



Beard 'n Brows

Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club, serving Maryland, Virginia & Washington, DC since 1956 Spring, 2009
"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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2008/2009 Leadership Team

President: Sue Faber
Vice President: Richard Edwards
Secretary: Lois McCormick
Treasurer: Laurese Katen

Board of Directors:

B.J. Arczynski
Donna Parzow
Karin Walden

AMSC Delegate

Shawne Imler

Committee Chairperson

Specialty Show: Laurese Katen



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Web Master: Chris Franck



CH. Earthsong Remedy for the Blues
Breed and Terrier Group 4 Winner
Westminster Kennel Club 2009

"Blue" and handler Shawne Imler are pictured with Judge Peter Green after their Group 4 win at The Garden. Blue is co-owned by Karen Hoffmann, DVM and her mom, Rachael Hoffmann, of Michigan. Blue's dam is CH. Mai-Laur Juno, owned by Laurese Katen. A miniature schnauzer had not received a Group placement at Westminster in 34 years until Blue and Shawne stepped into the ring this February! Congratulations to all on this outstanding achievement. (See more on page 2.)

Featured in this Issue:

Our "Seniors" issue – information that will help you in the care and happiness of your MS senior citizen.

- Westminster Win! See the details in our "exclusive" interview
- Caring for your older MS/Eating well into old age
- Keeping Seniors Sharp
- Health Corner – bladder stones, a genetic predisposition for MSs
- Warning - Cocoa mulch may be lethal to your MS

President's Letter



A warm welcome to all members of the MVMSC, It just seems like yesterday that everyone was enjoying the holiday season. Where has the time gone? Hopefully, everyone celebrated with friends and family. As we start into our next session of club meetings, we would love to have as many dogs and owners participate in all activities planned for this year.

First, the club would like to acknowledge Shawne Imler and Dr. Karen Hoffman for the first rate performance in Westminster this year. Not only did Shawne win the breed, but, she also came in 4th overall in group. For those of us that have been privileged to attend this wonderful event, it was an awesome accomplishment. Congratulations to Shawne and Dr. Hoffman.

The rest of this letter will be dedicated to "McDuff" Parzow, who, passed into the rainbow bridge Friday, March 6, 2009. To say McDuff was one of the most wonderful dogs I have ever known is simply not enough. He took a piece of my heart on Friday – a piece that really can never be replaced. McDuff and my dog Jimmy were pals from puppyhood. They did obedience and agility together for many years. My dog was a wounded soul. McDuff I think knew this and was very kind to Jimmy. They were the best of friends for many years till I lost my Jimmy.

I will now defer to his wonderful owner, Donna Parzow to explain her thoughts: "McDuff was the love of the life. He came into my life on February 5, 1993. He was a little ball of black fur. His pedigree name was "Gailwind's Silent Night". The first title that McDuff got was the Canine Good Citizen. From there he went on to win his CD and CDX. His training started at 12 weeks of age at Dog Sense Unlimited. McDuff's personality won over everyone that he came in contact with. This is why he took a piece of my heart when he died. He will be missed by so many, especially his owner for 16 wonderful years. Rest in peace. My Schnauzer has crossed over the Rainbow Bridge." - Donna and Howard Parzow

Sincerely,

Sue Faber
MVMSC President

Welcome New Club Members –
Shirley Mae Ross – Rockville, MD

Westminster Win – Congrats to the "Blue" Team

Miniature Schnauzer history was made at Madison Square Garden in NYC in February when "Blue", a two year old male, who was expertly handled and conditioned by Shawne Imler, won a coveted Group 4 ribbon at the Westminster Kennel Club's show of shows. Blue was bred by MVMSC member Karen Hoffmann, DVM and is owned by Dr. Hoffman and her mom, Rachael Hoffmann, of Michigan.

As seen by millions on live TV coverage, Shawne and Blue were pulled from the terrier line-up by Judge Peter Green, who is known as “Mr. Terrier” among confirmation enthusiasts the world over. Not only did they make the pull, but were awarded a Group 4 placement among the nation’s best terriers.

“It was a HUGE, HUGE honor to win under Peter Green”, said Shawne after the show. As many know, Mr. Green has been involved in terriers since his childhood in Wales, handling for many years and earning numerous Best in Show ribbons. After retiring from the ring a couple of years ago, Mr. Green began his judging career. He has mentored many of today’s top handlers, and he and his handling assistants were known as the “Green Team”. Shawne added, “I was more in shock to win under Peter Green than I was to have a group placement at Westminster! The fact that Mr. Green was the judge overshadowed the enormity of the show”.

“It was an honor to be chosen to show Blue. My thanks go out to Rachael Hoffmann and Karen Hoffmann, DVM, who allowed me the honor of showing Blue. The entire experience was very exciting. The support and congratulatory messages from the MVMSC and the AMSC have been extraordinary, and I am very thankful for the support of fellow miniature schnauzer fanciers.”

CONGRATULATIONS!

ST. PATRICK’S DAY PAT-MY-HEAD PUPOVERS

Bakes 6 top-o’-the-morning treats

1 egg	Preheat oven to 475 degrees
½ cup skim milk	In a mixing bowl, combine eggs, milk and sifted flour and mix thoroughly with an electric beater.
½ cup white flour	
½ tablespoon vegetable oil	Add oil and beat for another minute.

Grease custard cups and fill half full. Bake for 15 minutes, then reduce heat to 350 degrees for an additional 25 to 30 minutes.

A few minutes before removing from oven, prick each popover with a fork to release the steam. Allow to cool and store in a sealed container in the refrigerator.

MVMSC News

After a winter break, we’re back on track for a new year full of surprises. While we were on break, a couple of newsworthy events happened:

- In December, Chris and Connie Franck celebrated the arrival of their daughter, Kate. Our best wishes and congratulations to the Franck’s.
- Last week, Donna and Howard Parzow’s beloved MS, McDuff, went over the rainbow bridge. He will be missed by the Parzow’s as well as many members of the Club who knew him well.
- The annual Trophy Fund drive is currently under way. Please contribute for trophies for our fall Specialty in October by April 15. Send your check to Laurese Katen.

- On Sunday, March 8, many of our members met at Shawne Imler's kennel facility for CERF (eye) exams for their MSs. Dr. Nancy Bromberg, a veterinary ophthalmologist, administered the exams at a discount for our club members.
- Don't forget our first meeting of 2009 – this Saturday, March 14, at Dog Sense Unlimited in Rockville. You should have received an e-mail with the details as well as directions. Please RSVP by March 12 to Lois McCormick at loisemcc@msn.com or call 571-276-9890. Bring a dish to share at a pot-luck supper. All miniature schnauzers welcome – schnauzer games for all with prizes awarded for winners!
- And you did hear about our "Blue Team" winning a Group 4 at Westminster! (See pages 1 and 2)

In the Ring

Conformation

New Champions:

CH. Blythewood Calamity Jane, bred and owned by Joan Huber.

Rally

Mai-Laur Black Domino won his Rally Advanced Excellent Title at the Point of Rocks show on Feb. 15, 2009 with a second place. "He did awesome," said his owner/handler Donna Parzow.



"Elle" – AMSC Specialty Winner

CH. Lonestar's Wicked Good, "Elle", won Best of Breed at the AMSC National Specialty, held in February in conjunction with the International Kennel Club of Chicago. The breed judge was Barry Day of England. Elle was handled by Terrie Houck and was bred and is owned by Rich and Sharon Edwards.

From Nose to Toes – Caring for your older MS

Human and MSs share a special bond. If you've been living with a dog over the age of seven, you know that his bond only increases with time.

Approximately fifty million dogs live with us in our country today. Millions of these dogs are over the age of seven and that number increases as we get older and canine healthcare gets more sophisticated. An older MS doesn't need much more care than his younger counterpart. Depending on his condition, he may need different food, prescription medication, or nutritional supplements. With a keen eye towards subtle changes and the care he is used to, you can help his golden years remain happy and healthy.

- **Ears** – Senior dogs do not hear as they did when they were younger and may seem disobedient as a result. Also, it is essential to keep your senior's ears clean, since a senior may not be able to fight off infections as easily as a younger MS. Follow a regular cleansing routine.

- **Eyes** – Senior eyes do not see as well as before and you might notice what you think are cataracts, which are actually a discoloration of the eye that occurs as your dog gets older. It is especially important to keep seniors' eyes clean by using an eye cleansing solution.
- **Nose** – An adult dog's sense of smell is about 100x more powerful than or own. Senses wane, though, as your MS gets older, so he may not smell his food as well, and may not want to eat as he once did. Try adding broth or other flavoring to his food or warm it up in the microwave to bring out the food's odor and he may be more eager to eat.
- **Dental** – We can't say enough about oral health for seniors. You'll notice your MS's teeth are not as sharp as they once were, but be wary of foul breath, heavy tartar buildup, or tooth loss, which can mean gum disease. Easy ways to help include: feeding dry food, hard treats and rawhide, and a regular dental program that includes brushing teeth and visits to the vet.
- **Head/Brain** – A senior MS's happiness is paramount to his overall health. Make sure his attitude and alertness are at their peak, with needed attention to such things as exercise and play. However, keep an eye out for changes such as disorientation, confusion, change in sleep habits, loss of housetraining and other signs that may indicate senility, which may be treatable with prescriptive medications.
- **Heart** – Some older MSs are at risk for developing diseases of the heart. Know the signs so you can get early treatment. Some common symptoms include weakness, reduced exercise tolerance, irregular or rapid breathing, coughing, lack of appetite, weight loss, abdominal swelling, or a fainting episode.
- **Digestive system** – Some seniors don't eat enough while others have a propensity for obesity. Foods formulated for seniors, with higher fiber and lower fat, may help. Remember, though, that an older dog's digestive tract can be delicate, so if you change your MS's food, do it slowly.
- **Joints** - Seniors of most breeds are prone to arthritis, an inflammation causing swelling and changes in joint formations. Watch for changes in gait and see your veterinarian if you notice anything amiss. Help maintain you MS's healthy points with supplements containing ingredients such as glucosamine and chondroitin, and keep up some form of exercise. Other things that can make your MS's battle with arthritis easier include ramps, elevated feeders and an orthopedic bed.
- **Skin and Coat** – A senior's skin and coat tend to be dry. Make sure he has the right ratio of fatty acids to help keep his skin healthy.
- **Feet** – MSs that chew or lick their feet could have allergies, or be bored. Constant licking causes the foot to be moist all of the time, leading to hair loss, lesions, and infections. Use a product like Chew Stop to discourage licking.

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 AKC for adding a Puppy level to its Canine Good Citizen program called the S.T.A.R. Puppy program. Response to the program has been overwhelming. Within two days of its launch in November, a thousand Canine Good Citizen (CGC) evaluators requested S.T.A.R. puppy materials.

This program rewards owners whose puppies have completed at least a six-week training class. S.T.A.R. stands for **socialization, training, activity, and a responsible owner** – practically everything a puppy and their owner need. The program is open to pure-bred and mixed-breed dogs up to a year old. The main difference between the S.T.A.R program and the Canine Good Citizen (CGC) is that the CGC can be a one-time test. The S.T.A.R. Puppy is done at the end of a training course by the instructor who has been observing the puppy for at least six weeks.

During the six-week course, owners learn about basic puppy care and training, and puppies have a chance to socialize with other dogs. At the end of the class, puppies are given a multi-item test by an AKC-approved evaluator. S.T.A.R. graduates receive an Olympics-style medal, certificate, and an AKC Puppy Handbook, discount enrollment in AKC Companion Animal Recovery, and a subscription to a monthly e-mail newsletter. For more information about this program, please visit www.akc.org/starpuppy. There you will find a schedule of upcoming CGC tests, a roster of evaluators, a detailed description of the test, and much more about this new AKC program.

Events Calendar

- **March 14, 4-6 pm (Saturday)** – First meeting of the year at **Dog Sense Unlimited** in Rockville, MD. Note this is a new location and a new day for our meeting – Saturday. Dog Sense is a boarding/training facility that will welcome our dogs. There will be plenty of room for canine socialization, so BRING YOUR SCHNAUZERS for a SCHNAUZER-AMA. A pot luck supper will follow the dog events. See the flier that was mailed for directions.
- **April 25 (Saturday) – tentative date** – Plans are underway for another interesting program involving our dogs.
- **Early May** – Our annual Puppy Match, date and location to be determined.
- **June 13 (Saturday)** – the annual Club Picnic, to be held at the Dog Sense Unlimited facility.

Schnauzer National News



Notes from the AMSC –

From the Board meeting in Chicago -

- Our National Obedience Trial will be held at the Great Western in Long Beach, CA this summer in conjunction with the summer Specialty.
- Our AMSC Agility Trial will be held at the Montgomery County weekend in October in metropolitan Philadelphia.
- In 2008, the AMSC set up and launched the Miniature Schnauzer Canine Health Information (CHIC) program. This is the AKC's Health Foundation's health database and DNA repository designed to facilitate owners listing dogs who have been screened

using certain phenotype and genotype testing. The AMSC's good of enrollment in CHIC is to begin the data collection our breeders need to make educated breeding choices and in time build a strong database where we can not only collect information on healthy dogs, but collect and store data and DNA on a number of health defects for our breed by utilizing the DNA repository available to us as a CHIC member club.

Club Meeting Minutes

Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club
Home of Shawne Imler
December 14, 2008

Meeting convened at 3:45 PM after the holiday party. Present were 25 members and guests. A short meeting was held without Committee reports so everyone could enjoy the holiday party and gift exchange.

President's Report Thanks to Shawne for hosting the party.

- At the Board meeting last week, a discussion regarding dog friendly places to have meetings was held. Among those mentioned was Dog Sense in Rockville. Donna Parzow volunteered to investigate the possibility of using Dog Sense for grooming seminars, matches, etc.
- Also mentioned was the idea of a "schnauzer-ama", in which dog games and other activities are provided for fun for humans and dogs alike.
- A reminder was noted to everyone to please give ideas to the Board regarding events, etc. that you would like to include.

Respectfully submitted by,
Sharon Edwards (for Lois McCormick, Secretary)

Keeping Seniors Sharp

As your MS ages, he may benefit from brain exercises to help him stay as mentally sharp as possible. Aging dogs develop geriatric cognitive dysfunction, similar to geriatric dementia in humans. Signs include behavioral changes, lethargy, increased urination, changes in sleep patterns, and forgetfulness.

Research is beginning to show that antioxidant supplements, such as vitamins E and C, can help protect the nervous system, including the brain, and may be beneficial in prolonging that young-dog feeling. But intellectual challenge has a lot to do with it, too.

What challenges aging dogs' brains? Behavioral enrichment says leading specialists. Even a small change in routine, such as a new walking route, helps stimulate dogs' minds. New games and new toys improve dogs' ability to learn new tricks. Social activity helps, too, so get out there And meet new people and new dogs. You may begin feeling younger, too!

Canine Health Corner



Topic this issue: Urolithiasis – Bladder Stones
Excerpt from the AKC Gazette

Bladder stones are a frequent health problem for miniature schnauzers, especially as they age. Along with Lhasa Apsos, mini poodles, Yorkies, and Bichons, MSs have a genetic predisposition to stones. As owners, we should be aware of the causes and treatments.

Canine bladder stones come in all sizes, shapes, and textures. They can form as single entities, but more often they form in clusters. No matter what their origin, they cause irritation, pain, and recurrent bladder infections and they must be eliminated. Their make-up dictates whether they can be dissolved with special diets or whether they have to be removed surgically.

Stones, or uroliths, form when there is too much mineral in urine. Think of a cup of water and a pound of sugar. If you keep adding sugar to the water, you eventually reach a point when the sugar will no longer dissolve – the solution is saturated. Similarly, if urine is saturated with minerals, any small changes can make them precipitate out and form stones.

Struvite stones account for about half of the uroliths in dogs. These stones grow very large – some reach 4 inches in diameter. Typically, veterinarians find a number of smaller stones crowded within the bladder. Most struvite stones form secondary bladder infections. Bacterial growth raises the pH of the urine making it more alkaline. Because struvite mineral has poor solubility in alkaline urine, it crystallizes and then coalesces into stones. Also, dogs fed diets high in vegetable protein tend to have an alkaline urine pH and are at higher risk for developing struvite stones than those fed more meat protein.

The origin of oxalate stones is more complex. They form when calcium levels in the urine rise. Oxalate stones are also linked to certain types of diets, but the biggest risk factor is genetic predisposition (as in the case of the MS). Medical treatment is sometimes used to eliminate struvite stones. Dogs are given a long-term course of antibiotics to control bladder infections and fed diets designed to dissolve the stones. These special diets have low mineral content and stimulate the production of urine with a lower pH. Depending on their size, it can take two to three months to dissolve struvite stones.

Attempts to dissolve oxalate and other stones with diet have not been largely successful. For the majority of dogs with bladder stones, including some with struvite stones, surgery is the preferred treatment. Unfortunately, the problem is not over when the stones are removed. A dog that has had uroliths once is at risk for more in the future.

To minimize bladder stone recurrence, dogs are fed a specially formulated diet for the rest of their lives. Though highly effective at preventing struvite stones, they may be helpful, but not perfect, at preventing other types of uroliths, including oxalates. Many veterinarians suggest never feeding a dry diet. They can eat dry kibble, but only by adding at least a cup of water to each cup of dry food prior to feeding. By taking in more water, the dog's urine is more dilute. The result – the minerals in his urine are less likely to precipitate into crystals and form stones.

Miniature Schnauzer Massage Therapy 101

You don't have to be an old dog to enjoy a good massage, but our senior canine friends can benefit from a good massage. You don't need to be an expert to massage you MS – just follow these easy steps.

- Start at the shoulders. Gently but firmly rub your dog's shoulder blades with the pads of your fingers, moving them in a circular motion. Rub into the muscles.
- Work down the dog's back on either side of (not directly on) the spine, moving in small circles, all the way down to the tail.
- Have your MS sit, lie down on his side, or lie on your lap, and massage his chest, concentrating on the rib area.
- Work back up to his neck, head, and ears, adjusting pressure according to how much your MS seems to enjoy the experience.
- If your MS doesn't mind, massage his feet and paw pads, too, gently pressing each paw pad. Nail trimming becomes easier if your dog is used to having his feet touched.

A Must Have for the Well-Groomed Mini Schnauzer

FURminator deShedding tool

This is a GREAT addition to your grooming tool inventory! Even conformation "I roll my dog's coat" club members should take heed of this tool. Thank you, Karen Surma, for bringing it to our attention. Editor's note: Karen, Sherry Moreau, and your editor were sharing grooming ideas one Saturday afternoon when Karen mentioned this new tool which removes undercoat and loose hair without breaking top-coat. Your editor, a "nose-in-the air" confirmation person, saw one of these gadgets the next week at *Living Ruff*, a retail doggie boutique in Silver Spring and couldn't resist buying it. The result – the best \$39 spent in a long time. Weekly grooming is reduced to a fraction of time with this tool, which looks like an industrial sized razor. Undercoat, which takes a lot of time to remove with a stripping knife, can be removed in only a few minutes AND it really doesn't break the hard coat. It's available in three sizes (I purchased the medium size) and can be used on MSs and any other breed. It's especially great for long-haired breeds that shed. Go to www.FURminator.com, or go to *Living Ruff* in Silver Spring.

Warning – Cocoa mulch

Cocoa mulch, which is sold by Home Depot, Target, and many other garden supply stores, contains a lethal ingredient called theobromine that is lethal to dogs and cats. It smells like chocolate and it attracts dogs. Several deaths have already occurred from this product. Theobromine is in all chocolate, especially dark or baker's chocolate.

Although the mulch has no warnings printed on the label, it is extremely toxic to dogs. The product is manufactured by Hershey's, and the company admits that studies have shown that 50% of the dogs that eat Cocoa Mulch can suffer physical harm. Reports that dogs that ingested a lethal quantity of cocoa mulch made from cocoa bean shells developed severe convulsions and died hours later. Analysis of the stomach contents and the ingested cacao bean shells revealed the presence of lethal amounts of theobromine.

For more information go to: www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/cocoamulch.asp

The Eyes Have It

The cloudy appearance of your older MSs eyes may not be cataracts. It could be a routine change called nuclear sclerosis, or hardening of the lens – the same reason many older people have trouble focusing on objects up close.

The lens – the part of the eye that lets in light – changes throughout a MS's life. The oldest and thickest layers of the lens are at the center, or nucleus. As a dog reaches 6-8 years old, the nucleus may start taking on the bluish appearance of nuclear sclerosis. All dogs develop this to some degree. Affected dogs tend to have normal canine visions, despite the cloudy eyes. Cataracts, on the other hand, look whiter or resemble cracked ice. Although cataracts may lead to blindness without surgery, no treatment is needed for nuclear sclerosis. A veterinarian will be able to tell which your dog has by examining his eyes.

Exactly what do those doggie eyes see? Nobody's certain, but researchers believe dogs see in lower light better than humans and in shades of gray – thought some scientists believe they can see blues and yellows, too. They are particularly attuned to motion – a good thing, because they're somewhat myopic, seeing clearly at 20 feet what you can see at 75 feet.

Will your MS need glasses? If close-up vision becomes blurry, too, prescription eyeglasses can help. They look and fit much like people's sunglasses, with a band going around the back of the head instead of a frame hooking behind the ears. The prescription is based on a veterinary ophthalmologist's examination of the eye's anatomy.

Eating Well into Old Age

Good genes, good care, and good luck – the recipe for a long life. Among the ingredients of the good care part of that recipe is a good diet – everyone agreed on that. But not everyone agrees that old dogs need to eat a new diet. Many dogs live to ripe old ages without anything special in their bowl. Nonetheless, some research suggests that older dogs can benefit from slight dietary changes.

Humans aren't the only ones who put on the pounds along with the years. More than 40% of dogs between ages 5 and 10 years are overweight. Changes in metabolic rate as the dog ages cause fewer

calories to be burned and more to be stored as fat. (sound familiar?) A recent study showed that mature dogs require 20% fewer calories to maintain their weight as younger ones.

But diet food won't always be the answer. As dogs get very old, they tend to stop gaining weight and instead start losing weight, actually requiring more calories. For these dogs, increasing the fat content of the diet will increase palatability and also improve protein efficiency. A diet containing 7 to 15 percent dry-matter fat is recommended for older dogs.

That brings us to fiber. Fiber is often used in diet dogs foods to dilute the caloric content while still providing the dog a feeling of fullness. But because fiber dilutes calories and also may decrease the intake of essential nutrients, care must be taken in feeding high-fiber foods to underweight seniors.

Use as a dieting aide, fiber is also important in regulating glucose metabolism. Older dogs often have altered glucose metabolism, with delayed glucose absorption and reduced insulin sensitivity. Glucose regulation may be influenced by the source of carbohydrates in the food. A large proportion of the typical dog's diet comes from carbs, most of which can be directly broken down into glucose.

Regardless of weight, there remains the question of whether old dogs require the same balance of nutrients that young dogs do. Studies have shown that old dogs absorb protein, fat, etc. as well as younger dogs. The bad news is that even though old dogs absorb the nutrients as well, they may not utilize all nutrients as efficiently as do young dogs. Significantly, older dogs may have different protein requirements. Even with exercise, older dogs lose muscle mass, which means losses in protein reserves, which decrease the immune system and the body's ability to fight trauma and infection. Thus, older dogs need higher levels of dietary protein to build and maintain muscle.

But we have been taught to feed senior dogs less protein to avoid overstressing the kidneys. It is true that dogs with kidney problems need to eat a diet with moderate levels of protein, but older dogs without kidney problems can eat a high-protein diet (containing 15-23% dry matter protein) without adverse effects. In most healthy older dogs, dietary mineral levels can remain unchanged. For example, sodium restriction is not necessary in healthy dogs. But many older dogs are hypertensive or have heart disease. Not only are these conditions aggravated by excess sodium, but they make it difficult to excrete excess sodium. Most dog foods have excess sodium, so decreasing the sodium content is usually a good thing as long as the dog will still eat the food.

Old dogs are more prone to dehydration, often caused by health problems or medications that cause them to urinate more frequently. Encourage an older dog to drink more by making sure his water is fresh, cool, and readily available.

Finally, it doesn't matter what's in the bowl if the dog won't eat it. Because oral disease is the most common problem of older dogs, some dogs may find overly large or hard kibble uncomfortable to chew. Try serving warmed or soft foods, and remember: The best food is the one your senior will eat, even if the label isn't perfect.

Antioxidants –

As in humans, the dog's immune system declines with age. Antioxidants such as vitamin E or beta-carotene have been shown to have beneficial effects on the dog's immune system and should be part of the aging dog's diet. Antioxidants also help combat free radicals, which have been postulated to play a role in aging. In addition, some antioxidants may combat the declining cognitive function often seen in geriatric dogs. Omega-3 fatty acids have anti-inflammatory properties and may help maintain health in kidneys and other organs and reduce inflammation and the resulting discomfort of osteoarthritis.

SCHNAUZER-AMA

Don't forget our next Club meeting and Schnauzer-ama

When: Saturday, March 14, 4-6 pm

**Where: Dog Sense Unlimited
601-10 Dover Road
Rockville, MD 20850
301 340-8766**

**All Dogs and Humans Welcome
Join Us for Schnauzer-ama Games**

Pot Luck Dinner to Follow

Beard 'n Brows

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

