



# Beard 'n Brows

Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club, serving Maryland, Virginia & Washington, DC since 1956 Late Summer, 2008  
"Celebrating the spirit of the Miniature Schnauzer"

The Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club is affiliated with  
The American Miniature Schnauzer Club &  
The American Kennel Club.

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**2007/2008 Leadership Team**

President: Rich Edwards  
Vice President: Sue Faber  
Secretary: Connie Hannigan-Franck  
Treasurer: Laurese Katen

**Board of Directors:**

B.J. Arczynski  
Chris Franck  
Donna Parzow

**AMSC Delegate**

Shawne Imler

**Committee Chairperson**

Specialty Show: Laurese Katen

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For Newsletter contributions, contact:  
Sharon Edwards at [rslesle@comcast.net](mailto:rslesle@comcast.net)  
or phone (301) 947-8811.

Web site: [minischnauzer.org](http://minischnauzer.org)  
Web Master: Michael "Doc" Clay



As you can see, it's the lazy dog days of summer! As the calendar turns to fall, get ready for a busy schedule with our Specialty, Board elections, and club meetings beginning in September after a summer hiatus.

## "Black & Silver" Special Edition

### Featured in this Issue:

- Our second non-color (black and silver) issue of the year allowing the Club to save over \$200!
- Final President's letter from your outgoing Pres
- An homily – "Just a Pet"
- Health Corner – canine diabetes
- Sportsmanship – guest columnist Suzie Atherton
- Events Calendar for fall (busy!)
- A visit from Oprah!

## President's Letter



MVMSC Members,

It seems that only a short while ago I was writing my first President's letter. How quickly two years has passed! I have enjoyed my tenure and hope that the Club has benefited from the work that the Board has done. Decisions made for the Club are a culmination of the ideas and resulting labor of all Club members, and I am pleased with the strides our Club has achieved during the past two years. You all have done a tremendous amount of work to further the spirit of the MS. A new President and Board will take the helm at our October meeting. I wish them my best in accomplishing great things in the new year and I thank you all for giving me the opportunity to serve the Club.

So, on to the future – As we get under way for fall, our September meeting will be Sept. 21 at the home of Karin and Jim Walden in Frederick. This meeting will feature a presentation on breeding and the slate of officers for next year will be presented by the Nominating Committee. We will also be putting together the final plans and arrangements for our Specialty on Oct. 11. Don't forget the Club will have the luncheon catered this year so everyone can enjoy the show without the worry of kitchen duty. Club member, Dr. Karen Hoffman, will judge Sweeps. Please encourage fellow exhibitors to attend our Specialty – what better way to wind down after Montgomery weekend.

Rich Edwards  
MVMSC President

### **Welcome New Club Members –**

Ardi Skinner – Falls Church, VA  
Norman Lorch – Owings Mills, MD

## **In the Ring**

### **Rally**

Toby - How Do You Like Me Now, owned and shown in Companion Dog and Rally by his owner, Sue Faber is a MS of many accomplishments: He received his CD (Companion Dog Title - with 1 third and 2 fourth placements.) and RE (Rally Excellent with two firsts and one third placement) on October 20, 2007. We did the RA (Rally Advanced - we had two third placements) on September 21, 2007. Toby has gone on to earn his RallyExcellent Title or RAE in Berryville, VA on August 2, 2008!

Congratulations

## Editorial – Just a Pet

*Price of a well-bred pup with the potential to become a great cattle dog? \$500-\$1,000. Cost of a potential breed-ring champion? \$1,200 to \$5,000. Value of a dog who is “just a pet” and who adds joy and love to your home? Priceless. ---- Anonymous*

“Just a pet.” How many times have you heard someone say that? Perhaps it was a conformation breeder who observed, “This pup doesn’t have a good top line, so he should be sold as just a pet.” Or maybe from someone who claims they love their Spot, but just can’t afford to neuter him because he’s just a pet.

I like to consider myself a reasonably patient person, but I find I’m losing patience with those three little words. On one hand, many of us afford our dogs a bounty of luxuries, as well as a kind of social and emotional intimacy usually reserved for members of the same family, or, at least, the same species. On the other hand, pet dogs, or companion dogs, have never been given the same level of import as other “classes” of dogs.

Take the working dog – Technology still can’t replace a good herding dog, and there’s not a machine in existence that can do a better job than a trained search dog. Or the show dog – How exciting to see a purebred who exerts the essence of his breed type, strutting his stuff around the show ring. However, the value of dogs who comfort us and lighten our lives is less obvious. These dogs come without clear job descriptions carrying metaphorical resumes that contain vague generalities with little inherent power. “Sweet, loving, with liquid eyes and soft fur” – not your average power resume.

Perhaps part of our ambivalence stems from our conditioned response to the word “pet” itself. The word has been used in reference to companion animals only in recent times; it originally described “an indulged or spoiled child” – thus the term teacher’s pet. By the mid-16<sup>th</sup> century, it was used to describe an animal that was spoiled, fondled and indulged – adjectives that don’t inspire admiration or respect. No wonder many of us have started using the phrase “companion dog” aware as we are of the negative connotations of the word “pet.”

There may be another reason behind society’s ambivalence toward companion dogs – our discomfort with the emotions they evoke. Who hasn’t seen the vilest of sorts come to his knees when confronted with a dog. Dogs make us vulnerable, pure and simple. That’s fine with some of us, but it makes others uncomfortable and motivates them to downplay the importance of the family dog. So it’s understandable that the value of pet dog is often demeaned by society in general. But it’s the people in the dog fancy itself who surprise me the most. These are the people who should be aware of the value of a dog in the heart of a family. We need to think of family dogs as the most important product of our breeding and training efforts. Consider what we ask of our companion dogs: to live with well-intentioned people who might know little about dogs or how to communicate with them, to put up with a variety of visitors and intruders with grace and good manners, to ignore most things of interest to a dog like dead squirrels and cow pies, and to keep their weapons safely sheathed behind their lips at all times.

Granted, the working and show dogs of the world must also be held to a high standard, but dogs who are “just pets” should not be held as second class dog citizens just because they are taller than 14”, have large round eyes, move close in the rear and have a dip in their top line and a low tail set. Show me how any of these attributes improves a dog’s ability to fetch, to chase balls, or to love.

So, remember there is little that is more important than breeding dogs who bring love and joy into a household. Obviously, this import cannot be distinguished from the responsibilities associated with a reputable breeder – health and temperament. In a world that sometimes uses the phrase “just a pet” a bit too freely, we must not forget the role of the pet dog in our society and acknowledge that there is little that is more rewarding than breeding healthy, loving pups who bring joy into a household.

## Paws Up Award



Each issue, *Beard 'n Brows* features outstanding contributions, acts of kindness, etc. and awards the “Paws-up” award. This issue’s winner is the American Brittany Rescue, Inc.(ABR) for making lives of aging Brittanys less stressful. The ABR recently started a fund-raising program to help fund a senior Brittany retreat.

In 2007, over 1,000 Brittanys were rescued by ABR volunteers. The average life span of a Brittany is 12-13 years, but older dogs can be difficult to place. The retreat will mean more rescued Brittanys will have access to temporary housing, and older dogs with no foster prospects will have a home for their golden years.

The retreat will include training facilities, meeting rooms, and recreational grounds. The ABR’s goal is to facilitate community and dog club activities in the hope that funds from those activities will help defray the costs of both the facility and the services it will provide.

The ABR, founded in 1991, is headquartered in Illinois – the location of the retreat is still being determined. For more information, visit [www.AmericanBrittanyRescue.org](http://www.AmericanBrittanyRescue.org)

## Programs & Events Calendar

- **September Club Meeting** - September 21<sup>st</sup> at the home of Karin and Jim Walden in Frederick. A Presentation about breeding and the presentation of the 2009 slate of officers are the highlights.
- **October Specialty** - Saturday, October 11 at Howard County Fairgrounds. Luncheon to be catered – see reservation form and details below. Make your reservation now!
- **October Club Meeting** - October 19th at 1:30 pm at the home of Laurese Katen. 2009 Board to be voted in.
- **November Club Meeting** – November 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm at Buckeystown Veterinary Hospital, 3820 Buckeystown Pike, Buckeystown, MD 21717 [www.buckeystownvet.com](http://www.buckeystownvet.com)
- **December** - Annual Holiday party, date and location TBD

**2008 MVMSC Specialty and Luncheon  
Saturday, October 11  
Howard County Fairgrounds  
Reservation Form**

**Mt. Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club will have a catered luncheon in the Fair Board office building after the Breed Competition. Catering will be provided by: Mountain Gate Family Restaurant of Thurmont, Maryland.**

**In order to have enough food for everyone, please turn in our Luncheon Reservations by Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.**

- All Members of MVMSC do not need to pay, but should return the reservation form below.**
- All non-members, guests and exhibitors are welcome and are asked to pay \$10 per person. Reservations must be prepaid. Make checks payable to MVMSC.**

**Please fill out the form below and mail to Karen Surma at the address shown below for either reserving a ticket for a Club member or for reserving/paying for guests.**

**Name(s)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number attending** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reservations and payment must be received by September 30th, 2008  
Mail to: Karen Surma, 145 Fairfield Drive Frederick, MD. 21702**

**Contact Karen with any questions 301-624-0049 or email:  
Karen@crossroadskennels.com**

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To facilitate removing and mailing your  
Specialty Luncheon Reservation form.

Mail yours today!

## **Schnauzer National News**



### **News from the AMSC –**

- Don't forget the Montgomery County weekend and specialty, October 2-5. This is the most prestigious of our three national specialty shows and is held in PA, culminating with the specialty on Sunday in Blue Bell. Annual dinner will be on Saturday, October 4, at the Holiday Inn in Fort Washington. This year's theme is "Hooray for Hollywood" - prizes for best costumes, plus silent auction and a great live auction. If interested in attending the dinner, please contact Cathi Rohrer at 919 656-8834 for details. Cost is \$47 per person.
- Last call for pictures for the photo contest! Deadline is September 20. A photo contest will be part of the annual Montgomery County weekend. This will be a fundraising project, as well as adding another fun aspect to the annual dinner on October 4, during which winners will be selected and announced. Photo contest is open to amateur photographers, color and b/w accepted, 8x10 size matted in black or white only. Categories are 1) portrait, 2) puppy, 3) comedy, 4) general. There is a \$5 entry fee per photo and deadline is Sept. 20. Winning photos will be used in the first Miniature Schnauzer Calendar to be ready for Christmas. Mail your photos to: John Constantine, 241 S. 6<sup>th</sup> Street #301, Philadelphia, PA 19106

## **Club Meeting Minutes**

### **Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club Howard County Fairgrounds June 8, 2008**

Meeting was commenced at 2:48 PM. Present were 13 members and five guests. A short business meeting was held, as the main purpose of the get-together was to enjoy the picnic. A quorum was not present to vote.

#### President's Report

No report

#### Secretary Report

Minutes read. Minutes approved.

Reports from all other Board Members and Committees – none

#### Old Business

Eye clinic still a possibility for the Fall Specialty. It would be a good fundraiser. Karen Surma has a motorcycle trailer that we could use as a dark space to conduct the clinic. The veterinarian who would do it is from South Paws in Virginia.

## New Business

We are trying to find an air-conditioned building for the September meeting. We will talk to Karin Walden about the use of her house. The meeting in November is at the Buckeystown vet.

July 20th get together at Howard Parzow's museum for a private tour - More information to follow.

There is some concern about the breeding practices of some of the members. Please bring these concerns to the board under Article 10 section 2 of the bylaws.

There is a need to set up a nominating committee in June. If anyone is interested in being on the board or interested in being an officer please contact this committee. We will need a new president as the two year term limit for the president is expiring.

A motion was made for adjournment. Vote held, vote unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 3:06 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Constance Hannigan-Franck  
Secretary

## **By the Numbers**



- Average cost of a dog: **\$331**
- Number of U.S. households with at least one dog: **44.8 million**
- Number of pet dogs in U.S.: **74.8 million**
- What Americans spent on pets in 2006: **\$38.5 billion** (nearly double the \$21 billion they shelled out a decade ago)
- What they'll pony up on veterinary care in 2007: an estimated **\$9.8 billion**, up 6.7 percent since 2006 (\$9.2 billion)
- How much the pet industry could ring up by 2010 at the current growth rate: **\$50 billion**
- Percentage of 379 human resource departments surveyed that offer pet health insurance as an employee benefit: **5**
- Cost of MRI pet scan: **\$2,200 to \$2,700**
- Cost of radiation: **\$6,000 for 19 treatments**
- Percentage of 580 dog owners who would buy an urn for their deceased dog's ashes: **15**
- Percentage who would buy a memorial stone for their yard or garden: **23**
- Minimum cost for a taxidermist to freeze-dry a dog: **\$1,000**
- Number of states where judges have administered financial trusts set up in a pet's name: **25**
- Sampling of pampering services and products available: pet spas, doggy day care, pet steps and denture products (for elderly dogs), personalized bones, organic pet food, massage, acupuncture
- Percentage of 8,000 pet owners who said their pets sleep in bed with them: **56**
- Annual estimated cost of dog-walking service in Brooklyn: **\$5,200** (at the rate of \$20 per solo walk, five days a week)
- Minimum lifetime cost of a medium-size dog, including food, supplies, boarding, and basic veterinary care: **\$4,500 to \$5,500**
- Number of states in which cruelty to animals is a felony: **42**

## Canine Health Corner



Topic this issue: Canine Diabetes  
Excerpt from AKC Gazette, November 2007

It is estimated that canine diabetes strikes as many as one in 100 dogs. Obesity, high-carbohydrate diets, and genetics all appear to play a role in the development of the canine version of this disease.

Dogs suffer from Type 1 diabetes mellitus, caused by total loss of insulin-producing beta cells in the pancreas. (Type 2 diabetes, in which insulin production is reduced but still present, is a human form of the disease.) Insulin is an essential hormone that moves glucose out of the blood into cells. Without insulin, blood-sugar (glucose) levels rise, yet the cells starve for energy. The body becomes weak and goes into a stupor. Severe diabetes can cause coma and death.

The first sign of diabetes is excessive drinking and urinating. Usually, the patient is also losing weight, despite having a normal or increased appetite. These signs seem to come on quickly, but diabetes is not a rapid disease. The blood sugar becomes progressively more uncontrolled over time until eventually clinical signs appear.

A veterinarian can tell if a dog has diabetes by doing a urine test. Glucose in the urine is the hallmark of this disease – only when the sugar level in the blood is high does it spill over into the urine. Diabetes is confirmed by measuring the canine's patient's blood sugar. Normal levels are between 3 and 8; diabetic dogs usually come in at 20 or more.

If diabetes is found, the veterinarian also checks for concurrent diseases. Cushing's disease, pancreatitis, liver disease, kidney disease, and bladder infections are common in diabetes. If these other conditions aren't addressed, successful diabetes treatment is difficult.

Many owners think oral medications, such as those used by human diabetics, would be a convenient way to control blood sugar levels in their canine friends. Unfortunately, those drugs don't work without some functioning pancreatic beta cells, which diabetic dogs do not have. The only effective treatment of canine diabetes is insulin. Pork insulin is preferred because it works better and has a lessened chance of side effects compared to other types.

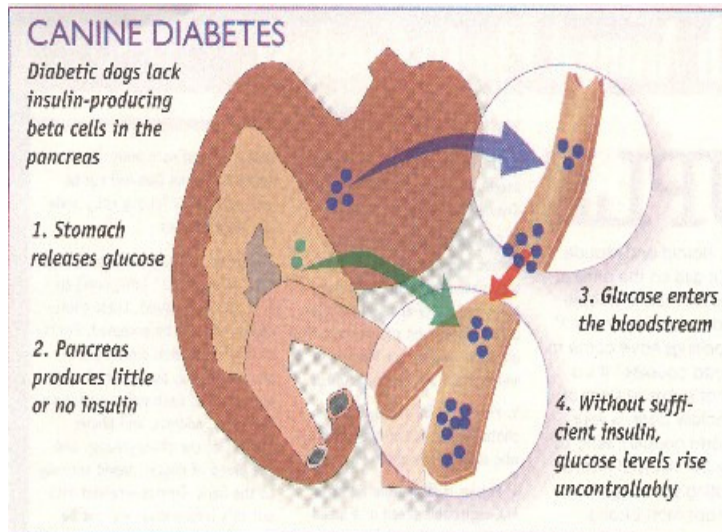
The proper dose of insulin is calculated by doing periodic blood-glucose measurements. If the glucose level is too high, the dose is increased. If the sugar drops too low, the dose is reduced. Many dogs eventually level off at a specific dose and it rarely changes. But constant monitoring is required to make small dose corrections. Erratic blood sugar can also signal another illness, such as a bladder infection.

If you have a diabetic dog, your veterinarian will start him on a small dose of insulin to help him become accustomed to the hormone. Giving too much can reduce his blood sugar to dangerously low levels, called hypoglycemia, that causes weakness, possibly seizures, and even death in severe situations. Owners of diabetic dogs must be prepared for a hypoglycemic crisis. Always have a source of sugar on hand. If the dog exhibits any signs of hypoglycemia, give Karo syrup, icing gel, or honey orally or rub it on the gums.

Dietary therapy plays an important role in diabetes. The first goal of feeding a diabetic dog is to maintain his ideal body weight. Most dogs, when first identified as diabetic, are overweight. High-fiber diets have the added benefit of delaying food digestion and slowing the passage of food through the intestines. In this way, they help minimize spiking of blood glucose after each meal.

A diabetic dog requires feeding at consistent times, usually twice a day, to keep sugar levels predictable. Erratic meals- either in quantity or time of feeding – cause varying glucose levels, which makes it more difficult to fine-tune insulin dosing.

Managing a diabetic dog may seem like an arduous task, but it is rewarding. After just a few days, insulin can turn a depressed, inactive dog into a bundle of energy.



## Guest Columnist – Regarding Sportsmanship

*This issue's guest columnist is Suzie Atherton. Suzie has bred MS for over 28 years and has judged the national sweepstakes at Montgomery County three times. She is also the chairman of the AMSC Breeders Awards committee. Suzie lives in California and wrote this article for the AKC Gazette last year. In a world so dominated by the desire to win, the important thing is to compete honorably...*

I had the honor of presenting the 2006 sportsmanship award to a great Southern gentleman who is the epitome of a good sportsman. *Sportsman* is defined as a person who exhibits qualities of fairness, courtesy, and grace in winning and defeat.

I have long tried to justify the lack of good sportsmanship among MS breeders and exhibitors and have as yet come up with one good reason. As an "old-timer" in our breed, this is of great concern to me! I also actively exhibit another terrier breed and have been approached by more than a couple of judges, as well as an AKC rep concerning the poor sportsmanship of the MS competitors.

It has been said that whether well-known or unsung, heroes have one common thread, one common denominator among them all. In every case it is *attitude*. I am convinced of the truth behind the maxim "Ten percent of life is made up of what happens to you – the other 90 percent is how to respond to what

happens to you.” This is where character is built and attitude is expressed. We are in a great sport with one of the greatest breeds of dogs, with people who share a love of both. Yes, we all want to win and are proud of our exhibits, but it’s high time that we realize that others feel the same way about their exhibits. As Bill Cosby says, “Come on people!” Pause long enough to enjoy the ride. Train yourself to see what is good. Take time to laugh with each other. Laugh at yourself. Although there are imperfections and periodic setbacks, you will be surprised how pleasurable it can all be if you have a good attitude. Make it a goal to win graciously, to congratulate others when they win, and to have compassion for your fellow competitors. In other words, *be a good sportsman and exhibit good sportsmanship!*

## Ask Dr. Schnauzer



MVMSC members are invited to ask questions to our resident authority, Dr. Schnauzer, regarding tough issues that have you stumped. This issue’s question relates to the insecure dog.

QUESTION: My MS constantly follows me around, seeking attention at every opportunity and making himself an unintentional nuisance. What can I do to give him a shot of confidence?

ANSWER: Such insecure and needy dogs require confidence-building exercises. Teach the needy dog he can handle situations without you. Let a friend take the leash and walk him a few feet away. Do this matter-of-factly, no big deal. Slowly increase distance and time until your dog trots off with barely a backward glance. Also, spend some time at your friend’s house. Begin with short visits, gradually working up to an hour, then two, leading to an overnight trip once your dog shows he’s ready. When combined with gentle training and a regular routine, confidence builders are very effective in turning a needy dog into a confident dog.

## Stamp of Approval

You’ve seen the special stamp collections the US Postal Service releases – but what could be more special than making your MS the star of his very own collection? PhotoStamps is a fun service that lets you upload your own photos to customize you stamps. Use it to announce your new pup, celebrate a doggy achievement, or simply show off your best MS. PhotoStamps are available in different denominations. Go to [www.photo.stamps.com](http://www.photo.stamps.com) for more information.



## What Oprah Winfrey knows for sure

Everyone knows Oprah Winfrey, and many know of her love of dogs. This is an excerpt from Oprah's August, 2007 magazine, shortly after the loss of one of her beloved companions, Gracie, a golden retriever. Get ready, get a hanky, and begin reading Oprah's words .....

"Weeks have passed and the pain has not subsided. Every time I think about it, my heart starts racing and I feel like I just got stabbed in the chest. It's a jolt, still. Gracie's death.

Gracie was photographed twice with me twice for *O's* January 2006 and 2007 issues. She had just turned 2 on May 21. I thought we'd grow old together.

She choked to death on a plastic ball she found in the grass (it belonged to my cocker spaniel, a much smaller breed). The goldens were not allowed to play with those clear little balls that light up. I feared they'd chew them, or worse.

The worst happened. Gracie was out with her dog walker, on a walk I often do myself after their evening meal. On this day, I decided to let the caretaker do it – walk Gracie and two other dogs. I hugged them all goodbye, leaving a lipstick print on Gracie's furry white forehead, where she loved getting kisses. Twenty minutes later, I got a call: "She's down and isn't breathing."

I ran barefoot out of the house and found the dog walker pumping her chest. Just as I reached them. The caretaker looked up and said, "I'm sorry ma'am. We tried everything. I'm sorry. She's gone."

Gone?? I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Yes, I saw it. I saw the caretaker rocking back and forth on the ground, his arms wrapped around himself, crying hysterically. My brain took in the whole scene, but it wasn't tracking properly. The first thing I remember saying is, "it's okay. It'll be okay. Tell me what happened." Through his sobs I heard: "... choked on a ball."

I stood there dazed, stunned, crying – and watched as they placed her in the gold cart with the lipstick stain still on her fur. But even in my stunned state, I knew this was not what it appeared to be: a freak accident with a clear plastic ball that lit up. I don't believe in accidents. I know for sure that everything in life happens to help us live. So through my tears and stabbing pain and questions about how and why this happened, I leaned over my sweet Gracie and whispered, "Dear Gracie, what were you here to teach me that only your death could show me?"

And this is the answer: This lovely little runt whom I'd brought home sick did more living in two years than most dogs do in 12. She never stopped moving. Was energy in motion. Chasing squirrels, hop-leaping through the pond like a rabbit. Finding anything she could to play with or chew. Speeding across the lawn as though she were in a rush for life. She was the only dog I was always looking for. Going out to the porch calling her name.

The day after she died, I went to the spot where she took her last breath and called again her name. Of course I knew she wouldn't come running through the brush. Not until I knew there'd be no response did I realize how much pleasure I had taken in calling for her. So I cried and cried. Tears of sadness for the shocking loss. Tears of joy for the pure happiness she'd given me for nearly two years. I have never seen a being, human or animal, so full of joy. This dog lived every moment as though it were her last.

Her life was a gift to me. Her death, a greater one.

Just days before the “freak accident,” the head of my company came into my office to have a serious talk about “taking some things off your schedule – you’re doing too much. I’d broken a cardinal rule: The whole month of May I’d had no day off, dashing from one event to the next. But thought I appreciated everyone’s concern, I still had to finish the shows, have foundation meetings, review plans for a new building.... So many people on my list. I literally forgot about a long-scheduled doctor appointment until the doctor’s office called.

When the doctor’s office called, I confessed. I hadn’t heeded what I know for sure. I said, “I had so many meetings with different people, I forgot to put myself on the list.”

The next day Gracie died.

Slow down, you’re moving too fast.

I got the message.

“Thank you for being my saving Gracie. I now know for sure angels come in all forms.”

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*Follow-up:*

*Oprah received many letters from readers expressing their sorrow for her loss. Many also commented that their dog had a similar clear, lighted plastic ball that had been thrown away because the ball was too small for the breed to play with safely without fear of choking.*

Don’t forget to visit our website: [minischnauzer.org](http://minischnauzer.org)



See newly added pics from

- the Sarius pig roast in June
- July visit to the Parzow museum in Mt. Airy

## **Beard 'n Brows**

Newsletter of the Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club  
21301 Golf Estates Drive  
Laytonsville, Maryland 20882



Next club meeting –  
Sunday, September 21st