



TOPLINES

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2019

TOPLINES

Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

Officers 2018

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Mutt Matts(Crate blankets)
& Miniature Schnauzer
Club of MI decals & mag-
nets are still available to
purchase. Contact Debbie
at sercatep@yahoo.com.

AKC Scent Work

Fascinating fact: Dogs have a sense of smell that's between 10,000 and 100,000 times more acute than ours! The sport of Scent Work celebrates the joy of sniffing, and asks a dog to sniff to their heart's content; turning your dog's favorite activity into a rewarding game. It is a terrific sport for all kinds of dogs, and is a wonderful way to build confidence in a shy dog.

In so many dog sports the handler is in control but this isn't true in Scent Work. Neither the dog nor handler knows where the target odor is hidden. The handler has to rely on the dog, and follow the dog's nose to success. In Scent Work, it is the canine who is the star of the show.

The sport of Scent Work is based on the work of professional detection dogs (such as drug dogs), employed by humans to detect a wide variety of scents and substances. In AKC Scent Work, dogs search for cotton swabs saturated with the essential oils of Birch, Anise, Clove, and Cypress. The cotton swabs are hidden out of sight in a pre-determined search area, and the dog has to find them. Teamwork is necessary: when the dog finds the scent, he has to communicate the find to the handler, who calls it out to the judge.

<https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-scent-work/>

Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

LUNCH MEETING & AWARDS

Sunday, February 17, 2019

@ 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 12th**

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

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!

CLUB NEWS:



- The Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan donated to the American Miniature Schnauzer Club Trophy Fund. Our donation will help fund the trophies at the national specialties.
- The MSCM also renewed our club membership in the Michigan Association of Purebred Dogs. Please consider an individual membership in this organization, as they help protect the rights of all dog owners in Michigan. More information can be found at <http://www.mapbd.org/>.
- Welcome to new club member, Melinda Blesch!

2019 Calendar of Important Events

February 17-

MSCM Meeting at Canterbury Village, Lake Orion

April 27-

MSCM Dinner Meeting, Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth, MI

June 29-

MSCM Meeting at Beth Santure's Milan, MI

July 26-28-

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

August 10-

MSCM Meeting at Joanne Forster's Elkton, MI

September 27th-

MSCM Specialty, Monroe County Fairgrounds, Monroe, MI

October 19th-

MSCM Meeting at Canine Workshop Fraser, MI

December 7-

MSCM Meeting/Christmas Party, East Lansing, MI

Congratulations!

***Congratulations to club
member, Debbie Herrell
and Percatep's
Proud & Persuasive "Percy"
for getting
invited to compete in the
2019 Schnauzapalooza
Top Dog Competition on
April 5, 2019.***

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



Reprinted with permission from the author: Kelly Daniel,

Hybrid Dog Training, Location: Morrinsville : Waikato : NZ Interests: Education, Agility, Dog Training, Canine fitness and conditioning.

I love the docked tails on our breed. This article is in no way a criticism of the practice. A docked tail, or naturally short “bob tail” can present some challenges to dogs participating in performance sports and conditioning exercises. This article discusses some of these potential challenges and ways handlers can address them. This article was written by Kelly Daniel, Hybrid Dog Training, and is reprinted with her permission.

Dog Without Tails in Agility and Fitness Work

In agility in New Zealand we have some dogs that have docked tails, and some dogs that naturally have a bob tail. The breeds that we commonly see this in are: gun dog line Spaniels, Boxers, Schnauzers, Smithfield working dogs, and Aussies. Whilst the law here has now changed to make docking illegal, there are still existing docked dogs, and those with the natural short tail from the bob tail gene.

In agility (and in movement in everyday life) a tail is used in multiple ways:

- Counterbalancing during striding across the ground, and obstacles like dog walks
- Jumping dogs lower their tails for elevation prior to take off, and then lift them to land.
- Sideways weight shift in the weave poles
- See photo's to explain the points above here: <https://pethelpful.com/dogs/How-Does-A-Dog-Use-Its-Tail-in-Agility-and-Canine-Sport>

What are the consequences for a shorter tail?

There is some evidence for differing rear end muscle development in dogs with docked tails, increased rate of incontinence, and anecdotally I have had multiple practitioners comment that they often feel increased amounts of tension and muscle tightness in the muscles related to the tail in those dogs who have had part of their tail removed.

There can be some consequences to behavior as a dog frequently communicates with their tail, and reducing this appendage can reduce their ability to communicate, and can also cause other dogs to be confused and not able to read them as well.

Traditionally a docked tail was done to working field breeds, to reduce the chance of injury. However, it is not uncommon in other breeds (particularly greyhounds, sight hounds, whippets etc.) after a tail injury.

It would be interesting to see the difference in these implications between a tail docked as a puppy, to a natural bob tail, to a tail docked later in life due to injury. At the moment (as far as I am aware) there is not much available on this.

What I have noticed in my observations of dogs without a full-length tail at agility is:

- They tend to not extend through the rear legs as much while jumping. This can result in less powerful jumping, and also in some rail knocking as they tuck their rear legs back in under their bodies.
- They tend to "throw" with their neck more, and counterbalance with the front legs, resulting in a less re-

laxed jump style that tends to be more variable.

- Reduced speed on a dog walk and sometimes seesaw due to an inability to counterbalance.
- Some can struggle to stay in, or have speed in the weaves.

What do we need to do to ensure it's not an issue?

* Keep in mind that many of these things apply to ALL performance dogs!

- As with any performance dogs, regular checks with a physiotherapist, rehabilitation vet, chiropractor or canine masseuse will help identify any issues early, and check that muscles are staying nice and relaxed.
- Teach them to jump properly: use a V or spider jump to teach them to load their weight back and extend through the rear limbs, instead of pull over the jump with their front end. Film their early jump work, do grid work, and check that they are using their rear end adequately. Teach them to collect on jumps on a different cue to extended jumping.
- Teach them confidence in contact work with balance games, and teach them (and reward) safe bailing off the contacts during these games.
- Have a consistent handling system, and cue early to ensure dogs have time to adequately prepare their striding.
- Work hard on their fitness, with a focus on a strong core and using the rear, and extending through the rear. Watch their form carefully, and look to extend their rear. Watch for them loading their back legs under their body and shifting weight forwards onto their front end.
- Stay away from tricks where they use their front end more, like handstands.

Obviously, this is important for me to consider, as not only do several of the Hybrid Training students' dogs have altered tails, but also my Flori has a partially docked tail. Happy training, and take care of your canine teammates.

Breed/Obed/Rally 2019

March 2-30 Obed Collie Clubs Whitmore Lake, MI Closes 2-13	April 5-7 Breed/Obed/R Saginaw Valley KC Birch Run, MI Closes 3-20	March 14-16 Various Clubs Midland, MI Closes 2-28	April 12-14 Siberian Husky Lapeer, MI Closes 3-29
March 9-10 Obed/Rally St. Joe Valley Agility Club Buchanan, MI Closes 2-20	April 26-28 Breed/Obed Progressive Dog Club Birch Run, MI Closes 4-10	March 22-24 Various Clubs Midland, MI Closes 3-8	April 19-21 Midland MI KC Midland, MI Closes 4-5
March 22-24 Obed/ Rally CDTC Flint, MI Closes 3-6	Agility 2019 March 1-3 Sportsmen's DTC Lapeer, MI Closes 2-14	March 29-31 Various Clubs Wyoming, MI Closes 3-15	April 25-28 AATC/MSCM Whitmore Lake, MI Closes 4-11
March 29-31 Obed/Rally Kalamazoo KC Kalamazoo, MI Closes 3-13	March 7-10 Oakland Cty KC Lapeer, MI Closes 2-20	April 5-7 Various Clubs Midland Closes 3-22	

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