

# AMSCOPE

Newsletter of the AMERICAN MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB Member of the American Kennel Club

August 2018 Volume 34 Issue 7

## Humans and Dogs Share More Than Just a Special Bond — There's Also This

#### By Dr. Karen Shaw Becker

If you're like many dog-savvy pet parents, you've long suspected that having a canine companion in the family is a lot like interacting with a toddler. So it will come as no surprise to learn that new research suggests dogs and toddlers share similar patterns in social intelligence, and are actually much more similar than toddlers and their closest evolutionary relative, the chimpanzee.

#### What Exactly Is Social Intelligence?

Just so we're clear on what the term "social intelligence" means and how it differs from general intelligence, here are a few definitions:

- · From Dictionary.com: "The ability to form rewarding relationships with other people."
- From AlleyDog.com: "... [A]n individual's proficiency at social skills and behaviors. Colloquial terms for social intelligence include 'street smarts' and 'common sense.' This type of intelligence is different than the type measured by IQ tests. Social intelligence is mostly influenced by environmental factors and is developed from past experiences with other people in the environment."
- From Psychology Today: "Intelligence, or IQ, is largely what you are born with. Genetics play a large part. Social intelligence (SI), on the other hand, is mostly learned. SI develops from experience with people and learning from success and failures in social settings." 3

The deadline for the September issue is August 10

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For several years now scientists have been exploring how human psychology differs from other species, and have concluded that basic social communication skills that begin to develop at around nine months in babies is the first measurable point of difference between humans and other species.

## Study Involved 552 Dogs, 105 Toddlers and 106 Chimpanzees

The dogs-and-toddlers study was conducted at the Arizona Canine Cognition Center at the University of Arizona (UA), and was published in the journal Animal Behaviour. Researchers led by center director, Evan MacLean, Ph.D., an assistant professor in the School of Anthropology in the UA College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, evaluated how dogs, chimpanzees and 2-year-olds performed on tests to measure various types of cognition.

The study involved 552 dogs of various breeds, and included family dogs, <u>assistance-dogs-intraining</u> and military explosive detection dogs. Game-based tests were used to assess social cognition in the dogs. The games involved hiding treats and toys, and then communicating the hiding spots through nonverbal communication such as pointing or looking in the direction of the hiding place.

The dogs' results were compared to data on 105 2-year-old children and 106 chimpanzees living at wildlife sanctuaries in Africa who had also completed similar cognitive tests.

## Dogs Have Something Chimps Lack: 'Cooperative Communi-ca-tion Skills'

Interestingly, the chimps performed well in experiments involving their physical environmental and spatial reasoning, but when it came to tests of "cooperative communication skills," for example, following the direction of a pointing finger or a human's gaze, they didn't do as well.

Both the dogs and the toddlers did better than the chimpanzees on cooperative communication tests, and the researchers noted similar patterns of variation in performance from one dog to the next, and one child to the next. According to MacLean: "There's been a lot of research showing that you don't really find those same social skills in chimpanzees, but you do find them in dogs, so that suggested something superficially similar between dogs and kids. The bigger, deeper question we wanted to explore is if that really is a superfi-cial similarity or if there is a distinct kind of social intelligence that we see in both species.

"What we found is that there's this pattern, where dogs who are good at one of these social things tend to be good at lots of the related social things, and that's the same thing you find in kids, but you don't find it in chimpanzees." 5

#### 'Survival of the Friendliest'

One theory to explain the similarities between dogs and people is "survival of the friendliest." It's possible both humans and canines evolved in situations in which cooperative social behavior delivered the most benefits and rewards.

"Our working hypothesis is that dogs and humans probably evolved some of these skills as a result of similar evolutionary processes, so probably some things that happened in human evolution were very similar to processes that happened in dog domestication," MacLean explained.

"So, potentially, by studying dogs and domestication we can learn something about human evolution." He believes this kind of research could at some point help scientists better understand human disabilities characterized by shortcomings in social skills, for example, <u>autism</u>.

Social Intelligence Is Very Important for Humans, and Dogs Have It in Spades

Cont'd on p. 3...Special Bond



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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\*LOCAL CLUBS...please be sure to include all information when sending Specialty tear sheets for inclusion in AMSCope e.g. Judges, dates, entry, obedience.

#### \*LOCAL CLUBS...PLEASE send a copy of your newsletter to the following members of the Local Club **Bulleting Committee.**

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#### **NEW APPLICANTS**

#### **SUMIKO IKEDA**

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Sumiko has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 30+ years... She is a breeder.

Sumiko belongs to the Shonan Miniature Schnauzer Club, Kanagawa Shonan Club Unions and Japan Kennel Club...

She is interested in Conformation, Breeding, Agility and Judging. She attends 5 – 6 dog shows a year...

Sumiko is a retired housewife. She would like to help out with the Newsletter and Edu-

Sumiko is an All Breeds Judge under Japan Kennel Club and FCI, and an AKC Foreign All Breed Judge...

Sumiko's Sponsors are: Luana Nedich and Carole Weinberger

#### JULIE COOPER

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Julie had been involved with Miniature Schnauzers since 1976. She is a breeder.

She has had 20 litters from her stud dog and 10 litters from her bitches in the last 5 years. Julie competes in Conformation, Barn Hunt and Sweeps Matches. She attends about 46 events each year.

Julie belongs to Cactus State Miniature Schnauzer Club, is an AMSC Delegate and Trophy Committee.

Julie is retired. She would like to help the club out in Awards/Trophies, Mentoring Judges and

She has served on the Show Committee for Cactus State Miniature Schnauzer Club for 4 years, searching and purchasing for the Clubs 2 specialties trophies. She also has an interest in research, health and mentoring. Julies's Sponsors are: dEe Ann Simpson and DeBorra Nestle.

#### ALEJANDRO RACINI JESUS RACINI

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Alejandro has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 25 years, and has been a breeders for 20 years...

They attend 10-20 events a year... They belong to the Miniature Schnauzer Club of Southern California, AKC and TCM...

Alejandro is in Production Marketing and Jesus is a student...They are interested in helping with Newsletter, Legislative Issues, Rescue, Electronic Media, Public Awareness, Awards/ Trophies, Education, Membership, Obedience, Agility, Ethics and Health...Their special skills are in Internet and Social Networking...

Their sponsors are Kathy Colby and Brooke Walker...

#### **SUE ALLEN BROWN**

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Sue has been involved with Miniature Schnauzers for 12 years. Her other breed is English Springer Spaniels which she had for 9 years. Sue is not a breeder. She has participated in Agility for 10 years and Obedience for 8 years. She and her dogs attend Agility, Obedience and Barn Hunt events an average of 3 weekends a month, about 36 events per year. Sue belongs to the Dog Training Club of Tampa, Tampa, Fl. She is an active member and has been

substitute instructor, ring steward, and leadership positions within the club. She is a retired public school educator. She would like to help the AMSC out with Public Awareness, Membership, Obedience and Agility. She enjoys traveling, hiking and camping out with her dogs. As a retired English Teacher and School Administrator, she has solid communication and leadership skills to offer.

#### **Montgomery Weekend**

The AMSC has again contracted with Homewood Suites and they are now accepting hotel reservations for Montgomery week. For those that have not joined us in the past, the Homewood Suites Valley Forge is located at 681 Shannondell Blvd, Audubon, PA 19403 and is conveniently located near restaurants, shopping and major roadways.

The room rates and available configurations

\$139 for studio suite (1 King bed with pullout sofa)

\$159 for one bedroom suite (1 King or 2 Queen with pullout sofa rooms)

\$189 for two bedroom suite (1King and 2 Queen with pullout sofa)

Book your rooms by Sept 12, 2018 to guarantee the below rates. Additional 10% room tax applies. There is a \$75 pet fee per room. Studio and one bedroom suite rates increased \$5 per night; the two bedroom suite rate is the same as last year.

Guests may book one of two ways:

Call the hotel at 610-539-7300 and mention you are booking with the American Miniature Schnauzer Club, group code AMS Go online to http://bit.ly/2CXWjIX and under the "Book a Suite" reservations on the home page, enter the group code AMS to receive our discounted rate.

Details for the member reception and meeting on Saturday evening, Oct 6th, will be released closer to Montgomery week. Regards,

Barbara Donahue, MCKC Hospitality

## Why Invisible Fences Don't Work



By Jennifer Coates, DVM

Invisible fences for dogs are advertised as being a relatively inexpensive way to give dogs safe access to the outdoors, but is that actually the case? Let's look at the dangers associated with invisible fences and some better options that give dogs the freedom and enrichment they need.

#### What Is an Invisible Fence?

I am using the term "invisible fence" to refer to any containment system that includes a border created by a buried wire, a transmitter and a receiver collar that can produce audible signals and electric shocks. Many different brands and models are available, but they all work on the same theory—that dogs can be trained to avoid crossing a boundary when they hear a warning beep followed by an electric shock if they fail to turn back. Often the strength of the electric shock can be turned up or down to suit the dog's responsiveness.

## What Can Go Wrong With an Invisible Fence?

As a veterinarian, I've observed five common problems associated with invisible fences.

1. Dogs put up with the shock when the "reward" is great enough.

Even at the highest settings, the shock collar will not always stop highly motivated dogs from running past the boundary. If your dog loves to chase rabbits or really wants to play with the other dog walking past your yard, a few seconds of pain is a small price to pay.

2. The system can malfunction—sometimes with the dog's help.

The collar runs on batteries, which, of course, will eventually wear out, but even if you are meticulous about checking on the functioning of your system, some dogs learn to outsmart it. I personally know of one Border Collie who would sit within the "beep zone" until her collar's batteries worn out and then calmly stroll out of the yard.

3. The prongs on the collar can injure the skin.

An invisible fence collar delivers shocks through two prongs that need to be in close contact with the skin. Manufacturers typically recommend that these collars be removed regularly to prevent skin injury, but even so, dogs have been known to develop nasty wounds and infections. Longhair breeds are at an especially high risk.

4. Invisible fences do not prevent outsiders from coming in.

Wild animals, cats, other dogs or even people (especially children) can easily wander into your yard, which can result in injuries to everyone involved. Invisible fences also do little to protect dogs from being stolen or harmed by people with bad intentions.

5. Electric shocks can induce fear, anxiety and aggression.

While the goal of the invisible fence is to teach dogs to associate discomfort with approaching a boundary, some dogs fail to make that link. They may connect the pain they experience with something else going on at the time—like a person walking by—and subsequently be afraid of and/or aggressive towards passersby. When dogs see the shocks as random events, it's not unusual for them to develop generalized anxiety.

## Alternatives to Using an Invisible Fence for Dogs

A physical fence is usually the safest option for allowing dogs to safely explore the outdoors. There are many options ranging from large, imposing and expensive full-yard fences to smaller enclosures that are more inconspicuous and cost less. If putting up a physical fence is not possible, teach your dog the difference between going outside on a leash for a quick potty break and going on a longer walk through the neighborhood for fun. Dog parks offer great opportunities for offleash enrichment for well-socialized dogs. When your dog must be home alone, break out the dog chew toys and dog puzzles and place a comfy chair or bed in front of a window.

#### Special Bond...from p.1

The study of dogs to help better understand humans is a relatively new area of research. Historically, scientists have looked to our closest animal relatives, such as chimpanzees, bonobos and gorillas, for clues about the nature of humans. "There are different kinds of intelligence, and the kind of intelligence that we think is very important to humans is social in nature, and that's the kind of intelligence that dogs have to an incredible extent," MacLean said.

"But there are other aspects of cognition, like the way we reason about physical problems, where dogs are totally dissimilar to us. So we would never make the argument that dogs in general are a better model for the human mind — it's really just this special set of social skills"

So the good news: Your dog is approximately as socially adept as an average 2-year-old child. And the even better news is that your dog will remain a perpetual toddler into his golden years, and who doesn't love toddlers? No adolescent rebellion. No "can I have the car keys?" And no college tuition to worry about!

### In Memorium



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.AMSC Versatily Award

May 14, 2008-June 4, 2018

Yeager was my constant companion for almost ten years, he had an amazing desire to go and do things, any things, ALL things. He led me down so many new trails and we made new friends everywhere. Yeager passed suddenly from cancer, he had a full and happy life and I miss him desperately. Many thanks to Patty Schnaufer for entrusting me with this wonderful soul, he was a once in a lifetime companion. Run free and happy, chase the rats and eat string cheese to your heart's content. To quote a friend, "I feel like some dogs live their lives faster than others--there's so much to do in the world and they make a grand, glorious effort to do it all in the time they have." That was Yeager.

## Bouquets & Biscuits

\*Daree's Saving Grace (CH Daree's Notice Me x Daree's Sweet Springtime)

completed her Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) title at the Five Valley KC trials on June 3, 2018. All three qualifying scores were first places. Bred by Cynthia MulheronKlein and Kami Soehl, Gracie is owned and loved by Dianne Armstrong.



#### \*Southcross Double Feature UDX2 OM3 BN GN VER RE MX MXB MXJ MJB SE RATO CGC TKA NW2 AMSC-VA

(Gch Southcross Bad Moon Rising x Ch Southcross She's Got A Way) participated in the 2018 AKC National Obedience Invitational. On Saturday's competition Violet showed in 8 rings and completed all 22 exercises clean. We placed 45th out of about 150 dogs, earning us a spot in the Top 50 to move on to compete in Sunday's event. We also won First Place in the Terrier Group. I am beyond proud of Vi. I could not ask for a better teammate. Thank you so much Sonny Lelle. Vi is loved, trained, and owned by Christine Carter.

\*Southcross Life's An Adventure BN, CD, RATN, RI (GCH Southcross Thunderstruck x Southcross Trick or Treat) competed in the AKC National Rally Championship June 29th in Wilmington, OH. In a Novice class of 80 Miss Addie placed 6th with two perfect scores of 100. Thank you Sonny Lelle for allowing this sweet little girl to come to my home. She is loved and shown by me Sharon Bloss.

### Cartilage: The Dog Joint Health Protector

By <u>Dr Chris Bessent</u> Have you ever thought about your dog's joints? Are you doing anything to improve dog joint health to prevent damage in the future?

A joint is just what its name implies: it's the place where two bones meet.

Joints vary in their size and the amount of movement they provide, but any joint can be vulnerable to injury. The ends of the bones (the joint) are surrounded by a fibrous joint capsule, which is filled with a thick molasses-like joint fluid. Surrounding the joint is a tremendous amount of soft tissue, tendons, ligament and muscles that simultaneously move and support the joint. All of these components act synergistically to protect the joint during movement.

Cartilage And It's Role In Joint Health Each bony end is covered in a smooth, porcelain-like surface called joint (articular) cartilage. It's this cartilage that allows unimpeded gliding and rotation of the joint.

Articular cartilage contains a high concentration of nerve fibers, which are so sensitive that even small changes in the viscosity (thickness or gooeyness) of the joint fluid can cause an achiness in the joint.

The nerve-rich cartilage is protects the joints from damage.

Visualize your dog jumping an over a fallen log on the trails. He jumps the log by launching his body into the air and then depends on the joints in his front limbs to absorb the shock of the landing.

During the landing, his front limbs need to lock at his wrists and absorb the shock at the same time. In order to absorb the concussion of landing, all the elements of the joint need to work synergistically. Here's the rub ...

- If the supporting soft tissue isn't well balanced, the joint won't be properly supported and may be restricted or too loose in its movement.
- If the joint fluid is too thin, it'll be less able to absorb the force of the landing and the bone endings may be allowed to bang together.

The sponginess of the cartilage can help absorb some of this stress and will also signal the brain that the bone ends have painfully come in contact with one another.

If the dog fails to respond to the pain, the bone ends can collide and cause damage to their cartilage – and in the worst case scenario, fracture the bones themselves.

When Joint Damage Occurs With its limited potential for healing, damaged cartilage is replaced with an inferior type of cartilage called fibrocartilage that's prone to chipping and breaking.

If the joint capsule becomes inflamed, hydrolyzing enzymes are released and disrupt the joint fluid by breaking down its proteins.

This loss of nourishing and shock absorbing joint fluid weakens the cartilage even further and the injured and worn joints face a downward spiral of jarring, friction and pain.

Whenever any part of an animal is damaged it becomes inflamed, and the joints are no exception. When the tendons surrounding the joint become inflamed, it's called tendonitis. If the joint itself is inflamed, it's called arthritis.

The Rescue: Exercise & Nutrients I get asked this all the time: should you exercise a dog with hip dysplasia or suffers from arthritis?

Consistent repetitive motion in moderation helps to tone the muscles around the joint and this will support the joint and keep the joint fluid viscous.

Getting up and moving around is the best thing to maintain joint health. But strenuous activity such as jumping and fast directional changes should be avoided in animals with existing joint damage or inflammation.

Underwater treadmills and swimming pools are also great options for pets with existing joint damage. This allows them to build muscular strength and it supports joint health, while limiting the weight bearing load on the joints and articular cartilage. Weak muscles can lead to joint instability, which increases the risk of joint injury, so it's important to find some form of comfortable activity for dogs with joint pain.

How To Improve Dog Joint Health Remember when I compared joint fluid to molasses? Many are surprised to learn that joint fluid does consist primarily of a

continued on p. 7, col. 5... CARTILAGE

#### CARTILAGE...from p. 4

select number of very unique sugars. When you consider how well molasses or caramel could absorb sharp impacts, this shouldn't be surprising. But the sugars in your joints aren't as simple as table sugar. They combine amino acids to create compounds with some exceptional shock absorbing properties. A great source of these specialized fluids is in the joints of other animals.

[Related] Making bone broth is as easy way to up your dog's glucosamine intake. For dogs eating a raw diet with ground or whole bones, the joints in that food can give them a good supply of joint protecting nutrients. However, most pet foods today don't offer this.

Dogs eating a cooked diet or dogs with existing joint disease can benefit from some easily accessible joint supplements. I would recommend adding, at the very least, glucosamine, chondroitin and hyaluronic acid. The best dog hip and joint supplements will contain a combo of these.

These three nutrients can help replace lost viscosity of joint fluid, be used as a building block to repair joint cartilage, and to lubricate joints, respectively.

#### Glucosamine For Joint Health

When glucosamine is absorbed by the body, it converts into chondroitin and hyaluronic acid molecules that are two to three times the size of the glucosamine molecule. Chondroitin is a component of cartilage that gives it a spongy texture, helping the cartilage resist compression. Hyaluronic acid is contained in synovial fluid that lubricates the joints and gives the fluid a more viscous consistency.

When glucosamine is given orally, about 30 to 40% is actually absorbed into the bloodstream.

Because chondroitin and hyaluronic acid are larger and don't pass the gastric barrier easily, only about 10% of these substances are absorbed into the bloodstream, while the rest is broken down in the stomach. Although this is a small amount, it's better than no supplementation at all.

Daily glucosamine supplementation automatically works to thicken the joint fluid. But in the inflamed joint, hydrolyzing enzymes enter the scene and break down the fluid. So the next day the glucosamine supplement thickens the fluid again, and the enzymes begin to break it down again.

You need to keep on it for it to be effective.

You can also add the following help minimize this release of hydrolyzing enzymes and reduce inflammation and discomfort:

- MSM (an organic source of sulphur)
- ·Turmeric
- ·Yucca
- ·Corydalis
- ·Boswellia
- Omega-3 fatty acids

Joints are an amazing part of animal anatomy. Modern engineers still cannot replicate the complexity and functionality of nature's design. But joints can be delicate, so it's important to treat them right, feed and maintain them, and keep the muscles around the joints toned and limber, especially for athletic and older dogs. When it comes to dog joint health, it's never too early to start protecting.

About the Author Dr Chris Bessent

Chris Bessent DVM practices holistic veterinary medicine, utilizing Chinese herbs, acupuncture, food therapy and chiropractic on all animals. After more than a decade of using Chinese herbal combinations in her practice, Dr Bessent channeled her wealth of knowledge and experience into founding Herbsmith Inc.

#### Do Dogs Dream?

As dog parents, we've all seen our pups in a deep sleep, twitching their legs or making funny sounds, which often begs the question: "are they dreaming?" It can be hard to know what our dogs are thinking or feeling because they can't use words to tell us, but there is some information around what's going on in those sleepy moments.

#### The Research

In 2001 MIT conducted a study that taught rats to do a maze while researchers measured their brain activity. The researchers then measured the rat's brain activity when they were in REM sleep, this is the sleep cycle where humans experience dreams. They found that the brain activity while the rats were in the maze was the same as when they were in REM sleep, which led to the application that the rats were dreaming about the maze.

After this study, researchers applied that because rats are not as intellectually complex as dogs, but were still able to dream, dogs must also dream.

#### What Do Dogs Dream About?

In a petMD article, Neuroscientist Matt Wilson claims that dog's dreams are traced back to their experiences throughout their day. So, when you take your pup on a long walk or to the dog park where they are chasing squirrels, playing, and sniffing around, it's likely these experiences pop up in dreams.

Dr. Deirdre Barrett, a teacher and a Clinical and Evolutionary Psychologist at Harvard Medical School, suggests that, "Since dogs are generally extremely attached to their human owners, it's likely your dog is dreaming of your face, your smell and of pleasing or annoying you."

It's also likely that what a dog dreams about may be dependent on their breed. For example, a Labrador Retriever may be dreaming of swimming to shore after fetching a ball in the lake, while a Border



## The log in information for the Members section is as follows:

Password is: Schnauzer2015

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.



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

#### **UPCOMING SPECIALTIES**

Milshore MSC July 27,2018

Sweepstakes: Vicki Barker

Shows Back To Back: Dale Miller and Virginia

Latham Smith

Jan 16, 2019

Portland MSC Judge - Betsy Dale

Sweeps - Manuel Itriago

#### **AMSC SPECIALTIES**

Montgomery County October 7, 2018 Regular Classes: Steve Hayden Sweeps: Susan Atherton

Schnauza Palooza April 6,2019 Regular Classes - David Kirkland Sweepstakes Classes - Patricia O'Brien **Great Western** 

Regular Classes - Steve Hayden Sweepstakes Classes - Cheryl Coffman Montgomery County

Regular Classes - Brian Bogart Sweepstakes Classes - Carla Nickerson

## Specialty Wins

Holyoke Kennel Club, Inc. **Sunday 07/08/18** 

Sweeps Judge: Mr Dustin Wyatt BSW/WB/BOS: Carolane's Pinkie Swear/ Mack

Regular Classes Judge: Geraldine Kelly

BBE: Attaway Deja Bleu Via Tomlin/Drost/ Wilkinson

RWB: Quailridge's My Jett's Legacy/ Russo/Vacca

WD/BW: Dimension Dow's Ein Prosit Pilsner/Soos-Kazel

RWB/BP/BpGr1: Sumerwynd Shamrock/

**Bogart** AOM: ČH Cruising in Style/Schott

AOM: CH Belle Terre Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds/Murphy

Sel: Carolane's Queen of the North/Beiles B/BOBOH/G2: Wards Creek's Back to the Future at Maplewynd/Keyes

Sel: GCHG Destineez Wild Blue Yonder/ Houck/Pendleton

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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