



Beard 'n Brows

May / June 2020

Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club, serving Maryland, Virginia & Washington, DC since 1955

“Celebrating the spirit of the Miniature Schnauzer”

Letter to Our Members

There have been many articles in the past few months about things to do with your favorite canine companions. Hiking, more play time, couch time and various training subjects have all been topics of discussion. Dealing with separation once some of us return to work has also been discussed. On the other hand, some of our dogs have felt a little disconnected if they were used to visiting places outside of home, such as nursing homes or training facilities. So.... how have they been entertaining themselves?

I know my own dogs are highly entertained by the squirrels in the yard, and even more so, when I tell them how they look like rats! Most miniature schnauzers love going to a barn hunt and searching for rats, and it only took once for my crew to associate the word "rat" with a rat once they experienced the sport.

Another fun activity we've been doing to cure a few minutes of boredom is to take small pieces of carrot and apple, hide them, and then tell my dogs to find it! That is essentially what nosework/scentwork is all about! They love to use their noses!

This time at home also gives us the opportunity to experiment with some activities to see what our dogs might enjoy, and time to think about how to go about getting involved. It might be a nice reward and something for our dogs to look forward to when many owners return to work and aren't at home as much with them. As you're probably already

aware, for the runners/chasers, there's Fast Cat. For the ones who love to jump, run and play, there's agility, and for the ones who thrive on pleasing and obeying, there's obedience/rally. We didn't even mention other sports such as dock diving, for the water lovers.

In the future, be on the lookout for webinars featuring some of our popular sports that our little buddies LOVE!!

So in the mean time, enjoy your extra time with our special friends/family members, and look forward to what the future might hold!

Leslie Cromer
Vice President



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2019 - 2020 MVMSC Board of Directors and Committee Chairs:

Shawne Imler, President: shawne698@gmail.com

Leslie Cromer, Vice President: lesliecromer@aol.com

Kelly Radcliffe, Secretary and Webmaster: schnzrsrule@comcast.net

Barbara Donahue, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Membership Chair: barbaramd_2000@yahoo.com

Rich Edwards, Director and AMSC Delegate: lones-tarms@verizon.net

Paul Tibbs, Director, Trophy and Show Chair: schnauzermom@hotmail.com

will also. The other possibility is the show will not be open to the public, or that only owners and handlers will be able to attend. And if the show is held as scheduled, we may not be able hold our annual luncheon. If any decisions are made that affect our specialty or our members' attendance, we will let you know.

As always, we encourage all of our members to join us and attend not only the club specialty, but also our other shows. Many kennel and breed clubs are struggling with holding dog shows during the current COVID-19 pandemic, but all are doing their best to be back stronger than ever when it is safe.

Please Be Safe --
Paula Tibbs,
Show Committee Chair

FLASHBACK!



1962 MVMSC specialty photo showing Miniature Schnauzers from, left to right, Mae Dickerson - Delfin, Laurese Katon - Mai-Laur, Chadd Dickerson - Delfin, Ed Forman - Namerof and Nancy Ackerman - Rik-Rak Miniature Schnauzers.

MVMSC 2020 Specialty Announcement

Our club Specialty is currently calendared for October 10, 2020 as part of the Catonsville Kennel Club at the Howard County Fair Grounds. As of this writing the show is continuing as scheduled; however, Catonsville Kennel Club has suggested we advise our members that many shows have been cancelled and there is a possibility their show

2020 Schedule

Member Events

Notice: All in-person member events are temporarily suspended during government mandated social isolation.

6/25/2020 - Canine Massage Facebook Webinar by Terri Eyer, Topline Canine Sports Massage, 12:00 noon. Connect to the MVMSC FB page a few minutes prior to the start of the webinar.

10/10/2020 - MVMSC Specialty, Catonsville Kennel Club Dog Show at Howard County (MD) Fairgrounds with club luncheon, member awards presentation, elections, and silent auction following the show.

Board Meetings

Held the last Monday of the month at 8 pm via conference call. Members may attend; contact the secretary for dial-in information.

Nominating Committee Volunteers are Needed! This requires 5 or less hours of your time. Contact Shawne Imler.



Rubbed the Right Way- Canine Massage Demonstration

12:00 Noon, Thurs., June 25, 2020 MVMSC Facebook Webinar for MVMSC Members

The COVID-19 pandemic has many people stressed and anxious. And those emotions are easily transferred from us to our canine companions. So join us on June xx, 2020 at TIME X on the MVMSC Facebook page to learn how you can help your dogs (and other animals) feel better, now and in the future.

Terri Eyer, founder of Topline Canine Sports Massage in Washington, D.C., and a long time Miniature Schnauzer owner, will be presenting a MVMSC member exclusive Face-



book webinar. She will share information about the benefits of canine massage while providing a demonstration. Terri has competed with her dogs in many performance venues and became interested in canine massage to help her dogs in their performance journey.

Canine massage therapy is a form of alternative therapy that promotes a dog's health. It is proven that the touch given to a dog through massage can improve not only a dog's physical but also its emotional well-being. While your dog enjoys being rubbed and petted, canine massage takes contact to a new level. Massages are great for dogs who suffer from pain, nervousness, anxiousness and hyperactivity.

Much as in humans, massage therapy for animals has been shown to assist with

- Relaxation - relieve muscular tension and spasms
- Increased oxygenation of the blood
- Pain relief - activate sensory receptors and reduce trigger point pain
- Improved flexibility - increase range of motion and reduce post surgery or injury scar tissue
- Improved immune system and increased lymphatic circulation
- Reduced age-related issues including aiding in digestion and relieving intestinal gas
- Reduced arthritis and hip dysplasia discomfort
- Relieve muscle tension, soreness, and spasms while toning weak muscles

Terri and Topline Canine Sports Massage can be contacted at (301) 305-8479. Or, visit the website toplinecaninemassa.wixsite.com/website for additional information on scheduling an appointment.

Bone Broth Gummy Treats

Check out this cool two ingredient recipe! Bone broth has many nutritional benefits for dogs and can be made at home or purchased - here is a fun way to incorporate broth into your dogs treat rotation.

Ingredients:

- 1 cup plain homemade (or ready-made unsalted unseasoned) bone broth or chicken stock
- 3 tbsp quality powdered gelatin



Instructions:

Measure cold broth into a small pan. Sprinkle the surface with gelatin powder and let sit for approximately five minutes or longer for the gelatin powder to bloom/gel.

Gently stir the mixture over low heat until the gelatin is completely dissolved. Take care not to shortcut with high temperatures or overheat, as this can reduce the setting strength of your gelatin.

Remove from heat and pour into a glass pan (cut and slice) or silicone molds (shapes). Chill to set. Store in the refrigerator.

*Remember to always check with your vet if your pet is on a restricted diet.

AKC Rally Novice Virtual Pilot Program

Being confined to home during hte Covid-19 pandemic is a good time to do some fun things with your Schnauzer. Don't tell them, but fun things includes training! AKC recently introduced the Rally Novice virtual pilot program that provides registered dogs the ability to earn a Rally Novice (RN) title. All that is required is to submit videos of three runs from the five available courses. Rally signs are available to print from the AKC site and you can train at home.

Check out more info here:

<https://www.akc.org/sports/rally/rally-virtual-entry-pilot/>



Rally exercises demonstrate an understanding of basic obedience commands and capabilities. This Covid-19 masked handler and her 9 month old MS puppy in these photographs have submitted three videos and are awaiting news on having earned their AKC Rally Novice title.

Five Basic Exercises Essential to Building Core Strength; No Equipment Required

Keeping your dogs core strength is important. Good core strength makes it possible for a dog to stand on a grooming table for several hours a day at a conformation show. Or for a dog doing sports to have proper form when gliding over a jump. But it is equally important for our family pet dog that races around the yard and goes on hikes or for walks around the neighborhood. The below was posted on November 29, 2015 on the TotoFit blog. TotoFit designs and sells excellent products. But know that when it is mentioned to use K9 Kore Disks and Infinity, you can also use old telephone books wrapped in duct tape or inverted large rubber water bowls available at Tractor Supply Company)

Starting your dog's Core/Balance Fitness program with NO EQUIPMENT!*

RULES to REMEMBER:

1. **Do no harm – no pain during and after exercise**
2. **Everything needs to be positive**
3. **Everything needs to be safe**

1: Stand for Ten Seconds

Standing for ten seconds without sitting, shifting weight or moving is the first basic exercise in your dog's core strengthening program. Your dog should be encouraged to stand squarely with approximately sixty to seventy percent of their weight on their front legs and approximately thirty to forty percent of his/her weight on the back legs. Standing square for ten seconds to start will begin to focus on your dogs' balance, core, and proprioception. Some dogs will not be able to stand for up to ten seconds, but can work up to it – try five seconds and build on that. This should be initiated on the floor and advanced by increasing time. As the dog builds core strength, this can be performed on the K9 Kore Disk and Infinity.



2: Stand with Head Lifts Up and Head Lifts Down

While the dog is standing, he/she should be able to stand squarely and lift their head up and down. This exercise should be performed without sitting or lying down. When the dog looks up while standing, the weight is shifted onto the rear legs and this will increase the strength and awareness of the rear legs. When the dog looks down, the dog will increase the weight on the front legs and increase the strength and awareness of the front legs. This may be progressed with increased repetitions and varying surfaces. These activities may be performed on Infinity's and K9 Kore Disks.

3: Sit-to-Stand

Sit-to-stand is a key component in canine conditioning. A dog should be encouraged to sit with a nice tight sit without the legs kicking out to the sides. Some dogs may easily be able to do this without too much prompting. Other dogs may need some encouragement to tighten their sit. Start this with repetitions of up to five. This exercise may be incorporated into every day activities, such as asking for five sit-to-stands before eating dinner or going outside. The number of repetitions may be increased as the dog is able. In addition, this exercise may be per-

formed on a variety of surfaces such as the Infinities and the K9 Kore Disks for larger dogs and Wedges for smaller dogs.

4: Walking Backwards

Walking backwards is a core muscle activity that every dog should be able to perform. It assists with balance and proprioception of the hindlimbs, as well as the rest of the body. You will find many dogs 'get stuck' if they are caught in a tight surface – for example – between a couch and a coffee table. Some figure it out, but some dogs struggle. My own dog often tries to turn around before he realizes he knows how to step backwards! Walking backwards is a relatively simple exercise but may take some dogs longer to master than others!

To start this exercise, choose an area with good footing to prevent slipping or tripping over objects. For example, a matted or carpeted surface works nicely. Tile floors or vinyl floors are often too slippery to start with and may cause the dog problems negotiating the floor.

There are many instructional videos on YouTube that can help you teach your dog how to walk backwards using positive methods, but the goal is for the hindlimb to move backward first.

This sounds a lot easier than it actually is. As the dog progresses, the goal will be to increase the distance the dog travels, but as we are increasing the quantity we want to make sure we are maintaining the quality, as well. The dog should be walking straight backwards and not veering off to one side or the other. Some dogs move as if they require an 'alignment.' In actuality, this may be indicative of a weakness on one side or a balance deficit. You can work with this by asking them to walk down a narrow hallway, set up two exercises, or two gates to narrow the path. As the dog continues to feel more comfortable taking steps backwards, begin to perform this activity throughout the day.

K9 Core Disks or Wedges may be added to increase the intensity of the exercise, along with increased repetitions and steps.

5: Side Stepping – Lateral movement

Side stepping is another basic beginner core exercise that can be advanced on varying levels. Stepping sideways works on the large muscles on the inside and outside of the legs, specifically the adductors and the abductors that help move the limbs away from and towards the midline of the dog's body. This activity will also focus on body balance and proprioception, as well as assist with coordination.

You may notice your dog is able to step in one direction more confidently than the other. Try to work on both sides to develop equality on a flat surface. Once the dog is able to take steps symmetrically, the distance may be increased. To further increase the challenge, different surfaces may be utilized to work on lateral or side stepping. For example, this may be performed on grass, sand, another textured surface or on an incline/decline. In addition, the K9 Core Disk and/or Wedges may be used to add increased difficulty.

I'll talk about SAFETY next time.

Keeping it Simple,

Dr. Debbie 

Dr. Debbie Gross Torraca has been involved in the field of canine physical rehabilitation and conditioning for over twenty years. She began her career in human sports medicine and quickly made the transformation to canine physical rehabilitation and sports medicine. She began with a BS at Boston University, and then obtained an advanced MS from Quinnipiac College and a doctorate at the University of Tennessee. She is also a Certified Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner, and one of the founders of the University of Tennessee Canine Rehabilitation Practitioner program.

Preventing Canine Herpes / Fading Puppy Syndrome in Your Kennel, AKC Breeder Ed

Canine herpes virus, more commonly known as fading puppy syndrome, can be a devastating disease if it hits your kennel.

Dogs typically become exposed by nose to nose contact with an infected dog or through the air in crowded areas. Dogs at highest risk for the virus are young females who've never been exposed and their newborn **puppies**. Puppies can be infected in utero, through exposure to infected secretions of the dam, or through postnatal exposure to infected older members of the household dogs and/or kennel.

In dogs older than 12 weeks, mild respiratory disease is the most common clinical sign. But infections occurring in pregnant dams, who have not been exposed, can cause severe problems for the puppies, including fetal death and abortion.

Infection in puppies less than 2 to 3 weeks of age is usually fatal. Signs include trouble breathing, discharge from the nose, not nursing, persistent crying and hemorrhage (red spots) on the gums. The time from when the puppy is initially infected until it shows symptoms is four to six days, and the onset is sudden. After clinical signs arise, death usually occurs in 24 to 36 hours. Some puppies with mild signs may survive but can later develop serious neurological issues, such as trouble walking and blindness. Unfortunately, treatment in severely infected puppies is not rewarding, as there is almost a 100% mortality rate.

The best medicine for this virus is prevention. Since the virus is spread primarily by air and direct contact with nasal secretions, sanitation is an important part of prevention. Good hand hygiene should be used by anyone handling the mother and her puppies. Crowded conditions should be avoided. Keep the dam's and puppies' area clean and disinfected. Common disinfectants are effective in destroying the herpes virus.

For the last three weeks of gestation, pregnant females should be kept separate from other dogs in the family/kennel. Mother and puppies also should be kept separate for the first three weeks after birth. This is to prevent exposure to dogs who may carry the virus but do not show signs. Rearing the litter in temperatures greater than 95 degrees may also reduce losses in exposed litters.

A vaccine has been developed in Europe, but the benefits are still not known, and the vaccine is not licensed for the United States.

Puppies nursing from bitches that have previously been exposed to the virus are resistant to infection as they receive antibodies from colostrum. After a bitch has lost a litter due to herpes virus, she can be expected to have normal subsequent litters.

With the proper knowledge and prevention, this deadly virus can be avoided in your [breeding program](#).

Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 30, 2020

Approved by the Board of Directors on June 1, 2020.

Board members participating: Leslie Cromer, Barbara Donahue, Rich Edwards, Shawne Imler, Kelly Radcliffe, and Paula Tibbs

Call to Order (Shawne): President Shawne Imler called the meeting to order at 08:13 PM.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: Kelly Radcliffe MOVED for approval of the February 24, 2020 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Rich Edwards and passed unanimously.

President's Report (Shawne): The AKC has announced the cancellation and/or rescheduling of all types of shows until August. Some clubs are looking for alternate dates and locations; some clubs are inviting others to participate in their shows. It's difficult to say what will happen with shows even as late as October.

Treasurer's Report (Barbara): Our website provider, WIX, was paid on March 20. There are no other outstanding bills.

As of today, the club has a balance of \$6,113.93 in our General Fund, \$829.37 in our Trophy Fund, and \$1,217.50 in our Rescue Fund, for a total balance of \$8,160.80.

Secretary's Report (Kelly): Nothing new to report.

Application(s) for Membership (Kelly): None.

Election of New Member(s) (Shawne): None.

Committee Reports

1. Committee Reports Policy Reminder (Kelly): Committee chairs are reminded to provide the secretary with a written report prior to each meeting. The board issued a policy requiring that these written reports be incorporated in the board meeting agenda.
2. Delegate to the American Miniature Schnauzer Club (Rich) – The next AMSC board meeting is scheduled for April 1 via conference call. Nothing new to report.
3. Membership Committee (Barbara): No new member applications have been received. It's a good time for me to work on updating the membership application to include the

Club's Code of Ethics and e-mail communications information. Once done, the revised form will be presented to the board for review and approval (likely our next meeting).

- a. Member Awards: Shawne asked that this topic be included on a future board meeting agenda. We will need to make a decision on the awards early in 2020 (March or so) in order to get things in place. Tatiana Myers is on board for doing something within the budget that we set. The other option would be to go to a typical engraver and come up with something that they could add onto but that didn't seem to be of interest when we discussed it earlier. Barbara MOVED that the board agree to using artwork from Tatiana Myers for the member wards for 2020. Kelly seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
4. Rescue Committee (Barbara and Kelly): Nothing new to report.
5. Show Committee (Paula): No report.
6. Trophy Committee (Paula): No report. The board discussed options for other supported entries in place of Warrenton, which we are no longer supporting, and Columbia Terrier, which was cancelled for this year. Paula Tibbs suggested that we hold only our specialty this year.

The board continued discussion on the idea of providing a trophy list and seeking sponsors from among our members. To do this, we need an accurate accounting of what has been spent for each of the trophies at each of our shows, including those that have been donated by Paula or other members. Paula mentioned that the board previously set a certain dollar amount that could be transferred from the club's General Fund to the Trophy Fund each year (\$300 - \$400), but couldn't recall when.

Paula agreed to look through her files and provide the board with her out-of-pocket trophy costs for at least the past year; the board would like the costs broken out by show, if possible. Barbara Donahue will review the treasurer's files and provide the information to the board. Once we have a complete picture of what has been spent on trophies, the board will discuss and come up with a plan for funding future trophies.

Along with sponsorship of the trophies, the board discussed the AKC's requirement that trophy lists be provided to the host club about six months ahead of each show in order to include the trophy list in the premium list. With members sponsoring trophies, it's important that they be recognized for their donations in both the premium list and catalog. The board previously discussed the need for all information that's sent to the host clubs to also be shared with the board.

7. Newsletter Editor (Barbara): We will be publishing a March/April newsletter, and Shawne agreed to do a president's letter for that edition. It will be published in early April. Kelly was reminded to send the approved board meeting minutes to Barbara. Paula was asked if she was going to prepare a trophy fund letter; she wants to send the letter out with the member renewal forms. Barbara called again for photos that can be included in the newsletter. Rich and Sharon can provide some historical photos from the club.

Unfinished Business

1. 2020 Calendar/Meetings and Events: Kelly will update the list and post it to the board. All agreed that there is no point in pursuing any events we discussed for May.

2. Record retention policy (Kelly): A draft is in process and will be shared with the board for discussion.
3. Electronic records storage (Kelly): In the interest of time, this will be tabled until a future agenda.

New Business: None

Reminder: The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 27, 2020 at 08:00 PM.

Rich moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 PM. Barbara seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly M. Radcliffe
Secretary