

TOPLINES



SEPT/OCTOBER 2021

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Officers 2021

President: Sue Quinn
Vice Pres.: Beth Santure
Secretary: Sue Proctor
Treasurer: John Schauer

Congratulations to all of
the specialty winners!
Thanks for supporting
our specialty.



Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan Specialty Results—September

Best in Sweepstakes: Showstopper V.Brukenthal, Owned/Bred by
Grigore Beldean,

Best Opposite Sex in Sweepstakes, Best Puppy, Puppy Group 4: Penlan
Celebrity Cruise, owned by Tammy Stinton, bred by Tammy Stinton &
Penny Hirstein

Best of Breed, BOBOH, Group 3: CH Loneacre Girls Go Dream Cruisin',
owned Beth Santure, bred by Beth Santure & Charlotte Stukey

Best of Opposite Sex, Best of Winners, Winners Dog: Sercatep's Don't
Look Back, owned/bred by Debra Herrell

Winners Bitch: Stonewood Jane Walker Special Edition, owned by Karla
Hench, bred by Karla Hench & Debra Herrell

Select Dog: CH Loneacre's Pint of Guinness, owned by Susan Quinn &
Beth Santure, bred by Beth Santure & Catherine McMillan

Best Bred by Exhibitor, BBE Group 1: Wards Creek's You Always Do Make
An Impression, owned/bred by Gale Schnetzer

Pancreatitis in Dogs: Cause, Diagnosis and Treatment

The pancreas is a gland within the abdomen located along the stomach and the first part of the small intestine. It performs both endocrine and exocrine functions.

How the Pancreas Functions

The *endocrine* function of the pancreas includes the production of insulin, which is secreted into the blood in response to carbohydrate and protein ingestion.

The *exocrine* function involves the secretion of inactive digestive enzymes and bicarbonate into the intestine where they become activated to help break down ingested foodstuffs.

Pancreatitis

Pancreatitis refers to the inflammation of the pancreas and is caused by activation of the digestive enzymes within the pancreas due to pancreatic damage or blockage of its outflow duct. This results in pancreatic auto-digestion, whereby the enzymes destroy the pancreatic tissue.

Acute pancreatitis is defined as reversible pancreatic inflammation, while **chronic** pancreatitis refers to permanent changes in the pancreatic tissue. These two forms of pancreatitis cannot be differentiated clinically, although, clinical signs in acute pancreatitis are usually more severe than those seen with chronic pancreatitis.

Acute pancreatitis can quickly lead to systemic inflammation, shock and death and must be treated aggressively. Chronic manifestations of pancreatitis include diabetes mellitus (30-40% of dogs with diabetes have pancreatitis) or loss of digestive enzyme production (exocrine pancreatic insufficiency).

Other potential complications include pancreatic pseudocysts and abscesses.

Cause

The cause of pancreatitis is usually unknown, although these factors have all been associated with its development:

- Diet, particularly high fat diets
- Hereditary disorders associated with fat metabolism
- Medications
- Prior surgery
- Obesity
- Trauma
- Cancer
- Obstruction of the pancreatic outflow tract because of biliary stones
- Inflammation Masses

Diagnosis

Clinical signs of pancreatitis in dogs usually include some or all of the following:

- Vomiting
- Anorexia
- Depression
- Abdominal pain
- Diarrhea

In severe cases, dogs may be recumbent and in shock.

Diagnostics that may be recommended include:

- Abdominal radiographs (X-rays): While these images are not usually very helpful in establishing a diagnosis of pancreatitis, they *are* important in ruling out other causes of disease.
- Abdominal ultrasound: This test can be very specific in identifying pancreatitis, but the pancreas may appear normal in up to 32% of dogs with pancreatic inflammation.
- Blood work including a complete blood count (CBC) and biochemical profile: Blood work can be normal or demonstrate diseases of other organ systems either unrelated to or caused by the pancreatitis
- Urinalysis
- Urine culture
- A canine pancreatic lipase immunoreactivity (cPLI) test: The cPLI test is a highly accurate test in diagnosing pancreatitis, but the presence of an abnormal cPLI test does *not* definitely rule in pancreatitis as the sole cause of the clinical signs. This is an important concept, as resolution of the pancreatitis may not lead to resolution of the clinical signs.

Currently, the combination of the tests above is usually recommended to obtain a presumptive diagnosis of pancreatitis. The only definitive way to diagnose pancreatitis is to obtain a biopsy via surgery or laparoscopy, although, many times the patient is too unstable to undergo anesthesia.

Treatment

Treatment is truly supportive in nature, and its aggressiveness depends on the severity of the pancreatitis. In severe cases, hospitalization is required for restoration and maintenance of hydration, control of pain and vomiting, nutritional support and possibly antibiotic administration.

If the patient is vomiting, food and water are withheld. Otherwise, an ultra low-fat diet can be offered. The use of very low-fat diets in dogs is to decrease the workload on the pancreas.

In less severe chronic cases, hospitalization may not be required if the patient is hydrated and not vomiting. An extremely low-fat diet will be recommended for home use, as well as regular monitoring of blood work such as the cPLI and/or abdominal ultrasound.

Prognosis

Prognosis is dependent on:

- The severity of clinical signs
- The degree of pancreatic tissue damage
- The duration of illness
- The presence of concurrent disease

In uncomplicated cases, continuous use of a low-fat diet may prevent any future recurrences of pancreatitis. Conversely, some dogs will experience repeated bouts of pancreatitis, which will progress to chronic pancreatic changes and persistent disease accompanied by unrelenting clinical signs.

An acute severe episode of pancreatitis can quickly lead to shock and death if aggressive treatment is not started promptly. Unfortunately, even with aggressive treatment, some patients may still die.

Because of the complexity in diagnosis and unpredictability of response to treatment, suggesting a prognosis is difficult. In severe cases, hospitalization may be required for several weeks before the patient is stable enough to be discharged. For more information on this subject, speak with the veterinarian who's treating your pet.



Club News:

A big thank you to all of the members who helped make our 2021 Specialty a success. The weather was great, and the potluck was a hit as usual. The specialty trophies were beautiful.

2021 Calendar of Events

October 23-MSCM meeting @ Donna Giles, Clinton Twp, MI

December 11 -MSCM Meeting/X mas Party, East Lansing, MI



October 2021 Meeting has been cancelled. Next meeting is scheduled for December 11th.

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

CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE:

MSCM LOGO DECALS and MAGNETS \$10-\$15

Contact Debbie H. at sercatep@yahoo.com

IRON ON RHINESTONE SCHNAUZERS \$10

Contact Donna G. at egiles@comcast.net





Why Does My Dog Do That – Part 2

Why does my dog greet me with a toy?

You might recognize this routine — you come home from work, and before you’ve barely gotten a foot in the door, your dog runs up to you with a favorite toy in her mouth. What gives?!

Your dog could be trying to tell you a few different things with this behavior. It might be a sign that she wants to play. After being home all day, she’s probably excited to see you and might be eager for some playtime. Or she might have learned you give her lots of attention by presenting a toy to you, so she’s just showing off. She could also be using it as a distraction. For example, if your dog typically barks when you come home and you’ve gotten into the habit of giving her a toy to keep her occupied, she might now associate you coming home with putting a toy in her mouth. In any case, when she brings you her toy, enjoy the sweet ritual and give her a little love!

Why does my dog stare at me?

For dogs, oftentimes a stare means they want something — a treat, playtime, praise, direction, or a bathroom break. It’s good to return her gaze, just as long as she doesn’t show signs of aggression and you’re not encouraging unwanted behavior. Beware of a hard stare, which can be accompanied by a tense body, a lowered head, or dilated pupils. This could indicate she is going to bite.

A cat who stares usually wants something too, like food or affection. However, it could also mean she’s angry or afraid. Look for additional signs in her body language, like a stiff or crouched body, out turned ears, or dilated pupils. If you see any of these signs, keep your distance until she’s had a chance to calm down.

Why does my dog dig?

Whether pawing a pile of blankets or creating a hole in the ground, digging is a natural instinct for dogs. There are several reasons why dogs dig. They might do it to hide toys and food from others, or maybe they smell or hear something underground and are trying to get at it. They could also be doing it out of boredom, as part of a nesting instinct, or as a way to escape (like digging near a fence to crawl under). Some do it as part of the “denning” process, in which they dig holes to seek shelter away from the heat in the summer or the cold of winter.

There are a few ways to curb this behavior if digging becomes a problem — supervise your dog and correct her behavior when it happens, provide her with an area where she’s allowed to dig, work with her on the “leave it” command, or use a distraction that keeps her mentally and physically stimulated, like a food puzzle or exercise.

Sometimes dogs and cats do things that seem pretty strange to us humans (and vice-versa). But while we find them weird, many of those behaviors are perfectly healthy for our pets. Others, however, *could be a sign that something’s going on with your fur buddy that requires medical attention. Read on to learn about three odd dog and cat behaviors, and whether they mean it’s time for a visit to your veterinarian.*

Why do dogs chase their tails?

Watching your dog run in a tight circle is generally hilarious — but is it healthy? Maybe, but maybe not. According to Dr. Lynn Buzhardt, DVM, it could just mean that your dog is bored and looking to burn off some energy. But if your dog manages to catch his tail and starts biting and chewing, it could be a sign of *pruritus or itchy skin. That could be caused by a number of things, including allergies, fleas, and infection. It could also be an obsessive-compulsive behavior resulting from separation anxiety.* That’s why it’s important to keep an eye on your dog’s tail chasing, and if it results in biting or chewing, find a vet and visit them as soon as possible.

Why do dogs cock their heads?

If there's one dog behavior that's a sure-fire heart-melter, it's the head tilt. When our dogs turn their heads to one side in response to an unusual noise, it's almost impossible to prevent an "awwww" from escaping our lips. But why do they do it?

Some behaviorists think it's as simple as trying to get an ear closer to what they're hearing so they can figure out what it means. They could also be trying to figure out where the sound is coming from. One psychologist even thinks they could be tilting their heads to get a better look at our faces when we're speaking to them.

But when dogs tilt their heads for no apparent reason, shake them, or cock them and scratch their ears, it could be the sign of a medical issue — which means it's time to find a vet.

Why do dogs eat feces?

As we've already established, dogs will eat just about anything. Unfortunately, one of those things is ... poop. Their own poop, other dogs' poop, cat poop — you get the picture. This habit, called *coprophagia*, is — *without a doubt* — *totally and completely disgusting*. But why do they find poop so delectable?

There are a number of reasons why some dogs eat feces. Some observed their mothers doing it when they were tiny puppies, which is actually natural behavior. Mother dogs eat their puppies' stool because of a primitive instinct to keep their living area clean so the scent won't attract predators. Others developed the habit as puppies out of boredom, stress or excessive hunger. Still others do it for no apparent reason at all.

Poop-eating can, however, be a sign of a medical problem. According to PetMD, coprophagia can result from a nutritional deficiency or disease — especially in adult dogs who develop the behavior seemingly out of the clear blue sky. In that case, you need to see your vet.

Keep in mind that no matter what the reason, coprophagia can put your dog at serious risk of illness, especially if the feces contains parasites or traces of medication the other animal was taking. That's why it's important to keep the yard clean and use positive techniques to try to modify the unwanted behavior.

Our pets can act pretty strange sometimes. While much of that behavior has logical explanations, in some cases, it could be a sign that your dog or cat has a medical issue in need of speedy attention. That's why the best rule of thumb is when in doubt, call your vet!

SHOW CALENDAR

Breed/Obed/Rally

2021

Nov. 12-15 B,O,R

Various Kennel Clubs

Kalamazoo, MI

Dec 4-5 Breed

Ingham Cty KC

East Lansing, MI

Agility

Nov. 5-7

RRRR Club

Lapeer, MI

Nov. 11-14

Weim Club

Lapeer, MI

Nov. 18-21

Various Clubs

Midland, MI

Nov. 26-28

Canine Combustion

Whitmore Lake, MI



Dec. 3-5

Capital City

East Lansing, MI

Dec. 9-12

Various Clubs

Midland, MI

Dec.17-19

Various KC

Midland, MI

Dec. 26-27

Midland MI KC

Midland, MI

MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB OF MICHIGAN

TOPLINES

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January-February

March-April

May-June

July-August

September-October

November-December

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