



# AMSCOPE

Newsletter of the **AMERICAN MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB**  
August 2021 **Volume 41** **Issue 8**

## 10 Symptoms You Should Never Ignore in Your Dog

Analysis by Dr. Karen Shaw Becker

The following symptoms fall into the category of Do Not Ignore. They may or may not signal a serious underlying disease, but they should be investigated immediately by your veterinarian or an emergency animal clinic.

### 10 Do Not Ignore Symptoms in Dogs

1. Fainting, collapsing — When a dog collapses, it means she experiences a sudden loss of strength that causes her to fall and not be able to get back up. If a collapsed dog also loses consciousness, she has fainted. Either of these situations is an emergency, even if your dog recovers quickly and seems normal again within seconds or minutes of the collapse.

All the reasons for fainting or collapsing are serious and require an immediate visit to your veterinarian. They include a potential problem with the nervous system (brain, spinal cord or nerves), the musculoskeletal system (bones, joints, muscles), the circulatory system (heart, blood vessels, blood), or the respiratory system (mouth, nose, throat, lungs).

2. Difficulty breathing — A dog in respiratory distress will have labored breathing or shortness of breath that can occur when she breathes in or out. Breathing difficulties can mean that not enough oxygen is reaching her tissues. Additionally, dogs with

heart failure may not be able to pump enough blood to their muscles and other tissues.

Respiratory distress often goes hand-in-hand with a buildup of fluid in the lungs or chest cavity that leads to shortness of breath and coughing. If your dog has sudden undiagnosed breathing problems, she should see a veterinarian immediately.

3. Trouble urinating — This includes discomfort while urinating, straining to urinate, and frequent attempts to urinate with little success. If your dog cries out while relieving himself, seems preoccupied with that area of his body or is excessively licking the area, you should make an appointment with your veterinarian right away. There are several underlying causes of urinary difficulties, some of which can result in death within just a few days.

4. Pacing, restlessness, unproductive retching — When a dog paces and seems unable or unwilling to settle down, it can signal that he's in pain, discomfort, or distress. One very serious condition in which these symptoms are common is gastric dilatation volvulus (GDV), also called bloat.

Another sign of bloat is when a dog tries to vomit but brings nothing up. Bloat is a life-threatening condition that most often occurs in large breed dogs and those with deep chests.

5. Lethargy, extreme fatigue — A lethargic dog will appear drowsy, "lazy," and/or indifferent. She may be slow to respond to sights, sounds and other stimuli in her environment. Lethargy or exhaustion is a non-specific symptom that can signal a number of potential underlying disorders, including some that are serious or life-threatening. If your pet is lethargic for longer than 24 hours, it's time to make an appointment with your veterinarian.

6. Bloody diarrhea, urine, vomit — Digested blood in your dog's poop will appear as black tarry stools. Fresh blood in the stool indicates bleeding in the colon or rectum. Either situation is cause for concern and should be investigated as soon as possible.

Blood in a dog's urine, called hematuria, can be obvious or microscopic. There are a number of serious disorders that can cause bloody urine, including a blockage in the urinary tract, a bacterial infection, and even cancer.

Vomited blood can be either bright red (fresh) or resemble coffee grounds (indicating partially digested blood). There are a variety of reasons your dog might vomit blood, some of which are relatively minor, but others are serious and even life threatening.

7. Loss of appetite, weight loss — Often, loss of appetite is the very first sign of an underlying illness in pets. There can be many reasons your dog isn't hungry or refuses to eat, but not eating can begin to negatively impact his health within 24 hours. And for puppies 6 months or younger, the issue is even more serious.

Weight loss is the result of a negative caloric balance, and it can be the consequence of anorexia (loss of appetite) or when a dog's body uses or eliminates essential dietary nutrients faster than they are replenished. Weight loss exceeding 10% of your dog's normal body weight will be a red flag for your vet. There can be several underlying causes, some of which are very serious.

8. Coughing — Coughing in dogs, un-

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

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# LOOK

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Here's the link to the Members Section:

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

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June 19, 2021

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Sweeps: Mary Paisley

Montgomery County  
October 10, 2021

Regular Classes: Bruce Schwartz  
Sweeps: Tatiana Meyers

Roving – Northern Calif Terrier Assn  
July 8, 9 in conjunction Sacramento  
July 10, 11 in Lodi CA

Regular Classes: Marcia Feld  
Sweeps: Amy Gordon

Montgomery County  
October 9, 2022

Regular Classes: Bergit Coady-Kabel  
Sweeps: Cheryl Coffman

## SYMPTOMS...from p. 1

less it's a one-and-done situation, generally indicates an underlying problem. Examples include a possible windpipe obstruction, kennel cough, bronchitis, pneumonia, heartworm disease, heart failure, and tumors of the lung. All causes of coughing require investigation, and in most cases, treatment.

9. **Fever** — If your dog's temperature spikes, it usually means his body is fighting an infection. The normal temperature in dogs is 100.5 to 102.5 degrees F. If your pet feels warm to you and his temp is higher than normal, make an appointment with your veterinarian.

10. **Red eye(s)** — If the white area of your dog's eye turns bright red, it's a sign of inflammation or infection that signals one of several diseases involving the external eyelids, the third eyelid, the conjunctiva, cornea, or sclera of the eye.

Redness can also point to inflammation of structures inside the eye, eye socket disorders, and also glaucoma. Certain disorders of the eye can lead to blindness, so any significant change in the appearance of your dog's eyes should be investigated.

Some symptoms of illness in dogs are best handled by simply giving them a chance to run their course, for example, a temporary gastrointestinal (GI) upset resulting from indiscriminate snacking. Other symptoms can be so sudden, severe and frightening that you know immediately you need to get your pet to the vet or an emergency animal hospital.

The 10 symptoms I've listed above are less definitive, so hopefully this guide will be helpful to you in the event your own pet develops symptoms that point to a potentially severe or life-threatening illness.

### The Nominating Committee Slate is as follows:

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## 4 Plants That Can Kill Your Pet

Analysis by Dr. Karen Shaw Becker

Common outdoor plants that cause poisoning in dogs and cats include the sago palm, lilies, plants containing cardiac glycosides, and blue-green algae

Indoors, common toxic plants include plants from the Araceae family, plants containing either soluble or insoluble calcium oxalates, kalanchoe, the corn plant/dragon tree, and spring flower bulbs

If you suspect or know your pet has sampled a potentially poisonous plant, err on the side of caution by calling your vet, the local emergency animal hospital or a 24/7 pet poison hotline

A recent situation in South Carolina involving two family dogs serves as a tragic reminder that pet parents can't be too careful when it comes to protecting furry family members from potential poisons.

### The Deadly Sago Palm Is Prevalent in Warm, Humid Climates

Recently, Illinois residents Stephanie and Tony Evans were visiting their newly purchased vacation home in Callawassie Island, SC. They planned to stay for a month to settle in a bit and enjoy the warmer weather with their two large dogs, Maisy, a 4-year-old Boxer and 1-year-old Murphy, a black Lab.

It was early April, and the Evans family was enjoying time together in their yard when Stephanie noticed both dogs eating what she thought might be crab apples on the lawn. Fast forward 30 minutes, and both Maisy and Murphy began vomiting non-stop. Stephanie called an emergency veterinary clinic for help,

"I described the seed, and they said to get them in as soon as we could as they thought it was the toxic sago palm seed," Stephanie told PEOPLE magazine. 1

The Sago palm, which is a type of pre-historic cycad plant and not actually a palm, is a commonly seen indoor and outdoor plant in warm, humid climates. Since the Evanses are from Illinois, they were unfamiliar with it. Sago palms and the seeds they produce contain cycasin, a substance that is toxic when ingested by people and many animals, including horses, cats, and dogs.

Sago palm  
leaves and seeds of sago palm  
Leaves and seeds of sago palm

**PLANTS...con't on p. 3**

## PLANTS....from p.2

Clinical signs of ingestion include vomiting, melena (bloody bowel movements), jaundice, increased thirst, hemorrhagic gastroenteritis, bruising, coagulopathy (impaired blood clotting), liver damage, liver failure, death.<sup>2</sup>

The Coastal Vet Critical Care center instructed Stephanie to bring the dogs in immediately. The veterinary staff went to work immediately administering treatments to combat the effects of the Sago palm toxin.

### The Toxin Won

Tragically, shortly after their arrival, the vet staff informed the couple that Maisy, a "healthy, happy dog one day prior," according to Stephanie, couldn't be saved. Luckily, Murphy seemed to respond to the treatments, and returned to Illinois with the Evanses.

Unfortunately, back at home, the dog grew lethargic and depressed, and his recovery hit a wall. The couple took Murphy to his regular veterinarian and learned his liver was failing as a result of the sago palm toxin. He was so sick by that point that the Evanses had to make the difficult decision to have him euthanized.

After losing both their precious dogs to Sago palm poisoning, the Evanses learned that very few pet parents, including those in South Carolina where the plant is relatively common, knew how dangerous it was. So, Stephanie is now on a mission to "educate people about the danger of this plant" in honor of her late devoted dogs.

The Evanses are spreading their story on social media using the hashtag #maisynmurphysmission. Thousands have shared their posts, which is a hopeful sign that the word is getting out.

"I am a firm believer that things happen for a reason and there has to be a silver lining somewhere," said Stephanie. "That silver lining is preventing this from happening to some other family. Our dogs were such big parts of our family, and their loss has hurt so much."

### Sago Palm Is One of the Top 4 Toxic Outdoor Plants

The Sago palm is considered one of the top four most common outdoor plants poisonous to dogs and cats.<sup>3</sup> It's a landscaping palm found in warm, humid climates, and is also sometimes found indoors as a small bonsai or houseplant. All parts of the plant are poisonous, and especially the seeds. Just one to two seeds from a female sago can cause symptoms of poisoning in pets. Rounding out the toxic top four:

2.Lilies

### True lilies

Lilies from the *lilium* and *Hemerocallis* species (called "true" lilies) are deadly to kitties. These include the Easter, tiger, Japanese show, stargazer, rubrum, and day lily. Just two to three leaves or petals, or even the pollen or water from a vase holding the lilies, can result in severe acute kidney failure and death.

Signs of poisoning include vomiting, lack of appetite, abnormal urination, lethargy, and progressive kidney damage. Treatment typically involves a 48-hour hospital stay, aggressive decontamination, anti-vomiting meds, and intravenous (IV) fluids. With immediate treatment, most cats can survive this type of poisoning.

### 3.Plants containing cardiac glycosides

#### Foxglove

This includes dogbane, foxglove, milkweed, kalanchoe, lily of the valley, and oleander. The good news is these plants have been instrumental in the development of life-saving heart medications for both humans and animals. The bad news is accidental ingestion of these substances by a cat or dog can be life threatening.

Signs of poisoning involve the gastrointestinal (GI) tract (drooling, vomiting), the cardiovascular system (very slow or rapid heart rate, arrhythmia), electrolyte imbalances (e.g., high potassium levels), and central nervous system signs (dilated pupils, tremors, seizures).

Immediate veterinary intervention is required, and will include decontamination, IV fluids, heart and blood pressure monitoring, heart medications, and supportive care.

### 4.Blue-green algae

Blue-green algae poisoning is fortunately rare, but just a tiny amount (a few licks) can be fatal. Blue-green algae, or cyanobacteria, grow on top of freshwater or brackish bodies of water. Typically, the algae blossoms during warm, humid weather.

The toxins found in cyanobacteria can cause severe liver failure and neurologic signs and can cause death within a matter of hours. Keep your pet away from any water with algae floating on it, because it's impossible to know if it's the deadly kind without laboratory analysis.

Sadly, even with aggressive treatment including IV fluids, blood transfusions, and appropriate medications, the prognosis is poor for pets who consume blue-green algae.

### Top 5 Indoor Plants to Keep Out of Reach of Your Pet

#### 1.Plants from the Araceae family

Mother-in-law's tongue and devil's ivy

These include the philodendron, pothos, peace lily, calla lily, dumb cane, arrowhead vine, mother-in-law's tongue, sweetheart vine, devil's ivy, umbrella plant, and elephant ear.

These are common houseplants and contain insoluble calcium oxalate crystals. If your pet chews on one of them, it can cause severe mouth pain. Signs your dog or cat may have sampled one of these plants include drooling, pawing at the mouth, a swollen muzzle or lips, and occasionally, vomiting.

Fortunately, these plants aren't considered deadly, so if your pet chews one, give him some milk or yogurt to minimize damage from the calcium oxalate crystals. Keep a close watch on him, and if his symptoms don't subside or get worse, call your veterinarian.

#### 2.English shamrock, rhubarb (leaves), and tropical star fruit

These houseplants contain soluble calcium oxalates, which are very different from insoluble calcium oxalate plants. Fortunately, pet poisonings involving these plants are rare, but when it happens it's a life-threatening emergency because ingestion causes blood calcium levels to plummet and can also cause calcium oxalate crystals to form in the kidneys, causing acute kidney failure.

Signs of poisoning include drooling, lack of appetite, vomiting, lethargy, tremors, and abnormal urination. If you know or suspect your pet has ingested one of these plants, call your veterinarian right away. Blood tests and (IV) fluids will be necessary.

#### 3.Kalanchoe

Kalanchoe plants are beautiful but unfortunately, they're also deadly if your dog or cat nibbles on one because they contain cardiac glycosides. Signs of poisoning involve the GI tract (drooling, vomiting), the cardiovascular system (very slow or rapid heart rate, arrhythmia), electrolyte imbalances (e.g., high potassium levels), and central nervous system signs (dilated pupils, tremors, seizures).

Immediate veterinary intervention is required, and will include decontamination, IV fluids, heart and blood pressure monitoring, heart medications, and supportive care.

#### 4.Corn plant/dragon tree

##### Dragon tree

Corn plants contain saponins, which are anti-nutrients that interfere with absorption of essential nutrients. If your pet should sample a corn plant, it can cause

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

## PLANTS....from p. 3

dilated pupils, drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, and lethargy. This is a much more benign type of poisoning than some others, but you'll still want to keep this plant out of your dog's or cat's reach.

## 5.Spring flowers

blue hyacinth

Hyacinth

Certain spring bulbs, including daffodils, hyacinth, and tulips, can cause mild vomiting or diarrhea in pets who ingest them. If a massive number of bulbs are eaten, they can cause an obstruction in your pet's stomach or intestines. Complications can include an elevated heart and respiration rate, and much less commonly, a drop in blood pressure and tremors or seizures.

The greens and flowers themselves are generally thought to be safe if your dog or cat nibbles on them — it's the bulbs that pose the greatest danger. If your pet ingests the bulbs, he'll be treated with decontamination, fluid therapy, and anti-vomiting meds if necessary.

Remember, even if you only suspect your pet has sampled a toxic plant, it's better to be safe than sorry. Contact your veterinarian, the nearest emergency animal hospital, the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center at 888-426-4435, or the Pet Poison Helpline at 855-764-7661.



This is forwarded from Facebook, attributed to Dr Bob Smith. courtesy of Wyoma Clouss

“Dr. Bob G. Smith

“When a judge points to a dog and says, “You’re number one in this class today,” the judge is not pointing at the handler/owner/exhibitor. Believe me when I say to you now or in my ring that my selecting your dog or not selecting your dog is nothing personal.

As much as I may not like the way you handle your exhibit or the color of your hair or the cleanliness of your sport coat, or when you tell me that your dog only needs one point/major to finish, I’m not singling you out personally if I don’t give your dog a first place ribbon in a class. I’m selecting your dog according to how closely it meets the criteria of its breed standard.

This topic has been on my mind frequently of late. I had a nice breed assignment recently in a Southeastern state. More than 50 of the breed were entered. I worked my way through the puppy classes and was presented with 3 entries in a Bred-By class, all good specimens of the breed. That made my job a much tougher one. I take judging the BBE classes very seriously as the breeders/exhibitors are the future of a breed! After examining and moving each one, I placed them in order, in my opinion as a judge, of closest to the standard, etc., and moved them again. I pointed to the first place dog, second place, and third place and directed them to the ring markers.

After I handed ribbons to the handlers of the first and second place dogs, I approached the young lady handling the nice 3rd place dog. I handed her the ribbon and she turned her head as she grabbed the ribbon from my hand—refusing to acknowledge my congratulations and bursting into tears as she left the ring. I completed judging the breed and began to complete my judge’s book. I sensed someone near my table and looked up and was surprised to see the young lady standing nearby. I asked her if I could help and she asked, “what was wrong with my dog that I didn’t win because it was almost finished.” I asked her to bring the dog back to me and I would talk to her about it.

She was back with her dog almost immediately. I stepped outside the ring and I began to talk to her about the positive points of her dog and how close it was to the standard. She tried to interject, “But” several times; I continued my explanation. When I finished, she said, “If you liked all of that, why did I not win?” She seemed to take it personally. She stated that she finished the litter sister in three weekends and this dog is better than his littermate. I explained that her dog was not perfect in all areas and that the deviation from the standard placed it third citing a couple of points where the standard was not met. This was the young breeder of the dog. I am sure she had a lot invested in the breeding program and offspring she was showing that day. She was to be congratulated on choices she had made in the breeding of this dog. However, she did not seem to comprehend that her dog was not perfect nor did she comprehend that this was my educated opinion based on years of studying her breed, attending many specialties, visiting many kennels, and being mentored by breeders of top winning dogs—not to mention meeting all the AKC requirements for judging approval.

All of us judges have had situations where our placements have been questioned. That is as it should be. I do not hesitate to defend my choices. In fact, I’m glad to discuss my choices with anyone—exhibitors, spectators, other judges, AKC reps, even superintendents. If I cannot succeed in explaining my placements and the reasons for them, in my opinion, I shouldn’t be judging. Some of the best experiences I’ve had have come from hearing or reading critiques written by judges about my breeding stock I was showing earlier in my dog career.

Most of the time when I am judging, I am rarely aware of who is in the ring. In a large class, I will note the first person in line by gender, height, or color of blouse/coat to determine where the line begins and ends. That’s the last time I am really aware of who’s at the end of a lead. If I graded many handlers, they would be

Dr. Smith...cont’d on p.3

**Dr. Smith...**from p. 2

found at the end of the placements or out of the ribbons entirely. That would be making it “personal”. But I am hired to judge dogs...not handlers! I could care less if the handler just won the most prestigious dog show that exists! I’m not hired to judge the handler nor his or her assistant! I am not in a dog show ring to further the career of a handler by awarding “him” a blue ribbon! There is nothing personal in my selections! I select the dog that best meets the criteria of that breed’s standard on the day! Nothing more, nothing less!

All exhibitors pay for the opinion of a judge when a dog is entered in a dog show. It is my suggestion that if exhibitors feel as if they are the ones being judged, they should only show under judges who, in the handler’s opinion, “like” them personally and, consequently, award them a blue ribbon each time. If a handler tells me that other judges have awarded the dog points implying that I should do the same, my response is that was the opinion paid for on that/those days. My opinion on the day is what counts. When I sign that judge’s book, I am attesting to the quality through my evaluation of the exhibits shown under me on that day! It is nothing personal! I’m judging dogs for the betterment of the breed—not handlers for their own personal gratification!

Exhibitors should have personal feelings about the dog(s) they are showing. However, those feelings should not become blinders to the truth about the dog(s) they are showing. A breeder/exhibitor who cannot see the faults of a dog should seek the advice and critique of someone other than a judge before hard-earned money is spent to receive an evaluation from a judge who is deemed to judge on a “personal” basis! If exhibitors are looking for an “impersonal” judge, see you in my ring or with many, many other judges’ at a dog show! If the handler’s self-worth is tied to receiving a blue ribbon, there are spools of blue gros-grain ribbons to be purchased at a notions store to be personalized to their liking!

To the reader: thank you for reading my “blog” about personal feelings. These thoughts are mine! You may choose to disagree and you have that right! Nothing personal!”

**Milshore MSC** show is July 30th in an air conditioned building. There are 4 other days of shows after the specialty. This show closes July 14th. The TCMSC shows is August 27 back to back specialties. With an all terrier show the day before. That makes it 5 shows in 4 days. This is not air conditioned but a lovely fair grounds. Big buildings. This show weekend closes on August 11 in believe. I hope you are able to support both these struggling club.

**This is a tip** that I hope you’ll never have to use, but one that I feel strongly that every dog owner should know. It’s an acupressure point taught in almost every canine first-aid class because you can use it to keep your dog alive, in emergency situations until you reach veterinary care.

Although some may scoff at acupressure thinking it is too weird or fringe, there are many stories of how this simple technique has resuscitated dogs that have been pronounced “clinically dead.”

If your dog suffers a seizure or traumatic injury and loses consciousness this techniques isn’t only worth a try, it could save his life.

**Simply rest one hand comfortable on your dog, and place your thumb just above your dog’s upper lip, halfway between his nose and mouth and gently apply about 2 pounds of pressure for approximately 30 seconds. It should help your dog regain consciousness.**

## Montgomery/MCKC Show Week

### Hotel Reservation Information Morris & Essex Hotel Edison Red Roof

860 New Durham Road  
Edison, NJ 08817

732-248-9300 (hotel direct)

1. Block Name: B194AMSC.

2. To make your reservation: Call 1-800-733-7663 to book your room; open 7 days a week, 8AM-1 AM EST

3. Block room rate available until Friday, 9/3/2021; unclaimed rooms will then be released and group discount unavailable

4. Group rate is available for 10/3/2021 - 10/5/2021, combination of Deluxe 2 Bed and Superior King rooms, non-smoking, \$67.99 - \$80.74 per night, 14.6% tax not included

5. You must change or cancel by 9/3/2021 to avoid first night billings  
MCKC/Hatboro/Devon Hotel  
Homewood Suites Philadelphia/Valley Forge

681 Shannondell Blvd  
Audubon, PA 19403

610-539-7300 (hotel direct)

1. Block Name: AMS

2. To make your reservation:

a. Click or copy this booking link:  
<https://tinyurl.com/rbetrp96>

b. Call 1-610-539-7300, option “0”  
3. Block room rate available until Sunday 8/29/2021; unclaimed rooms will then be released and group discount unavailable

4. Group rate is available for 10/5/2021 - 10/11/2021, combination of 1 Bedroom Suite

Kings (\$149), 2 Bedroom Suites (\$199) and Studio Kings (\$129), non-smoking, 10% tax not included

5. \$75 non-refundable pet fee  
Member Meeting and Social 10/9/2021  
At this time, we are planning to have the member meeting and social at the Jeffersonville Golf Club, a short drive from the hotel. Additional information will be

available closer to the event.

Any questions, contact me at  
barbaramd\_2000@yahoo.com or 1-215-896-9666.

Barbara Donahue  
MCKC Hospitality



# AMSCOPE

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**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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