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AMSCOPE

Newsletter of the AMERICAN MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB

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Issue 2

Tips for Caring for Senior Dogs

Dealing with Older Dog Health Problems

By Lorie Huston, DVM

Senior dogs have different care requirements than those of a younger dog. This fact probably doesn't come as a surprise to anyone. But how do you know when your dog is considered to be a senior?

It really depends on the individual dog. In general, giant breed dogs age faster than smaller breed dogs. A Great Dane is considered to be senior by roughly 5-6 years old whereas a Chihuahua would likely only be middle-aged then, and probably not considered a senior until 10-11 years. Large breed dogs fall somewhere in between. A Golden Retriever might be considered senior by 8-10 years of age. Genetics, nutrition, environment; all of these play a role in how fast your dog ages.

What are some of the things to expect as your dog ages? Your dog may develop arthritis or other degenerative diseases that cause him to slow down. He may not be able to walk as far or play as long. He may tire more easily. He may have difficulty getting up or finding a comfortable position to sleep in. He may become reluctant to go up and down stairs or have difficulty getting into and out of the car.

Without proper care, dental disease can pose a problem, particularly for older pets. You may be surprised to learn that veterinarians find evidence of dental disease in many pets as early as 2-3 years of age. If nothing is done to care for your dog's mouth, by the time your dog is a senior, he may even have lost some teeth. Dental disease can be painful, causing your dog to avoid or have difficulty eating his meals.

This may result in weight loss and an unkempt hair coat.

Dental disease is certainly not the only disease that can lead to weight loss. Senior dogs frequently suffer from kidney disease, liver disease, heart disease and other conditions that may result in weight loss.

On the other hand, some senior dogs may have the opposite problem. Some dogs will become less active with age, essentially becoming couch potatoes, and will gain weight as a result. Obesity is a major health issue in dogs of all ages and senior dogs are no different.

What can you do to help your senior dog? Here are some tips:

Schedule regular visits with your veterinarian. Your dog needs to be examined at least yearly if it appears healthy, as many diseases are hidden and not apparent. Remember it is much cheaper to prevent disease than it is to treat it!

Ask for a body condition evaluation during each vet visit. Body condition is crucial to determining whether your senior dog is overweight, underweight, or at an ideal body weight. In fact, you should also ask your veterinarian to show you how to evaluate your dog's body condition at home.

Feed your older dog a high quality diet. Also, learn to read the dog food label and choose a diet that is appropriate for your dog's age and lifestyle.

Use food to keep your senior dog at his ideal body weight. Overweight dogs have a higher incidence of diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, skin disease, even cancer. Your veterinarian can help you choose an appropriate diet for your dog, especially since overweight dogs must be fed carefully to ensure that all nutrient needs are met while still allowing for weight loss. For instance, specialized diets that are lower in calories as well as those that are high L-carnitine are available for obese or overweight dogs. A diet with a carefully chosen carbohydrate or carbohydrate blend can also help keep your overweight dog feeling satiated.

Consider fortifying your senior dog's diet with fatty acids such as DHA and EPA.

They have been shown to be useful for dogs with mobility issues due to arthritis or other joint diseases. Supplements such as glucosamine and chondroitin are also beneficial for senior dogs.

Consider a special diet if your older dog has heart or kidney disease. For example, diets lower in sodium are sometimes advocated for dogs with heart disease, while diets which help control phosphorus, calcium and other electrolyte levels are given to dogs with kidney disease. Your veterinarian can help you choose the best food for your dog based on your dog's individual situation.

Take care of your dog's mouth. Brushing your dog's teeth may seem like a silly idea but it can help keep your dog's mouth healthy. If you cannot brush, consider dental treats and toys that help keep the teeth clean.

Exercise your senior dog. It can help keep your older dog lean and maintain healthy joints and muscles. However, tailor your dog's exercise needs to his individual requirements. For a large breed dog, walking around the block is probably just getting started but for a tiny Chihuahua, a brisk walk around the block may be a long trek. If your senior is not used to exercise, start slow and gradually increase the intensity — and only after you've consulted a veterinarian. Also, be careful with short-nosed (brachycephalic) dogs on hot days.

Provide plenty of toys to keep your senior dog occupied. Food puzzles, for example, are not only useful for entertainment but for weight loss purposes as well.

Provide your older dog with special accommodations too. For instance, dogs with arthritis might benefit from soft bedding in the form of a special dog bed or towels/blankets on which to sleep. Ramps can be used to make stairs easier to navigate if they cannot be avoided. Even providing carpeting or rugs over hard-surface flooring can help your arthritic dog gain his footing and make it easier for him to get around.

**The deadline
for the March issue is
February 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

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.

UPCOMING SPECIALTIES

Roving – Grays Lake, IL
June 19, 2021

Regular Classes: John P Wade
Sweeps: Linda Drost

Montgomery County
October 10, 2021

Regular Classes: Bruce Schwartz
Sweeps: Tatiana Meyers

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

How to Start an Age-Appropriate Exercise Plan for Your Senior Dog

by Dr. Katie Grzyb, DVM

They say you can't **teach an old dog new tricks**. While this isn't necessarily true, one thing that you can be sure of is that senior dogs can still be active and still need exercise. By engaging your senior dog in age-appropriate exercises, you can help improve her quality of life.

Finding dog exercises to help your senior pup stay active and healthy is part of being a responsible pet parent. Just because your dog has entered into her golden years, it doesn't mean she can't participate in fun activities to keep her mentally and physically stimulated.

If you want to start you senior dog on an exercise plan or modify her current exercise regime to match her life stage, here's an easy checklist you can use.

Take Your Senior Dog to the Vet

While it varies by your pet's breed and size, generally, your pup is considered a senior dog somewhere between the ages of 7 and 9 years old, says Dr. Jeff Werber, a veterinarian at the Los Angeles-based private clinic, VCA Century Veterinary Group.

Around this time, your veterinarian will likely recommend senior physicals and blood panels, which usually involve taking a closer look at your dog's joint and bone health, heart health, muscle tone, and kidney and liver condition.

The outcome of these exams will also tell you a lot about your senior dog's exercise needs and capabilities, says Dr. Werber.

After viewing the results, your veterinarian may also recommend **dog supplements** for joint health, like **Nutramax Dasuquin with MSM joint health dog supplement**. This supplement contains joint-healthy glucosamine and chondroitin; other options for joint health include omega 3 and 6 fatty acids.

"I'm a big fan of **Dasuquin**," says Dr. Werber. "I also have most of my older dogs on probiotics to help their digestive health. As long as you talk to your vet and stay within a reasonable dose, there are no downsides."

Your veterinarian can then help you determine the best activities and

exercises for your senior pet, along with the appropriate duration and intensity.

Follow your veterinarian's recommendations for bringing your senior dog in for future checkups, as their capabilities can change over time. This will help your pet lead the longest and healthiest life possible.

And in general, bringing your pet in for the recommended visits and "finding problems early leads to better outcomes," says Dr. Jennifer Mathis, a veterinarian at the Family Pet Veterinary Center, with offices in West Des Moines and Norwalk, Iowa.

Help Your Senior Dog Maintain a Healthy Weight

Obesity is the number one nutritional disease affecting pets young and old, says Dr. Werber. If your pet is overweight, it can affect her ability to exercise.

"It's a vicious cycle. The bigger they get, the less they can do. The less they can do, the bigger they get," says Dr. Werber.

Extra weight also puts stress on a dog's muscles, bones and joints, as well as their respiratory tract. It can also lead to **diabetes**. These are all problems we want to help our pets avoid, especially senior pets.

Talk to your vet about a weight management plan and exercises that can help your pet achieve their ideal weight. Putting your dog on a plan to shed pounds can possibly improve your senior dog's heart and joint health without the need for **prescription pet medication**, says Dr. Mathis.

Don't Stop Exercising Your Senior Dog Simply Because They're Older

Don't assume your senior dog can't exercise anymore simply because she's older. A proper dog exercise routine can help her lose or keep off extra pounds, says Dr. Werber. "Without exercise, there's a likelihood to gain more weight as they get older," he says.

Working with your vet to develop a proper exercise routine can also **EXERCISE**...cont'd on p.3

EXERCISE...from p. 2

help dogs with back problems, like degenerative or bulging discs.

“With a lot of those conditions, it’s important to keep moving,” says Dr. Mathis. “What happens when we sit all day? We get stiff and sore.” This is true for our senior pets, too.

Learn How to Read Your Dog to Determine Their Exercise Limits

Who is the ultimate expert in your pet’s exercise needs and capabilities? Your dog.

It’s important to invest the time to learn how to read your dog, work with your veterinarian to help you understand your dog’s body language and figure out what the right amount of exercise is.

If your dog is panting excessively, hanging her head and/or isn’t keeping up on a walk or run, these are signs that your senior dog is overexerting herself, says Dr. Werber. At the same time, if she seems restless after a walk, it could be a sign she’s up for more of a challenge.

The key is to stop and check in with your dog frequently to gauge how she is handling any activity.

“They can’t tell us what they want to do,” says Dr. Werber. “We have to learn how to read them.”

Embrace Low-Impact Exercises for Dogs

Your veterinarian can help you modify your dog’s favorite activities to ensure they stay active without overdoing it.

In general, activities like walking and swimming are gentler on their joints, says Dr. Mathis. (Of course, you should never let your dog near the water unsupervised.)

If your dog enjoys a good game of fetch, you can consider altering how fast and where you throw the ball. You don’t want your senior dog to change directions as she’s chasing the ball or make excessive start-and-stop movements, which can further stress her joints.

“We don’t want to stop exercising,” says Dr. Werber, “but we do want to modify their routine to meet the needs and capabilities of the pet.”

Factor in the Weather

“Exercising your dog in inclement weather is never okay. It’s even worse for an older dog,” says Dr. Werber.

You also need to be aware of the limits of certain breeds when it comes to the weather. For instance, brachycephalic dogs cannot pant and cool themselves in warmer weather.

You want to make sure your dog has plenty of water at all times, especially on hotter days, says Dr. Mathis. If it’s too hot, you can modify your dog exercise plan and do an activity like swimming or an indoor game of fetch.

Dr. Mathis calls products like the [KONG H2O stainless steel dog water bottle](#) “ingenious.” Adding a few drops of low-sodium chicken broth to the water can also encourage dogs to drink more on hot days, although after exercise, dogs are usually thirsty already. Make sure that your dog is not allergic to chicken before you try this.

In cooler weather, warm [dog apparel](#), like the [Frisco dog and cat parka coat](#), can help keep your senior dog protected from the elements. Keep your dog’s coat length and breed in mind in colder weather, and talk to your veterinarian about taking proper precautions for winter workouts with your senior dog.

By: Helen Anne Travis

NEW APPLICANTS

Mary E Falls
S5560 Bluff Rd.
Baraboo, WI 53913
608-356-6642

CLASSICGIANTSCHNAUZERS@gmail.com
www.CLASSICGIANTSCHNAUZERS.COM

Mary recently purchased a show puppy from Alice Gough and is interested in joining AMSC because of the impressive information that came in her registration packet. She has read and agrees to comply with the Breed Standard and Code of Ethics. She has been a breeder of Miniature Schnauzers and Giant Schnauzers for many years. She is a member of The Giant Schnauzer Club of America of which she has held various positions including Breed Columnist for AKC Gazette. Her first Minis were purchased from Penlan and Gough in 1968. Special skills are she is able to write and communicate well. She is interested in well bred dogs, showing and enjoying others who are like minded. Her occupation is Nurse Practitioner with a Doctorate.

Sponsors: Marilyn Lande, Alice Gough

Suzanne Daulton
2855 Carriage Way
Clarksville, TN 37043
Sued2855@gmail.com
931-218-8297

Suzanne wants to become a member because she loves the breed and wants to see responsible breeders and owners give them the best life they deserve. She has read and agrees to comply with the Code of Ethics and the Breed Standard. She owns three AKC registered Min. Schnauzers, one rescue, one from Hardinhaus and one from Thomas & Linda Wilkinson. Suzanne is not a breeder. She participates in Agility, Obedience, Rally, Therapy and Trick dog and usually attends 10 events per year. Dog clubs: Pet Partners, President, Jumpstart Standard Schnauzers, Clarksville KC, Hope AACR. She is retired and a trained instructor for Pet Partners Therapy Dog Organization. Activities of interest are Rally, Obedience, Agility and Therapy.

Sponsors: Marie Murphy, Marian Harding

AMSC Board Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2020

7:11 PM Eastern Daylight Time

Board Members present: John Constantine-Amodei – President, Vicki Kubic – Vice President, Bonnie Keyes – Treasurer, Kaye Kirk – Secretary, Barbara Donahue – AKC Delegate, Patricia O'Brien, Patti Henderson, Beth Santure, Cathi Rohrer, Sharon Edwards, Sue Ratz, Wyoma Clouss, Debbie Herrell, Stella Van Cleave, Mary Paisley

Guests present – Renee Wigen, Carol Henning, Jackie Harris, Amy Gordon, Marcia Feld, Rich Edwards, Linda Walquist-Soos, Teresa Handlen

President John Constantine-Amodei discussed the Conference Call Protocol.

BOARD REPORTS:

Report of the President – John Constantine-Amodei - Specialties cancelled. Most things cancelled because of Covid. John will be meeting with the people from Grayslake – our 2021 roving within the next two weeks. Annual meeting is tomorrow night via Zoom. Judges from this year, will be judging in 2022.

Approval of agenda – Bonnie Keyes moved to approve the agenda and Barbara Donahue seconded. The Agenda was approved.

Approval of previous minutes – Vicki Kubic moved to approve the Minutes of the June meeting with the date corrected to June 24, 2020, Debbie Harrell seconded. Minutes were approved.

Secretary – Kaye Kirk - will send new officers to AKC after the Annual Meeting

Treasurer – Bonnie Keyes

Income Statement For the Nine Months Ending September 30, 2020

Revenues Year To Date

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 \$ 5,613.17

Expenses

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 \$ 9,031.92
Net Income / (Loss) \$ (3,418.75)

Barbara Donahue moved to accept the Treasurer's report, Patti Henderson seconded, Treasurer's report accepted.

AKC Delegate – Barbara Donahue - Delegate correspondence that is of general interest to AMSC members continues to be posted in AMSC-L.

AKC is using Zoom to conduct meetings; I attended 4 hours per day (16 hours total) of Zoom committee meetings from September 9 - 14 and the AKC Delegate meeting on September 15.

The meeting opened with a one hour forum from the Canine Health Committee titled "Review of the Current State of Genetic Testing - a Living Resource" by guest speaker Dr. Oberbauer, Professor at Dept of Animal Science and Assoc. Dean, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences at UC Davis. The corresponding white paper was posted in AMSC-L and will be included in a future issue of AMSCOPE.

The below "**Rules Applying to Dog Shows**" proposals were voted on at the September 15, 2020 AKC Virtual Delegate Meeting. The rules of interest to AMSC members have the approved verbiage provided and are indented:

Chapter 2, Section 10
Chapter 3, Section 8-A
Chapter 14, Section 3
Chapter 15, Section 2
Chapter 16, Section 6

ADOPTED: Vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 2, Section 10, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Making Application to Hold a Dog Show, which generalizes the language by removing the reference to a form and whether the futurity or sweepstakes will be open to nonmembers, providing flexibility to remain consistent with any modification to the application procedures without further amendment to the Rule.

CHAPTER 2

SECTION 10. A specialty club that wishes to hold

a futurity or sweepstakes, either in conjunction with a show or as a separate event, must apply to The American Kennel Club for permission to hold the event.

NOT ADOPTED: Vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 3, Section 8-A, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Classifications, which proposes a new Section 8-A that would create a new class, Bred-by- Exhibitor Puppy, to be offered at conformation dog shows at the discretion of the club. This class will provide the opportunity for breeders to exhibit their puppies in an age appropriate class without risk of sacrificing their opportunity to attain the Bred-by-Exhibitor medallion.

NOT ADOPTED: Vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 3, Section 3, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Classifications, which inserts the proposed new Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class into the list of regular classes. It also adds language to clarify the puppy classes and the 12-18 month class may be divided.

This proposal was contingent on delegate approval of the new Chapter 3, Section 8-A to create the Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class. Rejection of the proposed Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class would require amendment to this proposal.

NOT ADOPTED: Vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 3, Section 11, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Classifications, inserts the proposed new Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class into the list of classes from which first place advances to compete in the

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Winners Class. It adds language to clarify the puppy, 12-18 month class and Bred-by-Exhibitor class may be divided by age. It also inserts language to clarify American-Bred and Open classes are required and all others are optional.

This proposal was contingent on delegate approval of the new Chapter 3, Section 8-A to create the Bred-by Exhibitor Puppy Class. Rejection of the proposed Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class would require amendment to this proposal.

ADOPTED: Vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 11, Section 9, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility, which replaces current language with generalized language eliminating references to specific communicable diseases so that the **revised section would address any health issues or diseases currently being experienced.**

CHAPTER 11

SECTION 9. No dog with a communicable disease shall be on the show grounds or premises. Exhibitors should follow their veterinarian's recommendations to ensure that their dogs are free of internal and external parasites, any communicable disease, and have appropriate vaccinations.

ADOPTED: Vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 14, Section 3, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards, which modifies text for additional clarity as to **when an entry may or may not be measured**, as well as the judge's procedural responsibilities.

CHAPTER 14

SECTION 3. In those breeds where certain heights are specified in the breed standard as disqualifications, or in any class specifying height limits, the judge has the authority to determine whether any dog measures within those limits, provided the dog has not been previously measured during any competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities, and other special attractions.

If, in the opinion of a competing exhibitor in the ring, the height of a dog in that ring appears to be outside the limits of the breed standard or the conditions of that class, such exhibitor may, before every dog has been individually examined and individually gaited, request that the judge measure the dog and the judge shall comply provided the dog has not been previously measured during any competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities, and other special attractions.

If the judge finds that the dog's height is within the breed standard or the conditions of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book "Measured in." If the judge finds that the dog's height is outside the allowable limits of the breed standard, s/he shall disqualify the dog and mark and initial the judge's book "Measured out - disqualified."

A dog that has thus been disqualified by three different judges may not again be shown.

If the judge finds that the dog's height is not in accordance with the conditions of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book "Measured out - ineligible." A dog thus declared ineligible for its

ADOPTED: Vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 14, Section 4, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards, which modifies text for additional clarity as to when an entry **may or may not be weighed**, the judge's procedural responsibilities and the impact on any dog weighed out and associated limitations when weighed out for condition of class.

ADOPTED: Vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 14, Section 6, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of

Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards, which modifies text for additional clarity as to obligations concerning **disqualifications and conditions of class related to color** and markings, the judge's procedural responsibilities and any impact on the dogs concerning future events.

ADOPTED: Vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 14, Section 6-A, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards, which proposes the insertion of a new Section 6-A, which would have the effect of adding language specific to a **judge's authority in classes where the condition of class is other than height, weight, color or markings.**

Approval of this proposal by the Delegates would then require approval of the corresponding proposal to Chapter 15, Section 2 to allow for protest by competing exhibitors in the same class.

ADOPTED: Vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 15, Section 2, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Protests Against Dogs, which adds the proposed new Section 6-A to the list of sections where **conditions of class are to allow for protest by competing exhibitors in the same class.**

This proposal is contingent on delegate approval of the insertion of a new Chapter 14, Section 6-A.

CHAPTER 15

SECTION 2. Any person who is handling a competing dog in the ring in any conformation competition may verbally protest to the judge before every dog in the class has been individually examined and individually gaited, alleging that a dog being shown in the competition has a condition which makes it ineligible to compete under Chapter 11, Section 8, or Chapter 11, Section 8-C, of these rules or a condition requiring disqualification under the standard for the breed; except that a verbal protest alleging that the height or weight or natural color and markings of a dog

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requiring its disqualification under the breed standard or a determination of its ineligibility under the conditions of its class must be made under Chapter 14, Sections 3, 4, 6 or 6-A.

The balance of this section is unchanged

ADOPTED: Vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 6, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Championships, which assigns the same logic to GR CH points as CH points at independent specialties with inter-variety competition as defined in Chapter 16, Section 3. It also inserts language into the section defining that at independent specialty shows for breeds divided into recognized varieties and offering a Best of Breed competition, the dog awarded BOB would receive the highest number of GR CH points awarded in any variety at the specialty show. The dog awarded BOS would receive the highest number of GR CH points awarded in its sex in any variety at the specialty show.

**CHAPTER 16
SECTION 6.**

The preceding portion of this section is unchanged.

Grand Championship points for a dog awarded Select Dog or Select Bitch shall count all eligible dogs of their sex in Best of Breed or Best of Variety of Breed competition less the dog awarded Best of Breed or Variety or Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed or Variety in addition to the dogs that competed in the regular and non-regular (eligible for Best of Breed/ Variety) classes for their sex in calculating Grand Championship points.

At independently held specialty shows or concurrent specialty shows for breeds divided into recognized varieties, if a dog designated Best of Variety is also awarded Best of Breed in inter-variety competition, it shall receive Grand Championship points figured at the highest point rating of any variety entered at that specialty show. If a dog designated Best of Variety or Best of Opposite Sex in its variety is also awarded Best of Opposite Sex to Best of

Breed in inter-variety competition, it shall receive Grand Championship points figured at the highest point rating of its sex in any variety entered at that specialty show. Such points shall not be in addition to, but inclusive of, any Grand Championship points previously awarded the dog in its variety competition.

NOT ADOPTED: Vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 11, Section 8-A, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility, which removes the requirement for an injury to have occurred for an Event Committee to disqualify a dog that has attacked a person or a dog at its event, presenting a hazard to persons or other dogs.

D. Bylaws Committee: a subcommittee has been appointed to review bylaws for possible needed changes

E. Companion Events:

a. My Dog's Got Talent (ie Freestyle): AKC Staff are working to develop Regulations for this potential new sport. Division #1 Dog & Handler- no costumes, props or music are used. Division #2 Costumes/Props/ Music – any or all at discretion of the handler.

b. AKC Temperament Test was launched on November 1, 2020. This is an event that clubs could add to their activities. Dogs can earn an AKC Temperament Test title; additional information can be found at www.akc.org/akctempstest/

c. Statistics:

i. Agility entries down (26,027) and number of events increased by 83

ii. Obedience entries down (5,440) and number of events were down (16)

iii. Rally entries were up 17,786 and number of events increased by 53

iv. Tracking entries down (180) and number of events decreased by (24)

Committee Reports –

1. AMSC-L - Vicki Kubic – We stand at 294 members which represents about 72% of our entire membership.

2. AWARDS - Sue Ratz – Ready

for tomorrow. PowerPoint will be posted to AMSC list about an hour before the meeting tomorrow.

3. Montgomery County Hospitality – Barbara Donahue – will be working on contracts for 2021. Wants to make sure there are cancellation clauses.

4. Education: John Constantine: We will be presenting as part of the Terrier Group AKC Advanced Judges Institute at the National Championship in Orlando. Need 4-8 dogs for hands on in Orlando.

5. Health Committee Report- Patti Henderson

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

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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 crytorchid breeding stock has been a standard viable method which has contributed to curtailing PMDS by design. 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 autoimmune 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/educational-resources/library/articles/CANINE_GENETIC_TESTING_07-28-2020_FINAL_with-links.pdf

6. Judge's selection – Bonnie Keyes – Bonnie is getting votes for the 2023 judges in.

7. Legislative Liaison: Vicki Kubic & Kelly Radcliffe – Kelly Radcliffe posts important information to the AMSC list.

8. Membership – Debbie Herrell
50-year pins Berar, Lynda 1969/1970
5-yearpins Barrone, Beverly
 Constatine-Amodei, Lloyd
 Mullin, Donna E
 Opanowitz, Pamela
 Rager, Kathleen M.
 Reid, Carol
 Ridley, Joanne
 Shelton, Susan C.
 Wyatt, Dustin

25-year pins

Alford, Mary 1995
 Battinger, Lynn 1995

Froats, Mary 1995
 Garmaker, Kurt M. 1995
 Lande, Marilyn A. 1995
 Marshall, Leslie 1995
 Monsén, Eva 1995
 Oltjenbruns, Gay 1995
 Richey, Judy I. 1995
 Stephens, Vicki 1995

Three new applications to be voted upon: Ronie Coronado, Patricia L. Hartzell and Jamie Morgan, applications attached.

9. Trophies – Amy Gordon & Barbara Donahue - All trophies purchased for this year, will be used for next year. The trophy committee will be selling the remaining Palooza 2019 trophies in Q4. Members will be notified via AMSC-L in early October and in the next issue of AMSCOPE. Members have first come - first served rights to purchase prior to November 15, 2020; any remaining trophies will be posted for sale on the AMSC FB page. Sale price does not include shipping which will be additional and by USPS Priority Mail boxes only.

Barbara has the trophies at her home and will manage taking orders and shipping. The money raised through this sale will be for the AMSC trophy fund.

10. Website/Social Media – Vicki Kubic - We're keeping the website up to date based on the updates supplied to me. Jackie Harris is helping with the website, Facebook and Instagram. Helen Carter helps with Facebook on the weekends. We now have almost 68K followers. Amy McGovern now runs our Twitter account for us. Please like us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter!

11. Statistics: Patti Henderson - Only one show during the previous quarter. Should get September Quarter reports mid-October. Discussion to forgo awards for 2020 to be given in 2021. Patti Henderson made a motion to forgo AMSC Top Dog Awards to be given in 2021. Debbie Harrell seconded. This will include all awards for 2020 that might be given 2021. This year will not be included in any numbers. Motion passed 14-1.

Old Business:

GoodDog.com – Vicki Kubic – chair,

Beth Santure, Sonny Lelle, Patti Henderson - absent

GoodDog offers the AMSC the opportunity to showcase our breed and connect to people looking for miniature schnauzers someplace reputable and responsible other than just the AKC and our website.

AMSC breeders can join GoodDog if desired.

GoodDog educates pet buyers to help them make better decisions for them, their families and their lifestyle.

Discourages impulse purchasing decisions.

- Simple, concise, high expectations for breeders.
- Simple, easy on the eye website. Easy to navigate.
- Learning center is good.
- Breeder Code of Ethics is quite good.
- Responsible Dog Owner Code of Ethics is excellent!
- Breeder listings simple yet thorough. You input as much or little info as you like.
- Geared to higher level pet people. Does not play up rescue. Breeder supportive!
- Pure Dog Talk has partnered with them.

Pros: Absolutely no cost to AMSC. Additional positive exposure of our breed. Compliments the AKC, doesn't replace them. Buyers pay a finders fee, therefore they are highly motivated.

AKC Marketplace is funded by breeder listing fees. GoodDog is funded by buyer fees (approx. 6%) and their start up funding. Accepted breeders pay nothing.

Many AMSC breeders do not use Marketplace. GoodDog would expose more people to well-bred dogs via AMSC breeders who can list for free.

As much as we may not agree with crossbreeds GoodDog's explanation of purebred, mixed breeds and crossbreeds is actually quite good and informative. We can't stop cross breeds and really should not expect too.

<https://www.gooddog.com/learning-center/differences-between-purebreds-and-crossbreds>

Where do we go from here?

- We would like to suggest moving forward with parent club support
- Start simply with AMSC member breeders recognized as such as currently done by GoodDog
- Existing GoodDog breeder testing – CHIC min. requirements – OFA eyes, cardiac clearance
- Submit additional photos to better represent our breed
- Ability to submit fraudulent MS color breeders for GoodDog corrections
- GoodDog website suggestions for our breed where applicable
- Perhaps a link to our FAQ's on our website in their MS breed page

New Business:

a. Parent Club Semen Bank – Barbara Donahue – Discussion of an AKC sponsored semen bank. AMSC would have to make a decision to participate. Decision not to look any further into it at this time.

b. Schnauzer Shorts – Vicki Kubic -

The AMSCOPE Quarterly Summary

This proposal explores the possibility of converting the AMSC newsletter AMSCOPE into a quarterly magazine, funded through AMSC membership dues, open subscriptions, and paid advertising. (An example of such a Club publication is the Scottish Terrier of America magazine, "The Bagpiper") <https://stca.biz/about-the-stca/the-bagpiper/>

The magazine AMSCOPE would be of a size and format to compliment members' existing libraries of Miniature Schnauzer magazines. As a publication designed to be archival in nature, it would not be available in a digital format. The publication and its content would remain the property of the AMSC, with an Editor appointed by the Board to be paid an honorarium and/or share of ad revenue. Supporting volunteers who contribute significant effort (proof

readers, statisticians) would receive complimentary ad space at the discretion of the Editor.

The magazine AMSCOPE would replace the current newsletter, with a portion of pages set aside in each issue for the publication of an Official Section for Club business: Minutes, Committee Reports, New Members and so forth.

The magazine AMSCOPE would maintain and publish AMSC Top Dogs points rankings, as well as AKC new champions of record and "top producer" statistics and related reports; the primary objective to track and record the continuing development of the Miniature Schnauzer breed for the benefit of current and future members.

The magazine AMSCOPE would publish national and regional specialty club results and coverage of other breed related events and performance, as well as an annual Stud Issue. Submitted by, Vicki Kubic, Kate McMillan and Krystal Mason

Committee appointed to continue looking into this. John would like to see a business plan.

Election of new members – Vicki Kubic moved to accept Ronie Coronado, Patricia L. Hartzell and Jamie Morgan as new members, Barbara Donahue seconded, new members voted in.

Barbara Donahue moved that we adjourn, Bonnie Keyes seconded. The Meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm EDT on October 2, 2020.

What Speaks to Your Dog More Than Your Facial Expressions

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

Study results published in October in the *Journal of Neuroscience* reveal some remarkable similarities and differences in the way dog and human brains process visual information about others.¹ These findings suggest that the visual system of dogs is organized differently from ours — which means the “face network” found in primates may not extend to all mammals, including (hu)man’s best friend. As explained in SciTechDaily:

“Faces are central to visual communication in humans, who possess a dedicated neural network for face processing. Although dogs also pay attention to faces, excel at [eye contact](#) and at reading facial emotion, they also rely on additional bodily signals to communicate.”²

Dog Brains Don’t Appear to React to Human Faces

The question researchers in the Department of Ethology at Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary set out to answer: Are dog brains specialized for face processing like human brains?

The research team tested 20 dogs and 30 humans using functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) machines located at two of only a handful of laboratories capable of scanning the brains of [awake, unrestrained dogs](#). One of the labs is at Eötvös Loránd University; the other is at the Institute of Neurobiology, National Autonomous University of México.

The researchers showed the dogs and humans short movies of dog and human faces as well as the backs of the heads of dogs and humans. The study is notable in that it’s the first “directly comparative, noninvasive visual neuroimaging study of a non-primate and a primate species.”

The fMRI scans demonstrated clear preference differences between the humans and the dogs. From ScienceDaily:

“Human brains showed a preference for faces, meaning that some visual areas had greater activity in response to a face

compared to the back of the head. A subset of these regions also displayed species preference, with increased activity in response to viewing a human over a dog.

In contrast, dog brains only showed species preference. Visual areas had greater activity in response to seeing a dog over a human, and no activity difference between seeing a face vs. the back of the head.”³

These findings seem to suggest that while dogs certainly make eye contact with us and are able to some extent to read emotions in our faces, they may rely more often on other communication signals we send through, for example, our vocal tone, touch, body language and [scent](#). When you consider how dogs communicate with other dogs, it makes sense that they look for the same kinds of signals from humans that they do from members of their own species.

Humans Are Pretty Good at Reading Dogs’ Faces

In 2013, a team of U.S. researchers set out to see if humans could accurately read a dog’s facial expressions. They published their findings in the journal *Behavioural Processes*.⁴

The study used pictures of a 5-year-old Belgian Shepherd named Mal. The photos showed Mal experiencing various emotions prompted by the researchers. When Mal was praised, he showed a happy expression with ears up, tongue out and looking directly at the camera. When the researchers reprimanded him, Mal’s expression became sad, with eyes cast downward.

To capture a surprised expression, the researchers used a jack-in-the-box, and Mal wrinkled the top of his head. Medicine with a bad taste brought out the dog’s disgusted expression — flattened ears. Next came the dreaded nail clippers, which made Mal prick up his ears and show the whites of his eyes. Finally, to produce an expression of anger, one of the researchers acted the

part of a criminal. Mal, a [police dog](#) in real life, bared his teeth into the beginnings of a snarl.

Viewing the photos, study volunteers (50 adults, separated into two groups based on whether they were experienced or inexperienced with dogs) were able to determine when Mal was happy, sad, angry, surprised or scared by looking at a picture of his face.

- Happiness was correctly identified by 88% of the participants
- Anger was recognized by 70%
- Fear was identified by about 45%
- Sadness — a relatively subtle emotion — was recognized by 37%
- Surprise was identified by just 20% of participants, and disgust by only 13%

(The full study, including photos of Mal’s facial expressions, can be downloaded [here](#).)

Interestingly, the researchers found that the group with the least amount of exposure to dogs was better at recognizing disgust and anger. They theorized that dog owners may convince themselves their pet isn’t [aggressive](#) and rationalize negative expressions as “just playing.”

The researchers concluded that these results suggest humans possess a natural ability to understand what animals are feeling, and in addition, that the ability of people with little or no experience of dogs to identify facial expressions — sometimes more accurately than dog owners — is perhaps because it is an innate rather than an acquired skill.



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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