



# Beard 'n Brows

Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club, serving Maryland, Virginia & Washington, DC since 1955  
"Celebrating the spirit of the Miniature Schnauzer"

Early Fall, 2011

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

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**2010-2011 Leadership Team**

President: Richard Edwards  
Vice President: Beth Hinchliffe  
Secretary: Lois McCormick  
Treasurer: B.J. Arczynski

**Board of Directors:**

Sue Faber  
Laurese Katen  
Donna Parzow  
Shawne Imler  
(AMSC Delegate)

**Committee Chairperson**

**Specialty Show:** Richard Edwards

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

Web site: [minischnauzer.org](http://minischnauzer.org)  
Web Master: Chris Franck



**Happy Fall – a time for pumpkins, wicked witches, crisp nights, and a New Year for the MVMSC.**



**Featured in this Issue:**

- Canine Chronicles – It's a Dog's World 1880's Style
- Our Goals – this month's feature is MVMSC's sixth goal – responsible ownership
- Health – Congenital Megaesophagus
- Fall Visitors – guidelines to keep your dog and your visitors happy this season
- Photos from a Potomac Riverboat cruise

## President's Letter



Dear Members,

I hope everyone is ready for the start of a new fall season and new festivities for the Club. Hopefully your summer was cool and restful and you are ready for our action-packed fall. First is the annual pig roast at the Durst's. We always have a good turn-out for this event and we thank Debi and Martin for their hospitality in inviting the Club.

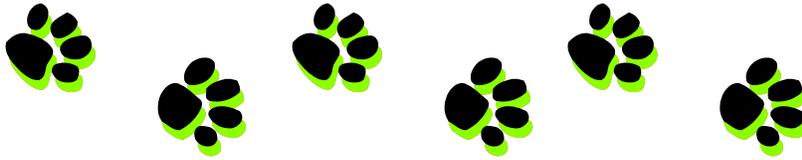
October's highlight will be our Specialty at the Howard County Fairgrounds on October 15. If you are up for a couple of hours drive, I encourage everyone to go to the American Miniature Schnauzer Club's (AMSC) National Specialty the weekend before (Oct. 6-9) culminating in the National Specialty on Sunday, October 9 on the grounds of Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, PA. For the second year, our Club will provide a supported entry at the Hatboro show on Friday, October 7. This is an honor for our Club to be involved in a National Specialty weekend, and we have commissioned trophies for the winners from Connie Krohn, the artist who designed and painted our trophies last year. We received many compliments from exhibitors and guests alike last year, and we invite everyone to drive up for the day to participate. You'll be glad you're a MVMSC member at the end of the day. We have a special surprise in store for everyone at the Hatboro show, but mum's the word for now. Drive on up to share in the surprise. You'll see many of the best mini schnauzers from across the country at this show, so it's well worth the trip.

Remember that we will nominate next year's officers in September. Our nominating committee is Donna Parzow, Karin Walden, and Shirley Mae Ross. Please contact one of them if you would like to serve on next year's board or would like to nominate someone.

Rich Edwards  
MVMSC President



## Our Goals – Responsible Ownership



“Our Goals” is a series of discussions of each of our Club’s seven goals. Each issue will focus on one of the MVMSC’s seven goals as stated in our constitution and by-laws. This issue is the fourth of the series, focusing on the sixth goal regarding responsible ownership.

### MVMSC Goals:

- To encourage and promote quality breeding of miniature schnauzers of correct type in conformity with the breed standard as set forth by the American Miniature Schnauzer Club and approved by the American Kennel Club. (see Late Summer issue for discussion)
- To support the breed standard as the only standard of perfection by which miniature schnauzers shall be judged. (see the Early Spring issue for discussion)
- To protect and advance the interests of the breed in breeding, exhibiting, grooming, and health care.
- To encourage sportsmanlike conduct at all times. (see the Spring issue for discussion)
- To conduct sanctioned matches and licensed shows under the rules of the American Kennel Club.
- **To provide the community educational events to encourage responsible ownership of the breed.**
- To support local rescue organizations in their efforts to place unwanted miniature schnauzers.

September is national Responsible Dog Ownership Month. Each year, the American Kennel Club® calls on its more than 5,000 affiliated dog clubs and all other pet-related organizations from around the country to participate in AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Days. The nationwide initiative educates the public about the importance of being a responsible dog owner and celebrates the deep bond between humans and their canine companions.

More than 550 organizations across the U.S. held AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day events last year, inviting local community members to take part in Meet the Breeds, AKC Canine Good Citizen® testing, microchip clinics and more.

For a local celebration of responsible dog ownership, plan to attend the following event:

September 24, 2011  
2:30 pm to 5:30 pm

### Club & Event Information:

**Host Club Name:** Training by Julie and Associates, LLC  
**Location:** Fresh Pet  
**Event Address** 9534 South Crain Highway  
**City/State/Zip:** Upper Marlboro MD 20772  
**Website:** <http://www.trainingbyjulie.com> or call 443 852-4912

### Summary:

AKC Canine Good Citizen testing, open to anyone who would like to test. Your dog can take the test and a passing score gives your dog the special certification as a Canine Good Citizen. This certification helps dogs and owners gain respect in their community. You can observe the test before signing up to see if your dog can do it. If he does not pass you will get training tips to help you pass the next time.

And to make sure we don't forget what it's all about, here's a copy of the AKC Responsible Dog Owner's promise. We hope you are able to answer 'yes' to all statements.

## AKC RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNER

### PET PROMISE

#### *As a dog owner, I promise:*

-  I will never overlook my responsibilities for this living being and recognize that my dog's welfare is totally dependent on me.
-  I will always provide fresh water and quality food for my dog.
-  I will socialize my dog via exposure to new people, places and other dogs.
-  I will take pride in my dog's appearance with regular grooming.
-  I will recognize the necessity of basic training by teaching my dog to reliably sit, stay and come when called.
-  I will take my dog to the vet regularly and keep all vaccinations current.
-  I will pick-up and properly dispose of my dog's waste.
-  I will make sure my dog is regarded as an AKC Canine Good Citizen® by being aware of my responsibilities to my neighbors and to the community.
-  I will ensure that the proper amount of exercise and mental stimulation appropriate for my dog's age, breed and energy level is provided.
-  I will ensure that my dog has some form of identification (which may include collar tags, tattoo or microchip ID).
-  I will adhere to local leash laws.

## Events Calendar



Mark your calendar now for this year's meetings/activities. Email notices (or hard copy notices for those not receiving email) with complete details regarding place, time, directions, program outline and speaker will be provided well in advance of the meeting date. Note that all activities will be held in the afternoon and except for the October-December meetings, are held on the **third weekend** of the month. Other activities, such as hikes, dog park outings, dog-friendly boat rides, etc. may be added as the dates of such activities are known.

**September 18 (Sunday at noon)** - club meeting including presentation of slate of officers and Board for 2011-2012. Location – the Sarius Pig Roast (see invitation below)

**October 15 (Saturday)** – MVMSC Specialty at Howard County Fairgrounds, followed by luncheon and meeting. Exact times will be announced when available from show superintendant.

**November (date/place TBD)** – social event – bring your mini

**December (date/place TBD)** – Holiday party

*Sarius Pig Roast*  
& the Mount Vernon Miniature  
Schnauzer Club September Meeting

Sunday, September 18, 2011 at 12:00PM

At Debi & Martin Durst's  
Home of Sarius Miniature Schnauzers &  
Pampered Paws Grooming & Boarding  
6546 Middleway Pike, Kearneysville, WV

All dogs are welcome who play well with others.

Smoked pork, turkey and dinnerware are provided.  
Please bring your drinks and a dish to share.  
Alcohol is permitted if you have a designated driver.

Other things you may want to bring are lawn chairs,  
a crate or ex-pen, leash and water for your dog(s).  
Pooper scoopers and pick up bags are provided.

Please RSVP to [schnauzerpups@comcast.net](mailto:schnauzerpups@comcast.net) or  
call 304-725-6794 before Sept. 3, 2011 to let us  
know how many will attend. Hope to see you here!

## American Miniature Schnauzer Club News



AMSC news of interest –

- The AMSC will be sending a ballot to all members in September regarding changes to the breed standard to address in greater detail proper colors (salt/pepper, black/silver, and solid black) and docked vs undocked tails. Members will have until the end of the year to cast their votes. This is important for several reasons, one being that our standard has not been changed since 1991 and that changes can only be made every five years. If you are an AMSC member, please remember to vote.
- As reported in the last issue, a letter was sent to the Texas Senate voicing the AMSC's opposition to House Bill 1451 which would put undue burdens on responsible breeders in Texas. This bill has passed the Texas Senate. The fear is that this law will negatively impact reputable breeders in the state of Texas by making it very difficult to comply with the law so that many breeders will end their breeding programs.
- Don't forget the Montgomery Country weekend, October 6-9 near Philadelphia. This weekend culminates with the most prestigious of the three national specialties on Sunday, October 9, with the Montgomery Kennel Club show. The annual meeting and dinner will be on Saturday. If you are interested in attending and more information, contact Sharon Edwards.

## Canine Health Corner



### Megaesophagus

As researchers work hard to learn more about the causes and potential treatments of serious canine diseases, megaesophagus remains a particularly challenging and heartbreaking condition for breeders and owners. It affects multiple breeds, including the MS, and often has a poor diagnosis.

A life-threatening condition, megaesophagus occurs when the esophagus (the tube connecting the throat to the stomach) fails to function correctly. Normally, the muscular walls of the esophagus progressively contract from the upper esophagus working downward to push food into the stomach – a process known as peristalsis. The swallowing sequence is completed when the sphincter relaxes to allow food to enter the stomach.

With affected dogs, the peristaltic esophageal muscle contractions are absent, and ingested food goes into the stomach only as a result of gravity. Additionally, the sphincter does not relax in response to swallowing. Thus, food stays in the esophagus anywhere from several minutes to hours, causing the tube to dilate or stretch out until the sphincter relaxes and the food passes into the stomach in response to the dilation pressure – hence the name megaesophagus.

Two forms exist: acquired and congenital. Acquired megaesophagus can occur in adult dogs secondary to other diseases, but breeders most often encounter the congenital form, which generally appears in puppies around 5-7 weeks of age when solid foods are introduced.

Congenital megaesophagus is a neuromuscular abnormality that is idiopathic (no one knows the cause). The condition may occur because the nerve supply or muscles of the esophagus fail to develop properly, which causes the lack of peristaltic contractions. This interferes with the sphincter relaxation that would normally allow food to pass into the stomach.

Congenital megaesophagus occurs in many breeds, including the MS. Published reports suggest a familial predisposition, though the mode of inheritance is not known. Research indicates that it may be inherited in an autosomal-dominant fashion with incomplete penetrance. In other words, mildly affected dogs, even dogs who exhibit no clinical signs, can have the disease and pass it on.

Symptoms range from mild to severe, with regurgitating being the most common sign – though owners often time miss this if litter mates consume the regurgitated contents. Also, regurgitation is often mistaken for vomiting (regurgitation is a passive expulsion of undigested food, whereas vomiting is the forceful ejection of food.) Mildly affected puppies may not show signs other than occasional regurgitation or coughing. Pups with a severe condition essentially have a nonfunctioning esophagus. Moderately affected puppies may suffer from malnutrition, excessive salivation and may cough or wheeze frequently. Aspiration pneumonia – the leakage of food, water, or saliva into the lungs – is the primary life-threatening side effect of esophageal disease.

Diagnosis is usually made from radiographs. The prognosis is often considered poor for dogs diagnosed with this disorder. Many dogs with congenital megaesophagus die or are euthanized within weeks or months due to severe infections or malnutrition. Some respond well to being fed with a soft or liquefied diet from an elevated platform. Medications are often prescribed, but rarely diminish regurgitation.

Research is currently being done at Clemson University by Dr. Leigh Anne Clark to seek a genetic marker for congenital megaesophagus. A marker could be used to identify dogs that could produce megaesophagus puppies. She has collected samples from 45 megaesophagus-affected dogs. Research findings suggest the disease is not inherited as a simple autosomal recessive trait. Clark is currently seeking funding to continue her research. Having a genetic test for megaesophagus will allow breeders to identify dogs that are carriers for the disease. Armed with this information, breeders can make informed decisions and plan breedings that selectively breed against the disease.

## Canine Chronicles –



So you think pet clothing and a little bling around the neck is new? Quite the contrary. Well dressed canines have been sporting fine couture for more than a hundred years, as evidenced by the newspaper articles below from the 1800's.

As reported in the *Washington Critic* for May 20, 1884: "Dog Jewelry in the D.C... 'the city commissioners have just secured the dog jewelry for the coming fiscal year,' said a district employee to a reporter. 'The dog tag for 1885 has just been selected, and every licensed canine will be presented with a German-silver acorn, bearing the impression of a dog's head, the number, and the inscription, *Dog Tax, D.C. 1885.*' All dogs in D.C. have been presented with this charm since 1878."

Fancy collars were big business in the late 1800's, with one business boasting 1,500 different styles in all kinds of materials, including celluloid, leather, and silver. An extremely popular item was the "Langtry", named after the popular actress, Lilly Langtry. It was a velvet collar, "heavy with bells and shaped so as to rest upon the animal's chest."

The *Washington Post* carried this item on November 28, 1884: "A fashionable lady can also use her dog's collar as a bracelet, as the new collar has a sliding arrangement that allows it being made small enough to fit the wrist. A very fashionable and wealthy widow had about a dozen collar-bracelets made, both in gold and silver, with one containing diamonds valued at \$600. When she is preparing to go out with the dog she generally lays the collar-bracelets in a row before the animal and she and her dog select the one the dog is to wear."

Pampering didn't stop at coats and collars. Dogs of the privileged classes summered in luxury kennels and hotels that would put modern doggy day-cares to shame. In November 1884, the *Philadelphia News* described the opening of a new business, "a barber-shop exclusively for dogs and puppies, where any good, respectable canine who has the money can get a shave or a shampoo or hair cut... Perhaps it is not known outside of the trade that dog 'clipping' or hair cutting, is getting to be an important branch of the barber business. Fashionable dames have their pet poodles regularly shampooed and combed every day, and the swell owners of expensive pugs are regular patrons. Very few dogs allow bay rum to be used in shaving them. And they are poor consumers for 'our never-failing hair enticer for baldness'... The most artistic dogs have their own cups with their names in German text, and a private brush."

*Sounds as if times haven't changed that much since the 1880's.*

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES  
MT. VERNON MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB  
SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2011  
AT THE HOME OF JIM & KARIN WALDEN

The brief meeting was called to order at 4 pm by Rich Edwards, President. The meeting, which followed our club picnic and puppy match, was convened for the purpose of updating members about upcoming activities. There were 9 regular members and one associate member in attendance at the time the meeting convened. (Attendance for the picnic overall was 15 regular members, 3 associate members, and 4 guests.)

Officer and Committee Reports: None

Unfinished Business:

There was discussion about possible meeting sites for the next year. Again we will vary our meeting schedule with some meetings scheduled for Saturdays and some for Sundays. We will try to schedule meetings for the third week of the month. Our tentative calendar of meetings will be developed at the start of the next membership year. All members are invited to make suggestions about activities they would like to see and about locales for the meetings.

The club will provide supported entry for the Hatboro show on Friday, October 7. We will provide trophies for the event, to include Best of Breed, Best of Opposite, Winners Bitch, Winners Dog, and Best of Winners. Arrangements for purchase of trophies are being made by Karin Walden.

New Business:

Rich Edwards announced that the club needs to name 2 members to positions on the nominating committee. The committee will work together to name a slate of officers and board members for the

next membership year, beginning in October. Karin Walden and Shirley Mae Ross agreed to serve on the nominating committee, along with Donna Parzow, who has already agreed to serve.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Lois McCormick, Secretary, MVMSC

## What Happy Dogs Know



"Smiley" courtesy of C. Borrelli

*This is the third in a series of "dogisms", the lessons dogs teach us about the world and getting the best out of life.*

### **Lesson #3: It Takes All Kinds**

Watch a dog show sometime and appreciate the diversity not just in dogs, but in all of nature.

It not only would be dull if we were all alike, but impractical.

We have different interests, tastes, abilities, and strengths. Diversity is nature's way of making everything work.



MVMSC members on a Potomac Riverboat cruise – September 1. Looks as if everyone had a tail-wagging good time!



## Obedience Showdown set for Orlando

Mark your calendar for December 17-18. America's top obedience dogs will converge on Orlando to sit, stay, and heel for the coveted National Obedience Champion designation at the 2011 AKC National Obedience Invitational. This premier event will be held in conjunction with the Eukanuba National Championship and the AKC Agility invitational.

## *Fall* Visitors

Fall is the time of year when company comes calling more often than usual, and resident dogs often need help dealing with guests. Follow these tips to keep your MS safe:

- Brief your guests. Remind visitors of any rules you have regarding human-dog interactions, such as no jumping up and no dogs on the beds. If your guests follow the rules, you'll save your dog a lot of confusion.
- Don't feed from the table. People food is not always safe for dogs, and inattentive guests may not know they're reinforcing bad behavior. This gives your dog the impression that yummy-smelling food on the table is simply there to be cadged by barking and jumping up and helping herself from a plate. Discourage such behavior by putting your four-legged friend's food in her own dish.
- Keep her away from the door. Frequent comings and goings give your dog too much opportunity to escape. Keep her in another room, or crate her during arrivals and departures.
- Don't force interactions. Some dogs aren't comfortable around people they don't know. If that's the case with your dog, don't expect her to be a genial canine host. Make a safe, quiet place for your dog to retreat when the crush of people or bustle of the holidays gets to be too much.

See you at the Pig Roast

September 18 at the Durst's

