



TOPLINES

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2018

TOPLINES

Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

What keeps me going is goals.

Muhammad Ali

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Officers 2018

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Bladder Stones in Dogs: What are Signs and How to Best Treat Them

By Jennifer Coates, DVM

Some of the most dramatic X-rays I show clients are those that reveal the presence of large stones in their dog's bladder. Until they see the X-rays, many of these folks are a little annoyed at their dog. This isn't unreasonable, considering the dog often has accidents in the house or needs to go outside on an hourly basis. However, after seeing the X-rays, most owners are shocked that their dog hasn't been acting even sicker.

What are the Signs of Bladder Stones in Dogs?

Bladder stones start out small but over time can grow in number and/or size. Dogs with bladder stones typically have some or all of the following symptoms:

- Urinary accidents
- Frequent attempts to urinate without producing much urine
- Straining to urinate
- Discolored urine

- Licking around the urinary opening
- These clinical signs can be seen with other diseases affecting the urinary tract (infections or tumors, for example), so the diagnosis of bladder stones has to be confirmed with either an X-ray or ultrasound.

How are Bladder Stones Formed and Treated?

Bladder stones are a collection of minerals and other materials. Most bladder stones in dogs are made from struvite, calcium oxalate, urate, or cystine crystals. In many cases, the specific type of crystal involved can be seen in a sample of urine viewed under the microscope.

If struvite is the diagnosis, a veterinarian will treat the underlying cause (e.g., antibiotics for urinary tract infections) and may recommend a therapeutic diet that will dissolve the stones and crystals. Dogs prescribed antibiotics will typically use the drugs while consuming the therapeutic dog food, and possibly longer if needed. Surgery or other procedures like lithotripsy (breaking up the stones with ultrasonic

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Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

LUNCH MEETING & AWARDS

Sunday, February 4, 2018

@ 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 or
to the Yahoo Group by February 1st**

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

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!

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shock waves) will be necessary to get the stones out of the bladder. The therapeutic diet for dissolving struvite stones, however, must be given under a veterinarian's supervision. This is because they are formulated to make the dog produce more acidic urine than they would otherwise in order to break down the stone. If urinary acidification is taken too far, calcium oxalate stones can be the result.

What's the Best Way to Prevent Bladder Stones in Dogs?

Once the stones are gone, diet plays an important role in preventing their return. Manufacturers have formulated special foods that deter the formation of struvite, calcium oxalate, urate, and cystine crystals. Encouraging water intake is also important since crystals are less likely to form in dilute urine. For this reason, many veterinarians recommend the canned versions of these foods over the dry.

Because diets designed to prevent bladder stones have to be fed over the long term, they must be nutritionally balanced. Your pet's doctor is in the best position to recommend a nutritionally complete, well balanced food that will help keep your pet healthy.

<https://www.petmd.com/dog/centers/nutrition/bladder-stones-in-dogs-what-are-the-signs-treatment>



2018 Calendar of Important Events

February 4-

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

April 28-

MSCM Dinner Meeting, Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, MI

June ??-

MSCM Meeting

July 27th-

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

August ??

MSCM Meeting

September 28th-

MSCM Specialty, Monroe County Fairgrounds, Monroe, MI

October 1-4-

All Terrier Agility Trials, Pennsylvania

October 4-7-

Montgomery County Weekend, Pennsylvania

October ??

MSCM Meeting

December 8-Coral Gables, 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.

We're on the Web!

www.miniatureschnauzerclubofmichigan.org



Keeping It Positive - Training A Startline Stay

When you run a small dog like a Miniature Schnauzer, you may not need to have a reliable startline stay. You can start running with your dog, do a slingshot start or even a "pray for a stay" at the startline. However, if you train a solid, relaxed startline stay, you and your dog can start your runs with more connection and less stress. Here is a technique to train this helpful behavior in an entirely positive way.

Step 1: With your dog in heel position on your left or your right, verbally cue your startline stay position. You can use "sit", "down", "get ready", "line up", anything you want as long as you've trained your dog to understand the meaning of the cue. Look at your dog, smile and praise when he assumes the desired position. Research shows that dogs can recognize the meaning of our facial expressions. A smile silently communicates that this activity is a good thing and your dog is pleasing you. You can reward at this point or not, the choice is yours.

Step 2: Start to walk away while still watching and smiling at your dog. If he moves, or breaks his position, freeze. Give him the opportunity to resume the correct position. If he does, even if he's moved a bit, praise, and continue your leadout but only for a couple steps more.

Step 3: As soon as you've taken a couple of steps, release your dog while continuing to move at the same pace. You can be moving toward an obstacle, or nothing at all. You can also sometimes toss your food or toy back toward your dog just as he is releasing, so he gets rewarded before even getting to you. You are looking at your dog and smiling the whole time. Yes, it's hard to walk forward while looking back at your dog. It takes practice.

Step 4: You should have a sense for how far you can go before your dog will want to break. Maybe it's ten feet. Maybe it's two. In either case, know your dog's limit, and dance around it. You want to push your dog's limits up while maintaining at least 80-90% accuracy with the stay, while you are looking at your dog and smiling.

Step 5: Never scold your dog for breaking his startline stay. Scolding can make him feel insecure, and then it will be harder for him to not be right next to you, his source of security. Confident dogs have a better time being left "alone" in their stays. Your dog should never feel alone because you're always watching and smiling, letting him know he's doing exactly the right thing.

Step 6: Don't make him wait too long! As soon as you're close to where you need to be, or close to the edge of his comfort zone, release him while continuing to move, look, and smile. Don't stop, don't get settled in, and don't overthink it. You want everybody on their toes, ready to run.

The Release Word

Your dog should only release on your chosen release word. You should be able to praise your dog while you walk away with your dog is in a stay, and your dog should not release unless he hears the release word. In addition, there should be no introduction of motion paired with the release word. If you are stationary when you give your release cue, you must remain so until your dog has released. If you are moving when you give your release cue, you must remain in motion. When you lead out and stop, your dog will anticipate a release, and may start to release when you stop moving. Also, when you lead out and stop you will have to get moving again, and you will have put yourself at a disadvantage if you want to stay ahead of your dog.

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The Shape Of A Training Session

Limit sessions on this behavior to ten repetitions or five minutes. Try to video the session for your own reference. Learn how to read the signs of your dog's increasing inability to stay in position as you move away. Bump up against those limits but in a way that strengthens them and expands them rather than weakens them. For example, if my dog's limit is ten feet:

Leadout one: four feet, then release and reward

Leadout two: six feet then release and reward

Leadout three: ten feet then release and reward

Leadout four: five feet then release and reward

Leadout five: eleven feet then release and reward

Leadout six: six feet then release and reward

Leadout seven: 14 feet then release and reward and so on for ten repetitions.

In this fashion, you gently expand your dog's boundaries with the behavior by jumping back and forth around his limits, but not overstretching him or hurting his confidence.

Always try to stay positive. Avoid saying STAY sternly and smashing your hand in your dog's face. Stay playful, stay happy, be enticing with your body language, and be willing to accept errors of enthusiasm even if it means decreasing your expectations with respect to how far you can lead away from your dog. You need mistakes to happen, and you need to be prepared for how to respond to a mistake. When he breaks his stay, raise your eyebrows in surprise, take him back to the start playfully, ask for the startline position again (ask .. don't tell!), lead out again, but not quite as far. Maintain visual contact, smile, keep moving, release, and reward. Work in a state of playful arousal, because that is where you want your dog to be when you're running a course together.

Work on being able to look at him and smile, communicating a sense of pride in his behavior, and a sense of confidence in the two of you as a team, and then expand from there. All fully connected agility runs must start with a fully connected startline behavior/routine!

Breed/Obed/Rally 2018

March 3-4 Obed
Collie Clubs
Whitmore Lake, MI
Closes 2-14

April 6-8 Breed/Obed/R
Saginaw Valley KC
Birch Run, MI
Closes 3-22

March 10 Obed/Rally
St. Joe Valley Agility Club
Buchanan, MI
Closes 2-21

April 27-29 Breed/Obed
Progressive Dog Club
Birch Run, MI
Closes 4-12

March 23-25 Obed/ Rally
CDTC
Flint, MI
Closes 3-14

Agility 2018
March 2-4
Sportsmen's DTC
Lapeer, MI
Closes 2-14

March 31-April 1 Obed/
Rally
Kalamazoo KC
Kalamazoo, MI
Closes 3-15

March 19-11
Oakland Cty KC
Lapeer, MI
Closes 2-14

March 16-18
Kalamazoo KC
Wyoming, MI
Closes 3-2

March 23-25
Central MI Agility
Midland, MI
Closes 3-9

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

April 6-8
MI Boxer Club
Midland
Closes 3-23

??April 13-15
Siberian Husky
Lapeer, MI
Closes 3-28

??April 14
Central MI AG
Midland, MI
Closes 3-30

April 20-22
Midland MI KC
Midland, MI
Closes 4-6

April 27-29
AATC
Ann Arbor, MI
Closes 4-13

SHOW CALENDAR

**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