



# AMSCOPE

Newsletter of the American Miniature Schnauzer Club  
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Issue 3

## 13 Reasons to Sleep with Your Dog

Samantha Gehrmann / Stocksy

The question of whether or not to sleep with your dog can be kind of a divisive issue. Some are staunchly against it — for good reason: allowing your dog in your bed can cause issues like allergy attacks, not to mention decreased sleep. Anyone who's ever slept next to a snoring Pit Bull knows the latter to be true. But others are enthusiastically probed sharing, arguing the benefits outweigh the snores. Turns out they might be onto something because there are several researched-based reasons why it can be a positive experience for both your health and your dog's. For example, sleeping with your pup has many mental benefits such as an increased feeling of safety and comfort. In a study, people suffering from PTSD found that sleeping with their pet helped diminish nightmares.

There are physical benefits, too. Sleeping with your dog releases the feel-good chemical oxytocin in the brain, which promotes theta brainwaves that are associated with REM sleep. This means it's likely that you're sleeping deeper when you sleep with your dog. The chemical also mitigates anxiety and stress, which can help you sleep better. Petting and touching your dog (during sleeping or waking hours) can even help lower your blood pressure.

**The deadline  
for the April issue is  
March 8**

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

13 Reasons	1
Bouquets and Biscuits	4
Dog's Mouth	2
In Memorium	4
New Applicants	4
Read Your Intentions	5

Of course, sharing your bed with your dog is not for everyone (read: light sleepers). If you really value your space or are easily woken, you might want to let them crash nearby in their own bed. However, if you're on the fence, consider these benefits and drawbacks of bunking up with your pup:

### 13 Benefits of Sleeping With Your Dog

1. It reduces depression.

Contact with dogs increases the flow of oxytocin, the love chemical.

2. It promotes theta brainwaves.

The release of oxytocin promotes theta brainwaves, which occur during REM sleep.

3. It increases your sense of security.

Having a pet in the bed improved sleep quality for women in one study.

4. It eases insomnia.

Sleeping with a dog mitigates anxiety, allowing you to relax and fall asleep.

5. It reduces bad dreams.

Research has shown that support animals diminish nightmares in PTSD patients.

6. It decreases loneliness.

In a study, 41% of pet owners said sleeping with their pet provides companionship.

7. It improves sleep quality.

Sleeping with your dog results in a higher sleep efficiency score.

8. It reduces stress.

In a survey, 74% of pet owners reported improvement in their mental health from pet contact.

9. It lowers your blood pressure.

Human-dog interaction (like petting and touching) leads to lower pressure readings.

10. It strengthens your bond.

Sleeping together helps your dog trust you and may even make training easier.

11. It keeps your heart healthy.

The American Heart Association found a link between pet interaction and decreased hypertension.

12. It reduces allergies later in life.

One study found infants who slept with their pets were less likely to develop allergies.

13. It improves your health overall.

Close contact with pets has an array of benefits like lower cholesterol and triglyceride levels.

### When Co-Sleeping with Your Pup Doesn't Make Sense

Sleeping with your dog isn't right for everyone. Circumstances when you might want to avoid it include:

- If your dog isn't house trained
- If you have severe allergies
- If you are a light sleeper
- If you have a new dog
- If you or your dog have health issues

# LOOK

Please let me know if you make a change

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

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## 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.

## Is Your Dog's Mouth Cleaner Than Yours?

Unfortunately, the answer is no. A dog's mouth and a human's mouth both contain billions of bacteria belonging to roughly 700 different species.

Although we both have bacteria in our mouths, the bacteria in a dog's mouth are mostly different species than the bacteria that inhabit a person's mouth. These bacteria prefer a dog to be the host, and thankfully, they are not harmful to people.

However, there are similarities between the mouths of dogs and people. For instance, Porphyromonas is the bacterial family that causes periodontal disease in both dogs and people.

The first stage of periodontal disease is gingivitis, which means inflammation of the gums. Gingivitis is caused by bacteria in the mouth that form dental plaque. Billions of bacteria slowly build up on the surface of the teeth, which eventually leads to bad breath, gum recession, tooth root abscesses, and the destruction of bone around the tooth roots.

Early stages of periodontal disease are treatable for both dogs and people with at-home dental care, and just like people, dogs need their teeth professionally cleaned periodically.

Can You Get Infections and Diseases From Dog Saliva?

Dogs can transmit bacterial infections and viral infections through their saliva. However, the overall risk of pathogens being transmitted from a dog's saliva to a person is very low.

These can be transmitted through your skin if a dog bites you, and if your dog's saliva were to get into your nose, mouth, or eyes, then these body parts could also absorb the saliva and any pathogens it carries.

**Bacterial Infections**

The most common bacteria in a dog's mouth is Pasteurella canis. It's also the most common organism found in a person's skin who has been bitten by a dog. Dogs can also transmit a bacteria called Capnocytophaga canimorsus through a bite wound, which can lead to a serious bacterial infection in people.

However, the severity of a bite wound depends on the wound's location and whether the person is immunocompromised or vulnerable, a group that includes children under 5, adults over 65, pregnant women, and those who are immunocompromised due to a disease process.

If you get bitten by a dog, clean the wound well with soap and water for 15 minutes, and seek medical attention, no matter how minor the wound may look.

Also, if your dog eats food that happens to be contaminated with Salmonella or E. coli, then these pathogens could pass to you if your dog's slobber gets into your mouth. A raw food diet is more likely to become contaminated, but any dog food can get contaminated with Salmonella or E. Coli.

**Rabies (Viral Infection)**

Rabies is the most serious infection that dogs can transmit through their saliva. It is a virus that spreads when an infected dog bites a person.

The virus invades the nervous system and leads to a variety of symptoms. Dogs may initially show signs of anxiety and nervousness. Later stages cause dogs to become aggressive, uncoordinated, and disoriented, and they can attack random objects and develop tremors and seizures.

If you see a dog (or wild animal) displaying these symptoms, call your local animal control or police department and stay away from the animal. Rabies is almost always fatal when a dog, person, or any wild animal develops symptoms of this disease.

**Is Dog Saliva Bad For Your Skin?**

There is not much of a risk of infection if a dog licks your skin (as long as they are not licking a wound) because your skin does a poor job of absorbing saliva.

Some people are allergic to a dog's saliva, but usually this happens with certain breeds of dogs rather than all dogs. If you are allergic to dog saliva, your skin can break out in hives, develop a rash, and/or become very itchy.

**Is Dog Saliva Harmful to Babies?**

Although the risk of being infected from

**MOUTH...cont'd on p. 3**

**MOUTH....from pp. 3**

dog saliva is low, the most susceptible people are children under 5 years of age, adults over 65 years of age, pregnant women, people without a functional spleen, or immunocompromised individuals.

If you are in one of these categories, then it is best to avoid all contact with dog saliva. If you have a child under 5, never leave them unsupervised around your dog. You can prevent your dog from licking your child by picking your child up so they are out of reach. You can also divert your dog's attention by giving them a toy to play with, letting your dog outside, or keeping them in a different room when necessary.

**How to Keep Your Dog From Licking You**  
If you are allergic to dog slobber or are immunocompromised, it's important to train your dog not to kiss or lick you. This can be challenging, but training is key. If your dog tries to lick you, get up and walk away. It is best to ignore your dog when they do this, as this will teach them that licking you will not give them any rewards (e.g., your attention or treats).

If you have any open wounds caused by trauma, you should also prevent your dog from licking at them, because a dog's saliva can cause your wounds to get infected. If you have a wound, keep it covered with clothing or a bandage to protect it from your dog's saliva.

**How to Keep Your Dog's Mouth Clean**  
Here are the best ways to keep your dog's teeth and mouth as clean as possible and eliminate bad breath:

- Brush your dog's teeth 2-3 days a week or more using dog toothpaste
- Sprinkle dog dental powder on your dog's food at every meal
- Try a dental water additive made for dogs
- Ask your vet about prescription dental diets for dogs
- Give your dog dental treats that have the Veterinary Oral Health Council's Seal of Acceptance
- Schedule regular veterinary dental cleanings

## Important!!

Review the Roster for your contact information and UPDATE if changed!!

We have had several AMSCOPE Magazines returned undeliverable due to the fact the Roster information was dated and the wrong address is on file. The club incurs extra expenses every time this happens.

If you have MOVED, changed a phone number or email address it is up to YOU to notify Bonnie Keyes to update the Roster.

Please review your listing and report any changes to Bonnie Keyes at [Treasurer@amsc.us](mailto:Treasurer@amsc.us)

Thanks!  
Vicki Kubic  
AMSC- President

## Bouquets & Biscuits

New Champion and New Grand Champion SUMERWYND GOOD DAY SUNSHINE finished the requirements for a AKC Conformation Title by asserting himself for a 4-point major at the Warrenton Kennel Club Show in Doswell, VA. In addition he earned his Grand with a BOB win at the North East Maryland KC Show in West Friendship, MD. "Beatle" is the first champion and grand champion sired by Ch Sumerwynd Shenigans and produced from Ch Sumerwynd Shamrok. He was shown by Shawne Imler and for breeder-owner Wade Bogart "Sumerwynd"

## In Memorium

### Debi Durst



2021 is ending on a sad note for our breed. It is with a heavy heart that we inform you about the loss of our long time AMSC and Mount Vernon MSC member, breeder, mentor and friend to many, Debi Durst. She lost her 3 1/2 year battle with lymphoma that ended up as leukemia.

Debi was an asset to the breed, as miniature schnauzers were her passion. Sarius Miniature Schnauzers, Debbie's kennel, was well known for it's beautiful black Mini's. Sarius dogs are known to be competitive in the conformation and companion /performance rings. Debi took pride in staying connected to her puppy buyers as well as breeders /club members and enjoyed hosting the annual Sarius Pig Roast, a "must-go" event.

Debi and her breeding program will be missed, but her suffering has come to an end. Members should know that Debi made certain her remaining dogs were placed in loving homes.

## In Memorium

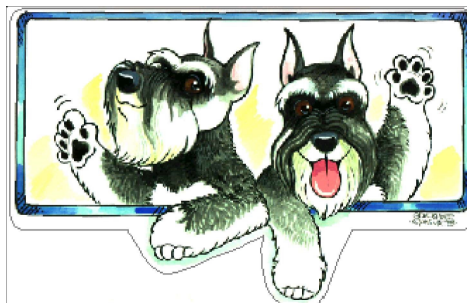
### Connie Hawk



Connie took great pride in being the breeder of Sugar, owned by Loretta Gould, who was one of the fastest agility Mini Schnauzers in the country. Sugar and Loretta were the Top Miniature Schnauzer team at the 2014 AKC Agility Invitational.

Barbara Donahue

Connie G. Hawk, 86, passed in peace Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021, to be reunited once again in the arms of her husband and best friend, James Vaughn; and her eldest son, Douglas James. She was the proud mother of Micayla Diane, Keith Edward and wife, Barbie, Bryan Pershing and Doug's widow, Barbara; beloved grandmother of Kristina and husband, Cliff, Katie and husband, James, Milanda, Kelly, Kyle and his wife, Alix, Kasey and his wife, Alli and Tyler; and great-grandmother of Gavin, Abigail, Autumn, Nora, Gage, Hayden, Korvin, Liam, Koda and Harper. She was the most extraordinary wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and we cannot imagine being without her. Connie will be fondly be remembered by family and friends as a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother who's humor and caring ways will be sadly missed.



## NEW APPLICANTS

### Patricia A Case-Standing

P.O. Box 522

Saint James City, FL 33956

Patricia would like to become a member because she has owned three Miniature Schnauzers, one was a rescue and another is a champion AKC black from breeder Marie Pletsch. She has read and agrees to abide by the AMSC Code of Ethics and the Breed Standard. She is not a breeder, but is involved in Conformation. Patricia attends between five and ten events per year. She does not belong to any other dog clubs at this time, but has helped at the AKC booth in Orlando International dog show in 2019.

**Sponsors:** Marie Pletsch, Carol Ann Meitzler

### Susan Coulter

263 Northland Dr.

Central Square, NY 13036

Susan would like to become a member of AMSC to support the club and associate with other Schnauzer owners and to also support preservation of the breed. She has read and agrees to abide by the Code of Ethics and the Breed Standard. She has co-owned several Champions and has been breeding and showing for ten years. Susan has also been involved in therapy for nine years. She attends about 10 events per year but her dogs are exhibited throughout the country most every weekend.

**Sponsors:** Carma Ewer and Silvia Soos-Kazel

### Sandra Peveto

12904 Two Farm Drive

Silver Springs, MD 20904

301-237-5480

Sandy is a Respiratory Therapist and would like to join AMSC because she loves the breed, showing, grooming and breeding. She has read and agrees to abide by the Code of Ethics and Breed Standard. She has produced one litter in the past five years. Her involvement with her dogs includes Conformation, Obedience and limited breeding. Sandy attends approximately 15-20 shows per year. She is currently a member of Giant Schnauzer Club of America and has been involved with Giants for 22 years. She resides in Maryland with five Giant Schnauzers and five Minis. Her special skill is organization.

**Sponsors:** Tatiana Myers, Andy Deer



# Can Your Dog ‘Read’ Your Intentions?

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

According to a fascinating new study, it appears that dogs can tell the difference between, and react differently to, intentional vs. unintentional human behavior.<sup>1</sup>

Ever since **humans and canines teamed up**, dogs have demonstrated a knack for understanding us. The fact that we can teach them to sit, lay down, and roll over when we ask them to, is just one example. However, until recently, we hadn’t begun to unravel whether dogs understand not only the visual and verbal cues we give them, but also the intentions behind them. According to ScienceDaily:

*“The ability to recognize another’s intentions — or at least conceive of them — is a basic component of Theory of Mind, the ability to attribute mental states to oneself and others, long regarded as uniquely human.”<sup>2</sup>*

## Question: Do Dogs Have ‘Theory of Mind’?

The question researchers at Germany’s Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History set out to answer was, “Do dogs have this basic component of **Theory of Mind**, the ability to tell the difference between something done on purpose and something done by accident?”

The team conducted an experiment to observe **how dogs react** when humans both intentionally and unintentionally withhold treats. They used a paradigm called “unable vs. unwilling,” which prior to this study had only been used in human cognition research.

A total of 51 dogs were included in the study. Each dog was tested in three slightly different situations, each of which involved being separated from the researcher by a transparent barrier. The experimenter first fed the dogs **fed the dogs treats** through a gap in the barrier before changing things up for the test.

1. In the “unwilling” situation, the experimenter first offered the treat, but then suddenly pulled it back through the gap and placed it in front of her.

2. In the “unable-clumsy” situation, the researcher held the treat at the gap, “tried” to pass it through, and then “accidentally” dropped it.

3. In the “unable-blocked” situation, the experimenter tried to give the treat, but couldn’t because the gap in the barrier was blocked.

In all three test situations, the treats never made it through the gap to the dog.

## Answer: Yes — Dogs Can Recognize Intention-in-Action

The researchers assumed that if dogs have the ability to ascertain humans’ intentions through their actions, then the dogs in the study would react differently in the first “unwilling” situation compared to the two “unable” situations.

In theory, the dogs 1) wouldn’t be as eager to approach the treat the experimenter was unwilling to give them because they assumed from the human’s behavior that they weren’t supposed to have it, and 2) would be more willing to approach the treat in the second and third situations, because it had obviously been intended for them.

The researchers observed that not only did the dogs wait longer in the unwilling situation than the following two situations, but they were also more likely to sit or lie down and stop wagging their tails — **behavior** that is often interpreted as **appeasement**.

*“The dogs in our study clearly behaved differently depending on whether the actions of a human experimenter were intentional or unintentional,”* lead study author Britta Schünemann said in a news release. *“This suggests that dogs may indeed be able to identify humans’ intention-in-action,”* adds co-author Hannes Rakoczy from the University of Göttingen.<sup>3</sup>

As Juliane Bräuer, head of the dog studies lab at the Max Planck Institute notes, the situations the dogs faced were unusual, because normally their owners wouldn’t be in the habit of teasing them with a treat and refusing to give it to them. The way the dogs reacted, she says, “might really suggest that they are able to understand intention, at least in this simple set-up.”<sup>4</sup>

While further research is required to confirm these findings, they present the first bit of evidence that dogs possess at least one aspect of Theory of Mind — the ability to recognize intention-in-action.

## Dogs Snub People Who Are Mean to Their Owners

In an intriguing 2015 study led by Kazuo Fujita, a professor of comparative cognition at Kyoto University in Japan, researchers

showed that dogs will refuse food offered by someone who was uncooperative to their owner.<sup>5</sup>

For the study, dogs watched as a person either helped their owner open a box, actively refused to help with the task or behaved in a neutral manner. The strangers then offered food to the dogs, and the dogs were more likely to choose food being offered by the neutral party and refuse food offered by the uncooperative party.

The study shows dogs make **social and emotional evaluations** of people and may make decisions based on those evaluations, even if it doesn’t benefit them directly. This was the first discovery of its kind in dogs. This ability is considered one of the key factors in building a highly collaborative society, and this study shows that dogs seem to share that ability with humans.

## Dogs Will Stop Trusting a Person Who Lies

Research has also shown that dogs learn when a person is not trustworthy and no longer follow their commands.

In one study, all dogs initially went to a container that a researcher pointed to, under which a bit of food was hidden.<sup>6</sup> The researchers next pointed to an empty container after showing the dogs that food was hidden under a different container. Then, in the final phase, the researchers again pointed the dogs toward the correct container with the hidden food.

However, by this point the dogs were no longer willing to trust them and only 8% went in the direction they pointed. According to the study:

*“These results suggest that not only [are] dogs ... highly skilled at understanding human **pointing gestures**, but also they make inferences about the reliability of a human who presents cues and consequently modify their behavior flexibly depending on the inference.”*



# AMSCOPE

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