surgical) can impact pregnancy rate and litter size in bitches. Re-

search should be performed to determine the best method and semen type for your breeding desires.

### Brucellosis

Though brucella canis infections in dogs are rare, the bacteria can have devastating consequences. Such consequences include male and female infertility, abortion and puppy loss. Prior to breeding, both the bitch and the dog should be tested for Brucella. This is an easy blood test that can be performed during semen collection or ovulation timing visits. If any dogs show positive on screening tests, then further testing is required.

Breeding dogs can be fun and rewarding, but it can also bring frustration and loss. Following these recommendations can give you a good start in your breeding program.

## *New Applicant*

Susie Thomas Sexson  
141 Grisham Road  
Royal, AR 71968  
501-701-7291

Susie would like to become a member of AMSC to make a difference. She has read the Code of Ethics and the Breed Standard and agrees to abide by both. She is a breeder and has had six litters in the past five years. She attends five to ten dog events per year, exhibiting in conformation. Susie belongs to the Hot Springs KC where her involvement is helping with judges' transportation and working the day of their show. She owns three Grand Champions and has co-bred four other Champions. Her special skills are in computer science.

Sponsors: Paula Steele  
Heather Dangelmaier

**The deadline  
for the October issue is  
September 8**

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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

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

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**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**

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.

**If you use Voltarin pain cream, you should know that diclofenac, the medicine in Voltarin, is EXTREMELY toxic to dogs & cats. If they lick your skin or you pet them after using it they can get very sick. As with any human medications, please be careful around your pets.**

## Puppy Cognition – the Making of a Brilliant Canine Mind

By [Sharon Albright, DVM, CCRT](#)

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Cognition is described as the ability to use perception, memory, attention, and reasoning to assimilate information into knowledge and understanding. Scientists now know that a single construct such as general intelligence does not adequately explain the variation seen in cognitive abilities within and between species such as humans and dogs.

The AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) and its donors have invested in ground-breaking research to explore the cognitive abilities of our canine companions – particularly those that work closely with us as detection dogs, service dogs, assistance dogs, and more.

With funding from [CHF Grant 1995: Understanding the Flexibility and Limitations of How Dogs Acquire Knowledge and Understanding: Application to Service Dog Emotional Health and Selection](#), investigators examined dogs' temperamental and cognitive traits and how they might be used to predict an individual dog's chance of success as a service or detection dog.<sup>1</sup> Successful service dogs were more likely to engage in eye contact with the human tester when faced with an unsolvable task or when social interaction was interrupted and scored higher on inferential reasoning tasks.

Successful detection dogs scored higher on tests of sensitivity to human gestures and short-term memory. Investigators also showed that existing cognitive and temperament tests can help predict success in these working roles.

This research is critical to improving the training and selection process for working dogs. Which cognitive traits predict success in various working roles? How can we use each dog's cognitive style to maximize their learning? At what age do these cognitive traits first appear and when are they fully developed? Are these traits stable over the dog's lifetime or do they change throughout puppyhood, adolescence, and maturity?

With funding from [CHF Grant 02518: The Effects of Early Life Experience on Working Dog Temperament and Cognition](#), investigators are collaborating with Canine Companions for Independence (CCI) to explore these issues in young puppies.

The latest research results published in *Animal Behaviour*<sup>2</sup> describe the cognitive characteristics of 8- to 10-week-old puppies whelped at the CCI headquarters in Santa Rosa, CA, or in volunteer breeder caretaker homes. The puppies stayed with their dam and littermates until approximately 8 weeks of age. At that age, they received veterinary care at the CCI headquarters before going to individual puppy raiser homes. It was at this time that each puppy completed the Dog Cognitive Development Battery – a series of 14 tasks completed over three days in a 45-minute session each day. Results represent the first description of cognitive skills in such a large group of puppies at this young age.

Results demonstrate that by 8 to 10 weeks of age, puppies show perceptual discrimination

and memory after short delays. They exhibit social communicative skills, flexible thinking, and self-control, but all to lesser degrees than adult dogs. Investigators conclude that dogs appear to be biologically programmed for communication with humans and that these skills show up early in development. Since many of these traits are linked to success in various working dog roles, we can study the stability of these traits over time and how they correlate with ultimate success in a working role. The AKC Canine Health Foundation and its donors continue to support ground-breaking research like this to help us better understand and better care for our closest animal companions. Learn more at [www.akcchf.org](http://www.akcchf.org).

Table 1: Summary of the Dog Cognitive Development Battery and results published in *Animal Behaviour*<sup>2</sup>

### Task Description and Results

#### Retrieval

This task evaluated a puppy's willingness to cooperatively engage in fetch with a human partner. All puppies had a tendency to chase and pick up the ball, which matches results from previous studies, even those involving a non-retriever breed, the German Shepherd Dog.

#### Laterality

Investigators tracked paw preference when the puppy was stepping on or off of a platform. This left or right-handedness is believed to reflect lateralization within the brain and has been linked to temperamental reactivity in adult dogs. Half of the tested puppies showed a significant preference for one side, although left and right were not statistically different.

#### Human interest

This task tested a puppy's desire to attend to a human that spoke to them. Puppies spent approximately 6 seconds looking at the human's face during each 30 second trial and approximately 18 seconds looking at the human's face during each 30 second play break.

#### Cylinder

a. Inhibitory control: This task tested a puppy's ability to defer immediate reward and make a choice that would ultimately be more productive. A food reward was placed behind a plastic barrier. To be successful, puppies had to defer the natural choice of moving directly toward the treat and instead go around the barrier to reach the food reward. Both transparent and opaque barriers were tested. Puppies went directly around the barrier approximately half of the repetitions. They were more successful if the barrier was opaque. If the barrier was transparent, they would spend more time bumping into the barrier attempting to get

**CANINE MIND...cont'd on p 3**

**CANINE MIND...from p. 2**

the visible food reward before learning to go around. b. Cognitive flexibility: This task tested a puppy's response when a previously preferred solution was no longer available. The food reward was placed behind an opaque barrier and the side to which each puppy preferentially went around in the inhibitory control task was blocked with clear plastic. To be successful, the puppy had to go to the *other* side of the barrier. Most tested puppies demonstrated a strong preference to go left versus right. When that side was blocked, they went directly to the open side approximately 33% of the time. Puppies with the strongest side preference performed the worst when that side was blocked. For both of these tests, older puppies solved the problem faster than younger puppies. However, the tests did not discriminate if they were faster at problem solving or if they were simply able to move faster around the barrier once they did realize the solution.

**Unsolvable task**

This task tested a puppy's inclination to persist at an unsolvable problem versus looking to a nearby human for help. Food reward was placed inside a clear, locked container. During each 30 second trial, tested puppies spent an average of only 1 second looking at the nearby human's face and an average of 13 seconds trying to manipulate the container. This agrees with results from previous studies demonstrating that young puppies do orient to humans for assistance, but not as much as adult dogs.

**Gesture use**

These tasks tested a puppy's ability to use various communicative cues to find hidden reward. For each task, the examiner showed the puppy a food reward, but the puppy's view was blocked while the food was hidden in one of two possible containers. The puppy was then able to see both containers and was given one of the following cues. a. Communicative marker: The examiner obviously placed a yellow block next to the cup containing a hidden food reward. Tested puppies used this cue approximately 75% of the repetitions, performing better than expected by chance. b. Arm pointing: The examiner obviously looked at and pointed to the cup containing food. Tested puppies again performed better than expected by chance and used the arm pointing gesture in approximately 70% of the repetitions. c. Odor control: No cue was given from the examiner. Tested puppies chose the cup containing food reward as expected by random chance. This indicated that smelling the food reward in the cup did not influence their response to the communicative marker or arm pointing.

**Novel object**

This task tested a puppy's response to an unfamiliar object – in this case, a motion-activated, motorized stuffed cat. Puppy reactions varied along the spectrum of shy to bold.

**Working memory**

This task tested a puppy's ability to recall the location of a hidden food reward after various periods of time. Tested puppies performed better than expected by chance at 5 and 10 second intervals. Only one third of the puppies did well enough at these time intervals to attempt 15 and 20 second delays. Again, the puppies tested at these longer

intervals performed better than expected by chance.

**Discrimination**

a. Visual: Puppies chose which of two hidden plates contained a food reward after watching the examiner place kibble on one of them. b. Auditory: Puppies chose which of two hidden metal bowls contained a food reward after hearing the examiner drop kibble into one of them. c. Odor: Puppies chose which of two rubber tubes contained a food reward after sniffing two similar tubes. The ends of the tubes were stuffed with cotton to prevent the kibble from being visible or moving around to create a sound. Tested puppies performed better than expected by chance in each of these tasks. Visual discrimination was the most successful, followed by olfactory, then auditory.

**Surprising events**

This task evaluated a puppy's reaction to a series of unexpected and potentially startling events: a large trash bag stuffed with shredded paper was tossed in front of the puppy, an umbrella was opened toward the puppy, and a piece of sheet metal was shaken (making sound and pulses of air) near the puppy. Similar to the novel object task, individual responses and recovery rates varied.

**ESTATE PLANNING AND PETS**

AKC DELEGATES FORUM, JUNE 11, 2013

PETER B. CANALIA, J.D.

Thank you for the opportunity to present a topic that is near and dear to my heart.

Hopefully, when I am finished, you will find this topic equally interesting. I initially was interested in this topic as a result of the area of concentration in which my practice had evolved, namely Estate Planning.

Wills, trusts and advanced directives were a topic of conversation on a daily basis. And when prospective clients came into the office for an initial interview I would ask them all the same questions regarding their family, their descendants, their special needs, special bequests, what property they had and who gets what; all pretty standard questions. Being a dog lover I would ask if they had a pet that they wished to provide care for after their demise. For the most part, the prospective clients would indicate some member of their family or a friend would care for their pet and there was no necessity to include language in the Will or Trust in this regard.

By way of background, when I started practicing law in 1970 there was no such thing as a pet trust. For those of you who are not aware, pets are considered "personal property." For legal purposes, and in particular estate planning purposes, pets have the same standing as, for example, a table or a piece of jewelry.

Trusts created for pets (or property) were considered a "purpose trust" which is established to accomplish a "purpose" as opposed to being established for the benefit of a person, corporation, charitable entities, etc. There are three kinds of purpose trusts:

Charitable Trusts, created to benefit a charity; Non-Charitable Trusts, created to benefit property; and Trusts

Contrary to Public Policy, created to benefit unlawful activities. Pet Trusts are of the non-charitable type, created to benefit property. The problem with this type of trust is the Pet is not capable of enforcing the terms of the trust.

The Trustee has the power, but not the legal obligation to carry out the terms of the trust agreement. Accordingly, this type of trust was considered an Honorary Trust. The trustee had a moral obligation, but not a legal obligation to carry out the terms of the trust. Until 1990 a provision in a will or trust which stated "I give \$25,000 to John Doe to take care of my pet Fido" was considered an Honorary Trust and was not enforceable. John could take the \$25,000, euthanize Fido, and head off for that European vacation he had always dreamed about, and who would be there to stop him? Unfortunately, no one.

In 1990 as a result of amendments to the Uniform Probate Code (UPC), and also in 2000 as a result of amendments to the Uniform Trust Code (UTC), language was proposed and adopted which addressed the enforceability issue by allowing states to adopt legislation to allow the establishment of a valid and enforceable trust for the care of a designated pet. The significance of this amendment is that the traditional concept of trust law that the beneficiary had to be a person who could enforce the terms of a trust had remained relatively the same from MIDDLE AGES until the amendments to the UPC and the UTC made trusts for pets enforceable.

As an indication of the popularity of this concept forty-six states have adopted statutory pet trust language. For your information the four states that have not enacted pet trust statutes are Minnesota, Mississippi, Louisiana and West Virginia.

There are means to address this issue in the four states mentioned which I will address later.

I guess one question may be why is this important? What's the fuss? Consider the following. People love their animals. They enjoy their companionship. They enjoy the giving and receiving of attention and unconditional love. Research indicates that pet ownership positively impacts the owner's health by lowering blood pressure, reducing stress and depression, lowering the risk of heart disease and shortening time after a hospitalization. Some interesting news articles that I quote, but cannot verify are completely accurate, state: 66% of pet owners treat their animals as members of their families, 20% of Americans have altered their romantic relationships over pet disputes, 80% brag about their pets to others, 79% allow their pets to sleep in their beds with them, 37% carry pictures of their pets in their wallets, 31% take off work to be with their sick pets and between 12% and 27% include their pets in their wills.



# AMSCOPE

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

## In Memorium

### Sandra Arnold



Sandra L. "Sandy" Arnold, age 67, passed into glory on Wednesday morning, July 21, 2022, at Bluffton Regional Medical Center.

Sandy was born in Huntington on Nov. 29, 1954, to Wilbur and Elizabeth (Mosser) Kinsey. Her mother, Elizabeth Daniels, survives in Bluffton. Sandy married Steven H. Arnold in Bluffton on Feb. 28, 1989; he survives.

Sandy was the owner of OK Modern Cleaners in Bluffton for 45 years and also the matriarch of Boundary Water Kennel. She was a member of Saint Joseph Catholic Church in Bluffton. The passion and joy of her life was breeding, raising, and showing Miniature and Standard Schnauzers, where she also took great enjoyment and fulfillment in mentoring and teaching others.

She had been battling lung cancer for the past 3 years and her last labs and visit were good so things were hopeful. She then developed pneumonia and was hospitalized.

In addition to her mother and husband, Sandy is survived by six children,

## BRAGS



Southcross Ninety Nine Bottles O'Beer, otherwise known as Lager, completed all the qualifications for AKC's lifetime achievement award in agility—the Agility Grand Championship—on July 7th. Even though a dog can acquire all the qualifying scores for this award in both the Regular and Preferred classes, Lager's runs have all been in the Regular classes. Lager is adored and trained by Teresa Janssen in Shallowater, TX. A special thanks to Sonny Lelle for breeding this smart, clever, beautiful boy! Lager is only 8 years old and will continue to run agility, but now he will run in the Preferred class (lower jump height). I am so proud of my agility partner, AGCH MACH4 Southcross Ninety Nine Bottles O'Beer RN MXS2 PDS MJS2 PJD MFG TQX T2B5

**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

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

### VICE PRESIDENT

**Patricia O'Brien**  
273 Mableann Lane  
Merlin, OR 97523  
916-662-5278,  
Emerald\_Isle\_95661@yahoo.com

### SECRETARY

**Carol Hafner**  
576 East Quincy Ave  
Fresno, CA 93720-2125  
Phone: 559-435-6207  
cnehafnish@sbcglobal.net  
secretary@amsc.us

### 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

### MEMBERSHIP

**Debbie Herrell**  
13445 Phal Road  
Grass Lake, MI 49240  
Phone: 517-522-4173  
sercatep@yahoo.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 ( 2024 )  
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 SEPTEMBER 16, 2022  
VOTE FOR 2 Regular Judges & 2 Sweeps Judges 1st, 2nd

Regular Classes Sweepstakes Classes

- Brian Bogart \_\_\_\_\_ Patricia Bond \_\_\_\_\_
- Dan Ericcson \_\_\_\_\_ Cheryl Dugan \_\_\_\_\_
- Linda Wells \_\_\_\_\_ Patti Ledgerwood \_\_\_\_\_
- Lee Whittier \_\_\_\_\_ Marie Pletsch \_\_\_\_\_
- Chris Levy \_\_\_\_\_ Joseph Wake \_\_\_\_\_

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

Members Signature \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_

(Required)

Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Required)

