



# TOPLINES

## Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

*"Along with success comes a reputation for wisdom."*

*Euripides*

### TOPLINES

#### Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

January/February  
2016

Editor-Joanne Forster, 2186 S. Elkton Rd, Elkton, MI 48731 Ph. (989)-375-4106  
Email: jofor@airadv.net



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### Diseases Spread Through Feces

Dogs smell it, roll in it, walk in it, even ingest it. And, oftentimes, pick up serious diseases from it. Animal feces are one of the most common sources of the following diseases:

Parvovirus is one of the deadliest diseases in the dog population, particularly among puppies. Gaining entry through the mouth, the virus attacks the digestive tract and kills cells that are critical in the absorption of nutrients.

Severe fluid loss through diarrhea and vomiting can lead to shock and death. Parvo also temporarily affects a dog's immune system.

Parvovirus is spread through contact with feces containing the virus. The virus is known to survive in the environment and on inanimate objects - such as clothing, food pans, and cage floors - for up to 2 years in the right conditions.

Whipworms are blood suckers, tunneling into the wall of the intestine for their blood meals. Dogs may not show any signs, but when they do show signs, diarrhea and weight loss are usually observed. In large numbers, these parasites can cause anemia and even death. Whipworms can be difficult to diagnose due to long life cycles, eggs are shed intermittently, and the dense eggs are difficult to detect on fecal tests.

Adult worms in a dog's cecum produce eggs that are passed in the feces. The eggs must remain in the soil for 9-21 days to mature and be capable of causing infection. A dog becomes infected by ingesting whipworm eggs from the environment.

Hookworms are blood suckers attaching to the intestinal wall where they suck plugs of the intestinal tissue into their mouth structures. Anemia and/or intense in-

flammation can result. In the intestine, the adults produce eggs that pass into the feces. In 1-2 weeks, the eggs hatch and the larvae are released. These larvae live in the soil and wait for an animal to come along. Larvae may be ingested through contaminated sources in the environment, or from prey animals. Larvae may also infect animals by burrowing through the skin. A nursing dog may also pass the larvae to her nursing puppies. Hookworm infections can be passed to humans.

Roundworms (ascarids) can affect the lungs and the digestive system, with typical signs being vomiting and diarrhea. Puppies may have a distended abdomen, poor haircoat, and be underweight. Roundworms can also be spread to humans.

# Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

LUNCH MEETING & AWARDS  
Saturday, February 21, 2016  
3:00 pm

@

THE C-Pub in Canterbury Village  
Olde World Canterbury Village  
2369 Joslyn Ct. (I-75 and Joslyn area)  
Lake Orion, MI 48360  
<http://canterburyvillage.com/>  
Phone Number:  
(248) 391-5700 or (800) 442-XMAS

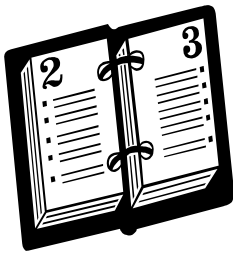


**BUSINESS MEETING**– Immediately following Lunch  
If you wish to discuss a matter, have your information ready. Committees, be ready with your reports. This will help keep time to a minimum

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

**GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!**

## 2016 Calendar of Important Events



FEBRUARY 21-  
THE C-Pub in Canterbury Village,  
Lake Orion

APRIL 30-  
MSCM Meeting,  
Bavarian Inn, Frankenmuth

JUNE 25 -  
Dinner meeting at restaurant near

Novi Show location. This is the week-end of DKC show

JULY 29-  
MSCM Agility Trial, Dexter, MI

AUGUST 27-  
MSCM Meeting, Joanne Forster's residence in Elkton

SEPTEMBER 30-  
MSCM Fall Specialty Show-Monroe, MI-Monroe County Fairgrounds

OCTOBER 7-9-  
Montgomery County  
Weekend-Pennsylvania

OCTOBER 16-  
MSCM Meeting, Sue Quinn's residence in Macomb

DECEMBER 10-  
MSCM Christmas Banquet, Coral Gables, East Lansing

Prompt removal and disposal of dog stools is the first step in controlling the spread of roundworms. Of the three types of roundworms affecting dogs, *Toxocara canis* has the most complex life cycle. It begins when the worms' eggs pass out in the infected animal's feces. These eggs survive in the environment and are later ingested by another dog. The larvae are released from the eggs and enter the wall of the new host's small intestine and eventually migrate through the liver and lungs. Finally they re-enter the intestine

where they mature and mate, and eggs are passed again in the feces.

*Giardia* are one-celled parasites that can cause diarrhea in dogs and cats. Infection with *Giardia* is often difficult to diagnose and treat effectively.

A dog becomes infected by eating the cyst form of the parasite. In the small intestine, the cyst opens and releases an active form called a trophozoite. These have flagella, hair-like structures that whip back and forth allowing them to move around. They attach to the intestinal wall and reproduce by dividing in two. After an unknown number of divisions, this form develops a wall around itself (encysts) and is passed in the feces. The *Giardia* in the feces can contaminate the environment and water and infect other animals and people.

them and coccidia will mature within their intestines. Young animals tend to have more severe illness associated with coccidia infection.

The best way to prevent these, and the many bacterial infections dogs can acquire from stools, is to remove feces immediately and keep your dog current on his vaccinations, fecal examinations and deworming. Also, pick up waste before a rain, which breaks up or scatters the feces and allows the worms or germs to spread into the environment.



### The Whelping Box

No litters to announce at this time

The quality of your litter should not only be evaluated by the best in the litter ....but by the least. If you are breeding quality animals, even your pets should be good examples of the breed!

Coccidia are also one-celled parasites that can cause diarrhea, especially in puppies & kittens.

Young animals are frequently exposed to their mother's feces. If the mother is shedding the infective organisms in her feces, then the young animals will likely ingest

## MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB OF MICHIGAN

### TOPLINES

is a bi-monthly publication

January-February

March-April

May-June

July-August

September-October

November-December

Editor - Joanne Forster

### We're on the Web!

[www.mimiatureschnauzerclubofmichigan.org](http://www.mimiatureschnauzerclubofmichigan.org)

## Performance



Order

### Training For Obedience or Rally Competition – A Technique To Teach Your Dog To Heel Off Lead

One of the hardest shifts in skill level is the transition from on lead in Novice, to off lead in Open Obedience and Advanced/Excellent Rally. Just because the dog works well on lead does not mean he will work as well off lead. Some handlers take a "leap of faith" by simply removing the leash to see what will happen. Some dogs do assume they should heel whether they are on lead or off lead, but this is not the norm.

When working toward off lead, many of us assume the dog is more prepared than he is. You want to transition gradually and not just take the leash off cold turkey.

One way to do this is to start with your regular leash, and also attach a very light line at the same time. A light line for a very small dog can be a piece of dental floss slipped through the collar, with both ends held in the hand. When you set up to start heeling, take the regular leash off. You'll still have the light line attached. When you start, the dog may be surprised that some-

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.



thing is still attached to his collar. Dogs become accustomed to "being on their own" when the leash comes off. The light line is not intended to trick the dog into thinking he's still on lead. As soon as the light line goes tight the first time, he knows he's still on lead. The light line is a chance to fine-tune heeling. The weight of the regular leash alone can be enough to cue the dog that he has to work, or that the leash is off and he doesn't. The light line gives the dog the feeling of working off lead, but with the handler still retaining some control.

The next step would be to use the regular leash and the light line. Remove the regular leash, and instead of using the light line, reach down with your hand and take the dog by the collar to help him stay in position. The dog learns that you can control him without using a leash at all. With the light line still being on him, he can't learn to dodge away from your hand. Keep the training positive, without potentially stressful corrections, since you're still in a teaching mode. This is a chance to show the dog what you want, not to trick him into a "gotcha" situation. Guide, encourage, prevent mistakes and help when necessary.

Don't forget to reward good performance, only when your dog meets your criteria. Don't let the dog think he gets rewarded for leaving and then coming back to you. Remember, a reward reinforces everything that came before, even the "going away". Also, practice

setting up to start, removing the leash, starting off, praise, reward, release - repeat, repeat, repeat.

When training for Rally, we often work on running a whole Rally course start to finish, when we may be more successful taking it a piece at a time. Sometimes back-chaining is a good plan. Start with the last three or four stations. Next time do the last five stations, then the last seven stations, etc. That way the dog is always working toward familiar territory and building confidence.

Constant chatter and commands to the dog can cause the dog to tune out, becoming less and less responsive. Moderation can be better when it comes to verbal communication with the dog, but every dog is different, and your mileage may vary. It is important to keep the dog from "teaching you" to give him extra commands. If he gets used to hearing constant commands he doesn't really have to pay attention to you because he can hear where you are at all times.

The importance of good preparation **can't be overstressed**. As with all training, have fun training your dog to heel off leash. Your reward will be a happy, animated dog that can perform a course beautifully off leash.

## Show Calendar

### Obedience & Rally 2016

March 5-6  
Collie Clubs  
Whitmore Lake, MI  
Closes 2-17

March 12-13 Obed & Rally  
St. Joe Valley Agility Club  
Buchanan, MI  
Closes 2-24

March 25-27 Obed & Rally  
CDTC  
Flint, MI  
Closes 3-9

April 2-3 Rally  
Kalamazoo KC  
Kalamazoo, MI  
Closes 3-16

April 8-10 Obed & Rally  
Saginaw Valley KC  
Birch Run, MI  
Closes 3-23

April 30 Obed  
Progressive Dog Club  
Birch Run, MI  
Closes 4-13

### Agility 2016

March 4-6  
Sportsmen's DTC  
Lapeer, MI  
Closes 2-12

March 11-13  
Oakland Cty KC  
Lapeer, MI  
Closes 2-17

March 18-20  
Kalamazoo KC  
Wyoming, MI  
Closes 3-2

March 26-27  
Central MI Agility Club  
Midland, MI  
Closes 3-11

April 1-3  
Mid MI Cocker

Wyoming, MI  
Closes 3-18

April 2-3  
Bouvier Club  
Dexter, MI  
Closes 3-18

April 8-10  
German Wirehaired Club  
Dexter, MI  
Closes 3-23

April 15-17  
Siberian Husky Club  
Dexter, MI  
Closes 4-1

April 22-24  
Midland MI Kennel Club  
Midland, MI  
Closes 4-9

April 29-May 1  
Ibizian Hound Club  
Dexter, MI  
Closes 4-15

### Conformation 2016

April 9 & 10  
Saginaw Valley KC  
Birch Run, MI  
Closes 3-23

April 29,30, 5-1  
TCM, Progressive KC  
Birch Run, MI  
Closes 4-13

## Braggs

GCHB Loneacre's Grand Slam  
BN,RA,NA,NAJ "Dodger" won BOB  
at the 2015 Owner/Handled Finals.  
Dodger also earned the AMSC Ver-  
satility Award. Owned by Sue  
Quinn, bred by Beth Santure.



*Congratulations!*