



# TOPLINES

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2017

## TOPLINES

Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement. Nothing can be done without hope and confidence.—Helen Keller

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### Officers 2017

President: Mark Jaeger  
Vice Pres.: Sue Quinn  
Secretary: Donna Giles  
Treasurer: Sue Schauer

**THANK YOU!!!**

A big thank you to our previous editor, Joanne Forster. Joanne has published Toplines for the last 12 years!

## SARDS

### Sudden Acquired Retinal Degeneration Syndrome

Sudden Acquired Retinal Degeneration Syndrome (SARDS) is characterized by sudden vision loss in the dog. As the name implies, this disease affects the retina, which is the back part of the eye responsible for sending visual signals to the brain for interpretation. Due to an unknown cause, SARDS patients suddenly lose retinal function and become blind. There is subsequent degeneration or atrophy of the retina that can lead to other complications. In addition to a sudden loss of vision, many owners notice enlarged pupils, as well as, increased appetite and thirst. In all patients with acute vision loss, an electroretinogram (ERG) is recommended. This test allows for assessment of retinal function, and if the result is negative, it provides a definitive diagnosis of SARDS. An electroretinogram is a non-invasive test that involves placing a specialized contact lens on the surface of eyes that have been numbed with topical anesthetic drops. Some pets require tranquilization or light sedation to reduce move-

ment that can affect the results. After a period of dark adaptation, a standardized series of light flashes are created to stimulate the photoreceptors of the retina. The photoreceptors create an electrical signal that is detected by the contact lens and recorded by a computer. A normal retina produces a waveform, much like an EKG for the heart. In a SARDS patient, the normal electronic responses of the retina are extinguished and no waveform can be detected. In the early stage of the disease, the retina appears normal on ophthalmic examination. After a period of months, signs of degeneration of the retina can be observed on ophthalmic examination.

This syndrome most often occurs in middle-aged female spayed adult dogs. No breed is known to inherit the condition, but some breeds appear to be more susceptible than others – including dachshunds and miniature schnauzers. Affected animals are generally in good health, but as described above, some dogs may have a recent

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# Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

## LUNCH MEETING & AWARDS

**Sunday, February 19, 2017**

**@ Noon**

THE C-Pub (The Clansman Gaelic Pub)

in

***Olde World Canterbury Village***

***2325 Joslyn Ct. (I-75 and Joslyn area)***

***Lake Orion, MI 48360***

***<http://canterburyvillage.com/>***

***Phone Number:***

***(248) 391-1900 or (800) 442-XMAS***



**BUSINESS MEETING**– Immediately following Lunch

If you wish to discuss a matter, have your information ready. Committees, be ready with your reports. This will help keep time to a minimum

**RSVP to Lynn Baitinger at [otchmx@comcast.net](mailto:otchmx@comcast.net) or  
to the Yahoo Group by February 16th.**

**Directions:** From I-75 take Exit 83 North (Jocelyn Road) Just 3 miles from I-75

**GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!**

### Continued from page 1—SARDS

history of unexplained weight gain, lethargy, pacing, panting, increased appetite, increased consumption of water and/or increased urination. Blood work is recommended to rule out any systemic problems, such as a condition called Cushing's that is characterized by high blood cortisol. If affected dogs have systemic problems, an internal medicine consultation may be recommended. The etiology, or underlying cause, of SARDS is currently unknown; however, multiple laboratories are conducting research to find the cause. Possible theories for this syndrome include endocrine disorders, autoimmune disease, toxicity, infection, neoplasia, etc.

Unfortunately, there is currently no proven treatment or prevention for SARDS and the blindness it causes is irreversible. The good news is that SARDS is not a painful condition and that it does not reduce your dog's life expectancy. Many dogs adjust very well to being blind. It may take a few weeks to months for your dog to fully acclimate, but a recent publication reported that owners of dogs with SARDS find their pets to have a very good quality of life. Animals should also be monitored long-term complications, such as secondary cataract formation or glaucoma that can be painful. If signs of these conditions are seen, prophylactic medical therapy may be required. Safety precautions should be taken for all visually-impaired pets, particularly around swimming pools, stairs, roads, strange dogs, etc. There are many resources for owners with blind pets to help the owners adjust to living with blind dogs, as this condition can sometimes be more difficult for the owners than their dogs.

<http://www.eyecareforanimals.com/conditions/sudden-acquired-retinal-degeneration-syndrome-sards/>

## 2017 Calendar of Important Events

### February 19-

MSCM Meeting at THE C-Pub in Canterbury Village, Lake Orion

### April 29-

MSCM Dinner Meeting, Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, MI

### June 24-

MSCM Meeting @ Beth Santure's House

### July 28th-

MSCM Agility Trial, All Dogs Can, 2040 N. Lapeer Road, Lapeer, MI 48446

### August 12 or 13????-

MSCM Meeting

### September 29th-

MSCM Specialty, Monroe County Fairgrounds, Monroe, MI

### October 2-5-

All Terrier Agility Trials, Pennsylvania

### October 5-8-

Montgomery County Weekend, Pennsylvania

### October 21-

MSCM Meeting/Fun Match @ Canine Workshop, Fraser, MI

### December 9-

MSCM Meeting & Christmas Party , East Lansing, MI

The objective of the Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan is to advance the principals and scientific practices in the breeding of purebred Miniature Schnauzers; foster co-operation between breeder, owner, and veterinarian; encourage the exchange of information and experience among the club members and between show-giving clubs; to conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows and matches; and to encourage the adherence to the high standards of conduct and to the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club.



# BRAGS

# *Congratulations!*

Welcome to the MSCM our new members, Karla & Sara!

## CLUB NEWS:

Many Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan club members attended the MI Winter Classic Dog Shows in Novi on January 18-21, 2017. A big thank you to club members, Terri Harmon & Kelli Harmon, who participated in Meet The Breeds. Also, a thank you to club members who took the time to talk with spectators about our wonderful breed!

Congratulations to all the winners in the breed ring! As always, our agility & barn hunt minis had some great runs in both of those events. Hopefully, obedience & rally will return next year, so we can see minis in those events too.

### **Sercatep's Blue By You AX,AXJ,AXJ,RN,RATS!**

Kaia completed her barn hunt senior title at the Barn Hunt Buddies Trial on 11/26/16. Kaia earned 3 first places and one High In Class.

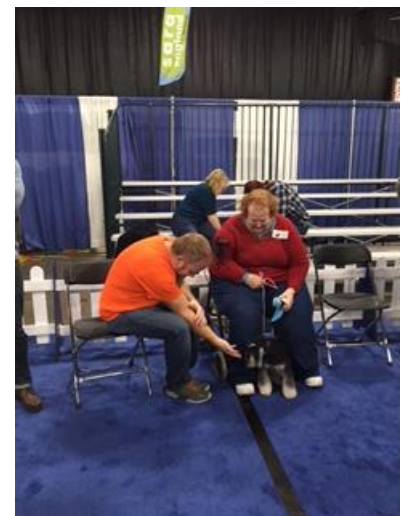
### **Multi CH Mythago's Royal Blue RATI**

Kayce showed at the Livonia/Oakland Cty KC shows on January 19-22. Kayce was awarded BOS & BOBOH on Thursday, earning 1 GCH point, under judge Mrs. Mary Lou Kniola. On Friday, Kayce was Select Dog & BOBOH, placing 4th in the Owner Handled group. Saturday, Kayce was BOB & BOBOH for his 2nd GCH major win under judge Jon Cole. Kayce also placed 4th in the Regular Group under judge, Mrs. Mary Lou Kniola. On Sunday, Kayce was again BOB & BOBOH under judge, Gerard Penta, for his 3rd GCH major win (5pts.) Thank you so much for all the club members & friends who stuck around to offer support. It just wouldn't have been the same without having people to share this with..people who understand that is!

Kaia & Kayce are owned by Lisa Martin

### **Jofor's No Rules CD,BN,RE,NAP,NJP,AJP,AXP, MJP "Chance"**

On December, 16, 2016, earned his AXP in agility at the Midland MI Agility Cub with a second place. On December 30, 2016 earned his MJP in agility at the Central MI Agility Club in Midland with another second place. Bred by Joanne Forster, Debbie Herrell, owned, loved, trained forever by Joanne McCallum.



**We're on the Web!**

**[www.miniatureschnauzerclubofmichigan.org](http://www.miniatureschnauzerclubofmichigan.org)**



## But He Always Does It Right At Home!

How many times have you heard someone say this at a competition when their dog faults an exercise or an obstacle? I've heard it many times, and I've said it myself more than once. One of the reasons our dogs often perform better at home is a principle of learning called generalization. It's so important to take the dog's perspective into account when training. If we can begin to understand how they view the world and how they learn, our training is bound to improve.

Generalization can be described as an extension of a concept (or behavior) from a familiar situation to a less familiar situation. For example, a dog may understand the cue "Sit" and do so promptly when asked at home. Since he has had lots of practice and has been rewarded for sitting at home in the past, this is a familiar situation. If this same dog were asked to sit outdoors, and had never been asked to do so in this environment before, there is a good chance he would not understand what is expected of him. The reason is that his behavior of sitting has not been generalized to the unfamiliar outdoor situation.

Dogs learn by association. They acquire new knowledge by making connections between events and sensory cues. Cues may be visual (hand signals, body language) and/or verbal. Learning is driven by cause-and-effect when responding to a cue results in a reward. As dogs learn and make decisions, they consider how similar or different the current situation is in comparison to what their past experience contains. Responding to the cue "Sit" at home where the dog is used to how things look, sound and smell is quite different from responding in a trial. As trainers, we need to get our dog used to recognizing and responding to our cues in as many different environments as possible.

Generalization can include a number of different variations in the training situation. Here are some examples:

**Location:** This includes the area training takes place in, and the presence of other objects or distractions. We need to practice in a number of different locations, gradually increasing the level of difficulty. A busy park with all of its enticing sights, sounds, and smells is going to be far more challenging than the very familiar and unexciting backyard. At first, you may need to lower the dog's reinforcement criteria when you make the location more challenging to help him succeed.

**The dog and trainer's physical position relative to one another:** Dogs learn features of their training environment very specifically, and need to be taught to expand what they've learned. This is why it's important to practice from different angles, body positions, and so on. Asking a dog to 'sit' while you stand in front of him or asking while sitting next to him may be two very different things to the dog. Also, make sure that you are giving your dog an adequate number of repetitions in each variation. Some dogs may need as many as 20-30 times.

**Presence of training equipment and aids:** Whether you are using a clicker or a treat pouch is important information that a dog will remember. It is important to gradually fade those tools out of the training. Practice without them to prevent your dog from assuming they need to be present at all times and becoming dependent upon them.

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Generalization will become easier and more natural for a dog over time as long as they are given the time and opportunity to practice what they have been taught in different environments and with different distractions.

If you expect your dog to do the weave poles correctly in a trial, practice in different training buildings, in parks, at other people's homes, around other dogs especially ones that are barking, with a radio blaring in the background, on different surfaces, etc. The teeter is another obstacle that needs to be practiced on as many different teeters and in as many different settings as you can. Teeters do not all tip at the same rate or move in the same way. A teeter on turf might not make much noise, but a teeter on rubber flooring can make a very loud "bang". To inexperienced dogs, a teeter looks a lot like the up ramp of a dogwalk. Imagine your surprise if you thought you were walking up a solid plank, and it suddenly dropped out from underneath you.

Give your dog the time he needs to not only learn a task, but to learn to perform it confidently in different situations. Remember that learning is not a linear process. We all have good days and bad days when learning something new. We need to allow our dogs to do the same. Enjoy the journey of training your dog. The quality of the journey is more important than simply arriving at your destination.

## SHOW CALENDAR

### Obedience & Rally 2017

March 4-5  
Collie Clubs  
Whitmore Lake, MI  
Closes 2-15

March 11-12 Obed & Rally  
St. Joe Valley Agility Club  
Buchanan, MI  
Closes 2-22

March 24-26 Obed & Rally  
CDTC  
Flint, MI  
Closes 3-8

April 1-2 Rally  
Kalamazoo KC  
Kalamazoo, MI  
Closes 3-15

April 6-8 Obed & Rally  
Saginaw Valley KC  
Birch Run, MI  
Closes 3-22

April 29-30 Obed  
Progressive Dog Club  
Birch Run, MI  
Closes 4-12

### Agility 2017

March 3-5  
Sportsmen's DTC  
Lapeer, MI  
Closes 2-15

March 10-12  
Oakland Cty KC  
Lapeer, MI  
Closes 2-15

March 17-19  
Kalamazoo KC  
Wyoming, MI  
Closes 3-3

March 24-26  
Central MI Agility Club  
Midland, MI  
Closes 3-10

March 31-April 2  
Mid MI Cocker  
Wyoming, MI  
Closes 3-17

April 7-9  
MI Boxer Club  
Dexter, MI  
Closes 3-24  
April 14-16

Siberian Husky Club  
Dexter, MI  
Closes 4-1

April 21-23  
Midland MI Kennel Club  
Midland, MI  
Closes 4-7

April 28-30  
AATC  
Ann Arbor, MI  
Closes 4-14

### Conformation 2017

April 8-9  
Saginaw Valley KC  
Birch Run, MI  
Closes 3-22

April 28-30  
TCM & Progressive  
Birch Run, MI  
Closes 4-12

**MINIATURE SCHNAUZER  
CLUB OF MICHIGAN**

### TOPLINES

is a bi-monthly publication

**January-February**

**March-April**

**May-June**

**July-August**

**September-October**

**November-December**

**Editor-Susan Quinn**