



# TOPLINES

## Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

**TOPLINES** **March/April 2009**  
**Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan**  
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### PREFERRED BREED TYPE

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*Why The Stand-Out Best Dog Can Be A Loser---E. K. (Katie) Gammill*

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**Officers 2008**

- President: Beth Santure  
 Vice Pres.: Joanne Forster  
 Secretary: Donna Giles  
 Treasurer: Sue Schauer



*The Dog Press 1/05/09* The Best of the Best or one that looks like the rest? Let's be honest. Something called "preferred type" is flooding the rings today and in many breeds, it has little to do with the Breed Standard. When "current type" does not equal correctness, the best dog can lose because in many rings, the fatal flaw is being a stand-out.

A dog show friend, absent from the sport for several years, attended some local shows with me. Welcoming the opportunity to view dogs in general after her sabbatical, she became visually distressed. Her despair increased when a "less than average" class dog received BOB. The waning quality in her beautiful breed breaks her heart. She stated it would be wasted effort to show a dog correct to the standard today, as some judges feel compelled to award dogs conforming to the majority of the entries.

Observing other breeds, she remarks on the lack of neck, restricted front movement and the lack of rear follow through; we discuss "gay tails" and breed type variances. We watch faulty movement and

see coats dragging the ground. Weak pasterns and sickle hocks complete the picture. She wonders what causes this to happen to functional dogs in such a short time. It seems the correct dogs have fallen victim to what one may refer to as the "Perfection of Mediocrity". Today, many breeders and owners turn to performance, choosing not to participate in a "crap shoot" where such variety in type confuses both judges and ringside. I make this statement at the expense of being tarred and feathered but increasingly, the best dog you'll ever breed may be the hardest dog you will ever finish. It will be the "odd man out" and look different from the majority of dogs represented in the ring. Why? Some judges, insecure in a breed and therefore lacking courage, choose to walk "different" dogs rather than stick their neck out. Understandable, but should those lacking confidence be passing judgment on another's dog My old mentor said, "The pendulum of type swings to and fro, but those remaining true to the standard triumph in the end." Those dedicated breeders have the knowledge to restore a breed to its initial

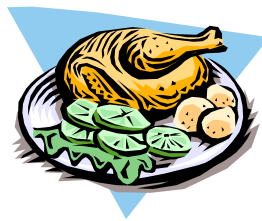
form once it hits bottom. Should a judge reward a dog to suggest it could possibly assist in correcting breed faults? NO! It is a breeder's responsibility to incorporate such animals into their programs, regardless of success in the show ring. Judges are to judge to the written standard to the best of their ability, fairly and efficiently. They avoid awarding "drags of a breed" when possible but judges have little insight into the Pandora's Box of breeding.

A respected dog person of long standing approached me with this statement while at a seminar. "A judge CAN NOT GO WRONG by putting up winners conforming to the majority of the type of dogs in the ring on a given day." My response was "Surely not!" Well, I believe it now! After observing an all breed judge from ringside, I watched two outstanding individuals "walk" because they looked different from the rest of the short neck, sickle hock, smaller than average dogs lacking side gait that toddled around the ring like fuzzy little caricatures of the breed.

**Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan  
Dinner/Meeting  
April 25, 2009**

**GUEST SPEAKER:  
Dr Will Schultz DVM**

**Bavarian Inn Restaurant  
713 S. Main Street  
Frankenmuth, MI 48734  
Phone (800)228-2742**



**US-23/75 to Exit 136 (Birch Run)  
Turn East & proceed to M-83, turn left, proceed to downtown,  
on the right after the covered bridge**

**Cash Bar Social Hour at 5:30 pm  
Dinner served at 6:00 pm  
General Meeting to follow**

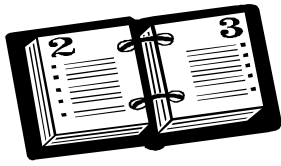
**MENU:**

**Family style chicken dinner with all of the accompanying  
side dishes plus lemon meringue pie or ice cream for dessert. Coffee, pop  
and tea included. Cash Bar.**

**Cost is \$24.19 per person (tax & gratuity included)  
Children under 12 get a discounted price.**

**Reservation **REQUIRED** by Wednesday, April 19. Contact Diane Gardner  
(810)789-6605 (after 8 pm) or email: [gardnerdiane@hotmail.com](mailto:gardnerdiane@hotmail.com)**

**AS ALWAYS GUESTS ARE WELCOME!!**



## 2009 Calendar of Important Events

### APRIL 25-

MSCM Dinner Meeting- Bavarian Inn,  
Frankenmuth (see page 3 for details)

### JUNE 21-

Annual MSCM Outdoor Potluck  
Meeting & Eye Clinic at Debbie Her-  
rell's, Grass Lake

### AUGUST ? -

Not confirmed yet

### SEPTEMBER 25-

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

### OCTOBER 2,3,4

Montgomery County Weekend-  
Pennsylvania

### OCTOBER 17-

MSCM Dinner Meeting

### DECEMBER 5-

MSCM Christmas Banquet & Awards  
Coral Gables Restaurant, East Lansing



## The Whelping Box

Born: 2-12-09, 4 B/S females  
Mother: AmCanCh.Sercatep's Just B Cause  
Father: Sercatep Somebody Said  
Owner: Debbie Herrell

Born: 3-20-09, 3 S/P & 4 B/S (4 males 3 females)  
Mother: Ch. Jofor's Here For The Party  
Father: Sercatep's Somebody Said  
Owner: Joanne Forster



**Karen Pryor Web Site Info:**  
<http://www.clickertraining.com>  
***Fifteen Tips for Getting Started with the Clicker***

**Clicker training** is a new, science-based way to communicate with your pet. It's easier to learn than standard command-based training. You can **clicker** train any kind of animal, of any age. Puppies love it. Old dogs learn new tricks. You can clicker-train cats, birds, and other pets as well. Here are some simple tips to get you started.

Push and release the springy end of the clicker, making a two-toned click. Then treat. Keep the treats small. Use a delicious treat at first: for a dog or cat, little cubes of roast chicken, not a lump of kibble.

Click **DURING** the desired **behavior**, not after it is completed. The **timing** of the click is crucial. Don't be dismayed if your pet stops the behavior when it hears the click. The click ends the behavior. Give the treat after that; the timing of the treat is not important.

Click when your dog or other pet does something you like. Begin with something easy that the pet is likely to do on its own. (Ideas: sit; come toward you; touch your hand with its nose; lift a foot; touch and follow a **target** object such as a pencil or a spoon.)

Click once (in-out.) If you want to express special enthusiasm, increase the number of treats, not the number of clicks.

Keep practice sessions short. Much more is learned in three sessions of five minutes each than in an hour of boring repetition. You can get dramatic results, and teach your pet many new things, by fitting a few clicks a day here and there in your normal routine.

## Performance Corner by Lynn Baitinger

Fix bad behavior by clicking good behavior. Click the puppy for relieving itself in the proper spot. Click for paws on the ground, not on the visitors. Instead of scolding for making noise, click for silence. Cure leash-pulling by clicking and treating those moments when the leash happens to go slack.

Click for voluntary (or accidental) movements toward your goal. You may coax or lure the animal into a movement or position, but don't push, pull, or hold it. Let the animal discover how to do the behavior on its own. If you need a leash for safety's sake, loop it over your shoulder or tie it to your belt.

Don't wait for the "whole picture" or the perfect behavior. Click and treat for small movements in the right direction. You want the dog to sit, and it starts to crouch in back: click. You want it to come when called, and it takes a few steps your way: click.

Keep raising your goal. As soon as you have a good response-when a dog, for example, is voluntarily lying down, coming toward you, or sitting repeatedly-start asking for more. Wait a few beats, until the dog stays down a little longer, comes a little further, sits a little faster. Then click. This is called "shaping" a behavior.

When your animal has learned to do something for clicks, it will begin showing you the behavior spontaneously, trying to get you to click. Now is the time to begin offering a **cue**, such as a word or a hand signal. Start clicking for that behavior if it happens during or after the cue. Start ignoring that behavior when the cue wasn't given.

Don't order the animal around; clicker training is not command-based. If your pet does not respond to a cue, it is not disobeying; it just hasn't learned the cue completely. Find more ways to cue it and click it for the desired behavior. Try working in a qui-

eter, less distracting place for a while. If you have more than one pet, separate them for training, and let them take turns.

Carry a clicker and "catch" cute behaviors like cocking the head, chasing the tail, or holding up one foot. You can click for many different behaviors, whenever you happen to notice them, without confusing your pet.

If you get mad, put the clicker away. Don't mix scoldings, leash-jerking, and **correction** training with clicker training; you will lose the animal's confidence in the clicker and perhaps in you.

If you are not making progress with a particular behavior, you are probably clicking too late. Accurate timing is important. Get someone else to watch you, and perhaps to click for you, a few times.

Above all, have fun. Clicker-training is a wonderful way to enrich your relationship with any learner.

**About the author** Karen Pryor is the founder and CEO of [Karen Pryor Clickertraining](http://www.clickertraining.com), and the author of many books including [Don't Shoot the Dog](#). [Learn more about Karen Pryor](#) or read [Karen's Letters](#) online.

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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're on the Web!

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

## Care and Management of Humans

You should have your human fixed, even if it's a purebred human. There are too many humans, and our big cities are over populated with them to the point where we are unable to feed and shelter all of them. If your human talks too much, we suggest using a shock collar.

If you must breed your human, even though we do not believe there are any good reasons for breeding humans, at least do genetic screening to help ensure your human is a healthy one that conforms to breed standards.

Some humans are very hyper and will pull on their leash constantly. For these extreme cases, we recommend a choker collar.

If your human is aggressive

and frequently starts fights, please put a muzzle on it when you take it out in public.

You should feed your human something better than Purina human chow.

If your human is sick, you should not put it down just because you can't afford the cost of surgery. You should rearrange your budget or mortgage your dog house.

Don't buy a human for your puppy just to teach it responsibility.

You should always carry "money" treats to reward your human. Humans love money and will do almost anything for money treats.

If your human attacks a dog, it should be put to sleep.

If you already own a male & a female human, you should be careful about getting a third human. Two males will

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.



often fight very aggressively for the attention of the female, and two females will often do the same over a male human.

A good way to test a human for temperament is to take its money or food away from it to see if it reacts aggressively.

Some humans have a bad habit of peeing in the water bowl; if your human continuously goes to the bathroom in the house, we suggest you chain it outside.

Continued from Page 1

This strange “look alike” perspective takes over in many breed rings and not just among judges. Asking a breeder what their standard said about head planes, the response was: “What are parallel planes?” We discussed the occipital bone, short and medium muzzles, balanced heads, etc. Reading a standard and applying it can be two different things.

Judges should have the ability to articulate why one dog wins over another. So is that why they make terminology common among standards - to make it easier for judges? If anyone can describe a bulldog and an afghan using the same language, please step forward. Removing the “point system” from the old standards has had a negative affect. In a final decision between two comparable individuals, one has an idea where to hang their hat regarding prioritizing.

It is a "Judas Kiss" to any breed when a judge puts up a dog simply because it looks like the majority in the ring. It encourages people to breed to “winners” rather than to a breed standard. In judge’s education, they address soundness but type takes priority. Educators assume that new applicants understand structure and corresponding movement. Type without soundness is as detrimental to a breed as soundness without type. A bad front and bad rear working in sequence produces “balance”. Do two wrongs make a right? The goal is “a balance between type and soundness”. A breed must be able to walk to the water bowl without falling over its own feet!

This brings us to the next question. Are not judges “protectors of the breed standards?” Judges education is NOT at fault. Perhaps the problem is what some judging applicants do NOT bring to the table! It is a privilege to pass judgment on a breed but one has the responsibility of understanding “Basic Dog 101”. The AKC’s required anatomy test neither assures someone’s knowledge nor is it any guarantee a judge has the ability to analyze structure and movement.

Some breeder judges today send dogs with a handler giving little thought as to their quality or future effect on a breed. Shouldn’t breeder judges be especially careful to send correct dogs for public observation? Breeders have a responsibility to put out “the best of the best” rather than a dog that wins simply because it “looks like the rest.” By so doing, they are sending false signals to both ringside and new judges.

When judges say, “This must be what the breeders want as the ring is flooded with this type” it is detrimental to any breed. It IS NOT about “what breeders want.” Breeders and judges have a responsibility to breed and judge to standard.

Should handlers show dogs for clients when they KNOW the dog or bitch is not a good representative of the breed? Breeders and exhibitors have a responsibility to promote only dogs that DO represent their breed standard and to sell as pets those who do not! A good handler should make every effort to finish a dog but they too are responsible and should be more selective regarding client dogs. Handlers who read the standard and who have the courage to turn down an inferior dog are to be admired.

Advertising does not always mean a dog represents “breed excellence”. Handlers do not always present “good dogs”. Advertising carries some influence and if a judge selects winners on advertising alone, they do a disservice to the breed and it reflects on their ability as a judge.

“Priority judging” can be detrimental to breeds as Judges become caught up in selecting for individual virtues be it eye, ear

set, feet, or coat color. That is why some specialty judges “put up pieces” rather than the whole package. Virtues are important, but a dog should “fill the eye”. A single virtue cannot take precedence over a plethora of faults! Priority judging explains why many judges take so long to judge a class. Dismayed exhibitors approach me with serious concerns regarding the direction of our sport. Time and effort is required to understand what makes a breed “breed specific”, and what constitutes “breed excellence”. There is no short cut. Everyone is entitled to his/her opinion. However, it should be a knowledgeable opinion. Personal preference only enters in when two dogs are equal according to the breed standard.

Another issue is “spot entering”. Granted, today people enter under specific judges where they feel there is a chance of winning. However, why on a four-day weekend, do we see one point on Thursday, a major on Friday, one point on Saturday, and a major on Sunday? Should not one support the person who supports them by entering all four days? If there is a major, don’t break it by not attending. Don’t bump up a bitch or dog to BOB without first asking the other exhibitors their preference. Many people drive miles only to find someone failed to show up ringside or “bumped up” a new champion and broke the major. This co-operation is something we used to be able to count on. Today it is “iffy” at best. This is “sportsmanship”!

Watch dogs go around the ring. Some are structurally inefficient. Some shoulders do not open up, the dog reaches from the elbow. Ask yourself why one dog out-moves another. Go analyze short coated dogs. Take this knowledge to your own breed ring and “look beneath the coat”. Understand top lines, body shape, breed specific movement and toy/moderate/ giant. Do some study and then some soul searching. Ringside observers and breed enthusiasts look on in dismay today, wondering where the functional dogs of the past have gone. Sadly, some faults are so prevalent today they are viewed as “virtues”.

Requested to address this issue, I decided to take time to sit back and see the “big picture.” The “big picture” is upon us, folks, and it is not pretty! My reason to become a judge was the challenge to select the best of the best according to a written standard. I love dogs! I love SOUND dogs with BREED TYPE! Both virtues, believe it or not, can be present in the same animal! Through combined efforts and a willingness to call “a spade a spade”, our breeds WILL survive. Breeding for the sake of winning is a downhill slide. This alone assures the future of our breeds. Turning things around will take dedicated breeders and judges, critical handler selection, and educated exhibitors. Our sport deserves nothing less than the best of our intentions.

#### ASK YOURSELF THESE QUESTIONS.

1. Why do breeder judges “put dogs with handlers when they know the animal does not represent breed excellence?”
2. Why do handlers accept such dogs knowing once they finish, they will be “petted out”?
3. Are you kennel blind and do you breed to standard?

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4. Should breeders and newcomers read the standard prior to stud and bitch selection?
5. When will more mentors open up to newcomers?
6. And lastly, are “gas money” and “filler” dogs destroying our sport?

Putting a breed back on track requires ETHICAL HANDLERS, DEDICATED BREEDERS, AN UNDERSTANDING OF BREED STANDARDS and KNOWLEDGE-ABLE JUDGES WITH THE COURAGE TO MAKE RESPONSIBLE SELECTIONS. Being a judge is not for the faint of heart. Sending the best dog to the next level and being a part of its journey to the pinnacle of success is a thrill of a lifetime.

There is but ONE standard. “Preferred breed type” is like a flavor of the month, very fleeting! **BREEDERS, JUDGES AND EXHIBITORS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT THEIR BREED STANDARDS. CURRENT FADS AND PERSONAL OPINIONS ARE FLEETING AND DESTRUCTIVE.**

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## Braggs

On April 16, 17, and 18, at the Terre Haute and Bloomington Indiana Kennel Club shows held in Terre Haute, Ind., Sercatep's Somebody Said (Robson) owned by Debbie Herrell, went WD, BOW and BOB for 3 -3 point majors to finish his Championship!

At the same 3 shows, Loneacre's Spring Fling, (Spring) owned by Beth Santure, went WB and BOS for 3-3 point majors also to finish her Championship!

At the AKC Agility Nationals, held in Concord, North Carolina, in March, Connor , owned by Lynn Baitinger, placed 6th in the 18" International Class. The International Class is the jump height division for those dogs interested in competing on the World Team and the jump heights are set for European Standards.

In the State Team competition Connor placed 2nd over all others from Michigan - all jump heights.

## Congrats to all!!!