



TOPLINES

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2017

Just as a puppy can be more of a challenge than a gift, so too can the holidays.
John Clayton

TOPLINES
Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

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So Your Dog Is Reactive!

Reactive is the term coined by dog trainers and owners who own dogs that overreact to certain stimuli. It might be the sight of other dogs, people, kids, loud noises and chaos. **The dog's reaction to these stimuli is usually a bark and lunge type of behavior** that scares the pants off both the person or dog being barked at and the person holding the leash. Reactivity may be part of the dogs genetic make up or could be from a lack of social experience or a particularly scary experience.

Overall, dogs that are reactive can benefit from lots of training and remedial socialization and some simple management tools as well. If you own a dog like this take heart, there are many of us who share those embarrassing moments with you and through training (and lots of it) you will see the light at the end of the tunnel.

First of all realize that your dog's reactivity is not as unpredictable as you might originally think. Most dogs who exhibit this behavior problem do so in specific circumstances. Your dog's trigger might be the close proximity of other dogs, or only male dogs or only female dogs. Maybe you've noticed that it only happens on leash, or when there are toys, food or other resources around. Maybe your dog overreacts to men with beards or people wearing hats, or toddlers who reach for him. Whatever the instance the first step towards getting the problem under control is to try to isolate all the areas in which your dog reacts and write them down. This will not only make the problem far less unpredictable but will give you information on where to start your training program.

Once you have all the places, times and circumstances down you can then decide where you want to begin. Look at your list and decide which of the instances is the most important for you to gain better control over your dog. If your dog is nervous and reactive around young children and there are several in your neighborhood you might **start with kids. Someone else's dog may react to dogs on leash and because they are constantly bumping into other dog owners on their walks they might consider this a top priority.**

Now that you have identified where to begin here are some tools you'll need to make your program a success.

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Officers 2017
President: Mark Jaeger
Vice Pres.: Sue Quinn
Secretary: Donna Giles
Treasurer: Sue Schauer



MSCM Christmas Party

Saturday, December 9, 2017



Coral Gables Restaurant
2838 E. Grand River Avenue
East Lansing, MI
Ph. (517)337-1311



Dinner, Business Meeting,
Election of Officers & Christmas Party
with Gift Exchange

For the Gift Exchange
bring a wrapped gift
marked for a lady or
man. Limit \$12



Dinner at 4:00 pm.

Open Menu

Business Meeting

and Party to follow!

As Always, Guests are Welcome!!

Please RSVP by E-mail or call
Karin Jaeger to let her know that you are coming (or post to the list)
(karinjaeger@voyager.net) (517-351-0412)

Directions: Take I-96 to Exit 110 (Okemos Rd.) Go North on Okemos Rd. to M-43 (Grand River Ave.) Businesses on that corner include: Bennigan's Restaurant, Marathon Gas Station, BP/Amoco Station. Turn Left on to M-43 (Grand River). After the bridge over the railroad tracks, there is a traffic light at Park Lake Rd. and another at Northwind Dr. (there's a Farmer Jack's on the southwest corner of the intersection). Coral Gables entrance is the 4th on the right following this light (after Tom's Party Store, a Hollywood Video & the new Oriental Market). If you get to the Brookfield Shell gas station, you've gone too far.

From the North: From Business 69 left onto Park Lake Rd. Right (East) onto M-43 (Grand River Ave.) Follow directions from there as detailed above.



Club News:

Our October Meeting was held at the Canine Workshop in Fraser, MI. Agility and Rally courses were available to practice on. Also, our puppy fun match was revived after a few years off. Thanks to Karin Jaeger for judging and Debbie Herrell for handling entries & prizes. The handlers & puppies enjoyed their practice time!



2017 Calendar of Important Events

November 30–

MSCM Membership expires today, if dues are unpaid

December 9-

MSCM Meeting & Christmas Party , East Lansing, MI

2017 MSCM Annual Awards

If you have a new 2017 AKC Champion or Obedience title winner, please send the following information to Lynn Baitinger:

1. The complete name of the dog with all of it's titles exactly as they are to be engraved
2. The name and date of the show that the dog finished at
3. The name (s) of all of the dog's owners

Please send your information to Lynn by January 15, 2018

Lynn Baitinger
5400 Orion Rd.
Rochester, MI 48306




DANBURY MINT SCHNAUZER
XMAS TREE
at the December Meeting.
Tickets still available

We're on the Web!

www.miniatureschnauzerclubofmichigan.org

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The Right Equipment

As many of you who have taken classes with us are aware I am a big fan of the gentle leader head collars. Dogs who are reactive should have one of these on at all times when they are out walking. Not only do these collars give you much more control, but they offer the dog a sense of security as well. By guiding the dog by its head you are able to give him a lot more information without injury or correction. If your dog, no matter how big or how small starts to react to someone or something, you have the option of turning and leading your dog away safely and preventing anything bad from happening. It does take time to introduce this piece of equipment and if you need assistance in introducing it directions can be obtained at our training center. A second piece of equipment you will need is a clicker and treats. The click should mark any moment when your dog is in the presence of the stimuli but is not reacting to it. You should be reinforcing generously any other behavior other than reactivity in order for the dog to learn an alternate way to behave.

A Good Shaping Plan

No one gets very far without knowing a little bit about what they want and where they are going. You've already written down where and when your dog is overreactive, now you must decide what you want your dog to do instead. If you don't define your goal in terms of what you want your dog to do instead you will not be able to reward your dog for choosing it rather than reacting. Identifying the rewardable behavior is the key to any successful shaping plan. Once you have set a goal you now must sit down with paper and a pen and break it down into trainable steps. For instance if my dog reacts to dogs on leash my goal might be to have him look at me when he sees another dog. **To get to that end goal I'm going to have to break his training down into lots of little tiny rewardable steps.** I might teach him a leave it command which means stop what you are doing (looking at the other dog) and look back at me. I will have to start this in the absence of other dogs at first because that situation is too distracting for him, and later build other dogs into the plan. I might teach a leave it in my hand, then on the floor, then thrown at a distance. I might start off with food leave its, then graduate to tissue, socks and toys, people and dogs at a great distance (more than 20 feet away). As the dog showed that he could be successful at this I would then gradually decrease that distance until the dog could leave another dog in close proximity. By mapping out all the steps I would have a clear plan for achieving my goal of a dog that looks back at me when he sees other dogs. You need to be this specific (and in some cases even more so) for each instance that you want to train.

A Simple Tool For Under Socialized Dogs

Targeting is a behavior that we can use to build up confidence in dogs that are afraid of certain types of people or unfamiliar objects. This behavior involves the dog touching his nose to the palm of your hand for a click and treat. You start off with a food treat in the palm of your hand with your thumb holding it in place. Click your dog for bumping his nose to your hand and give up the treat. After six repetitions remove the treat from your palm and repeat the same thing again, this time the dog is bumping your hand for the click, but the treat is coming from your pocket or bait pouch. Repeat this until the dog is really enthusiastic, then start moving your target hand so that your dog must follow it for a step or two in order to touch it.

Change position, repeat the whole thing while in a standing or kneeling position, in a different room, around a distraction. When the dog is readily offering the behavior in all different positions, go ahead and add another person to the game. This part is easy, the other person sits close to you and you take turns offering your hands for a nose bump, clicking and treating each repetition. Start with a food lure in the new persons hand for the first couple of reps until your dog starts to catch on to the game. Once he seems to understand it, start moving away from each other so that the dog has to run back and forth between the two of you. Gradually transfer the touch to objects by holding your hand near the new object until he is bumping the object instead of your hand and then start putting distance slowly between you and the object. This tool is invaluable when retraining a dog who spooks aggressively or fearfully in the presence of strangers or new objects.

Owning a reactive dog is not easy, there are limits on where you go, and what time of day you go there. You may choose to do more management and less training by keeping your reactive dog home and not taking him out in public much. There are dogs that blossom with training and generalize it easily and dogs that need training for every little detail of each new situation. Whatever you decide, realize that reactive dogs are responding emotionally to whatever stimulus is present and no amount of yelling or correction will ever help them be better. Being your dogs advocate by using the right equipment to control him, providing as much training as you can and keeping him safe are your most important responsibilities. At any point if you feel your dog is beyond reactive, that he is truly dangerous or has bitten people or got in fights with other dogs, seek the help of a qualified professional in implementing the appropriate training program for your dogs problem.



Winter Is Coming—Things You Can Do With Your Dog Indoors In a Small Space

It's that time of year again. The leaves have fallen, nights are getting colder and snow is just around the corner, if not already here. We all start looking for activities we can do indoors with our performance dogs. It can be a challenge to keep them physically and mentally active and fit, burn off some energy and have fun. Here are a few things you can do with your dog in a small amount of space that will also enhance your agility training.

Sticky Feet

This exercise is great for proofing the 2o2o position and add value to remaining in that position with distractions. You can use a travel board, a fit bone, or anything that is at least an inch or two raised above floor level and relatively stable. Ask your dog to get in the 2o2o position at one end of the object. Click/treat. Hold a treat in front of your dog and slowly pull your hand away a small amount. If your dog holds the 2o2o position, click/treat. Continue to slowly lure your dog forward, a bit more each time, always rewarding after every increment of distance. Once your dog understands the value of keeping his hind feet in the 2o2o position, see how far your dog will stretch toward the treat while keeping his hind feet on the object. This game is also a fun way to get your dog to stretch as part of a warm up routine.

Find Your Leash

This one is really handy if your dog gets the zoomies after an agility run, or simply doesn't like having a leash put on. Start with the leash in your hand. Wait for your dog to make any movement toward the leash, even if he simply looks at it. Click/treat. Then, wait for him to make move a little closer toward the leash. Click/treat. Continue in this manner until your dog offers to touch the leash with his nose. Click/treat. As interacting with the leash becomes a valuable activity, you can start hiding it and let him find it and touch it with his nose. Give the behavior a verbal cue, and before long, he will run to find his leash at the end of an agility run instead of giving you the run around.

Directional Circling

Start with your dog standing facing you. With a treat in your right hand, slowly lure your dog in a counter clockwise circle. Click/treat. Start with rewarding after small increments of movement and gradually build up to having the dog do a complete circle returning to face you. Alternate with asking your dog to do a clockwise circle with the treat in your left hand. Once your dog understands the basic concept, start showing the same motion with your hand without a treat in it. Click/treat when he responds. This starts the transition from actively luring the movement to just giving the physical cue to turn. You can also add a verbal cue at this point. I like to keep it simple and use "right" and "left" for the verbal turning cues. Once your dog will readily circle with just a verbal cue, you can proof his understanding by randomly alternating the direction you want him to circle. For example, ask for a right turn, than a left tuirn, than another left turn, then a right turn, etc. Having a verbal turning cue can be very helpful when you get behind on an agility course and need to cue a turn with your dog well ahead of you.

Hind Foot Targeting

Start by teaching your dog to back up on command. Have your dog standing facing you. At this point there are many ways to teach a dog to back up. You can wait for your dog to move a foot and click/treat, gradually building up to actually backing up. You can lean in toward your dog and see if he will move backwards as you lean into his space. You can lure backwards motion by moving a treat toward his chest. Once your dog understands the concept of backing up on cue, place something on the floor behind him. A piece of rubber mat or low pile carpet works well. Ask him to back up and click/treat when he puts a hind foot on the object. Continue to work on this until he will step on the object with both hind feet and stop. This is a fairly complex behavior and takes time to train. The increased awareness and control over the hind feet make it worth the effort.

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Enjoy the chance to spend quality time with your dog training some fun skills this winter. If you are looking for some fun and challenging training opportunities in 2018 here are two that I highly recommend:

1. The 2018 Living Room Agility Project. This will be offered by Lori Michaels in a private Facebook group. It will start in January and run for three months. Lori will provide lots of fun and helpful exercises and training that you can do indoors in a small space. She will include a video demonstration of each one and participants can ask questions, share in discussions and post video of their dog(s) for Lori's review. If anyone is interested, contact me at ja.scott@comcast.net and I'll send you information on joining the group as soon as it is available.
2. The 2018 Agility Challenge. This will be offered by Daisy Peel on a private webpage. It will also start in January and run for 12 months. Every month there will be challenges on handling, training and both human and canine conditioning. Here's a synopsis from Daisy: "There are a few things that will be different and better in 2018 - one of which is that EVERY Challenge Team Member will receive a 15-minute private consultation with me, and will have the option of working with me privately throughout the year for coaching and private one-on-one instruction. The Challenge will have its own website - <http://www.agilitychallenge2018.com> - and it's shaping up to be pretty cool. We're going to have League Play (online competitions!) and some other cool features, in addition to monthly and weekly challenges similar to last year. The theme of this upcoming year is going to be joyful and deliberate practice!" The website includes an option to sign up for notification when enrollment opens.

SHOW CALENDAR

Breed/Obed/Rally

2017 Jan.13-14 Rally CDTC Flint, MI Closes 12-27	Jan.12-14 Wolverine Belgian Terv Club Midland, MI Closes 12-29
Jan.18-21 Breed/Obed/Rally Livonia/Oakland Cty KC Closes 1-3	Jan. 18-21 OCKC Novi, MI Closes 1-7
Feb.23-25 Obed Sportsmen's DTC Warren, MI Closes 2-7	Jan. 25-28 Weimaraner Club Lapeer, MI Closes 1-11

Agility

Dec.29-Jan.1 Central MI Agility Club Midland, MI Closes 12-15	Feb. 2-4 CCDAC Lapeer, MI Closes 1-19
Jan.5-7 CCDAC Lapeer, MI Closes 12-22	Feb. 2-4 Grand Rapids Agility Club Wyoming, MI Closes 1-29

Feb.9-10
Midland MI KC
Midland, MI
Closes 1-26

Feb. 16-18
Central MI Agility Club
Midland, MI
Closes 2-2

Feb.23-25
CCCAC
Lapeer, MI
Closes 2-10

MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB OF MICHIGAN

TOPLINES

is a bi-monthly publication

January-February

March-April

May-June

July-August

September-October

November-December

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.