



TOPLINES

Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

"Animals Do Not Have Rights, People Are Responsible For The Health And Well Being Of Their Animals"

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Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan

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Officers 2012

President: Beth Santure
Vice Pres.: Susan Quinn
Secretary: Donna Giles
Treasurer: Sue Schauer

Designer Dogs

The Designer Dog Craze is all about fashion. It's a fad. It is "in" right now to have a mixed-breed dog with a portmanteau name. The more silly the name, it seems, the more fashionable the dog is.

This bothers me, to no end. There are so many mixed breed dogs in shelters right now, dying for lack of homes, and yet they cease to be "Designer Dogs" as soon as they get to a shelter. Then they become mutts, and they are not fashionable anymore. Unlike second-hand designer handbags or jeans, there is no label stitched on a dog that perpetrates it's value after an owner no longer wants it.

Designer Dog, Hybrid Dog, or just a mix?

The term Designer Dog ticks me off because it implies a status symbol, like designer jeans. A dog is not an accessory. It is a living animal. Why call them designer dogs, if not to imply the "designer" status on them, like they were a Coach bag? They weren't designed to any specific purpose, unlike almost all purebred dogs, who did originally have a useful function in society.

The term "hybrid" is just misleading all around. Crossbred dogs are not hybrids in the sense that people want them to be. A hybrid is the term for offspring resulting from the breeding of two distinctly different species. All dogs are the same species. A donkey and a horse create the hybrid known as a mule. Breeding two dogs, no matter what breed they are, still results

in a dog.

Mixing Isn't Magic

This term "Hybrid Dog" leads to what I like to call The Hybrid Vigor Fallacy. Inbreeding depression is a problem in any purebred dog. However, simply out crossing different breeds on a whim is not the only answer to it. I point out that when there is a problem that requires widening a gene pool in a breed, it is undertaken with care by people who know and understand the genetics involved, such as with the Dalmatian-Pointer Backcross Project, which seeks to lessen the incidence of hyperuricemia in the Dalmatian by introducing genes from the English Pointer. This is the correct way to widen a gene pool within a breed to reduce unwanted genetic defects. Hybrid vigor does exist, and is well documented. In the case of crossbred dogs, however, the fallacy is that people believe that simply throwing two different breeds together is going to result in a completely genetically sound animal. Sorry, genetics don't work that way. If you breed a Poodle with luxating patellas to a Shih Tzu with luxating patellas, you're going to get puppies with even worse luxating patellas, and they will be mixed and have a cutesy portmanteau name to go along with the 3,000 dollar corrective surgery. In short, there is no magic fix for a

genetic defect. Very careful selective breeding and meticulous record keeping, paired with a good understanding of the genetics involved is required. And guess what! That's what every reputable breeder of a purebred dog already does, and has been doing for years before the term "designer dog" was ever coined.

It's A Hairy Problem

Let's begin by getting this out of the way: As of this time, there is no such thing as a dog that is completely hypoallergenic. As far as I understand allergies, there probably never will be, even with advances in the field of genetics such as gene silencing. This is because allergens are not confined to just hair or fur. Dander, and proteins in saliva and urine are also a factor, and as far as I am aware, you will never be able to breed a dog that doesn't need to salivate and urinate. Allergies are tricky things. Some people are highly allergic to every part of a dog, not just their coat. Those people will never be comfortable around a dog, even a "shedless" or hairless breed, without medication. A person can appear to not be allergic to a dog on one day, and have a serious reaction to the exact same dog the next, depending on their immune status. (True story, it happened to me and I'm not even allergic to dogs!)



**Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan
Fun Day
June 16, 2012**

**At the home of Beth & John Santure
200 Begole Rd Milan, MI 48160**

Come and join us for a fun filled day!

**—Potluck Lunch at Noon—
Business Meeting to follow**

Members are asked to bring a dish to pass for the lunch, Sandwiches and drinks are provided. Please RSVP Beth by email at bjsanture@peoplepc.com by June 13 to let her know if you are planning to attend and what dish you are bringing.

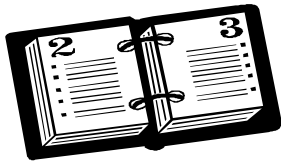
Feel free to stay after the meeting to let the dogs play on some agility equipment or romp together in the fenced in yard. The pool is open so bring your suits if you want to float and catch some rays!
Bring a chair, x-pens for the dogs, shade (e z up) if the weather forecast is "hot". We'll have the meeting rain or shine. If it rains we'll be meeting in the back garage

Guests are ALWAYS welcome!

If you are planning to donate items for the September Specialty Auction but can't attend, bring them with you to the meeting

DIRECTIONS:

US-23 to Exit 31 (Willis Rd.). West onto Willis Rd. to Platt Road (stoplight). Left (south) on Platt Rd. for 2 miles to Begole Rd. Right onto Begole Rd, over RR tracks, only house on the right.



2012 Calendar of Important Events

JUNE 16-

MSCM Fun Day and Meeting. At the home of Beth and John Santure, Milan. (details on page 3)

JULY 27-

MSCM Third Annual Agility Trial - Dexter, MI

August ?- Eye Clinic, Date TBA

SEPTEMBER 28 -

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

OCTOBER 5-7-

Montgomery County Weekend-Pennsylvania

OCTOBER 27-

MSCM Dinner Meeting, Place TBA

DECEMBER 8-

MSCM Christmas Banquet & Awards
Coral Gables Restaurant, East Lansing

*"Advice is like castor oil, easy enough to give but dreadful uneasy to take."
Josh Billings*

**Friday, July 27,
2012**

Canine Sports &
Recreation Center
Dexter, MI

MSCM Agility Trial

Member volunteers needed! If you can't make it to the trial, volunteer to make food to feed the workers! More info on the trial to come later



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!



Don't Forget to Send in your Trophy Donation!!

MSCM TROPHY DONATION FORM

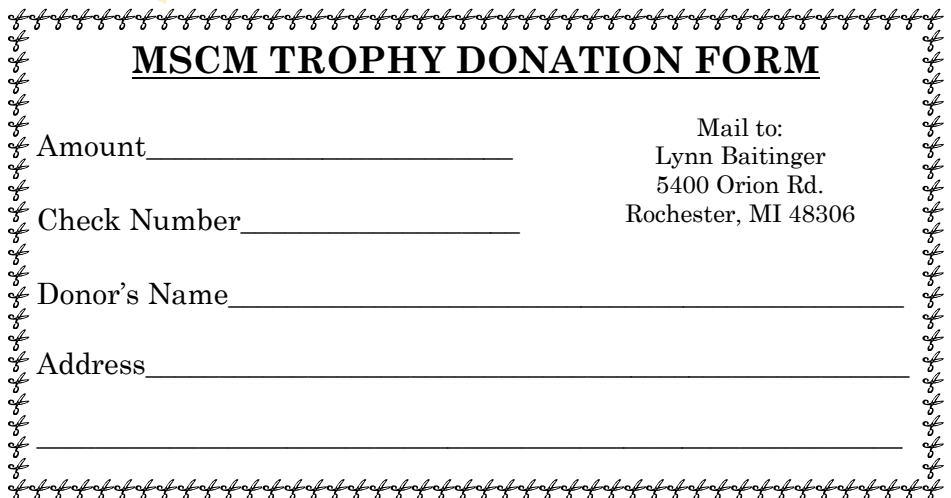
Amount _____

Check Number _____

Donor's Name _____

Address _____

Mail to:
Lynn Baitinger
5400 Orion Rd.
Rochester, MI 48306



Continued from page 1

The laws of genetics that apply to defects also apply to the genes for coat type, and thus, shedding. A first generation mix of a Poodle and a Pomeranian does not produce a dog that doesn't shed. Remember Punnett Squares from Bio class? Okay, maybe some people weren't paying attention that day. Let's use this interactive Punnett Square calculator. Let us say that the shedding gene is represented by two capital letter As. AA = shed. The non-shedding coat will be represented by two lowercase letter as. aa = non-shedding. Input AA as Parental Genotype 1 on the left and aa as Parental Genotype 2 on the right. Now you can hit the big Go button at the bottom. You see what just happened there. You got Aa in every calculated square. If that were a litter of puppies, every single one would be born SHEDDING, but CARRYING the NON-SHEDDING gene.

It's a bit more complex than that, but the demonstration serves. Adding Poodle to a shedding breed does not mean you get a non-shedding dog. In fact, sometimes what happens is you get a dog that sheds, but that does not start to shed until many months later, when the puppy coat comes out and the adult coat comes in. This period is different for different breeds. Pomeranians typically go through what is known as "The Uglies" when their puppy coat falls out and they look nothing like a Pom. This can happen anywhere between 4 and 9 months of age. Pom mixes can also have The Uglies.. and what sometimes happens is that a Pom/Poodle cross loses its non-shed puppy coat at 9 months of age and grows in a thicker, more Pomeranian type coat that does shed, and then what happens to the dog? It takes years and years and YEARS of careful breeding to create a non-shedding breed out of a mix of shedding and non-shedding dogs. The Labradoodle has been bred by some people since the late 80's and they still haven't gotten the shedding out of their lines. (And let me say, the Labradoodle is now plagued by the exact same genetic problems that the parent breeds had: Progressive Retinal Atrophy, hip dysplasia, Addison's Disease and more. So much for hybrid vigor.)

The Parentage Question

Lots of people will claim that they would rather buy a designer dog puppy than adopt a mix from a shelter because "then you know exactly what you're getting." Says who? Few and far between are the designer dogs that come with any kind of record of their parentage. Basically, you're relying completely on the breeder being honest with you. Or the breeder of their stud and bitch having been honest with them. There is no real way to tell that a Morkie is really a mix between a Maltese and a Yorkie except trust. The genetics come into play here as

well. What ARE you getting when you buy a designer dog? You have no real idea if the dog will shed or not. You have no real idea how big the dog will get. You have no idea which traits the dog inherited from what parent. You have no assurance beside verbal that the dog really IS just a mix of the two breeds in question. Logical conclusion: You know what you're getting from a shelter dog, because they've usually already grown into their adult size. They've already grown into their adult coat and the shelter workers can tell you if it sheds or not. A designer dog puppy is just a bunch of question marks. Maybe it will stay under 10 pounds. Maybe it won't. Maybe it will shed. Maybe it won't. And every single dog in a mixed litter can be different.

Creating New Breeds

It cannot be argued that without cross-breeding, we would not have the wide variety of dog breeds that exist for us today. Many dogs have been crossed and out crossed in order to obtain specific traits or preserve a breed threatened with extinction, when there are too few surviving members to continue breeding solely from members of that breed alone. The fanciers of designer dog breeds are working against themselves in this regard. Designer dog breeds can only be a mix of two breeds. The AKC will not recognize any new breed that is not a mix of at least three different breeds. The Cockapoo has been around since WWII, has a parent club and standards, and is still waiting, despite what anyone may tell you, they aren't likely to gain recognition any time soon. That's the catch with the designer dogs. In order for anyone to create a new breed, they have to first be breeding towards a clear goal. So far, most breeders of designer dogs are not doing that. They're simply slapping two breeds together and calling it something silly. There is no organized goal, there is no end result they're aiming for except the money. Some of them may claim to be aiming for a result, and usually it doesn't make any sense if one takes the time to actually think about it. Examples?

Shih-A-Poos - They don't shed! No, of course they don't. Neither Shih Tzus nor Poodles shed. So what was the real reason for mixing them? There is none.

Pug Mixes - They don't have breathing problems! False false false. Remember our genetics lesson? Some do have breathing problems. Some aren't as severe. And every one can be different. Some of the Pug mixes are downright irresponsible and unethical, like Jugs, which are Jack Russell Terriers mixed with Pugs. Great, now you have an extremely hyper dog that can't breathe. Who's bright idea was

that? Bugs.. Boston Terriers mixed with Pugs. What was the purpose for that? BOTH those breeds have the same foreshortened muzzle and breathing problems associated with it, so they can't claim to have been trying to eliminate breathing problems. Really, they just wanted the name, Bug. If you want a Bug that doesn't have breathing problems, run to your local VW dealer, because that's the only place you're likely to find one.

There really aren't so many good reasons for mixing breeds. Except the fashion of it. Dogs should never be fads, because it's always the dogs that suffer. Many designer dogs wind up in shelters and at rescues, going from Designer Dog to Disposable Dog at the drop of a hat.

If you absolutely must spend 500 dollars on a mixed breed dog, my advice to you: Adopt one for a much lower adoption fee, and donate the remainder to the rescue or shelter you adopted it from.

I came across this blog entry while trying to find an understandable explanation for a recent grooming client of mine that was soon to be spending \$500 on a Shih-tzu, Maltese, Yorkie puppy. The breeder told him that she crossed 3 breeds to produce puppies with no health problems. —Editor

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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.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.



Legislative Corner

In the February issue of Toplines, there was an article discussing accessing the Michigan Legislative Website for the purpose of tracking animal related legislation introduced in the Michigan House and Michigan Senate. The following are some of the animal related bills that have been introduced in the most recent legislative session.

House Bill 4297 and Senate Bill 162 propose a fund raising license plate recognizing the Michigan Humane Society. This license plate would be similar to the license plates which you see on some cars for universities such as an S for Michigan State. I might mention that this legislation was proposed in the last session and was never passed into law.

SB 356, 357 and 358 would "subject the property of a person involved in animal fighting to forfeiture. Animal fighting continues to be a growing problem in the state, with dog fighting particularly a problem in the greater Detroit area. Besides undue cruelty and suffering inflicted on animals, studies show a relationship between cruelty to animals and perpetrating violent crimes against

people." Taken from the legislative analysis.

HB 4714 is a bill to regulate the ownership, possession sale and breeding of pit bulls and certain other breeds. This bill was strongly opposed by various groups and is currently sitting in the Regulatory Reform Committee. I made a telephone call to Representative Timothy Bledsoe's office to determine if any activity has occurred on this bill since it was introduced almost one year ago on 6/7/2011. One of the representative's aides told me that nothing has occurred and the chairman of the Regulatory Reform Committee was not anxious to take up this bill due to all of the strong opposition when it was introduced.

HB 4773 would allow dogs in outdoor seating areas in restaurants.

SB 574 would "declare a dog or cat to be unfit for sale if it had certain health defects. Require the seller of a dog or cat deemed to be unfit for sale to refund the purchase price, exchange the animal for another of equal value, and/or reimburse the purchaser for veterinary fees." Taken from the bill

analysis located on the Senate Fiscal Agency website.

HB 5402 and HB 5403 would create and require use of an animal abuse registry.

HB 5230, HB 5231, SB 891 and SB 892 would regulate large-scale breeders. To access the bill in its entirety and also to read an analysis that may have been done on some of these bills, go to www.legislature.mi.gov/ When the home page comes up, go down six lines in the body of the home page where it says Legislative Bill Search and put the bill number in parenthesis. Hit the word search and you will be taken to the home page of the bill where you can access the bill in its entirety and also see any action or analysis that has been done on the bill.

Mary Ann Kozlowski

Braggs



New Champion:
At the Old Dominion Kennel Club Of Northern Virginia, Inc. on Saturday 04/21/12, Donnella's Enchanting Lucius went Winners Dog to finish his championship. Beth Santure started his show career with a Major at Cobo Hall in 2011 with Allison (Corn) Sunderman finishing his title with another major. Plans for Lucius to do Agility are in the works. Lucius is owned and bred by Donna Giles

Congratulations!

Interesting Information.....

Microchip scanning made more efficient: Ohio State University researcher Linda K Lord found that scanning was more effective if you "Avoid interference by scanning away from computers, metal tables, and fluorescent lighting. Remove any metal collars prior to scanning." From her findings, if the collar had metal at the top or back of the neck, the scanner would not register the microchip. If the metal was turned down, under the chin of the pet, the microchip would scan

Show Calendar

Obedience & Rally

July 7-8 Obed/Rally
Ann Arbor KC
Monroe, MI
Closes 6-20

July 13-15 Obed
Holland/Battle Creek KC
Marshall, MI
Closes 6-27

July 21-22—UKC Obed/Rally
Wolverine DTC
Northfield, MI
www.ukcdogs.com

July 28-29—UKC Obed/Rally
Echo Club
Buchanan, MI
www.ukcdogs.com

Aug. 3-5 Obed
Jaxon KC
Marshall, MI
Closes 7-18

Aug. 10-12 Obed/Rally
Obed. TC of Greater Lansing
Lansing, MI
Closes 7-25

Aug. 18-19 Obed
St. Joe Valley Agility Club
Buchanan, MI
Closes 8-1

Aug. 31-Sept 2
Marquette KC
Marquette, MI
Closes 8-15

Agility

July 20-22
Southern MI Weimaraner Club
Dexter, MI
Closes 7-3

July 27
MSCM
Dexter, MI
Closes 7-12
July 28-29
GWP Club
Dexter, MI
Closes 7-13

Aug. 4-5
Capital City Club (OUTDOORS)
Williamston, MI
Closes 7-20

Aug. 11-12
Gordon Setter Club
Dexter, MI
Closes 7-28

Aug. 17-19
Rhodesian Ridgeback Club
Dexter, MI
Closes 8-3

Aug. 24-26
Companion DTC
Grand Blanc, MI
Closes 8-12

Conformation

July 7-8
Ann Arbor KC
Monroe, MI
Closes 6-20

July 13-15
Holland, MI KC, Battle Creek KC
Marshall, MI
Closes 6-27

August 2-5
Jaxon KC, Sturgis KC, Berrien KC
Marshall, MI
Closes 7-18

August 31– September 2
Marquette KC
Marquette, MI
Closes 8-15

"I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much."

—Mother Teresa