



Beard 'n Brows

Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club, serving Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC since 1956

Winter 2014-15

“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.



2014/2015 Leadership Team

President: Paula Tibbs
Vice President:
Secretary: Sharon Edwards
Treasurer: B.J. Arczynski

Board of Directors:

AMSC Delegate
Shawne Imler

Committee Chairperson
Specialty Show: Rich Edwards



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

Web site: minischnauzer.org



We're Back — Schnauzer Strong

After taking a hiatus, *Beard 'n Brows* is back, Schnauzer Strong.

We hope this will be a bellwether signaling the start of a new era for our club. As most of you are aware, the club, as most organizations, has seen many highs and lows over its sixty years. Most of you would probably agree that we are currently not at an apex. The turnout at our events, such as picnics and educational events, has declined along with the turnout at club meetings. In December, Laurese Katen, a founding member of the Mt. Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club, passed away, leaving emptiness in all the hearts of those who knew her. Laurese loved the breed and loved our club and fought to the end to ensure the club will continue and flourish. For that we are grateful and inspired to return our club to its former “Schnauzer Strong” status.

So, how do we begin?

Step 1 – Renew your membership by paying your 2015 dues. This newsletter is being distributed to everyone who was a club member in 2014. Please take this opportunity to send a check to our treasurer, B.J. Arczynski, so your membership is current. This newsletter will only be sent to active members who have paid their 2015 dues no later than February 1. (See dues details on page 3.)

Step 2 – Get involved. Take a second to glance back at page one and the listing of club leadership. Note the blank space beside the VP position and notice there are NO Board members other than the officers. Please offer to donate your time and efforts to the club. If you're not up for an officer or board position, we can use your help in organizing meetings and events, providing outreach, and other tasks at hand. The club can exist with a handful of active members, but we need your support to flourish.

As an example of one member's recent efforts for our club, Paula Tibbs, after the death of Laurese Katen, sorted through all the club's documents and history contained in boxes accumulated over decades at Laurese's home and now has organized them and stored them at her home. Paula has agreed to be the club president after past president, Rich Edwards' term ended in October and he accepted a board position with the AMSC. (AMSC by-laws dictate that a person cannot be on the boards of both the national and a regional club due to conflict of interest.) Although not under the circumstances we would have wanted, we applaud Paula for stepping up to the challenge to save the club's records and offering her time and skills to lead the club.

We invite all club members to think of the Mt. Vernon club as THEIR club. Be active - If you have an idea, please share it because it's probably a good one. Let us know what activities you would like to see, what questions you have about our breed, and be an enthusiastic lobbyist for our breed to everyone willing to listen.

Programs & Events Calendar

- The club will be supporting the miniature schnauzer entry at the Columbia Terrier Association show - Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium – Friday April 17, 2015

Membership Dues

If you have not already paid your 2015 membership dues, please do so ASAP to avoid your membership from lapsing. If your dues payment is not postmarked by **February 1**, your membership will lapse.

Full membership (including voting rights) - \$30
Associate membership (no voting rights) - \$25

Please send a check (preferred) or cash by Feb. 1 to:

B.J. Arczynski
4992 Millers Station Road
Hampstead, MD 21074

Winter Care for Canines



Source: AKC educational brochure

A dog's need for food, shelter and loving care increases during the cold winter months. Keep your dog safe and warm by following these guidelines.

- Don't leave your MS outside in the cold for long periods of time. Wind chill makes days colder than actual temperature readings. Be attentive to your dog's body temperature and limit time outdoors.
- Adequate shelter is a necessity. Keep your dog warm, dry and away from drafts. Tile and uncarpeted floors may become extremely cold, so make sure to place blankets and pads on floors in these areas.
- Be extra careful when walking or playing with your dog near frozen ponds, rivers, or lakes. Your dog could slip or jump in and be seriously injured.
- Groom your dog regularly. He needs a well-groomed coat to keep properly insulated. Excess hair around the toes and foot pads should be trimmed to ease snow removal and cleaning. BE sure to take care to not cut the pads or other delicate areas of the foot.

- Feed your dog additional calories if he spends a lot of time outdoors on walks, etc. IT takes more energy in the winter to keep body temperature regulated, so additional calories are necessary. (You're probably fine without the additional calories!)
- Towel or blow dry your dog if he gets wet. It's important to dry the paws, too. This helps to avoid tiny cuts and cracked pads. A little petroleum jelly may soften the pads and prevent further cracking.
- Don't leave your dog alone in the car. If the engine is left running, carbon monoxide could endanger your dog's life. If the engine is off, the temperature could get too cold.
- Antifreeze is highly poisonous. Although it smells and tastes good to your dog, it can be lethal.
- Rock salt, used to melt ice on sidewalks and roads, may irritate footpads. Be sure to rinse and dry your dog's feet after a walk.
- Provide plenty of fresh water at all times. Your dog is just as likely to get dehydrated in the winter as in the summer. Snow is not a substitute for water.
- Be careful of supplemental heat sources. Fireplaces and portable heaters can severely burn your dog. Make sure all fireplaces have screens and keep portable heaters out of reach.
- Like people, dogs seem to be more susceptible to illness in the winter. Take your dog to a veterinarian if you notice any signs of illness.



Topic this issue: Canine Dental Care

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.

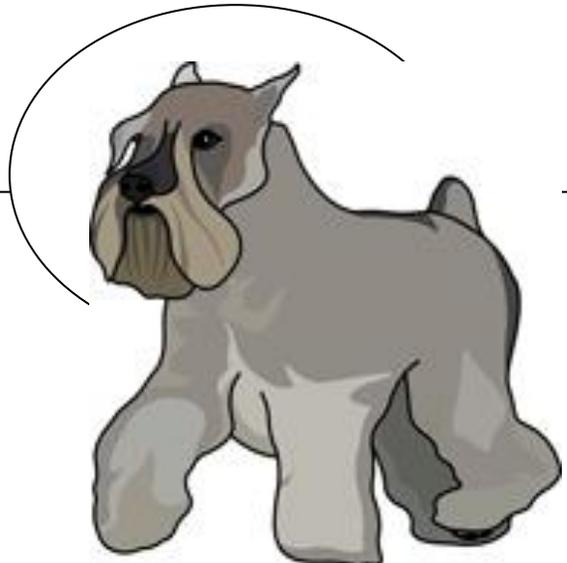
Professional cleanings make a big difference in a pet's oral health because they allow the vet to catch problems early and keep tartar at bay. Dogs under the age of 5 should receive an annual oral exam, and older dogs should be on a six-month schedule. The frequency of professional cleaning will depend 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.

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.

Brush My Teeth, please!



In Memory – Laurese Katen



Our club lost a dear friend last month. Laurese Katen was a devoted mother, wife, and friend to us all and countless miniature schnauzers over the years. Laurese was 97 and still active in our club as well as the Women's Club of Silver Spring. She was a founding member of the Mt. Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club in the early 1950's. Her legacy will live on through her friends, family and the mini schnauzers that go back to the Mai-Laur line. She will be missed.

In 2007, *Beard n' Brows* interviewed Laurese as part of a continuing series to spotlight our members. We thought a reprint might spark a fond memory of our friend.

In 75 words or less, a short biography (about you, not your MS(s)).

I was born in Maryland, on the eastern Shore, to wonderful parents. I was an only child and grew up with dogs... a St. Bernard and collie in my younger years and later I had an airedale, a smooth fox terrier, and a chow. I was very athletic in high school and college, particularly tennis. My interest grew into books, music, and writing, and at the University of Maryland I specialized in advertising and this made my career in radio. I won't bore you with early details of marriage, a divorce and one child. Then I met and married Frank, who many of you knew. He was well liked in the dog show world. (He passed away seven years ago.)

How and when did you become interested in MSs? Tell us about how you got your first MS.

A gal from Ohio moved to Maryland and also was in advertising. She told me she had a miniature schnauzer and since my chow had died I wanted something different. She said there was a dog show at the D.C. Armory (National Capital K.C.) the following week so off we went. I met Marie Slatterly, Gene Simmonds, Marguerite Jones and others. There was a nice entry that weekend to check out the breed. I fell in love with them and in talking with Ms. Jones she said she had a nice 6 month old male who could be shown. The following week I visited her home in Kensington, Maryland, and purchased Minquas Magnet. I learned to groom and handled him to his championship – my first show dog – and I am still doing it.

Number of miniature schnauzers you've owned?

From the time I got my first MS until now, I have owned about 40, and most of these were champions.

What sets your MS(s) apart from all others?

I am sure my MSs are like those of other good breeders – see them in the show ring and compare.

Favorite breed other than MS? May also include feline and equine friends.

It has to be the chow-chow. I really loved the one I had except for the hair shedding.

Tell us something we don't know about you and your MS(s).

For 14 years I went to the dog shows in Bermuda. One year I took a bitch, Mai-Laur Obiana who got her Bermuda championship. This was a lot of fun but I never showed again in Bermuda – just enjoyed the shows and the sights. If you have never gone to Bermuda in November to the dog shows, I recommend it.



Laurese (second from left) in 1962 at the MVMSC Specialty



Laurese receiving her 25 year AMSC pin at the National Specialty show during Montgomery County weekend from AMSC President John Constantine, October, 2007



Photo taken in 1980's



Photo taken Dec. 2006

In loving memory

Beard 'n Brows

Newsletter of the Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club
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