



TOPLINES

Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

“There is real magic in enthusiasm.
It spells the difference between
mediocrity and accomplishment

—Norman Vincent Peale

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Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

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Inside this issue:

Pet Underpopulation: The Pet Shortage in the US by Loretta Baughan (Reprinted with permission)

Cover Story	pg 1
Next Meeting Info	pg 3
The Whelping Box, Calendar, & Member Profile	pg 4
Braggs	pg 7

Last month, I had the opportunity to be a guest on a talk radio program discussing recent pet legislation efforts in Wisconsin spearheaded by a small group of animal rights extremists. Some callers to the program realized the threat to pet owners and breeders such legislation poses and expressed concern. Many callers, however, were frantic about the "pet overpopulation" problem and thought laws were needed to stop breeders.

Listen up! The notion that there is a "pet overpopulation" problem is nothing more than a figment of the imagination of the anti-pet, anti-pet owner, anti-pet breeder animal rights fanatics. Yes, you read that correctly. There is definitely NOT an overpopulation of dogs or cats, at least not in the United States. There may have been a problem 25-30 years ago, but due to heavy promotion of spay and neuter, it is estimated that over 75% of dogs and more than 87% of cats have been surgically sterilized (1). The pendulum has swung so far in the opposite direction that now, we are actually facing a shortage of pets... a pet underpopulation.

"In truth, there is no pet overpopulation problem. The Tufts

Center for Animals and Public Policy has collected data about pet population that are striking:

Changes in Animal Population
1973 1982 1990 US total dogs
& cats (millions) 65 91 110
dogs & cats euthanized
(millions) 13 10 5% of animals
euthanized 20% 11% 4.5%"

-- *Animalscam: The Beastly Abuse of Human Rights* by Kathleen Marquardt, Herbert M. Levine, Mark LaRochelle, published in 1993. Many in the animal rights crowd know this dirty little secret, but are unwilling to be honest about it since they would lose credibility - not to mention a very effective "tool" to leverage the public for donations, influence legislation and the media to propagate their lies. Animal rights extremists have advanced their agenda by erroneously placing the blame for "pet overpopulation" on pet breeders. They have been successful at using this falsehood to convince pet owners that the "responsible" thing to do is to subject their pets to surgical sterilization in order to combat "pet overpopulation". Sadly, they have even hoodwinked

many purebred breeders into thinking they must pressure their buyers to spay or neuter their puppies and kittens - to the detriment of many purebred gene pools. As a result, with fewer individual dogs being used in breeding programs, health problems are increasing as diversity is decreasing.

What are the facts?
According to the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association's (APPMA) *2007-2008 National Pet Owners Survey* (1), 63% of U.S. households own pets - up from 56% in 1988, which was the first year this study was conducted. With national population figures having increased from approximately 244,500,000 people in 1988 to 303,200,000 at the end of 2007 (2), the number of pet homes is ever increasing and at a greater rate than the human population. This is a trend that shows no sign of slowing down. The latest APPMA figures show that Americans own 74.8 million dogs and a whopping 88.3 million cats. We are a nation that loves pets and consider them part of



the family. We open our hearts, our homes and our wallets to care for our pets. We spend a lot of money on our pets. In less than 20 years, this figure has nearly doubled - from \$23 billion in 1988 to a projected \$40.8 billion last year.

A shortage of homes for pets is not the problem. So, then, why are there so many dogs and cats in animal shelters? In a nutshell, the answer to that question is poor management of shelters coupled with a resistance to adopt methods that work. Many of the smaller shelters are operated by people who love animals and desperately want to help, but are lacking in animal husbandry experience and management skills.

One shelter manager I spoke with blamed breeders for the dogs coming through their doors, then in an emotional rant, claimed that breeders are forcing their females to have three or four litters a year - keeping them pregnant all of the time. I interrupted her and said that was physically impossible since dogs typically only come into season twice a year. She then admitted she didn't know that and said, "Well, I'm not a breeder, myself."

The woman's heart is in the right place, but without an understanding gained from hands on experience raising dogs or cats, how can we expect our shelters to succeed? Like it or not, an animal shelter is a business - and it has to be operated as such.

"Shelters and pounds reported to HSUS that by the 1980s, the number of animals they handled had decreased dramatically (Rowan and Williams 1997, 110-111). In addition, the animals handled by pounds and shelters seem to have changed demographically from unwanted litters to young, untrained dogs and cats (Patronek 1996, 1)." --

Bridging the Bond: The Cultural Construction of the Shelter Pet by Tami L. Harbolt

Most of the dogs entering shelters are surrendered by their owners due to behavior issues. Often, it boils down to a simple lack of training. Animal shelters that offer obedience classes can help curb the influx of this type of dog into their shelter—while doing the dog, the owner and the community a service.

Other dogs are brought to shelters because they are sick or old and their owners cannot afford to pay - or do not want to pay - for vet care or euthanasia.

In some shelters, cats may outnumber dogs by about a two-to-one ratio. Many of these cats are feral and are owned by no one. Most are classified as "unadoptable" - yet they are included in

the shelter statistics. Programs that catch feral cats, sterilize them and release them are demonstrating success in reducing their numbers.

Animal shelters are importing dogs by the thousands!

Meanwhile, well run animal shelters have become victims of their own success. In order to keep their doors open and justify new million-dollar facilities and salaries, some animal shelters have found a "new" source of dogs... and have been *importing them by the thousands*. Here, in Wisconsin, animal shelters in Green Bay and Milwaukee have a pet underpopulation problem and have been *importing thousands of puppies into the state for the past several years*. Through the PetSmart Charities Rescue Waggin', they have brought in puppies from Iowa, Indiana, Illinois, Tennessee and Kentucky - as many as 50 at a time. The *Green Bay Press-Gazette* reported in December that the 32 dogs arriving Thursday evening (Dec 6, 2007) were expected to be "adopted out by this weekend" (3).

H.O.P.E. Safehouse, out of Racine, is more of a rescue organization than an animal shelter as they do not have a facility of their own, but rely on volunteers to care for the dogs they import, mainly from the south. A Milwaukee Public Radio online news article reports that this group recently brought in a shipment of 100 puppies from Kentucky, many of which were sick.

The same article (Jan 11, 2008) goes on to say that the Wisconsin Humane Society in Milwaukee has imported 9,000 dogs with more animals arriving there via the Rescue Waggin' "a few times a week" - and that they have "hundreds of families looking for animals to adopt" (4).

Other shelters within our state have available dogs, so rather than bring in animals from other states, why not first assist the smaller Wisconsin shelters by placing their surplus dogs? Could it be that by emptying shelters around the state, it would be difficult - if not impossible - to continue the illusion that a "pet overpopulation" problem exists?

This program is not exclusive to Wisconsin. Shelters in many other areas of the country are participating. The Rescue Waggin' transports puppies from shelters struggling to find homes to areas where the demand for dogs is higher than the supply. That's a win-win situation for all, especially the dogs. However, to continue the charade of claiming a "pet overpopulation" problem exists is dishonest. Another concern is that the thousands of animals being

transferred from one shelter to another are being tallied twice, creating an impression that there are far more homeless pets than actually exist.

"Animal shelters in the USA are casting a wide net - from Puerto Rico to as far as Taiwan - to fill kennels. Critics say many shelters have solved the stray problem in their own area - but rather than shut down, they become *de facto* pet stores. Some charge more than \$200 per adoption for imported dogs," reports *USA Today* (5). More than 14,000 strays have been shipped in from Puerto Rico, and many thousands more are being imported from Mexico, India and the Bahamas each year.

Another *USA Today* article warns, "Agencies in Southern California created the Border Puppy Task Force after they saw a surprising number of very young dogs being brought across the border from Mexico. The task force estimated that during a one-year span, 10,000 puppies entered San Diego County." (6)

There are legitimate concerns that animal shelters importing stray dogs from foreign countries may be importing disease, as well. Besides health issues, these street dogs lack proper socialization and may have poor temperaments. Is it ethical for animal shelters to expose the public to these unknowns, while condemning anyone who breeds a litter in our country? I don't think so. The National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy (NCPSP) was formed in the early 1990s. Member groups include the American Humane Association (AHA), the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association (APPMA), American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), Cat Fanciers Association (CFA), the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and others. Between 1994-1997 they sent questionnaires to animal shelters around the country seeking to compile statistics for the numbers of intake animals, animals reclaimed by owners, those who found new homes and euthanasia. But due to a low number of shelters willing to respond, the study was discontinued a decade ago.

Without insisting on reliable statistics and factual evidence to back up their claims, we have allowed the fox to patrol the hen house. We can no longer blindly accept the pie-in-the-sky guesstimates groups such as the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and other similar agenda-driven animal extremists

Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan
Annual CERF Clinic
June 22, 2008



Dr. Patricia Gearhart ACVO
—Starting at 9:00am—
\$25 per dog

Your dog's registration information will be needed for eye checks

POTLUCK LUNCH-Starts at 12:00 Noon

Please call Debbie at (517) 522-4173 or e-mail at debdel@modempool.com with reservations for eye checks and lunch. Please let her know what you plan on bringing for the potluck

Remember to bring lawn chairs, exercise pens

Business Meeting-Immediately following Lunch

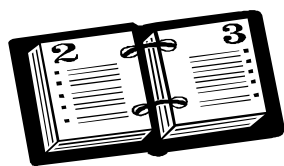
If you wish to discuss a matter, have your information ready. Committees, be ready with your reports. This will help to keep time to a minimum.

This is held at the home of Debbie & Del Herrell
13551 Phal Rd, Grass lake, MI 49240

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!!

DIRECTIONS: I-94 from the East: Exit 157 Pierce Rd. – at the end of the exit turn left (old US-12 Michigan Ave.) Go 4 1/2 miles to Francisco Rd., turn left. Go to stop sign. Turn right on to Grass Lake Rd. Go 1/2 mile to Fishville Rd. Turn left. After S curve is Phal Rd. Turn right (only goes to the right) to the second house on the left (farm)

I-94 from the West: Grass Lake Exit (Mt. Hope Rd.) at the end of the exit turn right onto Mt. Hope Rd. Go to the stop light. Turn left on to Michigan Ave. Go approximately one mile to Norvell Rd. Turn right, continue through 4-way stop to the next cross road. Turn left onto Phal Rd. Go 1 1/2 miles. Farm is on the right



2008 Calendar of Important Events

JUNE 22

Annual MSCM Outdoor Potluck Meeting & Eye Clinic at Debbie Herrell's, Grass Lake

AUGUST 16

Tentative date for meeting held at Joanne Forster's, Elkton

SEPTEMBER 26

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

OCTOBER 3-5

Montgomery County Weekend-Pennsylvania

OCTOBER 18

MSCM Dinner Meeting-Italia Gardens-Flint

DECEMBER 6

MSCM Christmas Banquet & Awards Coral Gables Restaurant, East Lansing



Member Profile—Mary Ann Kozlowski

My name is Mary Ann Kozlowski and I am one of the newest members of the Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan. I live in Bloomfield Hills, MI with my husband Kip and our 1 year old Miniature Schnauzer, Katy. I am involved in Health Care law and have my own consulting practice working with hospitals and physicians. In addition to working with Katy in obedience and agility, my hobbies include long distance bicycle riding, raising money for various organizations, and working with the Animal Law section of the State Bar of Michigan. I am also the vice president for the Advocates - the Polish Lawyers Association in Michigan.



Fundraising

Orders for MSCM hooded sweatshirts (zip and pullover) and T-shirts are being taken. Payment must be made up front. Please contact Joanne(989-375-4106 or jofor@airadv.net) for more information and if you would like to order.



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!

MSCM TROPHY DONATION FORM

Amount-_____

Check Number_____

Donor's Name_____

Address_____

Continued from page 2...

put forth. Follow the money. These are organizations whose very existence are dependant upon the amount of money they can raise from misguided animal lovers *who think their donation is actually helping puppies, kittens or their local animal shelter*. The reality is that these animal rights fanatics seek to impose their vegan lifestyle and utopian dream for humans to have zero contact with animals.

"But as the surplus of cats and dogs (artificially engineered by centuries of forced breeding) declined, eventually companion animals would be phased out, and we would return to a more symbiotic relationship enjoyment at a distance." -- Ingrid Newkirk, PETA co-founder and president, quoted in *The Harper's Forum Book*, Jack Hitt, ed., 1989, p.223.

Is that the kind of future the majority of U.S. citizens envision? I don't think so. The lunatic animal rights movement does not represent mainstream American views or values.

So how do we solve the problem?

"The key is to get raw data. How many animals are coming in and how many are going home alive? And, is that improving every single year? Because, if it is not, there is a serious problem with leadership and the mechanisms going on within that shelter." -- Nathan J. Winograd, director of the national No Kill Advocacy Center, former director of operations San Francisco SPCA, executive director of the Tompkins County SPCA and author of *Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation and the No Kill Revolution in America* (7), interview with Animal Wise Radio, aired Feb 4, 2007

Mr. Winograd is spot on. A handful of states are waking up to this realization and are requiring animal shelter accountability-through record keeping and the reporting of statistics. Virginia is one such state. Since People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals' (PETA) headquarters is located within that state, they are required by law to file: "Not counting animals PETA held only temporarily in its spay-neuter program, the organization took in 3,061 "companion animals" in 2006, of which it killed 2,981 (8). According to Virginia's Department of Agriculture and

Consumer Services (VDACS), the average euthanasia rate for humane societies in the state was just 34.7 percent in 2006. PETA killed 97.4 percent of the animals it took in. The organization filed its 2006 report this month, nine months after the VDACS deadline of March 31, 2007 (9)," reveals The Center for Consumer Freedom.

In other states where shelters are required to report their statistics, euthanasia rates are alarming. Michigan reports approximately 45% of dogs and 75% of cats that enter their animal shelters are killed. Between 2001-2006 North Carolina shelters killed about 77% of their dogs and cats.

As dog owners, I think we are all deeply disturbed over the plight of animals in shelters and the high rate of euthanasia. There is a solution. Nathan Winograd has proven his "No Kill Revolution" method works - in both large and small shelters. As dog breeders and trainers, *we are the experts*, so it is up to us to step forward and assist our local shelters in overcoming their problems. The first step is to stop blaming pet breeders and lay to rest, once and for all, the myth of "pet overpopulation".

It's time to embrace the fact that we have a pet underpopulation situation... and so, the solution to our local animal shelter problems is within our grasp.

Sources:

- (1) - [2007-2008 National Pet Owners Survey](#), American Pet Products Manufacturers Association Inc. (APPPMA)
- (2) - U.S. Census Bureau, [U.S. POP Clock Projection and Historical National Population Estimates](#)
- (3) - [Humane Society's Puppy Population Boom Expected to be Short-Lived: 32 dogs sent to shelter likely to be adopted quickly](#) by Paul Srubas, Green Bay Press-Gazette, December 7, 2007
- (4) - [Interstate Efforts to Save Shelter Dogs](#) by Ann-Elise Henzl, WUWM Milwaukee Public Radio news, January 11, 2008
- (5) - [More Cities Importing Pound Puppies](#) by Tom Vanden Brook, USA Today
- (6) - [Dog Imports Raise Fears of a Resurgence of Disease](#) by Alan Gomez, USA Today
- (7) - [Redemption: The Myth of Pet Overpopulation and the No Kill Revolution in America](#) by Nathan J. Winograd, copies available through the [Spaniel Journal Bookstore](#)
- (8) - Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, [People for the](#)

[Ethical Treatment of Animals](#) 2006 animal report

(9) - [PETA Killed 97 Percent of "Companion Animals" in 2006: Death Toll Up To 17,400; Report Describes PETA's Deadliest](#)

[Year Ever](#), January 10, 2008 press release from The Center for Consumer Freedom, courtesy of David Martosko, CCF Director of Research [Pet Underpopulation: The Pet Shortage in the US](#) by Loretta Baughan published in [Spaniel Journal](#), Jan 20, 2008

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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

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.



Ain't It The Truth

With some people you just don't have a chance...

If you talk about dogs, you're a know-it-all; if you don't, you're a snob.

If you don't stop to chat at a show, success has gone to your head; if you do, you're a show-off.

If your dogs are at all the shows, you're not letting others have a chance; if your dogs aren't at all the shows, you're afraid of the competition.

If your dog wins, you know the judges; if they don't win, you know nothing about breeding.

If you win and thank the judge, you're playing politics; if you win and don't thank the judge, you're rude.

If you lose and congratulate the winner, you're a hypocrite; if you lose and don't thank the winner, you're a poor sport.

If you've been breeding less than 20 years, you're a novice; if you've been breeding for more than 20 years, you should step down and let the newcomers have a chance.

If you use your own stud, you're kennel blind; if you go outside for stud services, you don't think much of your own breeding.

If you sell most of your puppies, they aren't good enough to keep; if you keep them, you can't find buyers.

And so it goes.....

(Author unknown)

SHERIFF JOE IS AT IT AGAIN!

Oh, there's MUCH more to know about Sheriff Joe!

Maricopa County was spending approx. \$18 million dollars a year on stray animals, like cats and dogs. Sheriff Joe offered to take the department over, and the County Supervisors said okay.

The animal shelters are now all staffed and operated by prisoners. They feed and care for the strays. Every animal in his care is taken out and walked twice daily. He now has prisoners who are experts in animal nutrition and behavior. They give great classes for anyone who'd like to adopt an animal. He has literally taken stray dogs off the street, given them to the care of prisoners, and had them place in dog shows.

The best part? His budget for the entire department is now under \$3 million. Teresa and I adopted a Weimaraner from a Maricopa County shelter two years ago. He was neutered, and current on all shots, in great health, and even had a microchip inserted the day we got him. Cost us \$78.

The prisoners get the benefit of about \$0.28 an hour for working, but most would work for free, just to be out of their cells for the day. Most of his budget is for utilities, building maintenance, etc. He pays the prisoners out of the fees collected for adopted animals. I have long wondered when the rest of the country would take a look at the way he runs the jail system, and copy some of his ideas. He has a huge farm, donated to the county years ago, where inmates can work, and they grow most of their own fresh vegetables and food, doing all the work and harvesting by hand. He has a pretty good sized hog farm, which provides meat, and fertilizer. It fertilizes the Christmas tree nursery, where prisoners work, and you can buy a living Christmas tree for \$6 - \$8 for the Holidays, and plant it later. We have six trees in our yard from the Prison.

Yup, he was reelected last year with 83% of the vote.

Now he's in trouble with the ACLU again. He painted all his buses and vehicles with a mural, that has a special hotline phone number painted on it, where you can call and report suspected illegal aliens. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement wasn't doing enough in his eyes, so he had 40 deputies trained specifically for enforcing immigration laws, started up his hotline, and bought 4 new buses just for hauling folks back to the bor-

der. He's kind of a 'Git-R Dun' kind of Sheriff. TO THOSE OF YOU NOT FAMILIAR WITH JOE ARPAIO, HE IS THE MARICOPA ARIZONA COUNTY SHERIFF . AND HE KEEPS GETTING ELECTED OVER AND OVER

THIS IS ONE OF THE REASONS WHY: Sheriff Joe Arpaio (In Arizona) who created the ' Tent City Jail': He has jail meals down to 40 cents a serving and charges the inmates for them. He stopped smoking and porno magazines in the jails. Took away their weights cut off all but 'G' movies. He started chain gangs so the inmates could do free work on county and city projects. Then he started chain gangs for women so he wouldn't get sued for discrimination.

He took away cable TV until he found out there was a federal court order that required cable TV for jails so he hooked up the cable TV again and only let in the Disney Channel and the Weather Channel.

When asked why the weather channel he replied, "So they will know how hot it's gonna be while they are working on my chain gangs."

He cut off coffee since it has zero nutritional value.

When the inmates complained, he told them, "This isn't The Ritz/Carlton.....if you don't like it, don't come back."

He bought Newt Gingrich's lecture series on videotape that he pipes into the jails.

When asked by a reporter if he had any lecture series by a Democrat, he replied that a democratic lecture series might explain why a lot of the inmates were in his jails in the first place.

Criminals should be punished for their crimes - not live in luxury until it's time for their parole, only to go out and commit another crime so they can get back in to live on taxpayers money and enjoy things taxpayers can't afford to have for themselves.

Sheriff Joe was just reelected Sheriff in Maricopa County, Arizona

Braggs

On Saturday, May 17th, Jojo's Dream It Anyway , "Tina" went WB & BOW at the Kokomo Kennel Club show in Greentown, Ind., for her first 3 point major. The following weekend at the Cincinnati Ohio shows, Tina went Best in Sweeps at the Cincinnati Specialty. The next 2 days Tina went WB & BOB for 2 more 3 point majors. Tina is bred, owned and handled by Joanne Forster.



Congratulations!

"Confidence is the hinge on the door to success"

—Mary O'Hare Dumas



TOPLINES

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May/June 2008