



# TOPLINES

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

## TOPLINES

Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

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### Officers 2018

President: Sue Quinn

Vice Pres.: Beth Santure

Secretary: Donna Giles

Treasurer: John Schauer

### Is AKC diluting the meaning of a title, by offering so many??

(This is an editorial)

I've always loved a good challenge. When I was 12, my parents bought me a scrappy pony from someone's field. After a lot of practice and hard work on my part, she ended up a nice little show pony. Eventually after another horse and having kids, I switched over to showing dogs.

When I first showed in AKC obedience in 1996, only 5 obedience titles were offered Companion Dog, Companion Dog Excellent, Utility Dog, Utility Dog Excellent, and Obedience Trial Champion. The Companion Dog title requires off leash heeling, so even that title could be a challenge. Now with AKC Obedience & Rally combined, there are approximately 26 titles. I know everyone works hard for every title they earn, that AKC added more options to get more people into the sport, and to keep regular competitors showing. For me this has lessened my motivation to show in obedience/rally, a title doesn't have the same meaning it did when only the original few were offered. I think it has turned into how many titles can I get on my dog, instead of the specialness of earning a title that fewer people had.

I've been lucky enough to have competed in multiple venues with my dogs (agility, obed, rally, conformation). The most current being the breed ring with only about 4 years in. Besides giving me a new respect for breeders and the work they put in, I find conformation has become my favorite venue. I enjoy the grooming, and trying to show the dog off to the best of my ability. Earning a CH title or winning in the breed ring presents a challenge and specialness to me, that I seem to have lost in obedience.



My beloved pony "Ginger".

# MSCM Christmas Party

**Saturday, December 8, 2018**



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(No  
alcoholic beverages  
please)



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)  
(Karin.j.jaeger@gmail.com) (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.



*Congratulations!*

## 2018 Calendar of Important Events

November 30–

MSCM Membership expires today, if dues are unpaid

**December 8–**

MSCM Meeting & Christmas Party , East Lansing, MI

Congratulations to Beth Santure and “Lexi” Loneacre Girls Go Dream Cruisin’ for winning Reserve Winners Bitch at Montgomery County Kennel Club show & AMSC specialty on October 7, 2018.



## SHOW CALENDAR

### Breed/Obed/Rally

2019

Jan.12-13 Rally

CDTC

Flint, MI

Closes 12-26

Jan.17-20 Breed/Obed/Rally

Livonia/Oakland Cty KC

Closes 1-2

Feb.22-24 Obed/Rally

Sportsmen’s DTC

Warren, MI

Closes 2-6

### Agility

Jan.4-6

CCDAC

Lapeer, MI

Closes 12-21

Jan. 17-20

OCKC

Novi, MI

Closes 1-6

Jan. 24-27

Weimaraner Club

Lapeer, MI

Closes 1-10

Feb. 1-3

CCDAC

Lapeer, MI

Closes 1-18

Feb.22-24

CCCAC

Lapeer, MI

Closes 2-9

**We’re on the Web!**

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



## Deposits Into The Perfect Recall Account

The goal is to increase the probability that your dog will come to you, each and every time you call.

This is achieved by building a solid foundation of them doing just that. You must be diligent, and make sure that the number of times your dog comes to you when you call is far, far greater than the number of times your dog chooses not to come when called (ideally you don't ever want that to happen).

Here is a strategic approach to help you shape a more reliable response each and every time you call your dog:

Make a list of situations, people, toys, places, other animals, food, objects or odors that your dog finds distracting, to the point of not listening to you. Rate these distractions on a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being the most distracting to your dog. Now, for the next week, make a point of having your dog on lead or long line at all times when they are around any distractions that are "2" or greater.

You are going to avoid any "10" distractions for the next two months. This means you are not going to allow your dog freedom to choose not to come to you, when number "10" distractions are in their environment. This may mean keeping your dog on leash for the duration of this program or until you are confident in the reliability of his recall.

In order to have success with recalls, you must put in the groundwork. Make a plan of doing recalls with your dog, three sessions a day, five minutes per session.

Use different motivators to reward your dog when he comes to you. Your motivators may be toys, different types of food or anything else your dog goes gaga over. Choose a word that you want your dog to understand means "come to me". It may be "come", "here", "com'ere", "front" or anything else you choose. Try to pick a word you haven't already attached meaning to. For example if you choose "come" and you have been using "come" with your dog and your dog comes sometimes but not always, this word already means, "I have a choice" to your dog.

Do not use your dog's name before the cue "come" when playing the recall game. In two months, once they fully understand their new cue "come", adding their name will be a bonus.

Be sure the motivator is being used as a reward and not as a bribe. Call the dog, click them for coming and then present the reward. Do not hold the motivator like a lure out in front of their nose as then you are teaching your dog to come to you only if they can see the toy or food first.

In your five-minute training sessions you should be able to get in between 15 and 25 recalls with your dog. In your initial training sessions, make certain there are no distractions around, so your dog will want to come to you. You may even have someone help you be restraining your dog. Walk a short distance away and call out your cue "come" and run back, your dog chases you -- click and reward. Be sure you vary your body position. Sometimes call your dog and when he starts to come, you run away so he can chase you. Sometimes

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start to run away but then stop and let him come to you while you are standing still. Occasionally don't run at all. Be unpredictable.

As the week progresses, add a few of the distractions that rate a "1" on the distraction scale. Remember to only call your dog once, if your dog chooses the distraction over you, score one for them minus 20 for you. You then need to execute at least 20 additional recalls before you can progress with your homework. By the end of the week your dog should be doing a successful recall with distractions of "2" or lower.

If your dog does not come with one cue at any time during the program lower your criteria. You may need to lower the rank of the distractions, if you are working with distractions, You may need to move closer to your dog or get more attractive rewards.

Progress up the distraction chart as your dog allows you to, but not too fast. You want to try to work your dog in the presence of their number 10 distracters, but not until you have diligently done your homework of at least eight weeks of recalls. After 8 weeks you should have put in an average of 20 recalls per training session, 3 times per day, 7 days per week.

Over the two months of work, you would have done at least 3360 successful recalls with your dog.

If your dog has a long history of not coming when he is called you may need to extend this program. It may be more difficult for you to work up your distraction list, be patient and only move forward with success. Rather than 8 weeks your schedule may be 16 or more. The program will work if you are methodical and DO NOT let your dog have his freedom to ignore a recall at any other time.

You may not have thought of every possible distraction your dog may encounter but if you have worked through as many distractions as you can think of in as many different locations available to you, your dog will start to generalize his recall to all locations.

Following through with daily reinforcements for coming will give you a solid foundation of shaping your dog to want to run to you, each and every time you call, regardless of what distractions are in their environment.

## 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.