



TOPLINES

Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

*"Of all the properties which belong to honorable men, not one is so highly prized as that of character."
Henry Clay*

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Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

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What's a Hybrid Dog Really?

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What are hybrid dogs exactly, why are they so costly, and is hybrid vigor in dogs true or is it a myth? I was wondering about this when I met a goldendoodle who suffered from major health issues, and not only had several temperament issues on top of all that. Sadly, the owner confessed that she had been told about how this breed was superior in many ways to the purebred counterparts because of hybrid vigor. In this case, it turned out hybrid vigor wasn't very much in force. As I discussed this with other trainers, they also reported a high number of doodle dogs with health and temperament problems. In this article, we will take a glimpse into the interesting world of canine genetics, see why some designer dogs are so costly and tackle studies on hybrid vigor.

They Aren't Purebred Dogs- Goldendoodle, labradoodle, maltipoo, shishchon—these are just a few names portraying the hundreds of hybrid dogs who nowadays populate the world. Their cutesie designer "mutt" names may suggest dogs belonging to some prestigious breed, but

turns out though that a hybrid dog, also known as "designer dog," is not a purebred dog at all. A purebred dog by definition is a dog who has been selectively bred over many generations to "breed true." When a dog breeds true it means that every puppy produced will look alike and share the same characteristics. It's almost as if these dogs are crafted with a cookie cutter which roughly produces dogs with similar traits. Rottweilers come in black and tan colors, Dalmatians come with spots, dachshunds come with long backs, shar-pei come with wrinkles and great danes come with their impressively tall statures. So when you plan to get a purebred puppy of a certain breed, you can rest assured you know for a good extent what you will be getting. These traits are what makes dog breeds so valuable to us; they come with that special look we have enjoyed throughout the years. Breed standards were crafted so that breeders (hopefully!) follow certain guidelines to ensure their purebred dogs follow the ideal description of the breed. In dog shows, judges evaluate dogs based on

the standard (hopefully!) and the closest the dog gets to it, generally the better.

They are Wild Cards Genetically

When it comes to hybrid dogs, these dogs are the product of two purebred dogs being crossed. According to the New World Encyclopedia, "In biology, a hybrid is the offspring of individuals of different taxonomic groups or, in another sense, an offspring of crosses between populations, breeds, or cultivars within a single species." To be more specific, we are not talking about hybrids derived from crossing different species here, those are called interspecific hybrids, but about intraspecific hybrids just like Mendel's hybrid peas, known as F1 hybrids. The term hybrid in this article is used to depict "the mix of two animals of different breeds." A hybrid dog is therefore not a breed and therefore, as we have seen, is not purebred. Unlike purebred dogs, these dogs do not breed true, this means that like a shot in the dark, or crap

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Officers 2016
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MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB OF MICHIGAN BUSINESS MEETING

August 27, 2016

**At the home of Joanne & Rod Forster
2186 S. Elkton Road
Elkton, MI**

POTLUCK LUNCH—Starts at 12:00 pm

Please call Joanne (989)375-4106 or email : jofor@airadv.net and let me know what you will be bringing for the potluck. Bring lawn chairs & exercise pens

BUSINESS MEETING— Immediately following Lunch

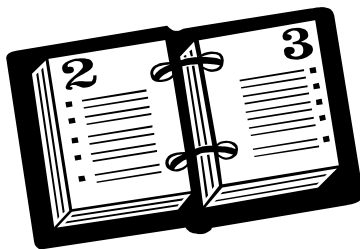
If you wish to discuss a matter, have your information ready. Committees, be ready with your reports. This will help keep time to a minimum.

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!

Directions from the Southeast.— Take M-53 North to Sebewaing Road (flashing yellow light) Turn left on Sebewaing Rd. and follow to South Elkton Rd. Take this to the RIGHT. Go North 2 1/2 miles. We will be the house on the left hand side of the road, right after the Thumb Animal Shelter. Light grey house, black shutters, fenced back yard, paved driveway.

Directions from the South & Southwest— Take I-75 North to the M-81 Exit (Exit #151) Turn right off of the exit, heading East. Stay on M-81 through Reese, Caro, and into Cass City. At the only stoplight in Cass City you will turn left, heading north. The name of the Road starts out as Seeger, changes to Cemetery Rd, then changes to S. Elkton Rd. Stay on this road through 2 stop signs. The second stop sign crossing road does NOT stop. After the 2nd stop sign we are 2 1/2 miles on the left hand side of the road, right after the Thumb Animal Shelter.

2016 Calendar of Important Events



AUGUST 27-

MSCM Meeting @ Joanne Forster's Residence, Elkton. See page 3 for details

SEPTEMBER 30 -

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

OCTOBER 7-9-

Montgomery County Week-end-Pennsylvania

OCTOBER 23-

Canine Workshop in Fraser. Meeting will include demos for Agility, Obedience and Conformation.

DECEMBER 10-

MSCM Christmas Banquet at Coral Gables Restaurant, East Lansing



Congratulations to Lynn Baitinger and Kelsi JoAnne and Ajax for High In Trial Preferred at the MSCM agility trial.

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shoot if you will, when you cross two purebred dogs you'll likely be getting a puppy with mixed traits that cannot be reliably predicted. Therefore, you'll have to expect to see any combination of characteristics found in either of the parent breeds. Because hybrid dogs lack reliable traits and they're not a breed, there's no official breed standard for them. To put it bluntly, some people call hybrids a "glorified mutt" with a hefty price tag. Indeed, their costs often easily surpass the price of purebred dogs!

They are Overbred

A problem with hybrid dogs is that they often become quite popular, and when a dog gets very popular, the wrong types of breeders get involved. So, what may start as a good thing ends up getting out of hand. Soon, dogs get overbred, causing careless breeding without paying attention to health or temperament while aiming just for the mighty dollar. Labradoodles and goldendoodles are often made popular because they're marketed as hypo-allergenic, non-shedding and odor-free—something that attracts many allergy sufferers. The truth is, no dog is totally hypoallergenic as the causes for allergies may vary from one person and another. There are many causes of dog allergies that go past the fur. This sales

pitch brings in lots of interest because people think they are dealing with some sort of wonder dog. Wally Conron, the person who created the first labradoodle by breeding a Lab with a poodle in his quest for finding the perfect guide dog for a woman in Hawaii whose husband was allergic to dogs, feels somewhat responsible for the spread of "Frankensteinen" designer dogs with horrible temperaments and a plethora of health issues. He claims: "Instead of breeding out problems, clueless and unscrupulous breeders are breeding them in. For every perfect one, you're going to find a lot of crazy ones." Additionally, sadly, many hybrid dogs are mass produced on puppy farms and the puppies are poorly socialized and often removed too early from the litter which may result in serious behavior problems down the road!

They Aren't Necessarily Healthier

There's this common belief that hybrid dogs are much healthier than purebred dogs, a phenomenon known as "hybrid vigor" or in scientific terms "heterosis." This phenomenon has often been used by unethical breeders to advertise their hybrid dogs as superior so they could ask exorbitant prices, but how true is this? This conventional wisdom likely stems from the belief that shallow gene pools, as often seen in purebred dogs, predisposes them to inherit health problems and loss of vigor (inbreeding depression) which includes lower sperm count, lower conception rates, smaller litter sizes and shorter lifespans. It's a

known fact that the introduction of another breed or even a different line of the same breed adds genetic variety which adds vitality. This is known as "hybrid vigor" and it's a strategy long-time dog breeders have been implementing in their breeding programs, explains Carol Beuchat, a vertebrate biologist with PhD in animal physiology. So is variety really the spice of life when it comes to genetics and is hybrid vigor the secret recipe for a healthy dog? Perhaps, but not in the way that some unethical breeders portray it. A study on hybrid vigor speaks volumes when it comes to heritable health conditions and offers a different view of the story. According to a large, five-year old study conducted by Thomas P. Bellumori et al. and published in the Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, after analyzing more than 90,000 health records, it was found that no difference was seen among purebred and crossbred dogs when it came to the incidence of 13 heritable conditions. There were only a few exceptions where it was actually found that some hereditary conditions remain isolated to specific breeds, but other than that, the superior health benefits claimed by breeders seem to be a myth. However, it must be said that this is often the result of poor breeding practices which focus more on conformation and certain traits, rather than health. For instance, if Labradors which are prone to hip prob-

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Show Calendar

Obedience & Rally 2016

Sept. 16-18 Obed & Rally
GRAC
Kentwood, MI
Closes 8-31

Sept. 16-17 Obed & Rally
St. Clair KC
Goodells, MI
Closes 8-31

Sept. 30-Oct. 2 Obed & Rally
Monroe KC
Monroe, MI
Closes 9-14

Oct. 8-9 Obed & Rally
AADTC
Whitmore Lake, MI
Closes 9-21

Oct. 22-23 Obed & Rally
Golden Ret. Club
Ann Arbor, MI
Closes 9-30
Limited Entry

Oct. 29-30 Obed & Rally
Sportsmen's DTC
Warren, MI
Closes 10-12

Nov. 5-6 Obed & Rally
CDTC
Flint, MI
Closes 10-19

Agility

Sept. 9-11
AADTC
Whitmore Lake, MI
Closes 8-24

Sept. 16-18
GRAC
Kentwood, MI
Closes 9-2

Sept. 23-25
Fort Wayne Obed TC
Dexter, MI
Closes 9-7

Sept. 30-Oct. 2
Grand Traverse KC
Midland, MI
Closes 9-16

Oct. 7-9
Midland MI KC
Midland, MI
Closes 9-23

Oct. 14-16
Oakland Cty KC
Grand Blanc, MI
Closes 9-21

Oct. 21-23
Fort Detroit Golden Retriever
Dexter, MI
Closes 10-7

Oct. 29-30
Central MI Agility Club
Midland, MI
Closes 10-14

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lems are crossbred with poodles who are prone to eye-sight problems you may end up with puppies prone to both conditions, explains Marc Abraham, a popular veterinarian making appearances on TV in the UK. Claims by unethical breeders stating that hybrids are healthier and get the best of both worlds from their parents are quite unfounded. "It's a nice story, but when you tell it, geneticists laugh" claims Stanley Coren, professor and author of the book 'Why do Dogs Have Wet Noses?'

Hybrid Dogs: Best of Both Worlds or Worst of Both

Worlds? A bad apple though doesn't have to spoil the batch. This article is not meant to give hybrid dogs a bad rap. I have met wonderful hybrids and not-so-wonderful purebreds. Also, it's always good practice to see both sides of the story to

Nov. 4-6
RRRR
Dexter, MI
Closes 10-21

Conformation

Sept. 17 & 18
St Clair K C
Goodells, MI
Closes 8-31
(Charles Olvis, Charlotte Paterson) Sept. 30- Nov. 1 & 2

Terrier Club of MI, Monroe KC
Monroe, MI
Closes 9-14
(Claudia Seaberg, Santiago Pinto (Sweeps), Louise Leone, Lorraine Boutwell)

Oct. 15 & 16
Mad River Valley KC
Urbana, OH
Closes 9-28
(Nancy Smith Hafner, Frank Washabaugh)

Oct. 29 & 30
Delaware OH KC
Delaware, OH
Closes 10-12
(Thomas Yates, Ann Hearn)

Nov. 10 - Nov. 13
Pontiac KC, Greater Muskegon KC, Kalamazoo KC, Grand Rapids K C,
Closes 10-26
(Steve Keating, Richard Powell, Anne Katona, Ronald Rella)

make a good argument. The take-home message I guess is to practice caution as hybrid dogs aren't necessarily the healthy, wonder dogs with terrific temperaments as they're often portrayed to be. Here is some food for thought.

A Starting Point

Hybrids aren't necessarily badly bred. There are wonderful hybrid breeders who health test and temperament test their purebred breeding stock before allowing them to mate. They breed for hybrids in the same way as they would breed for purebreds. If we think about it, in the old days, somewhere along the lines, dogs with desirable traits were matched and bred repeatedly over the years and that has led to the purebred dogs we see today. People who argue that creating hybrids is like designing dogs' bodies must understand that dogs were crafted

this way for hundreds of years ever since selective breeding practices took place. Only difference is that selective breeding in the past was mostly done over the years to create the perfect herding dogs, hunting dogs, and in some cases, lap dogs. There are chances that some designer dogs we see today may get recognized one day as a true breed if in the right hands of knowledgeable breeders. By cross breeding, this is how several recent breeds have obtained recognition.

Pleasant Looking Dogs

Let's face it: many designer dogs look adorable, but are they worthy of costing hundreds if not thousands of dollars? Most likely not, especially if they are bred by backyard breeders which may lead to additional costs

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MINIATURE SCHNAUZER CLUB OF MICHIGAN

TOPLINES

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January-February
March-April
May-June
July-August
September-October
November-December

Editor - Joanne Forster

WE ARE ON THE WEB!
www.miniatureschnauzerclubofmichigan.org

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.



MSCM Fall Specialty Show September 30, 2016



It's that time again for our Fall Specialty Show. That time again to volunteer your services to help make this another successful show! As always, our lunch is a big hit. That wouldn't be possible without our members collectively providing all of the good food! So put on your aprons!!

Don't forget, volunteers are ALWAYS needed for setting up, cleaning up, and tearing down afterward, along with scores of other tasks. Just ask where you can be of help!!

Come support your club! See you there!!



The AKC Agility Course Test (ACT)

The Agility Course Test (ACT) is an entry level agility event designed to introduce and welcome beginning dogs and their handlers to the AKC sport of agility. There are two levels of ACT events – ACT1 and ACT2. ACT1 is designed for the beginning level dog to show beginning sequencing and performance skills. ACT2 requires an increased skill level shown by the additional obstacles to be performed.

In addition to showing their dog's entry level skills, exhibitors will learn to fill out an AKC entry form, check-in at the ring, take their dog in and out of ring, handle their dog while being judged and other information that will help them when they move on to AKC agility trials with their dog.

The AKC recommends that an ACT event be held at the conclusion of an entry level agility training class. One can also be held at the conclusion of an agility trial, or can be held as a standalone event. An ACT event does not have to be held by an AKC licensed or affiliated club, and there is no application or fee to the AKC.

Any dog that meets the age (15 months) and physical requirements for a regular AKC agility trial and has not earned any AKC agility title can be entered. Dogs that are not registered with the AKC can be registered on the day of the ACT event, and will be issued a temporary registration number after the event by the AKC office.

An ACT event is judged by an AKC ACT Evaluator. An Evaluator may be, but is not required to be, an AKC agility judge. Anyone interested in becoming an ACT Evaluator should inquire about the application process with an email to: ACT@akc.org. There are currently seven ACT Evaluators in Michigan:

Linda Brady, Oxford, MI

Nancy Brissette, Sanford, MI

Owen Deatruck, Mason, MI

Sandy Deatruck, Mason, MI

Carolyn Dostal, Bangor, MI

Heather McKinnon, West Branch, MI

Debbie Miller, Midland, MI

An ACT 1 class will be run on a course of 10-12 obstacles including a five foot high A Frame, a table, jumps (no spreads) and open tunnels. Dogs must complete

the course in no more than 60 seconds with a score of at least 85. Dropped bars, missed contacts, more than three attempts to complete any obstacle and more than three wrong courses will result in a non-qualifying score. Two qualifying legs are required to earn the ACT 1 Title and certificate.

An ACT 2 class will be run on a course of 11-13 obstacles including a five foot high A Frame, teeter, dog walk, table, jumps including one spread, open tunnels, closed tunnel and weaves. Dogs must complete the course in no more than 70 seconds with a score of at least 85. Dropped bars, missed contacts, more than three attempts to complete any obstacle and more than three wrong courses will result in a non-qualifying score. Two qualifying legs are required to earn the ACT 2 Title and certificate.

AKC judges, ACT Evaluators, AKC Field Reps and Director can design ACT courses, which must be approved by an AKC Agility Field Rep. There is also a master library of courses to pull from.

The new AKC Agility Course Test is all about having fun and learning about competing in AKC agility events in a less pressured environment than might be found at a licensed trial. The event is meant to encourage the sport of agility and help dog/handler teams prepare for regular agility competitions. Competitors that are new to agility will also have the chance to learn how to time, scribe and be part of a ring crew. An ACT event also gives experienced agility trainers and competitors the chance to mentor newer teams.

Several ACT events have already been held in Michigan, were well attended and fun for everyone involved. You can read more about the Agility Course Test on the AKC website at www.akc.org.

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with the potential health issues popping up. Your best bet is to look for breeders who health test their breeding stock, but these dogs may cost as much as purebred dogs.

If you fell in love with hybrid dogs or are looking for an eye-catching dog that'll make heads turn without costing a fortune, consider that you can often find many hybrids at the shelter for a fraction of the cost. These dogs can be just as unique as the expensive designer dogs with cutesie names advertised on the newspaper. Best of all, when adopting, what you see is generally what you get as the chances for major "guess work" are practically eliminated. The only difference is that often instead of being purposely bred by mating purebred dogs, these mixed breeds are likely the result of an accidental breeding (think momma's mutt falling in love with your neighbor's mutt) or an intentional breeding where one or both parents were not purebred dogs. Just keep in mind that they are dogs, and as such, they have needs and aren't meant to be used as fashion accessories a-la-Paris Hilton style nor attention-grabbers because of their unusual looks!

A Vast Array of Choices

While it's saddening that there are so many unethical breeders and puppy mills pumping out designer dogs at astounding rates, on the bright side we can say that there's quite an assortment of hybrids available that can match every taste. To see an extensive list of hybrid dogs, visit the American Canine Hybrid Club. So with that many choices, if you like a certain purebred dog but it's too large or active, some hybrids may offer the looks of that breed but with the advantage of coming in a smaller package or coming with a calmer disposition—even though this isn't always the rule as we have seen how traits can be quite unpredictable! So the good thing is that sometimes hybrid dogs can offer solutions to what would otherwise make life difficult if they were a purebred dog.

Possibly Healthier Specimens

Wait! Didn't you show studies making claims of how hybrids often inherit health problems and hybrid vigor is a

myth? Well, let's face it: studies sometimes miss important aspects, and we need to admit that some purebred dog breeds are plagued with several health disorders that can be quite scary. For instance, the English bulldog has a long list of health problems that can be quite frightening and impressive to deal with. The same can be said of many brachycephalic dog breeds with smudged-in faces. So if say you like the pug but you don't like to deal with snorting and breathing difficulties, a puggle (the mix between a pug and beagle) may offer an alternative since they often turn out having a longer, healthier nose. So ultimately, some purebred dog breeds with bodies that make them prone to health issues can be somewhat "bettered" in the health department, but only if breeders know what they are doing, if they're conscientious in health testing and are also somewhat lucky to not end up with a dog displaying a host of health problems.

Knowledge is Power

Hybrids are cute, they have cool names and there are many types, but they don't always turn out to be the wonder dogs some breeders portray them to be. But isn't this ultimately true of all dogs? If you really want a hybrid, you can take a peak at your shelter for an older dog, or if you want a puppy, you can look for a good breeder, but it's important to conduct good research before purchasing a hybrid dog. Just as when searching for purebred dogs, prospective designer dog owners should look for ethical breeders who health test both parent breeds to lower the chances for heritable conditions from being passed on. Consider though that not many ethical breeders are interested in creating a hybrid dog, so be very careful.

For instance, the Labrador Retriever Club warns that Labradoodles are nothing more than an expensive crossbred and clearly states its opposition to deliberately crossing Labrador Retrievers with other breeds as it's an attempt to mislead the public about advantages that aren't true. Knowledge is power, so look for healthy specimens bred by responsible breeders willing to health test, breed for good temperaments, give health guarantees and take back pup-

pies if there should ever be any problems. Yes, you can find code-of-ethics breeders even for hybrids!

The Bottom Line

Hybrids are unique, they have intriguing names, and they come in a vast array of shapes, colors and sizes, but hybrid dogs aren't purebred dogs, they are not a breed, they don't have breed standards to adhere to and they're very costly for being bred often with little interest in the health and temperament department. Hybrids are also often portrayed as hypoallergenic, but allergies can be caused by many other things than fur, and because hybrids are like wild cards genetically, their non-shedding coat qualities cannot be reliably predicted.

Hybrids are also not immune from health issues as often claimed. They may suffer from heritable health conditions passed down from the parent breeds. So the take-home message is to use caution and if you happen to hear a breeder asking a premium and making claims of no need for health testing because hybrid vigor will magically wipe all health problems off the face of the earth, don't walk away but run!