



Beard 'n Brows

Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club, serving Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC since 1956 Early Spring, 2008
"Celebrating the spirit of the Miniature Schnauzer"

The Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club is affiliated with
The American Miniature Schnauzer Club &
The American Kennel Club.

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2007/2008 Leadership Team

President: Rich Edwards
Vice President: Sue Faber
Secretary: Connie Hannigan-Franck
Treasurer: Laurese Katen

Board of Directors:

B.J. Arczynski
Chris Franck
Donna Parzow

AMSC Delegate

Shawne Imler

Committee Chairperson

Specialty Show: Laurese Katen

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For Newsletter contributions, contact:
Sharon Edwards at resle@comcast.net
or phone (301) 947-8811.

Web site: minischnauzer.org
Web Master: Michael "Doc" Clay



Photo by Phil Kaelin

MVMSC members, pictured at the 2007 holiday party – 68 members strong and growing! See the website for color plus many more pics.

"Salt & Pepper" Special Edition

Featured in this Issue:

Articles selected because they lend themselves to our "Salt and Pepper" Special Edition. In an effort to provide more newsletters, we will have two editions, a "Salt and Pepper" and a "Black and Silver" each year that will be without color. The cost of producing non-color vs color newsletters is about half, so we hope to provide our MVMSC members more news without a proportionate increase in cost. Color versions are available on our website.



President's Letter

MVMSC Friends,

After a couple of months hiatus, it's time to get back into the swing of things. We have been planning the spring and early summer events, and have scheduled a rally/obedience demonstration, a puppy match, and our annual picnic. Check the enclosed calendar for specific dates. We hope to have new, fun events this year and welcome any suggestions from all members.

We'll kick off this year's activities this Sunday with our first club meeting of 2008. You should have received an invitation to this meeting. But one thing extra – bring your MS in his/her best St. Patty's outfit, and we'll have a contest and prize for our MS that best expresses the "luck of the Irish".

Our holiday party was a huge success. We owe Shawne Imler a special thank you for hosting the party. Our cover picture was taken by Phil Kaelin at the holiday party. Many more are included on the website. As evident from the pictures, everyone had a great time.

A special thanks goes out to all the new committee members who have recently volunteered. We are looking forward to the work of these special committees. Clubs such as ours would not exist without the time volunteered by our members and we appreciate your contributions.

Activities Committee – this committee will explore and coordinate exciting and new activities for the club
Sue Faber
Connie Hannigan-Franck
Karen Surma

Finance Committee – this committee is charge of creating budgets and filing taxes returns
Laurese Katen

Membership Committee – this committee will research and recommend best in class membership policy including application, sponsorship, and new member acceptance guidelines
BJ Arczynski
Magee Whelan

Website Committee – this committee to determine website content and presentation
Doc Clay
Betty Davis
Chris Franck

You're probably wondering why this newsletter is in black and white (salt and pepper or black and silver as you prefer). In an effort to save printing costs, two newsletters each year will be sans color. Hopefully this will allow us to bring you more news and features at about half the cost of a color edition. Since all the newsletters are posted on the website, you can always go there to enjoy full color.

Rich Edwards
MVMSC President

Welcome New Club Members –

Judy Blatt – Silver Spring, MD
Rudy and Cici Day – Clarksburg, MD
Lois McCormick – Reston, VA
Pat Smith – New Windsor, MD
Denise Sobel – Leesburg, VA
Barbara Victor – Baltimore, MD

In the Ring

Conformation

- CH. Blythewood Bite the Bullet, bred and owned by Joan Huber. Littermate sister, CH. She's a Pistol, also completed her championship title.
- CH. Ernhart's Shone On, bred and owned by Shawne Imler.

[Congratulations on these noteworthy achievements!](#)

Paws Up Award



Each issue, *Beard 'n Brows* features outstanding contributions, acts of kindness, etc. and awards the “Paws-up” award. This issue’s winner is the Federal Food and Drug Administration for new pet food standards that have recently been put into place after last spring’s recall of more than 100 brands of contaminated food.

The FDA Amendments Act of 2007, signed into law in September, requires Health and Human Services, in conjunction with other veterinary and animal health organizations, to establish new ingredient, labeling, and processing standards for the pet food industry within two years.

Other regulations include:

- An early warning system must be in place by September 2008 to identify adulterated pet food and associated outbreaks of illnesses.
- Recalled pet food information must be posted on the FDA’s website and include an archable database that’s easy for the public to access and understand.
- Manufacturers must report adulterated food to the FDA within 24 hours. Failure to do so may result in civil or criminal penalties.

Programs & Events Calendar

- *March Club Meeting* - Sunday, March 16 at the home of Rich and Sharon Edwards – dogs welcome! Bring your dog dressed in a St. Patty's Day outfit - Prize for best dressed schnauzer!
- *April Club Meeting* - Sunday, April 20 at Greenbriar Pet Resort (tentative).
- *May Club Meeting* - Sunday, May 18, Howard Co. Fairgrounds. Puppy Match -so get your pups ready.
- *June Club Meeting* - Sunday, June 8 Howard County Fairgrounds. Annual Picnic.

Schnauzer National News



News from the AMSC –

- A letter will be published in the AKC Judges Newsletter reminding judges to measure our breed if they have any doubt to the size of the dog. This is in response to concerns among our own breeders and judges as to the growing number of oversize dogs shown in conformation.
- A photo contest will be part of the annual Montgomery County weekend events. This will be a fundraising project, as well as adding another fun aspect to the annual dinner in October. Photo contest is open to amateur photographers, color and b/w accepted, 8x10 size matted. Categories are 1) portrait, 2) puppy, 3) comedy, 4) general. There is a \$5 entry fee per photo and deadline is Sept. 20. Winning photos will be selected at the dinner and will be used in the first Miniature Schnauzer Calendar to be ready for Christmas. More details later.
- At the Board meeting in Portland in January, the Health Committee stressed the importance of reporting genetic problems. A confidentiality agreement is being created for the Health Committee members to ensure anonymity.
- All local clubs have been mailed an application to host the 2011 Roving Specialty. This is a prestigious challenge for the local clubs, but can be very rewarding. Specialty would be in late winter/early spring, 2011. Hosting this event will fulfill the club's educational requirements for the year. Although preference will be given to clubs in the Midwest, start thinking about MVMSC submitting an application. This would be a great honor and we would meet many of our fellow MS lovers from across the country.

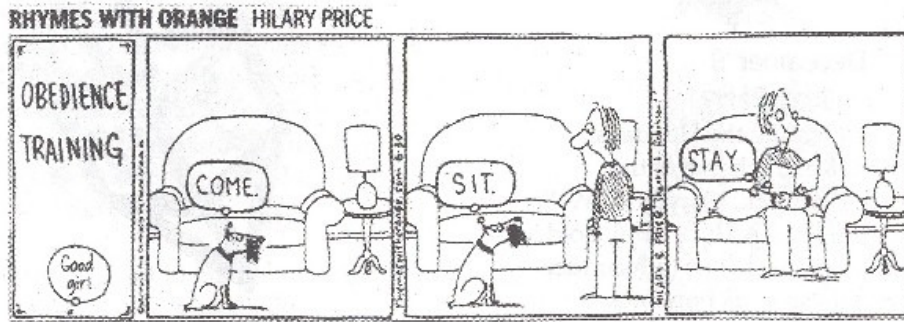
From the Portland, OR Roving Specialty in January –

- The Second National AMSC Obedience Trial had an entry of 16 MSs with three second entries.
- The First National AMSC Agility Trial had an entry of 26 MSs.
- Both the Obedience and Agility Trials had many spectators from the conformation ring and everyone enjoyed watching as many titles were finished in both trials that weekend.
- Two local entries in conformation – Shawne Imler presented Karen Surma's "Susan" and Terrie Houck presented Sharon Edwards' and Cathi Rohrer's "Roxxie", both in the BOB competition.

Westminster Kennel Club show –

- Local club members Sue Faber and Donna Parzow attended the event to cheer on Shawne and "Susan", owned by Karen Surma.
- You can see the breed competition by logging on the Westminster website: Westminsterkennelclub.org

So You Think Your Mini Schnauzer is Well Trained?



Club Meeting Minutes

Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club Home of Shawne Imler December 16, 2007

Meeting called to order at 3:05pm with 34 members present. Introductions were made. Silent auction winners read. Schnauzer pendant winner announced. Attendance was taken for the vote later. A quorum was present.

Secretary Report

Minutes from last meeting read and accepted.
Asked membership to come to the secretary if they wanted email notification.

Treasurer's Report

Over \$5000 in bank, no other report.
63 members with 3 new members voted in at board meeting.

Old Business

Dog friendly meeting sites discussed.
Karen Surma talked about the possibility of having luncheon catered. She has not received any quotes yet. She has called 5 different caterers, will receive quotes maybe by the first of the year.
Vote on constitution and bylaws--> For – 31, Against – 0, Abstention – 3

New Business

New committees - Sue Faber and Connie Hannigan-Franck volunteered previously for the Activity committee. Karen Surma volunteered during the meeting for the Activity committee. The membership committee needs volunteers. Magee Whalen volunteered to be on the membership committee. BJ Arczynski volunteered to be on the Membership Committee. Website committee needs volunteers. Chris Franck volunteered to be on the Website committee. Doc Clay and Betty Davis volunteer to be on the website committee as well.
Motion to adjourn made, motion passes. Adjournment at 3:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Constance Hannigan-Franck
Secretary

**Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club
Olney-Sandy Spring Veterinary Hospital
November 18, 2007**

The meeting was convened at 1:15 PM with 12 members present. President Rich Edwards commented on the success of the specialty show. Thanks go out to all. Karen Surma commented that we could use the same space again next year for the luncheon. Sweatshirt sales went well.

Secretary's Report

Read minutes from last meeting and they were approved.

Treasurer's Report

16 people have not paid dues. Total raffle sales were \$855 and sweatshirt sales were \$760. \$209.93 was spent on postage and miscellaneous. \$ 5727.43 is total in bank. One new member voted in, Pat Smith

Old Business-

Christmas party food signup going around.

Dog friendly meeting site??

Karen Surma commented that if we want the same spot for the Luncheon as this year, we must reserve soon and that we could use the fairgrounds as a meeting place that was also dog friendly

New Business

Thanks to Dr. Hoffman for use of the space

Dues were collected from some of the members present.

Comments back from AKC on our new bylaws. The comments were must haves, not just suggestions. New bylaws must be voted on by 20% of membership in good standing, which is defined as members that have paid their dues by that date. Changes are as follows:

Article 3 section 2-AKC gave us two choices when we changes bylaws last year, comment was that if membership votes, bring the name to the meeting and read it out. Possible three month span before someone gets voted in. Best thing to do was have Board vote and bring denials to the meeting.

Article 2 section 5 Termination of membership- dues must be paid before resignation. Comments were made as to the effectiveness of this change.

Article 3-Limitation stated on where meetings shall be held—changed to greater Washington DC metro area.

Article 6- Board meeting, wanted to be more than six times a year. Changed to shall be at least six times a year. Comment was also made on the location. A quorum for the board shall be a majority of the board. Stipulate meeting locations

Article 5 - Changed to newsletter editor a non-voting member of the board

Article 7- Changed section 4, vacancy shall be filled by the remaining board members

Article 9 had greatest changes, regarding committees.

Article 10 please insert all into section 1. Section 3 reprimand to be added to suspension as a choice.

Article 11 section 2- Talking about amending bylaws that vote shall be by special ballot. No vote today since just seeing the changes, best for all membership to see changes before December meeting. Will send out with meeting notices

Karen Surma would like to see the club's money used. Wants to use money especially for the Specialty, possibly catering the luncheon so that it would be easier to set up and clean up.

Possibly a fee for the buffet. Would make it easier on luncheon chair. Maybe get bids and do research on catering, Karen Surma will look into bids. Question is there a certain balance that club must carry? No, not a specified level, but need money from some expenses. Would like to see an operating budget, so that we can see where the money is going. Get some bids and see how much we would like to spend so that we could budget it. Would like to look at having a specified amount in the bank for emergencies.

Have new members receive a welcome gift to make them feel like they are part of the club. President will call and welcome them to the club and the secretary will send welcome packet. Announce the new members at the specialty. Would like to see some recognition for term of membership.

Specialty luncheon timing was discussed.

Vote on using club emblems with welcome package. Vote was unanimous .

Vote on putting together budget for the year. Vote was unanimous.

Vote on making an activity committee, diverse group. Vote unanimous.

Recommendation to make budget committee, AMSC calls it a finance committee. Board will look into it.

Motion was made to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned at 2:10PM

Respectfully submitted by:
Constance Hannigan-Franck
Secretary

By the Numbers

You don't need statistics to tell you that your dog runs your life, but it's a fact backed by the recently published AKC 21st Century Dog Owners Study, focusing on the behaviors, attitudes, and purchasing habits of dog owners. Of the 750 dog owners of AKC-registered dogs surveyed:

- 88% regard their dog as a beloved family member
- 51% stated that their dogs affect how they spend their leisure time
- 47% consider their dog's comfort when shopping for a car
- 72% said they look for the best and highest-quality brands of pet products for their dogs
- 2 out of 3 owners purchased an average of 9.3 balls for their dogs to play with in the past 12 months
- around 89% of owners who compete in AKC events with their dogs say they are most proud of their dogs' accomplishments

***** Add an extra 10% to all numbers if the dog is a Miniature Schnauzer*****

The Schnazzy Schnauzer

My favorite on-line shopping web sites -

By guest columnist **Chattelane's Roubi Slippers**

It's almost spring and time to start thinking about sprucing up your dog's toys, treats, and other MS essentials. Here are some of my favorite on-line shopping web sites.

- G.W. Little (gwlittle.com) caters to small dogs (like you and I) **only**. It's so nice not to have to sort through all the ugly stuff made for those full-figured large dogs.
- Muttropolis (muttropolis.com) has an online version of their amazing retail store, which carries everything we in-style MSs "need" to have, such as a Sushi Pups squeaky toy.
- Three Dog Baker's site (threedog.com) offers their outstanding custom-baked cakes and other doggie delectables.

Canine Health Corner



Topic this issue: Canine Oral Health

[Excerpt from Dog Fancy, Feb. 2008](#)

Dirty teeth and bad breath aren't attractive qualities in a dog, but they can mean more than poor hygiene. Periodontal disease impacts a dog's overall health and well-being in multiple ways. Avoiding it can mean the difference between a long, healthy life for your dog, and a lot of suffering, not to mention expense.

Three of the five criteria by which veterinarians measure quality of life for companion animals are: freedom from pain, injury, and disease; freedom from discomfort; and freedom to express normal behavior. Periodontal disease causes discomfort or pain, and limits a dog's ability to express normal chewing and play behavior. This clearly compromises a dog's quality of life.

Dental disease can also cause nutritional deficiencies. If the mouth is unhealthy and keeps the animal from eating, that can compromise nutrition, which in turn compromises health. Oral infections and fractured teeth can be painful, and infection in the mouth can spread to the internal organs through the bloodstream. Dental bacteria can travel to the major organs. Research has shown that dogs with advanced periodontal disease had bacteria in the heart, kidney, and liver that could be traced directly back to their oral infections.

It's important to take care of the teeth to prevent a whole range of health problems – and your dog's first line of defense is a good toothbrush.

[Brush my dog's teeth?](#)

The fact is, most people don't brush their dog's teeth. A recent survey of 60 pet professionals, 32 said they brushed their dogs' teeth, most admitting they did so only about twice a month. Only two brushed daily. Just under half admitted they never brushed although they knew they should.

This is bad news! Daily tooth-brushing is the single most effective way to prevent periodontal disease. The bacteria in plaque double their population every day, so brushing daily is best. Unfortunately, 80% of dogs over 2 years old have some form of periodontal disease. But what to do when your dog doesn't like it? The trick is in the training.

Puppies will learn and will accept brushing as a fun daily game, but those with older dogs need not fear. It's never too late. Dogs want to please us and old dogs can learn new tricks. Creating a routine is key. Dogs are very routine-oriented, and by incorporating tooth-brushing into your daily routine, it becomes less scary. When followed by a reward such as special toy or game played together, tooth-brushing can become a pleasant experience for the dog.

Editor's note: We brush our dogs' teeth every night at bedtime. They all line up for their turn. They really enjoy the attention and the taste of the doggy tooth paste (malt is their fav). Be sure to use a small brush so you can wrap behind the back molars.

The doggy Dentist

Professional cleanings make a big difference in a pet's oral health because they allow the vet to catch problems early and keep tartar at bay. Dogs under the age of 5 should receive an annual oral exam, and older dogs should be on a six-month schedule. The frequency of professional cleaning will depend on the breed, the type of food the dog eats, and how often the teeth are brushed at home. Typically larger breeds can go longer than smaller breeds without professional cleanings. Most veterinarians agree that anesthesia is essential for proper cleaning. It is impossible to perform a thorough oral examination and effective scaling below the gumline in an awake pet. Bacteria left below the gumline will continue to cause disease in the tissues and bone supporting the teeth.

Editor's note: Being a small breed, MSs tend to need more often cleanings than their larger cousins. The frequency of cleanings can vary from MS to MS. One of ours has his teeth professional cleaned every six months and the others usually go from 9 months to a year. Getting into the dental care habit can be tough, but experts recommend starting with a single step: look in your dog's mouth and pay attention. It could save your dog a lot of pain.

Small Dog,

Big tooth problems

When you have 42 teeth in the mouth of a 90-pound lab compared to 42 teeth in a 15 pound MS, you're talking about a lot of crowding. Crowding encourages bacterial growth, plus small dogs aren't always amenable to mouth handling. Smaller dogs also tend to retain their baby teeth, which worsens crowding. When baby teeth don't come out, the adult tooth can't come into the correct position. Retained teeth should be extracted. A vet can look for this at about 5-6 months. This procedure is often done when the dog is being spayed or neutered.

Learn to brush your dog's teeth
with a step-by-step guide at:
www.dogchannel.com/exclusives

Recipes for the Good Life

Bowwow Brownies



½ cup vegetable oil

2 tablespoons honey

1 cup whole wheat flour

4 eggs

1 teaspoon vanilla

½ cup carob chips (NEVER chocolate)

½ cup carob powder (NEVER chocolate)

½ teaspoon baking powder

Preheat oven to 250 degrees. In a medium bowl, blend

oil and honey thoroughly using a wooden spoon. Add the remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour onto a greased 15-by-10 inch baking sheet and bake for 30-35 minutes. Cut into bite-size squares and treat your MS.

From: [Dog Parties: How to Party with your Pup](#)

(Bowtie Press, 2004)

Ask Dr. Schnauzer



MVMSC members are invited to ask questions to our resident authority, Dr. Schnauzer, regarding tough issues that have you stumped. This issue's topic is *Coprophagia*, or stool eating.

Coprophagia, or stool eating, is a common problem in puppies, and can involve ingesting either their own stools or the feces of other animals. It is an excellent way to transmit a host of parasites. Contrary to popular belief, in the vast majority of cases there is not underlying nutritional deficiency leading to the problem. Instead, this disturbing habit may stem from anxiety, boredom, or may even have an evolutionary, adaptive component.

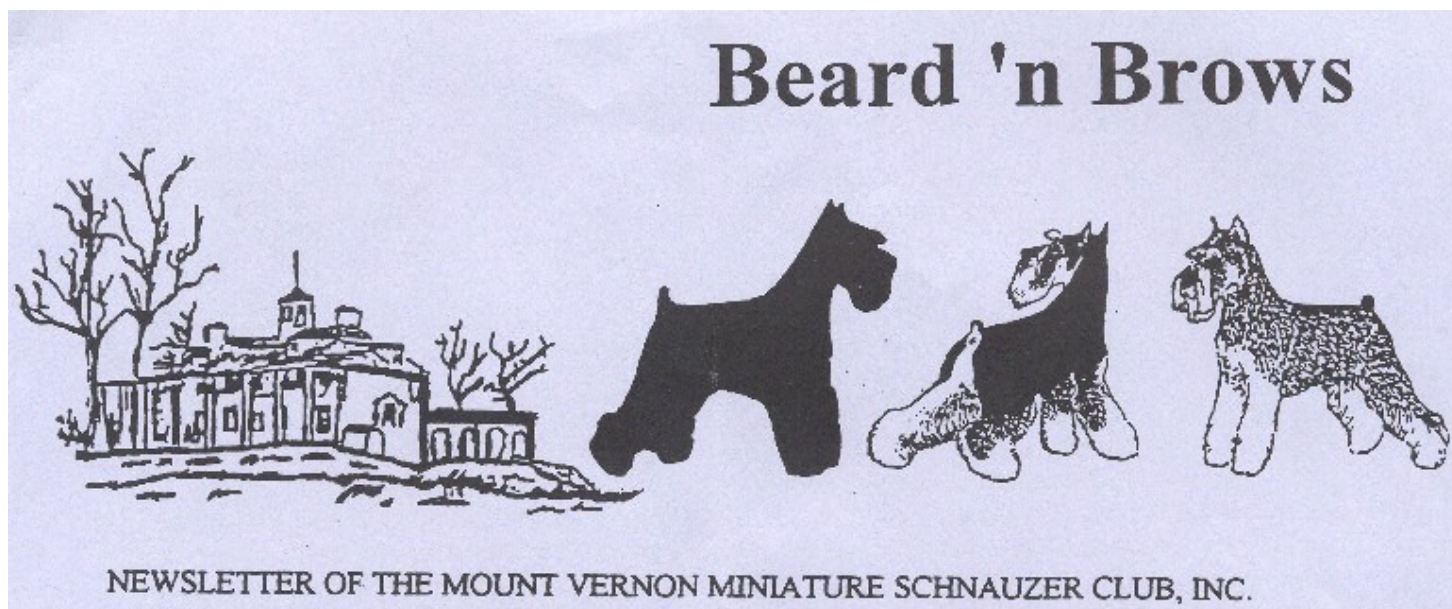
Several remedies have been proposed from feeding meat tenderizer, spraying cayenne pepper on the stool before it's eaten, and feeding commercially available products to alter the taste of the stools. Most people have little luck with the above, and some dogs actually enjoy "Cajun poop" - and have had the best luck with the commercial products.

These products taste pleasant going down, but are changed by digestive enzymes into vile-tasting substances in the stool. They are not harmful to the dog. One treatment is given with the dog's meals for two consecutive days. Some dogs may need "touch-up" treatments a few times a year to remind them of the evil taste. The manufacturer claims a high success rate, but some dogs do not respond to the treatment. For these dogs the best option is avoidance and frequent clean-ups of stool.

Thankfully, most pups with coprophagia eventually outgrow the behavior. Your veterinarian can give you further guidance about this condition. Underlying medical causes must be ruled out before stool-eating is assessed as a solely behavioral problem.

Blast from the Past

Our newsletter was published in black/white until 2003. Since many of you have joined since then, we thought you might enjoy some of our history - here's our banner from the December 2002 issue.



Beard 'n Brows

Newsletter of the Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club
21301 Golf Estates Drive
Laytonsville, Maryland 20882



Save the Date - Next club meeting –
This Sunday, March 16
Prize for “best dressed” MS lad or lassie