



TOPLINES

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

Editor: Susan Quinn

Email: quinndixie@gmail.com, Ph. (586) 532-0725

Officers 2024

President: Sue Quinn

Vice Pres.: Beth Santure

Secretary: Sue Procter

Treasurer: John Schauer

Lumps and Bumps on Dog's Skin: Signs, Symptoms, Causes

By Jean Bauhaus

Updated: Jan 09, 2024

Inside this issue:

Cover Story pg 1

Next Meeting Info pg 2

2024 Calendar & Club News pg 4

Performance Corner pg 5

Show Calendar pg 6

What is that strange bump on your dog? Discovering a skin lump or bump on your dog can set your mind reeling and heart racing, but there's no need to panic. A bump on your dog doesn't automatically mean cancer. While skin bumps and strange lumps on dogs should always be taken seriously, certain types of bumps are more common than you might think, and they're often harmless.

Types of Skin Lumps and Bumps on Dogs

Skin bumps that you're likely to find on your dog fall into several categories. Some of these are more common in older dogs. As a new puppy owner, you'll want to file these away and keep an eye out for them as your pup ages. While some of these are non-cancerous, some can be caused by infections or other underlying conditions. It's always best to have a veterinarian examine and diagnose any changes to your dog's skin and determine a course of treatment, if needed.

Lipomas

These fatty tumors appear as soft, round lumps of flesh beneath the skin. They're made up entirely of fat cells and are always benign, or non-cancerous. Lipomas are usually found in older dogs and dogs who are overweight. Larger breeds are more prone to them, although they can be found in small breeds as well. Your vet may perform a fine needle aspirate, using a thin needle to collect cells and examine them under a microscope to verify that they're fatty tissue.

Sebaceous Cysts

These are smaller bumps that can look like a pimple or a wart. They form from blocked oil glands and may burst and release a pasty, white goo. These most commonly occur in breeds with fine hair, like the Poodle and the Bichon Frise. They may disappear on their own, although some can remain for years and have the potential to become infected. Surgical removal is an option if they irritate your dog.



Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

LUNCH MEETING

**Sunday, February 18, 2024
at 11:30 am**

**Karl's Kabin
6005 Goffredson Road
Plymouth, MI 48170**

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 Beth Santure bsanture@gmail.com or

to the Yahoo Group by February 14th

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Warts

These small, cauliflower-like bumps are caused by the papillomavirus. They occur most often in puppies who don't yet have fully-developed immune systems and usually disappear on their own. Although the virus is contagious between dogs, it can't be transmitted from dogs to humans.

Skin Tags

These are fibrous bumps that look like small flaps or raised stalks of skin, although they may occasionally look like small bumps. They may or may not have hair growing on them. Skin tags are caused by overactive cells called fibroblasts and can occur in dogs of any breed or any age. They're often harmless, although your vet might want to do a biopsy to make sure, especially if the tag changes in shape, color or size.

Abscesses

Usually caused by an infection, abscesses are swollen tissue that can form around bug bites, animal bites, infected glands, and other types of sores. If not treated early they may burst, which is painful for your dog. Antibiotics may be required to treat the infection.

Button Tumors

Also known as a histiocytoma, these are benign tumors that affect puppies and young dogs between eight weeks and three years of age. They're caused by an overproduction of immune cells and typically disappear on their own.

Mast Cell Tumors

These are cancerous tumors that may occur either beneath or on top of the skin. They're often solid to the touch and irregular in shape. The appearance of such a tumor should receive immediate attention from a veterinarian. They'll likely want to remove the tumor, if possible, before performing a biopsy to determine if cancer might have spread through your dog's body. If surgical removal isn't possible, you may be referred to a veterinary oncologist for chemotherapy or radiation treatment.

Most Common Bumps and Lumps on Puppies

Thankfully, cancer in puppies is rare. The most common types of lumps or bumps found on puppies are warts, skin tags, button tumors, and abscesses. In these cases, your dog's veterinarian may recommend a wart ointment or other skin treatment. There are also some supplements that claim to help dissolve fatty lipoma skin lumps on dogs. It's also not unusual for puppies to develop swelling at the site of a vaccination injection, caused by a conglomeration of immune cells that gather there.

Typically, this vaccination site swelling subsides within a week. However, in rare cases, this gathering of cells can turn into a malignant tumor. Contact your vet if a vaccination lump lasts more than a week. They may advise you to keep a watchful eye on it and bring your pup in for a biopsy if the lump continues past three months, is more than an inch in diameter, or continues to grow or change shape.

Although it's rare, it is possible for puppies to develop certain types of cancer, so it's important to have any lumps, bumps, or other changes in your puppy's skin examined by a veterinarian.

When Should You Worry About a Dog's Skin Bump?

Have your dog examined immediately if you discover a lump that's hard or firm to the touch, irregularly shaped, or if you notice a change in any existing lumps or bumps regarding size, texture, or color. Your vet should also immediately take a look at any bumps that ooze fluid. But again, while some lumps and bumps are harmless, it's best to let your vet take a look at any new bumps or lumps on your dog and let your veterinarian make that determination.

Dealing with the possibility of tumors or infections in your dog or puppy can be costly as well as emotionally stressful for both you and your pet. Pet health insurance can help cover some of the cost, giving you one less thing to worry about and letting you focus on the best treatment options for your companion.

CLUB NEWS:



The MSCM Agility/FAST CAT Trials are July 26, 28, & 29, 2024. Volunteers are needed to help out with the FAST CAT trials on Saturday & Sunday the 28th & 29th.

There are easy jobs & lots of fun watching the dogs run!

The MSCM has renewed membership with the Terrier Club of Michigan. The MSCM has made a donation to the American Miniature Schnauzer Club trophy fund. A donation was also made to the AKC Political Action Committee.

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

2024 Calendar of Important Events

February 18 Sunday - General Meeting @ 11:30 am
Karl's Kabin, 605 Gotfredson Road, Plymouth, MI

May TBD—General Meeting

June TBD—General Meeting
Ann Arbor Dog Training Club

July 26,27,29—MSCM Agility & FAST CAT Trials
All Dogs Can, 2040 N. Lapeer Road, Lapeer, MI 48446

August 14 Wednesday — ZOOM General Meeting 7 pm

September 27 Friday—MSCM Specialty
Monroe County Fairgrounds, Monroe, MI

October 14 Saturday —General Meeting
Valiant Restaurant, 1120 S. Main St, Chelsea, MI

December 7 Saturday —General Meeting 4pm
MSCM Meeting/Xmas Party , Coral Gables, East Lansing, MI

PUPPIES AVAILABLE

Club member, Cheryl Coffman, has salt & pepper puppies available.

Contact at (614) 420-6809



Congratulations to Pat Heinzelman & Char & Co Wastin Away in Margartaville UD "Rita" for earning the new AKC Fetch Novice Title at Sportsmens Trial on February 3, 2024.

Stop Nipping

What can you do about an adult dog who's nipping? The answer depends on why he's doing it. Each situation should be addressed differently – and none should be addressed with verbal or physical punishment.

FEAR-RELATED NIPPING

This is the most concerning of the nipping behaviors, most likely to escalate into significant aggression if not handled appropriately. This will likely involve a counter conditioning and desensitization protocol, and you might do best to utilize the services of a qualified, experienced force-free professional.

For fear-related nipping of visitors (or household members), management is your critically important first step. Keep your dog leashed or safely stashed in another room when human triggers are present, unless and until you implement a thorough behavior modification program to convince him that people don't need to be feared.

NIPPING IN EXCITEMENT

Just because your dog is playing doesn't make these nips any less painful. There are several things you can do for this behavior:

Increase your dog's mental and physical exercise so he doesn't get so exuberant in play. Note that physical exercise should include impulse control games, like sit-and-wait-politely until you throw the ball or toy.

Teach an incompatible behavior such as "Go to Mat."

Have toys always at hand to offer him as appropriate targets for his teeth.

Use "negative punishment" by saying a cheerful "Oops!" and turning your back or stepping to the other side of a baby gate when he starts jumping and nipping, then marking calm behavior (with the click of a clicker, a hand signal or a verbal marker) and giving him a treat when he is calm. You can practice this with your dog tethered to keep yourself safe as well.

NIPPING IN ANNOYANCE

If your dog nips in an effort to make you stop doing something, just stop! If there are things that

must be done, such as nail-trimming and grooming, use cooperative care procedures to help him get happier about them.

HERDING DOGS WHO NIP

These dogs have a very strong genetic propensity to nip at things that move because they're supposed to!

You can manage this behavior with a "Search" behavior – tossing treats away from you to occupy your dog's teeth with things other than your skin or use a "Go to Mat" behavior as described. You can ask him to target to strategically placed target objects around your property. Perhaps the best solution is to engage him in herding activities where he has an outlet for his herding behavior and will learn additional control cues – either actual herding with sheep, ducks, or cows

YES, NIPPING IS ANNOYING

You can teach your dog more appropriate behaviors. Figure out what his motivation is for nipping, implement appropriate management and modification measures, and your dog can learn to keep his teeth to himself.

Take it from me, these suggestions can work even when you need to get a dead rabbit out of your Mini Schnauzer's jaws!

SHOW CALENDAR

2024

March 19-20 O/R
St Joe Valley AC
Buchanan, MI

March 22-24 O/R
Companion DTC
Flint, MI

March 28-31 Breed
Jaxon, Macomb KC
Mason, MI

March 29-31 O/R
Kalamazoo KC
Kalamazoo, MI

April 6-7 O/R
Saginaw Valley KC
Flint, MI

April 19-21 O/R
Obed TC Lansing
Lansing, MI

April 26-28 Breed O/R
TCM/Progressive
Chesaning, MI

Agility 2023

March 1-3
Sportsmen's DTC
Lapeer, MI

March 8-10
Oakland Cty KC
Lapeer, MI

March 14-17
Various Clubs
Midland, MI

March 21-24
Various Clubs
Midland, MI

March 28-31
Various Clubs
Midland, MI

April 4-7
Various Clubs
Midland, MI

April 12-14
Siberian Husky
Lapeer, MI

April 18-21
Midland MI KC
Midland, MI

April 26-28
AADTC
Whitmore Lake, MI

**MINIATURE SCHNAUZER
CLUB OF MICHIGAN**

TOPLINES

is a bi-monthly publication

January-February

March-April

May-June

July-August

September-October

November-December