



TOPLINES

MARCH/APRIL 2018

TOPLINES

Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

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Officers 2018

President: Sue Quinn

Vice Pres.: Beth Santure

Secretary: Donna Giles

Treasurer: Sue Schauer

AKC CHANGES FOR 2018

CONFORMATION

The AKC conformation points schedule effective May 16, 2018 now puts Michigan with our friends in Indiana, Kentucky, & Ohio in Division 5. The points are as follows: Dogs: 1pt-2, 2pts-3, 3pts-4, 4pts-5, 5pts-6. Bitches: 1pt-2, 2pts-6, 3pts-9, 4pts-11, and 5pts-14.

OBEDIENCE

Major changes in AKC obedience will take effect May 1, 2018. If you have been thinking about obedience or haven't tried it in awhile, now might be a good time to give it a try. Here are a few of the highlights: Regular Novice Classes— after individual exercises handler will leave dog and go get leash. Group sits & downs will be done on a 6 foot leash, with handler holding the leash. Both sit & down are only one minute. Preferred Novice will not have group sits, but still will have stay to go get leash.

No out of sight group sits/downs in Open. Handler will do individual sit/down after individual exercises, with one being leaving the dog & handler getting the leash. A modified version of signals will now be in the Open class too. The stand is also one of the positions to be performed in the signal exercise from a distance. Preferred Open class will be exactly same as regular Open with option of lower jump height. For all of the details, visit the AKC website and look for the Obedience Regulations.

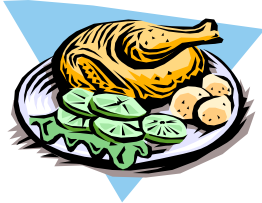


Don't forget to visit our website www.miniatureschnauzerclubofmichigan.org to keep us up in the search for miniature schnauzers!

Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

Dinner/Meeting

April 28, 2018



GUEST SPEAKER:

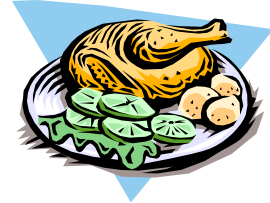
Dr. Will Schultz

Bavarian Inn Restaurant

713 S. Main Street

Frankenmuth, MI 48734

Phone (800)228-2742



US-23/75 to Exit 136 (Birch Run) Turn East & proceed to M-83,
turn left, proceed to downtown, on the right after the covered bridge.

Cash Bar Social Hour at 5:00-6:00pm

ANNUAL AWARDS STARTING AT 5 pm

Dinner served at shortly after 6:00 pm

General Meeting to follow

MENU:

Family style chicken dinner with all of the accompanying
side dishes plus dessert. Coffee, pop and tea included. Cash Bar.

Cost is \$30 per person (tax & gratuity included)

Children under 12 get a discounted price.

*(club member's pay \$20 for their dinner, and also 1 guest per member pay
\$20 for dinner, with the club picking up the difference. Members & guests
will still be responsible for cash bar drinks.)*

**RSVPs by Monday, April 23. Please RSVP to the yahoo group
or quinndixie@gmail.com or Sue Q. at 586-532-0725.**

AS ALWAYS GUESTS ARE WELCOME!!

Club News:



Congratulations to club member, Lisa Martin. Her quote was used on stickers at the AMSC Meet the Breeds booth at the AKC Royal Canin National Championship show in Orlando, FL. Lisa won a mug with her dog's picture on it too!



MSCM Club logo decals and magnets FOR SALE

DECALS 7" are \$10

MAGNETS 7" are \$10

MAGNETS 9" are \$15

Contact Debbie H. at sercatep@yahoo.com if you are interested.

2018 Calendar of Important Events

April 28-

MSCM Dinner Meeting, Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, MI

June 16-

MSCM Meeting @ Beth Santure's House, Milan, MI

July 27-29th-

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

August 11-

MSCM Meeting @Joanne Forster's House, Elkton, MI

September 29th-

MSCM Specialty, Monroe County Fairgrounds, Monroe, MI

October 1-4-

All Terrier Agility Trials, Pennsylvania

October 4-7-

Montgomery County Weekend, Pennsylvania

October 13-

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

December 8-

MSCM Meeting & Christmas Party, East Lansing, MI

We're on the Web!

www.miniatureschnauzerclubofmichigan.org

**MINIATURE SCHNAUZER
CLUB OF MICHIGAN**



Mutt Mats are also still available to purchase.

TOPLINES

is a bi-monthly publication

January-February

March-April

May-June

July-August

September-October

November-December

Editor-Susan Quinn



Sniffing Is Not The Enemy

Sniffing. Dogs do it constantly, and we can only pretend to understand what all they are gathering from their world as they move about, nose to the earth. A typical dog person probably doesn't think much of this behavior, but dog sport people have long thought of sniffing as their nemesis; something to never encourage, something to fear. A sniffing dog is not heeling heads-up. A sniffing dog is not weaving, jumping, or retrieving. A sniffing dog is not *focused*.

Except he *is* focused. *He is focused on processing his own world. It is estimated that dogs have 220 million olfactory receptors while humans have a mere 400. Imagine you are sipping a cup of spice tea right now. You would probably smell just that, spice tea. Your dog lying next to you can likely detect every single spice, the plaster the mug is made from, the paint on the mug, the water itself, and probably even more things you are not even aware of. We humans literally do not have a sensory equivalent.*

Dog trainers come up with complex punishment procedures to eradicate sniffing. These procedures range in intensity, but they are all insidious. To punish out a behavior is to disrespect that all behavior has a function. To punish out a behavior that functions in a way we can never grasp, never, because of our different biology, is the height of egotism.

So what do we do? We actually do need our dogs to work without sniffing, don't we? Here are a few ideas that respect the myriad functions sniffing likely serves.

Decide What You Want And Pay For It

Seems simple, but the quickest way out of a sniffing issue is to get clear about what you'd like the dog to do instead of sniff, and pay for that. Want the dog to keep his head up in heeling? Reinforce that behavior heavily and frequently. Need your dog to dive into the weave poles without dropping her head to sniff? Reinforce that first set of poles like they're the solution to all of your problems. Rather than waiting for sniffing and reacting to that, try replacing moments where sniffing might occur with high rates of reinforcement. You might be surprised.

Patience!

You'd also be surprised that just relaxing, allowing your dog to sniff, and waiting for her to be ready to work is usually the ticket out of sniffing hell. As a general rule the more you nag, the bigger deal you make out of this natural behavior, the more your dog will do it. Why? Because being nagged is stressful, and dogs soothe themselves with sniffing. What do you do when something stresses you out? It's kind of like that. So calm down, wait a minute, your dog will check in with you eventually. Pay him when he does.

Reinforcement History Never Lies

Behavior that is reinforced strengthens. That's not some fairytale dolphin trainers made up; it's real. If a dog chooses sniffing over another behavior in any given context, that's about reinforcement history. Your job, as the trainer, is to provide such a rich and complex reinforcement history for the behaviors you desire that your dog rarely considers other options.

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Confusion Is Yucky

If your dog is confused, that icky feeling must be dealt with. Think about the last time you were confused. Was that fun for you? Did you desperately grasp for something to make you less confused? That something that makes confusion feel better for dogs is sniffing. It makes sense; they probably gather most of their information through sniffing. So while we might ask Google, a friend, or look in a book when we are confused, our dogs hit the air, the dirt, and everything in between with their noses. If your dog is sniffing a lot during sports, consider if this is the culprit.

Embrace The Sniff

Sniffing is a fundamental behavior for our dogs. Be nice about sniffing. Don't try to punish it out, and don't fear it either. Embrace it as a very special and specific part of what dogs are.

Here is a link to directions for a do it yourself snuffle mat. Check it out! If you can cut strips of fleece and tie knots, you can make one. I made one for Ajax and Flash and they love it. <https://www.thehonestkitchen.com/blog/diy-make-your-dog-or-cat-a-snuffle-matt/>

SHOW CALENDAR

Agility 2018

May 4-6 Grand Rapids Agility Club Kentwood, MI Closes 4-20	June 1-3 Sportsmens DTC Lapeer, MI Closes 5-16
May 11-13 AADTC Whitmore Lake, MI Closes 4-27	June 8-10 Up N Over Agility Club Lapeer, MI Closes 5-26
May 18-20 Mt. Pleasant Kennel Club Midland, MI Closes 5-3	June 15-17 Fort Detroit GWP Club Lapeer, MI Closes 6-1
May 25-27 CDTC Grand Blanc, MI Closes 5-9	June 22-24 Kalamazoo KC Kalamazoo, MI Closes 6-8 OUTDOORS
	June 29-July 1 North MI Agility Midland, MI Closes 6-15

Breed & Obedience/ Rally 2018

May 5-6 Obed & Rally Tri Cities DTC of Saginaw Flint, MI Closes 4-18	June 15-17 Breed & Obed/Rally Grand Traverse KC Traverse City, MI Closes 5-30
May 24-28 Breed, Obed/Rally Various kennel clubs Kalamazoo, MI Closes 5-9	June 23-24 Breed & Obed/Rally Detroit KC Novi, MI Closes 6-6
June 7-10 Breed & Obed/Rally Midland KC Midland, MI Closes 5-24	

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.