

TOPLINES

The Miniature
Schnauzer Club
of Michigan,
Inc.



MAY/JUNE 2023

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Officers 2023

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WHAT IS AKC SCENT WORK? TRY IT WITH YOUR DOG! June 10 at MSCM Meeting
By Lynn Baitinger

Bring your dog and have fun trying out Scent Work at our June meeting. You will get to search with your dog for what we call “Primary” – essentially a good TREAT! If you are already training scent work and are “on odor” – we will “pair” the odor with the primary.

Scent Work is a great activity that can be done at many levels – from hiding a treat in your home to the highest levels of searching, which would be the Detective Class in AKC. I started scent work as an activity I could do in my home during the winter months and for something to do with the dogs besides walking them while camping. I didn’t expect them to enjoy the sport so much! Older dogs and younger dogs LOVE this activity - and it tires them out! You would not think it but sniffing is a lot of work.

So, what is Scent Work? Simply put the dog is searching for an essential oil. In AKC they use: Birch, Anise, Cypress and Clove. Two drops of the oil is deposited on a Q-tip. The Q-tip is then placed in a tin, vial, straw or other small container and hidden for the dog to find.

At the Novice level, Birch is the scent that is used and cannot be hidden more than 2 feet high. As you progress through the levels, the other scents are introduced as well as “distractions” which can be toys, food or noises. The height of the hide can also be increased, the number of hides is increased and the number of hides will be unknown - 1 to 4 in the upper levels. In the Detective level, you have 5 to 10 hides. It is up to the handler to know when their dog has completed the search area and call finish.

Earlier I posted a video from AKC on Scent Work – if you missed it check it out here: <https://youtu.be/IFYKoldNrFM>

See you at the meeting - please bring some soft tasty treats, a long leash, and your dog!



Miniature Schnauzer Club of Michigan Meeting

Saturday, June 10, 2023

At

ANN ARBOR DOG TRAINING CLUB

1575 E North Territorial Rd

Whitmore Lake, MI 48189

1 p.m.

In Room 1

Potluck, Meeting, & Scent work Practice

DOGS ARE WELCOME. THERE WILL BE A SCENT WORK PRACTICE, PLEASE READ PAGE 1 ABOUT WHAT TO BRING FOR SCENT WORK. Bring your chairs also.



Please RSVP Beth by email at bsanure@gmail.com or the google group to let her know if you are planning to attend and what dish you are bringing. Thank you!

AGILITY TRIAL RAFFLE- Members should bring raffle donation items to the June meeting. These items will be used to prepare our annual raffle/auction at the July agility trial. Already prepared baskets are desired, but not necessary. Individual items are also welcome. Items should be new or "like new" and in clean, good condition. Gift cards are great too! Contact JoAnne Scott with any questions, ja.scott@comcast.net

Guests are ALWAYS welcome!



Club News:

MSCM Agility Trial



2023 Calendar of Events

Friday, Saturday, Sunday
 July 28,29,30
 All Dogs Can LLC
 2232 North Lapeer Road
 Lapeer, MI 48446

Our agility trial is scheduled to take place, July 28,29,30 2023. The raffle will be on Saturday. Please see meeting notice on page 2 about item donation. There will be lunch/water for workers. Our FAST CAT trial will also be held on Saturday & Sunday. Please come and volunteer this weekend & support the MSCM.

June 10 (Saturday)-1 pm

Ann Arbor Dog Training Club, Whitmore Lake, MI

July 28,29,30-(FR,SA,SU)

MSCM Agility Trial & FAST CAT Trials, All Dogs Can, 2040 N. Lapeer Road, Lapeer, MI 48446

August 16 (Wednesday)-

Evening Zoom Meeting

September 30 (Friday)-

MSCM Specialty , Monroe Cty Fairgrounds, Monroe, MI

October 14 (Saturday)-

Sandhill Crane Vineyards, 4724 Walz Rd, Jackson, MI 49201

December 9 (Saturday)-

MSCM Meeting/Xmas Party, Coral Gables, East Lansing, MI



The family of Del Herrell wishes to thank the MSCM for the beautiful flowers.

Also, a special thank you to the great friends that attended his memorial.

With gratitude and love,

Debbie



What Is Agility Training for Dogs?

Agility training for dogs involves leading them through special obstacle courses called agility courses, which focus on skills like running, jumping, pivoting on a dime, and dodging contact obstacles. Consider the basics of agility training classes.

Professional agility training classes are led by specialized dog trainers who excel at teaching physical skills and guiding dogs through agility obstacles. You can also teach agility skills to your own dog on your own time, but professional trainers have well-developed dog handling skills and access to training facilities that may not be otherwise open to the public. The United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA) maintains directories of agility training centers in all fifty states. The USDAA can be a resource for dog owners who are serious about agility training.

Training classes are usually offered at buildings owned or rented by formal training/trialing clubs. An agility training center has many specially designed obstacles that can be used in agility classes. These include tunnels, weave poles, ramps, teeters, tire jumps, A-frames and dog walks. You can also build your own agility equipment using materials like wood and PVC pipe.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) officially sanctions the sport of agility, and many local groups hold dog agility competitions throughout the calendar year. Show dogs spend many years in training sessions to rise up the ranks and dominate agility courses. The AKC also offers an official Agility Course Test (ACT), an agility trial that dog owners can conduct in their own backyards.

The best dogs for agility events tend to be working breeds that have bundles of energy and a desire to please. Many Miniature Schnauzers are super good at agility.

Dog owners who are serious about building their pet's agility skills should start with these key dog training tips.

1. Start your dog young. Most dogs are ready to start agility training at twelve months of age. Nearly all dogs that compete in the sport of agility will begin their basic training by the age of two years. Consult your dog's veterinarian for guidance.
2. Build up your dog's focus. A strong sense of focus is a prerequisite for succeeding in the sport of agility. Before you get into physical exercises, go through games and drills that build your dog's ability to focus on you and the task at hand.
3. Teach your dog to leave your side and trace the shape of other objects. Some dogs instinctively remain by their owner's side, but for agility sports, your partner will have to fan out in either direction. They may also have to run around objects like barrels, staying close to the side of those objects. Teaching this behavior is another prerequisite to sophisticated agility tricks.

4. Work on your dog's balance. Dogs tend to prefer the ground to be stable beneath them, so the first time on a teeter can be a bit scary or, depending upon your dog's personality, great fun! It may take time for your dog to build confidence on unsteady ground, but that will be an essential part of any agility course. Take your time getting your dog comfortable balancing on unstable objects and provide treats to reinforce their good behavior.

5. Practice with jumps that are low to the ground. Jumping is one of the easier skills to teach, as you can always incentivize dogs to jump over objects around the house. Courses don't involve high-jumping, however. Most of the leaps are rather low to the ground, so practice with low jumps in your training sessions.

6. Incorporate a pause table. The pause table is the part of an obstacle course where a dog must remain still before proceeding on to the next task. For a lot of dogs, remaining still on the pause table can be harder than the teeter or the weave poles. They will have a natural instinct to move on to the next obstacle, which means training them for the pause table will take a lot of work. Incorporate it early.

7. You may want to work with weave poles last. You can teach your dog agility skills in just about any order, but plan for the weave poles to come last. These are very tricky for a dog, whose visual perception is different from our own. Only the best-trained dogs can make it through a weave pole course, so consider enlisting the help of a professional agility trainer if you want to reach this point.

8. Always remain positive. Train your dog using positive reinforcement. Provide plenty of treats, encouraging pets, and positive affirmation. Dogs are naturally eager to please; they have been bred over countless generations for exactly such a disposition. Not only will punishing your dogs damage your relationship with them, but it will also counteract this natural instinct. Trust that your dog's agility training will be far more successful if it's exclusively based on positive reinforcement. When you feel like you and your dog are ready to enter a trial,

remember that even if you have competed with many different dogs, the first time for a new dog is very different than a training session. He may make mistakes he rarely makes in training/practice. Don't worry, keep working with your partner and your relationship and results on a course will keep getting better.

Above all ... have fun!

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*.

TOPLINES

is a bi-monthly publication

January-February

March-April

May-June

July-August

September-October

November-December

Editor-Susan Quinn

SHOW CALENDAR

2023	July 28-30 Obed & Rally Kalamazoo Kennel Club Kalamazoo, MI	July 6-9 Various clubs Midland, MI	Aug 4-6 Capital City Club Lansing, MI
July 7-9 Breed,Obed,Rally Ann Arbor Kennel Club Monroe, MI	Aug 11-13 Obed & Rally Obed Club of Gtr Lansing Lansing, MI	July 14-16 AADTC Whitmore Lake, MI	Aug. 10-13 Various clubs Midland, MI
July 13-16 Breed Battle Creek Kennel Club Marshall, MI	Aug. 19-20 Obed & Rally St. Joe Valley Agility Club Buchanan, MI	July 20-23 Southern MI Weim Club Lapeer, MI	Aug. 18-20 Rhodesian Club Whitmore Lake, MI
July 15-16 Rally OTCGL Lansing, MI	Agility June 29-July 3 Various clubs Midland, MI	July 28-30 MSCM Lapeer, MI	Aug. 25-27 CDTC Lapeer, MI
July 21-23 Obed & Rally Shetland Sheepdog Club Flint, MI			

DOG SHOW REVIEW

Limestone Cluster-Bloomington IN, May 11-14, 2023, was held at the Monroe County Fairgrounds in Bloomington, Indiana. The show is held in fairground type buildings. The rings are in a separate building from grooming, but the buildings are right next to each other. There is no air conditioning, so if the weather is hot be prepared. The grooming building is big, and there are free electrical outlets along the outer edge. The show rings are on asphalt flooring, there were no mats. This was a first for me, but proved to not be an issue. FAST CAT and dock diving was also held on the show grounds. It looked like there was plenty of camping, although some campers were quite a distance away from the show building. Overall a nice, smaller size show.

