

# TOPLINES



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## Officers 2021

President: Sue Quinn  
Vice Pres.: Beth Santure  
Secretary: Sue Procter  
Treasurer: John Schauer



## Can Dogs Tell Time? Yes and No

By [Jan Reisen](#)

May 20, 2019 [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

Does your dog seem to know exactly what time his dinner should be ready or how long it takes you to get to the door once you've grabbed his leash? Ours does. It almost seems as if he can tell time. Well, science now shows that some animals do, in fact, have a sense of time.

We can conjecture that it's just habit; of course a dog isn't reading a clock or holding a stopwatch. But a recent study reveals that animals have neurons in their brain that are activated when the animal is waiting for an expected outcome. They aren't so much telling time, as judging time.

Researchers at Northwestern University's Department of Neurobiology found evidence that previously unknown neurons in an animal's brain are activated when the animal is in waiting mode. The neurons are located in an area of the brain's temporal lobe where we know that spatial memory is encoded. The study, published in [Nature Neuroscience](#), set out to prove that this area of the brain might also encode time memory.

### Surprising Discovery

Researchers used mice running on a treadmill in a virtual reality environment. Each mouse ran along a track until it encountered a virtual closed door. The floor changed texture at this door. After precisely six seconds, the door opened, and the mouse could continue along to receive a reward. After several training runs, the virtual door disappeared, but when the mouse reached the textured floor, he still waited precisely six seconds before continuing to the reward.

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# MSCM Christmas Party



**Saturday, December 11, 2021**



Coral Gables Restaurant

2838 E. Grand River Avenue

East Lansing, MI

Ph. (517)337-1311

For the Gift Exchange  
bring a wrapped gift  
marked for a lady or  
man. Limit \$12  
(No alcoholic beverages please)

Dinner, Business Meeting,  
Election of Officers  
Gift Exchange

Dinner at 4:00 pm.

Open Menu

Business Meeting and Party to follow!

Guests are Welcome!!

Please RSVP by Google Group or E-mail/call  
Karin Jaeger to let her know that you are coming.

(Karin.j.jaeger@gmail.com) (517-351-0412)

Directions: Take I-96 to Exit 110 (Okemos Rd.) Go North on Okemos Rd. to M-43 (Grand River Ave.) Businesses on that corner include: Bennigan's Restaurant, Marathon Gas Station, BP/Amoco Station. Turn Left on to M-43 (Grand River). After the bridge over the railroad tracks, there is a traffic light at Park Lake Rd. and another at Northwind Dr. (there's a Farmer Jack's on the southwest corner of the intersection). Coral Gables entrance is the 4th on the right following this light (after Tom's Party Store, a Hollywood Video & the new Oriental Market). If you get to the Brookfield Shell gas station, you've gone too far.

From the North: From Business 69 left onto Park Lake Rd. Right (East) onto M-43 (Grand River Ave.) Follow directions from there as detailed above.

Researchers recorded images of the mice's brain activity during the trial. According to Daniel Dombeck, one of the authors of the study, "as the animals run along the track and get to the invisible door, we see the cells firing that control spatial encoding. Then, when the animal stops at the door, we see those cells turned off and a new set of cells turned on. This was a big surprise and a new discovery."

We spoke to Dr. Donald E. Hoenig, veterinarian and University of Maine faculty associate, about the study. From reading the abstract and from the fact that the study was published in a peer-reviewed journal, Dr. Hoenig believes the science is legitimate. He does point out "the conclusions cited in the article by the researchers question whether one can extrapolate the work done in mice to dogs." However, based on what he read, he does think it's a bit of a breakthrough in our understanding of animals.

### Impact on Training

While the study may be a scientific breakthrough, the behavior is something dog owners, veterinarians, and trainers have experienced. Adrienne Kepp, owner of My Dog's Got Class Dog Training, certified professional dog trainer, and AKC evaluator, explains how this sense of time duration fits into [training](#).

"You always have to mix things up with dogs or they become little robots," she says. So Kepp tries to counteract that time-telling ability by using variable rewards and reinforcement. She suggests being unpredictable to keep dogs on their toes.

Kepp goes on to use the example of training for [competitive obedience](#). If the trainer knows that the dog will have to perform a three-minute down, she will train the dog with an eight-minute down, five-minute down, etc. If you consistently train for the exact duration, the dog's brain will fix on that amount of passing time and anticipate it.

It's important to note that the study does not suggest that animals can instinctively judge time. The mice had to be trained to the track, to the location of the door, and to the amount of time until the door opened. So it is a learned process.

Yes, a great deal of your dog's behavior is governed by habit and repetition. Whether he's the alarm clock that gets you out of bed at 6:15 a.m. or the sleepy pup who has decided the family bedtime is 9:30 p.m., it's not his Apple watch that's alerting him. And, while habit does seem to be the logical explanation, those habits may turn out to be the result of these surprising neurons that are "telling time" for animals.

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## B r a g s

*Congratulations!* 

CH Loneacre's Pint of Guinness "Dublin" won Best of Opposite Sex/BOBOH, OH Group 2 at the Northeastern Indiana KC show. Dublin won Select Dog at the Lima KC show, also Select Dog/BOBOH at the Central Ohio KC Show. Owned by Sue Quinn & Beth Santure. Bred by Beth Santure/Kate McMillan.

**We're on the Web!**  
**[www.miniatureschnauzerclubofmichigan.org](http://www.miniatureschnauzerclubofmichigan.org)**



**2021 Calendar of Events**

November 30–  
 MSCM Membership expires today, if dues are unpaid  
**December 11-MSCM Meeting @ Coral Gables, East Lansing**

# Club News:



**CLUB MERCHANDISE FOR SALE:**

**MSCM LOGO DECALS and MAGNETS \$10-\$15**  
 Contact Debbie H. at [sercatep@yahoo.com](mailto:sercatep@yahoo.com)

**IRON ON RHINESTONE SCHNAUZERS \$10**  
 Contact Donna G. at [egiles@comcast.net](mailto:egiles@comcast.net)



**SHOW  
 CALENDAR**



**MINIATURE SCHNAUZER  
 CLUB OF MICHIGAN**

**Breed/Obed/Rally 2022**

Jan. 15-16 Rally  
CDTC  
Flint, MI

Feb. 10-13 Breed  
Livonia/OCKC  
Novi, MI

Feb. 25-27 Rally/OB  
Sportsmen's DTC  
Warren, MI

**Agility**

Jan. 1-2  
Central MI AC  
Midland, MI

Jan. 7-9  
CCDAC  
Whitmore, Lake, MI

Jan. 13-16  
Terv Club  
Midland, MI

Jan. 21-23  
OCKC  
Lapeer, MI

Jan. 27-30  
Weimaraner Club  
Lapeer, MI  
Feb. 4-6  
CCDAC  
Lapeer, MI

Feb. 11-13  
Midland KC  
Midland, MI  
Feb. 18-20  
Midland KC  
Midland, MI

Feb. 25-27  
CCCAC  
Lapeer, MI

TOPLINES  
 is a bi-monthly publication  
 January-February  
 March-April  
 May-June  
 July-August  
 September-October  
 November-December  
 Editor-Susan Quinn

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.

PerformanCe  
 by  
 JayAnne Scott  
 Orner



The Twelve Days of Christmas - Schnauzer Style

On the first day of Christmas  
 my Schnauzer gave to me:  
 A coat full of sloppy wet snow

On the second day of Christmas  
 my Schnauzer gave to me:  
 2 eyes full of love and a coat full of sloppy wet snow

On the third day of Christmas  
 my Schnauzer gave to  
 me:

3 dead mice  
 2 eyes full of love  
 and a coat full of sloppy wet snow

On the fourth day of Christmas  
 my Schnauzer gave to me:  
 4 dirty paws  
 3 dead mice  
 2 eyes full of love  
 and a coat full of sloppy wet snow

Continued on page 6

On the fifth day of Christmas  
my Schnauzer gave to me:  
5 squeaky dog toys  
4 dirty paws  
3 dead mice  
2 eyes full of love  
and a coat full of sloppy wet snow

On the sixth day of Christmas  
my Schnauzer gave to me:  
6 wet morning kisses  
5 squeaky dog toys  
4 dirty paws  
3 dead mice  
2 eyes full of love  
And a coat full of sloppy wet snow

On the seventh day of Christmas  
my Schnauzer gave to me:  
7 chewed up socks  
6 wet morning kisses  
5 squeaky dog toys  
4 dirty paws  
3 dead mice  
2 eyes full of love  
And a coat full of sloppy wet snow

On the eighth day of Christmas  
my Schnauzer gave to me:  
8 Double Qs  
7 chewed up socks  
6 wet morning kisses  
5 squeaky dog toys  
4 dirty paws  
3 dead mice  
2 eyes full of love  
And a coat full of sloppy wet snow

On the ninth day of Christmas  
my Schnauzer gave to me:  
9 New titles  
8 Double Qs  
7 chewed up socks  
6 wet morning kisses  
5 squeaky dog toys  
4 dirty paws  
3 dead mice  
2 eyes full of love  
And a coat full of sloppy wet snow

On the tenth day of Christmas  
my Schnauzer gave to me:  
10 Great big trophies  
9 New titles  
8 Double Qs  
7 chewed up socks  
6 wet morning kisses  
5 squeaky dog toys  
4 dirty paws  
3 dead mice  
2 eyes full of love  
And a coat full of sloppy wet snow

On the eleventh day of Christmas  
my Schnauzer gave to me:  
11 Awesome photos  
10 Great big trophies  
9 New titles  
8 Double Qs  
7 chewed up socks  
6 wet morning kisses  
5 squeaky dog toys  
4 dirty paws  
3 dead mice  
2 eyes full of love  
And a coat full of sloppy wet snow

On the twelfth day of Christmas  
my Schnauzer gave to me:  
12 zillion great big smiles  
11 Awesome photos  
10 Great big trophies  
9 New titles  
8 Double Qs  
7 chewed up socks  
6 wet morning kisses  
5 squeaky dog toys  
4 dirty paws  
3 dead mice  
2 eyes full of love  
And a coat full of sloppy wet snow

Merry Christmas!!!