



AMSCOPE

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Zinc: You Call It a Trace Mineral, But It Could Be Fatal for Your Dog



So long, farewell,
auf wiedersehen,
adieu...adieu...adieu...to you
and you ...
who have not paid your
dues.....
DUES ARE OVERDUE



"mmmm.....I really can get into this Bil Jac!"

ED.'s NOTE: 12 years ago I had a call from an owner. Her dog was having convulsions and each successive one lasted longer than the last one. She had just gone through 8 hours of convulsions. I went to Ohio to pick her up immediately and called my vet to wait for me. Blood tests indicated zinc poisoning. It turned out that the owner had a skin problem and used a zinc oxide cream on her hands and feet. Each morning, she showered, applied the cream and then prepared a BilJac ball for the dog. Of course, the cream was on the BilJac and the dog was ingesting it each day and became worse each day. Had she stayed there any longer, this little girl would have died. I took her back. She lived a longlife and we always watched that she was not getting any zinc supplements.

Zinc is an essential trace mineral that plays a role in several important biologic processes. Zinc is abundant in nature and exists in many forms. Unfortunately, ingestion of some forms can lead to the creation of toxic zinc salts in the acidic environment of the GI tract.

Zinc poisoning occurs in humans and a wide variety of large and small animals. It is most often seen in family dogs, thanks to the availability of zinc-containing substances around the home, coupled with the canine tendency toward dietary indiscretion.

Another source of zinc not frequently mentioned is deliberate supplementation by pet owners who believe their dog or cat needs extra zinc in their diet. There is a rare skin condition called canine zinc-responsive dermatosis that occurs in some northern breed dogs. Some pet owners wrongly assume supplemental zinc will help with their pet's dry, flaky or allergic skin and begin supplying zinc pills, which can cause fatal toxicosis in some cases.

Another way owners can accidentally feed their pets too much zinc is in the form of additional multivitamins. Good quality, commercially available, balanced pet food contains adequate zinc. Some well-intentioned pet owners assume their pets will benefit from adding a multivitamin, and instead of buying one specifically for pets, they share their own vitamins with their pets, which can cause a toxic overdose of many nutrients.

According to dvm360, in 2010 there were over 4,600 cases of zinc exposure in dogs and 250 cases in cats. Most sources of zinc in these cases were metallic objects, multivitamins, and creams and ointments containing zinc oxide.

Case reports and retrospective studies indicate that ingestion of pennies is the primary source of zinc intoxication, and small-breed dogs are the most frequent victims.

How Zinc Turns Toxic, and Signs of Zinc Poisoning

Most of the toxic effects of zinc occur when free zinc is released by stomach acid. Free zinc forms soluble zinc salts that damage the intestinal mucosa and are absorbed and quickly distributed to the liver, kidneys, prostate, muscles, bones, and pancreas. Zinc salts have irritant and caustic effects on tissue, interfere with the metabolism of other minerals such as calcium, iron and copper, and inhibit the production and function of red blood cells.

The median lethal dose of zinc salts in cases of acute toxicity has been reported to be <100 mg/kg. Also, diets containing high levels of zinc (>2,000 ppm) have been reported to cause chronic zinc toxicosis in

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Common sources of zinc include:

- Batteries
- Hardware used in pet carriers
- Automotive parts Coating on galvanized metals
- Paints
- Staples and tacks
- Zinc-oxide creams
- Nails
- Herbal supplements
- Jewelry
- Zippers
- Certain cold remedy lozenges
- Board-game pieces
- U.S. pennies produced after 1983

LOOK

Please let me know if you make a change

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

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**The deadline
for the April issue is
March 17.**

Report all changes to the Roster to
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ZINC...con't from p. 4, col.3

large animals. A toxic dose has not been established in dogs. However, normal zinc serum concentrations are between 0.7 and 2 g/ml. Symptoms of zinc toxicosis begin to appear within a few days of ingestion, and the severity depends on the amount ingested. Clinical signs can range from mild vomiting to death. Early symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, black tarry stools, and loss of appetite. Additional symptoms include lethargy, depression, orange-colored feces, jaundice, shock, cardiac arrhythmias, and seizures.

Diagnosing Zinc Toxicosis

A physical examination of a dog with zinc toxicosis will often reveal pale mucous membranes, irregular heartbeat, heart murmur, dehydration, jaundice and abdominal pain. Neurologic signs can vary from mild lethargy to significant depression. There may be weakness, and in severe cases, seizures.

Routine laboratory tests should include a biochemistry profile, electrolytes, urinalysis and a complete blood count (CBC). The CBC may show anemia as the result of zinc-related destruction of red blood cells, granules in red blood cells (Heinz bodies), and/or variations in red blood cell coloration known as polychromasia. The biochemistry profile may point to high levels of hemoglobin and bilirubin. If there are also high levels of blood urea nitrogen, creatinine, liver or pancreatic enzymes, it is indicative of multiple organ failure.

Another test called the packed cell volume (PCV) is necessary to calculate the number of viable red blood cells to determine whether a blood transfusion is warranted.

To confirm a diagnosis of zinc toxicosis, laboratory tests to measure the levels of zinc in the dog's blood must be run. These tests can also provide information about blood clotting activity.

X-rays are also often taken to confirm ingestion of a zinc-containing material.

Treatment of Zinc Toxicosis

Treatment primarily involves supportive care and removing the source of the zinc. Initial efforts should be focused on treating dehydration, shock, and electrolyte imbalances, and increasing urine output.

If a zinc-containing foreign object is found in the animal's GI tract, it must be removed once the patient's condition is stabilized. If the object is in the stomach, it can be removed by endoscopy. If it has moved into the small intestine, a laparotomy must be performed to remove it.

Drugs to lower stomach acidity and promote the release of zinc will be given. These typically include proton-pump inhibitors like omeprazole, or H2 blockers to decrease production of stomach acid in order to limit systemic absorption of zinc salts from the GI tract. If there is gastric irritation or ulceration, gastroprotectants may be given, and anti-nausea drugs and painkillers may also be indicated.

If there has been severe red blood destruction, blood transfusions may be required.

Prompt treatment is necessary to save the life of a pet with zinc toxicity. Often, the levels of zinc in the blood drop quickly once the source is removed. Unfortunately, dogs with severe complications like multiple organ failure have much less chance of survival.

Black Ribbons

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of **Ch. Pendragon Hyspirits Batman Returns (Keaton)**

Keaton was breeder owner handled to his championship. He was Bred and owned by B.J. Arczynski and Rebecca Manspeaker

.Keaton was out of Ch. Benaltas Batman X Ch. Pendragon's Give No Warning

Keaton was born 7/28/2005 he was put to rest 1/10/2014

* MOVING?

Be sure to send your change of address and new phone number and new email address to us so that AMSCOPE can follow you... you wouldn't want to miss one issue!

Send information to
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Is Your Pet Receiving Any of These Useless Vaccines?

Today we have a very special person returning for a second time to talk with us and give us the tremendous benefit of his knowledge, Dr. Ronald Schultz.

Dr. Schultz heads up the Department of Pathobiological Sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. He's joining me today on behalf of an important project he's been involved with for several years – the Rabies Challenge Fund. The purpose of the fund is to determine the duration of immunity conveyed by rabies vaccines, with the goal of extending the required interval for rabies boosters to five and then to seven years.

Dr. Schultz has agreed to talking about core and non-core vaccines in cats and dogs.

Core versus Non-Core Vaccines

Dr. Schultz replied that several years ago, the American Association of Feline Practitioners (AAFP) decided to look at all the USDA-licensed vaccines that were available for cats. They put them into categories, with the first and most important category being the core vaccines, which are those vaccines that every cat should receive.

Then they went back over the list looking for vaccines that should not be given to any cat, and placed those in a category called not-recommended vaccines.

All remaining vaccines on the list – those that didn't fall into either the core or not-recommended vaccine categories – were placed in a third category called non-core or optional vaccines. These were to be given based on individual need, after considering a number of factors. So that's how categories of vaccines came into existence.

Why Dr. Schultz Prefers the Term "Protective Antibody Testing" to Titering

Dogs are of course a different story, and Dr. Schultz definitely recommends antibody testing. I asked him what terminology he prefers – does he even use the word "titer"? He replied that he prefers either "protective antibody testing" or simply "antibody testing" instead of titers. This is because many tests today return yes-or-no results rather than titers.

Titer tests tend to become a numbers game, whereas tests that return a result of either "yes" (the animal has antibody at a level considered protective) or "no" (the animal does not have antibody at a level

considered protective) give the information everyone needs, and no one has to get mired in trying to understand what the titer numbers truly mean. It's much less confusing and should help veterinarians and pet owners make better decisions about revaccinations.

As discussed with Dr. Jean Dodds in a recent interview, the whole subject of titers is tremendously confusing. Many veterinarians recommend re-vaccinations because they simply can't sort out titer test results. They feel it's easier to just revaccinate – especially when boarding kennels and grooming salons that receive titer test results often don't understand them or accept them as proof of a dog's immunity.

Vaccination or Revaccination is NOT a Guarantee of Protection Against Disease

Dr. Schultz points out that what many people fail to understand is that vaccination or revaccination is by no means an assurance that the animal is protected. He has seen dogs that have been vaccinated repeatedly who have no antibody. When challenged (exposed to a disease), they are susceptible. And that includes rabies vaccines. Dr. Schultz has seen dogs that have been vaccinated five or more times against rabies that have no antibody. In the case of rabies, distemper and parvo, if there's no antibody, the animal is not protected.

To demonstrate that fact, and to demonstrate that dogs can have lifelong immunity after receiving distemper and parvo vaccines, he keeps them in a distemper and parvo-free environment after their puppy shots. He does not revaccinate them. Seven years later, he checks their antibody levels. If there is antibody present, he challenges them with the virulent virus itself, and they survive it. If they don't have antibody, he doesn't challenge them because there's a high likelihood they will get sick and die.

The presence of antibody, even at low levels, means the immune memory response will kick in and within hours the dog's body will bring the infection under control. There will be infection, but it won't cause disease. There's a big difference between infection and disease. And in fact, reinfection without disease isn't a bad thing because it leads to natural stimulation of the immune response. A few vaccines can provide sterile immunity. It is called this because the antibody produced is able

to completely prevent the virus from infecting the animal, and so can't reproduce itself. Vaccines that provide sterile immunity are almost always against viruses that produce systemic rather than local disease.

So for example, parvo and distemper vaccines provide sterile immunity for life in most cases, similar to measles, mumps, and rubella vaccines in humans. Dr. Schultz uses the example of his own case of measles when he was 5 years old. There were no measles vaccines back then. But 50 years later, he had his blood drawn for a demonstration for his veterinary students. He sent the blood to the State Laboratory of Hygiene at the University of Wisconsin and they performed a variety of serologic tests. His measles antibody response came back at a level considered protective. Now, how did Dr. Schultz have protective immunity 50 years after being naturally immunized with measles? He can thank his memory effector B cells.

Dr. Schultz explains the discovery of these long-lived plasma cells is fairly recent. They reside in bone marrow and are programmed to continue to produce antibody. A dog that lives on average 15 years will still have long-lived cells that produce antibodies to distemper or parvo at the age of 15.

Useless Vaccines and Why Some Are Still on the Market

The good news is that distemper and parvo are really the only two life-threatening canine diseases still active in our environment. Giardia, for example, is an unfortunate disease, but it's not life threatening. And according to Dr. Schultz, the really good news is that the giardia vaccine is no longer on the market. I asked him about the dental plaque vaccine, and he said there's more good news – it's no longer on the market, either. It was in clinical trials under USDA authorization for four years. At the end of the four years, when they looked at the results, it was clear the vaccine didn't work. It was taken off the market, and according to Dr. Schultz, credit is due Pfizer, the manufacturer of the vaccine, because they were willing to pull it.

I asked Dr. Schultz why he thinks some of these totally unnecessary vaccines ever enter the marketplace to begin with. He believes that very often there is some potential for those vaccines to provide benefit. But he also feels it's critical that there's a test period that actually determines whether vaccines do or don't meet the requirements for licensure. Dr. Schultz believes the USDA is looking

Continued on p. 4, col. 2....**VACCINES**

Update regarding the genetic predisposition to avian tuberculosis in Miniature Schnauzers

Here an update for you and the board members of the Health Committee regarding our research activities. I afraid to say that we are still not able to report about a specific DNA marker, gene mutation and understanding of the pathophysiology of this serious immunodeficiency.

The collection of samples is growing but proved more difficult than anticipated as there seem to be fears and strong political groups. We do now have samples from different countries in Europe. We have continued the analysis of the initial GWAS with 50 samples, and pursued candidate genes. While some have suggested this must be a complex trait, the pedigree information, we continue to gather, is still consistent with a simple autosomal recessive inheritance. The examined candidate genes involved in immune defense seem not to show any variations to explain the predisposition to avian tuberculosis. The GWAS we had completed seems to be underpowered and we are adding samples, test them for SNPs and reanalyze the data. Some is likely related to the fact that this is a genetic predisposition and may therefore depending on exposure to the microorganism and other environmental conditions not show disease. Moreover, we are performing whole genome sequencing of a couple of affected dogs. Thereby, we can compare the entire genomes from Miniature schnauzers with and without avian tuberculosis. We have great collaborations with the University of Missouri for the genome sequencing and the staffing and genomic programs at Penn including the SNP and annotations of the canine genome.

We did this work with the support from the Grey Lady Foundation and are submitting an AKC Canine Health Foundation proposal which if approved will be generously supported by the AMSC. We greatly appreciate the continued support from everyone.
Sincerely

Urs Giger, PD Dr. med. vet. MS FVH
Charlotte Newton Sheppard Professor

■VACCINES..con't from p. 3, col.3

much more carefully at those types of vaccines now than they used to because these days we understand much more about what immunity is, how to measure it, how it protects us, and how it translates into an effective vaccine.

Dr. Schultz says one of his "favorite" vaccines is the canine coronavirus vaccine. He calls it "a vaccine in search of a disease." This vaccine came into being back in the late 1970s when canine parvovirus first appeared. No one recognized parvo yet, but dogs were getting sick and many of them also happened to have coronavirus.

As it turns out, every animal has coronavirus — even puppies. Dr. Schultz says it's actually a beneficial virus. It doesn't cause disease by itself. When scientists finally discovered the minute, spherical virus we now know as parvovirus, they found what was making the dogs sick. Meanwhile, Dr. Schultz and some of his colleagues were able to demonstrate that corona, in coexistence with parvo, could enhance the virulence of parvo.

In the 1990s, Dr. Schultz published studies that looked at what benefit the canine coronavirus vaccine might provide in the case of even a dual infection. What it provided was ... nothing. But the vaccine still exists even though it has no value. Why? Because veterinarians still buy it. As Dr. Schultz explains, the only thing that removes a licensed vaccine from the market is if the manufacturer discontinues it. That's what happened to the giardia vaccine and the porphyromonas (dental plaque) vaccine.

So if your vet says your dog needs the canine coronavirus vaccine, you can argue against it because you know its history

Could It Be Your Fabric Softener?

written by Marina Zacharias

Sometimes it's hard to believe that health problems can arise from the simplest products used in everyday living. There is a movement going on right now to participate in a class action lawsuit against manufacturers of fabric softeners. Why?

Turns out that the chemicals used can cause serious trouble with your central nervous system! Exposure can be through inhalation from the exhaust of dryers or skin contact from the treated fabrics. Symptoms include (but are not limited to): disorientation, dizziness, headaches, memory loss, neck and spine pain, etc.

A brief glance at the ingredients used along with some basic research from their "Material Safety Data Sheets" is enough to make me stop using any of it.

Alpha-Terpeneol - "highly irritating to mucous membranes" ... "aspiration into lungs can produce pneumonitis or even fatal edema" ... "can also cause loss of muscular coordination" — "Prevent repeated or prolonged skin contact."

Benzyl Acetate — "Cardinogenic (linked to pancreatic cancer). "from vapors: irritating to eyes and respirator passages, exciting cough" ... "can be absorbed through the skin causing systemic effects" ... "do not flush to sewer."

Benzyl Alcohol — "irritating to the upper respiratory tract" ... "headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness, drop in blood pressure, depression, and death in severe cases due to respiratory failure."

Cont'd on p. 6..Fabric Softener

Sherlock Schnauzer is on the Case.....



AND LOOKING FOR
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It's easy and donations are tax deductible!

There are two ways to donate:

1. Mail a check payable to AMSC (note TROPHY FUND) to
AMSC Treasurer, 2131 Golf Estates Dr.
Laytonsville, MD 20882

OR

2. At PayPal.com; must have an account and pay in US currency

Trophies Help Acknowledge The Best of Our Breed!

Do You Make This Cancer-Inducing Pet Care Mistake?

By Dr. Becker

Many pet guardians don't realize the potential for exposing their four-legged family member to environmental toxins like pesticides and herbicides. People also don't realize that after they apply a product to their lawn or garden, the chemical residues are tracked indoors on pet paws, and contaminate surfaces throughout their home.

A pesticide known as 2,4-dichlorophenoxyacetic acid, or "2,4-D", was developed during World War II. It was one of two active ingredients in the notorious defoliant known as Agent Orange, used during the Vietnam War to destroy forest cover for our enemies, as well as their food crops. A tremendous amount of herbicide was sprayed over millions of acres of land in Vietnam from 1961 to 1972. Agent Orange was the most commonly used product, and it has since been revealed to cause a wide range of serious health issues, including rashes, psychological problems, birth defects, tumors, and cancer.

These days, 2,4-D is used on athletic fields, golf courses, landscaping, timberland, rights-of-way, and various crops. A short list of popular products containing 2,4-D includes:

- Bayer Advanced All-in-One Lawn Weed and Crabgrass Killer
- Ortho Weed-B-Gon Max
- Scotts Liquid Turf Builder
- Sta-Green Phosphorus-Free Weed & Feed
- Scotts Snap Pac Weed & Feed

Despite decades of scientific studies associating 2,4-D with cancer in humans and animals, the chemical continues to be one of the top three pesticides sold in the U.S. More recent studies have linked the chemical to hormone disruption that increases the risk of birth defects and neurologic damage in children.

Pesticides, Bees, and Your Pet

I'm sure many of you are aware that bee colonies across the world are disappearing in a phenomenon called colony collapse disorder (CCD). In fact, most U.S. beekeepers have lost from 50 to 90 percent of their honeybee populations.

There are several factors involved in the die off of bees, not the least of which is the unprecedented widespread use of pesticides and insecticides. [Neonicotinoid](#)

[pesticides](#) kill insects by attacking their nervous systems. These are known to get into pollen and nectar, and can damage beneficial insects such as bees.

Honeybees contribute \$15 billion in annual agriculture revenue to the U.S. economy alone, as a full one-third of the American food supply depends on them pollinating crops. Just about every fruit and vegetable you can think of is dependent on the pollinating services of bees. Apple orchards, for instance, require one colony of bees per acre in order to be adequately pollinated. So, unless the mysterious disappearance of bees is reversed, major food shortages could result.

If we don't take action to protect bees and other pollinators from the toxic effects of pesticides and insecticides, there is no question that the survival of our pets, and our own survival, will be in jeopardy. In fact, honeybees are so crucial to our existence that a quote attributed to Einstein states: *"If bees die out, man will only have four years of life left on Earth."*

Pesticides and Canine Malignant Lymphoma

Most dogs love a carpet of thick green grass. They run around on it, roll on it, dig at it, and stick their noses in it. But unlike humans, who launder their clothes and bathe regularly, dogs don't change their fur or footpads every day. Whatever collects on their feet and coat outdoors stays there until the next time they get a bath. It also gets deposited across multiple surfaces inside your home, including carpeting, rugs, furniture and pet bedding.

A recently published study conducted over a six year period by the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University¹ showed that exposure to lawn pesticides, specifically those applied by professional lawn care companies, raised the risk of [canine malignant lymphoma](#) — a progressive, fatal disease — by as much as 70 percent.

Sadly, it's easy to envision how normal canine behavior turns risky when your dog's outdoor environment has been doused in potentially toxic chemicals.

Herbicides and Bladder Cancer In Dogs

Another study, published last year in *Science of the Total Environment*,² indicates that exposure to herbicide-treated lawns has been associated with

significantly higher [bladder cancer](#) risk in dogs.

The chemicals in question are common herbicides containing 2,4-D, 4-chloro-2-methylphenoxypropionic acid (MCP) and/or dicamba. Dogs are being exposed through ingestion, inhalation and transdermal contact.

Since these chemicals are commonly detected in grass residues from treated lawns AND untreated lawns, it's clear there is chemical drift. This means that even if you don't use these products, if a neighbor does, your dog could still be at risk from chemicals that blow into your yard from a nearby property. Flea and Tick Preventives (Pesticides) and Your Pet

You may not be aware of it, but most [flea and tick preventives](#) are actually pesticides, regardless of what form they come in — spot-on treatments, pills, dips, solutions, shampoos, or collars.

[Spot-on products](#) attracted the attention of the EPA in 2009 after reports surfaced of over 40,000 adverse events the prior year, including 600 deaths of family pets. The agency called for new labeling requirements, but as recently as September, [four cats were reported to have died](#) from misuse of the products.

It's important to remember that just because a compound is applied to or worn on your pet's fur doesn't mean it's safe. What goes **ON** your pet goes **IN** your pet, by absorption through the skin or ingestion during grooming.

Protecting Your Pet from Toxic Pesticides

Don't apply pesticides to your yard, and if you use a lawn care service, don't allow them to use chemicals, either. The same goes for herbicides, and be aware that a neighbor's herbicide can potentially contaminate your property and pose a risk to your pet.

Avoid lawn care and other gardening products that contain insect growth regulators (IGRs). (And be aware that the chemical [pyriproxyfen](#), an IGR, is used in certain flea/tick spot-on treatments.)

Don't allow your dog access to any lawn unless you can confirm no pesticides have been used.

If you think your pet has rolled around on chemically treated grass, my recommendation is to [bathe](#) him as soon as possible. If you've walked your dog in a

PESTICIDES...cont'd from p.5

suspect grassy area, giving him a [foot soak](#) as soon as you get home should flush away any chemical residue that may be clinging to his feet and lower legs.

If you live in a townhouse or community that applies chemicals to common areas, I recommend “detoxing” a patch of grass in your backyard by watering the chemicals down into the soil to reduce skin contact after application. Keep your pet on a leash (and on the sidewalk) until you’ve walked to your chemical free destination.

When it comes to pest control, remember — keeping your pet’s immune system healthy and strong is the best way to help him fight off parasites as well as disease. A [balanced, species-appropriate diet](#) is the foundation upon which your pet’s good health and long life must be built.

Use a safe, natural pest deterrent that is chemical-free. Also consider cedar oil (specifically manufactured for pet health), natural food-grade diatomaceous earth, or fresh garlic (work with your holistic vet to determine a safe amount for your pet’s body weight).

Bathe and brush your pet regularly and perform frequent full-body inspections to check for parasite activity, and insure your indoor and outdoor environments are unfriendly to pests.

Detoxifying Your Pet

Consider periodic [detoxification](#) for your pet. The level of environmental exposure to chemicals will dictate the appropriate frequency and type of detox. If your dog has constant exposure to toxic chemicals all summer, supplying a daily detox protocol is a wise idea. But if your pet’s only source of chemical exposure is heartworm pills, or if you are applying flea and tick chemicals directly on your pet, then offering a detox program the week after each pill or topical treatment makes sense.

There are many [detoxifying herbs and supplements](#) to choose from. A detox protocol should not cause any side effects or visible changes in your pet.

Ed.’s Note: I use Bio Flea Halt on my lawns. It contains nematodes that eat flea eggs and many other bug larva and eggs

2 Hints You Have an Awesome Relationship with Your Dog

Recent research on the human-animal bond has proven there is genuine chemistry between dogs and their owners. Daily interactions with your favorite furry companion have a measurably positive effect on your biochemistry, thanks to a hormone called oxytocin.

Oxytocin goes by a number of nicknames, including the “hug hormone,” the “cuddle hormone,” the “love chemical,” and the “morale molecule.” Oxytocin is what makes skin-to-skin contact feel good; it’s what makes a great meal so satisfying.

This marvelous hormone can also act as a natural painkiller, and can lower stress levels and blood pressure. It’s a well-known fact that human-to-human contact – for example, bonding with children or partners – triggers the release of oxytocin. But what more recent studies have revealed is that bonding with a completely different species also promotes release of the “love chemical.”

Bonded Owner-Dog Pairs Show Increased Levels of Oxytocin and Other “Happy Hormones”

There was a Japanese study published a few years ago in the journal *Hormones and Behavior* titled *Dog’s gaze at its owner increases owner’s urinary oxytocin during social interaction.1* The study involved 55 dogs and their owners. The owners whose dogs gazed at them for two minutes or longer showed higher levels of oxytocin than owners whose dogs gazed at them for less time. The people with dogs with a long gaze – about 23 percent of the group – also claimed to be happier with their dogs than owners whose dogs’ gaze was only around a minute long.

In a more recent study from Sweden, researchers found that owners who kissed their dogs frequently had higher levels of oxytocin than other owners. And along with kissing, there were two other factors that contributed to elevated levels of oxytocin. One was that the owners perceived their relationship with their dog to be pleasurable rather than difficult or a chore, and the other was that they offered fewer treats to their pet, preferring to offer attention and affection instead.

In a third study published 10 years ago and conducted at the University of Pretoria in South Africa,³ dog owners were put in a sparsely furnished room and asked to sit on a rug on the floor with their dogs. For a

half hour, the owners were instructed to focus all their attention on their dogs – talk softly to them, stroke and scratch and pet them. The owners’ blood was drawn at the beginning and again at the end of the 30 minute session.

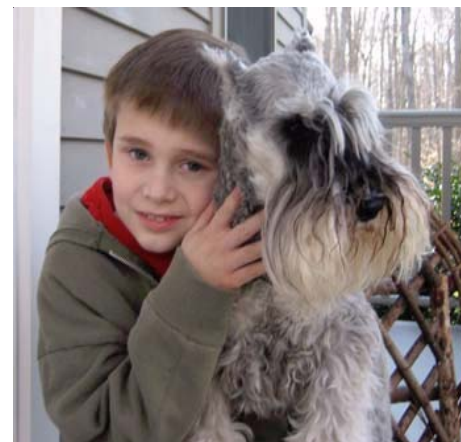
The researchers found that the dog owners’ blood pressure decreased, and they showed elevated levels not only of oxytocin, but also several other hormones. These included betaendorphins, which are associated with both pain relief and euphoria; prolactin, which promotes bonding between parent and child; phenylethylamine, which is increased in people involved in romantic relationships; and dopamine, which heightens feelings of pleasure. Incredibly, all the same hormones were also elevated in the dogs, which suggests that the feelings of attachment are mutual.

The dog owners were then asked to sit in the same room and read a book for 30 minutes. None of the hormones, including oxytocin, increased as much as they did during the session with the dogs.

How Bonded Are You to Your Dog?

Isn’t it incredible that for many of us, our relationship with our dog is so profound it affects our biochemistry? And it does the same for our dogs.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. Understanding the mechanisms of the relationship between humans and dogs, and their implications for both species, will keep researchers occupied well into the future. In the meantime, if you need a little boost – or if your dog seems to – try engaging him in a long, loving gaze. If he’s the shy type, give him your undivided, loving attention for a half hour. You’ll both feel healthier and happier for it!



NEW APPLICANTS

Andy Deer

Randy Clay

612 Margaret Street
Charleston, WV 25301
(301)881-3628

email: adeer76@yahoo.com

Sponsors: Cathi Rohrer, Terrie Houck

Andy has had Miniature Schnauzers for 18 years, Standard Schnauzers for 5 years and Giant Schnauzers for 6 years. Randy has had all three sizes for 2 1/2 years. They are breeders. They have been involved in conformation for 5 years and breeding for 18 years. They attend approximately 10-15 events per year. They are also members of the Standard Schnauzer Club of America. Andy is a Registered Nurse and Randy is a Licensed Practical Nurse. Their interest lie in Rescue, Ethics and Health. Andy started in 1994 with his first Mini and had his first litter in 1995 with champion bloodline pets. In 2008, he got his first Standard Schnauzer and went to his first dog show and owner handled her to her Grand Championship. He bought his first show Mini in 2010, which was handled to his Grand Championship by Terrie Houck. He then bought another Mini and is excited about the future. They state that they are team players, hard workers, both are in the medical field and Randy is very organized.

Judy Rowley

50 Laurel Drive
Carmel Valley, CA 93924
no phone or email listed

Sponsors: Carol Hafner, Patricia O'Brien

Judith has owned German Shorthair Pointers, German Wirehair Pointers, a Doberman and now a Miniature Schnauzer. She is not a breeder. Judith has been active in agility and obedience for 14 years and tracking for one year. She attends approximately 10 events per year. She belongs to GWPCNC, GWPCA and Therapy Dogs International. Judith is a retired English teacher. Her areas of interest are Newsletter, Rescue, Public Awareness, Obedience, Agility, Ethics and Health. She became interested in performance, especially agility in 1998 and made 4 trips to the Agility Invitational with her German Wirehaired Pointer and received a fifth invite when her dog was 12 1/2 years old. Her current GWP has a CD and a few agility titles. He is also a welcome therapy dog. Judith is now training her Miniature Schnauzer in agility and obedience and still working with her GWP.

Bernardo Buechner Regazzoni

Im Rosenberg 2
53179 Bonn, Germany
+491604453287
zelebreritaet.de

Sponsors: Terrie Houck, Sharon Edwards

Bernardo has had Miniature Schnauzers since 1986. He had Standard Schnauzers from 1984-95, and has had Smooth and Wirehaired Dachshunds from 1984-98. He is a breeder and has had six litters under the kennel name Zelebritat, which is FCI registered. Bernardo has been involved in Conformation, breeding, obedience and judging and attends approximately 30-40 events per year. He belongs to the Pinscher Schnauzer Klub (PSK) Germany and the Kennel Club Uruguayo (KCU) Uruguay. Bernardo is employed as an International Civil Servant (United Nations). His interests are in Newsletter, Legislative Issues, Rescue, Judges Education, Education, Ethics and Health. He has been involved in breeding for a long time as his family breeds cattle, horses and sheep. Bernardo started his breeding program in 1985 with Standard Schnauzers to which Dachshunds and Miniature Schnauzers followed. Zelebritat has produced over the past 28 years several national and international champions and provided foundation top dogs to various kennels worldwide. Bernardo is a specialized judge for all three Schnauzer breeds, as well as for the nine Dachshund breeds and their Group 4 under FCI. He has extensive knowledge in dogs anatomy, functionality and behavior and experience in breeding and evaluating stock at international level. He also has deep knowledge of the breed origins in Germany, its development and current status worldwide.

Becky Nagel

6412 Weber Circle
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
(714)296-0067

email: nagelbecky@ymail.com Sponsors:

Denise Valverde, Kathy Colby **Becky** has had three Miniature Schnauzers. She states that she is not a breeder anymore. She has been involved in conformation, breeding, obedience and therapy dog activities. Becky attends approximately 10 dog related events per year. She belongs to the Southern California Miniature Schnauzer Club and the Pet Prescription Team, a Therapy Dog organization. Becky is employed as a pet groomer. She is interested in Obedience, Health and Therapy Dog. She has had two therapy dogs and has done obedience with one dog. Her dogs are a part of her family. Skills helpful to our organization are her work with therapy dogs.

Barbara Fraile

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+54 221 474 2622
trufasnegras@yahoo.com

Sponsors: Shirley Sarvas, Patti Henderson

Barbara has owned Giant Schnauzers since 1998. She's had two blacks and a salt and pepper who became a champion in 2005 and bred a litter in 2007. She has had Miniature Schnauzers since 1999 and has been breeding them since 2002 and in that time produced or owned over 20 champions in over a dozen countries. Barbara, along with her sister have also had Standard Schnauzers since 2003. She has co-owned and bred them and produced some champions. She lists herself as a breeder, having had a total of 28 litters since 2008. Barbara has been active in conformation for 12 years, obedience for 5 years and breeding for 11. She is a member of Schnauzer Club Argentino and Federacion Cinologica Argentina, both located in Buenos Aires. Barbara has been involved with Schnauzers since 1998 when she got her first Giant Schnauzer at the age of 11. When she was 15, she started attending dog shows with a professional handler traveling around her country, Brazil and Uruguay learning about dogs. She has learned to groom and handle her own dogs. In 2002, she had her first litter of Miniature Schnauzers. Barbara states that, "the dogs are a part of my life" "breeding dogs for me has many meanings but the biggest joy is to see the new owners happy". Barbara states that she lives to far away to be a direct help to the AMSC, however she does have artistic skills that may be helpful to the club. She does sculptures and does figurines in resin and bronze. Her work can be seen at <http://www.applerain.com/>.

Vera Van Wassenhove

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Sponsors: Janet Taylor, Carole Weinberger

Vera has had Miniature Schnauzers for the past 25+ years. She has been breeding for five years. She is involved in conformation and breeding. Vera attends approximately 10-15 events per year. She works as a medical assistant. Vera is interested in Newsletter, Education, Membership and Health. She got her first dog around 1977 and her first show dog in the early 80's. She likes to exchange information with responsible breeders in Europe and other continents.



AMSCOPE

Carla M. Borrelli, Editor
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UPCOMING SPECIALTIES

- Metropolitan Cleveland MSC May 25, 2014
Regular Classes: Mary Jane Carberry
Sweepstakes: David Owen Williams
- MSC of Southern CA June 20, 2014
Regular Classes: Robert Black
Sweepstakes: Tammy Colbert
- MSC of Southern CA June 21, 2014
Regular Classes: Claudia Seaberg
Sweepstakes: Janet Allen
- Lone Star MSC of Dallas July 3, 2014
Regular Classes: Wood Wornall
Sweepstakes: Della Highley

AMSC SPECIALTIES

- Roving, Scottsdale, AZ March 2, 2014
Regular Classes: John Constantine
Sweeps: Manuel Itriago
- Great Western June 22, 2014
Regular Classes Marcia Feld
Sweeps: Kim Cox Griffin
- Montgomery Co. October 5, 2014
Regular Classes Margo Klingler
Sweeps Carla Nickerson
- Roving Specialty- Denver Feb.15, 2015
Regular classes, Wyoma Clouss
Sweeps-Kurt Garmaker
- Great Western June 21,2015
Regular classes, Judy Smith
Sweeps-Shawne Imler

Fabric Softener..cont'd from p.4,col 3

Camphor — On EPA's Hazardous Waste List. "readily absorbed through the body tissues" ... "irritation of eyes, skin, nose and throat" ... "dizziness, confusion, nausea, twitching muscles and convulsions" ... "avoid inhalation of vapors."

Chloroform - (You've got to be kidding!!)

Ethyl Acetate — Narcotic. "may cause headache and narcosis" ... "may cause anemia with leukocytosis and damage to liver and kidneys" ... "wash thoroughly after handling."

Limonene — Carcinogenic. "prevent its' contact with skin or eyes because it is an irritant and sensitizer" ... "always wash thoroughly after using this material and before eating or drinking" ... "do not inhale limonene vapor. Linalool — Narcotic. "respiratory disturbances" "in animal tests: ataxic gait, reduced spontaneous motor activity and depression... depressed heart activity... development of respiratory disturbances leading to death."

Pentane — "danger - Harmful if inhaled.... Avoid breathing vapor" ... "inhalation of vapors may cause headache, nausea, vomiting, dizziness,

drowsiness, irritation of respiratory tract and loss of consciousness. Prolonged exposure can cause dermatitis."

Ain't life grand when the "big buck" boys can foist this stuff on an unsuspecting public without a guilty conscience!! Thanks for protecting us "big brother."

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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