



# Beard 'n Brows

Mount Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club, serving Maryland, Virginia & Washington, DC since 1955    Early Spring 2011  
"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.



#### 2010-2011 Leadership Team

President:            Richard Edwards  
Vice President      Beth Hinchliffe  
Secretary            Lois McCormick  
Treasurer:          B.J. Arczynski

#### Board of Directors:

Sue Faber  
Laurese Katen  
Donna Parzow  
Shawne Imler  
(AMSC Delegate)

#### Committee Chairperson

Specialty Show:    Richard Edwards



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

Web site: [minischnauzer.org](http://minischnauzer.org)  
Web Master: Chris Franck

"Bye-Bye Winter"    photo courtesy of Carla Borrelli



These little guys are turning their backs on Winter and saying hello Spring and all the fun activities planned for MVMSC.

Featured in this Issue: It's time to rock and roll – after our winter hiatus, our new year of activities begins in March. **Beard 'n Brows** gets spring blooming with two new features, spotlight on agility, and all the regulars.

- *New feature* – "Canine Chronicles" which features canine stories or trivia from days gone by
- *New Feature* – "Our Goals", which takes a deep dive into subjects related to our Club's goals
- Spotlight on Agility - how to train you MS to be an agility star AND how to build an agility course
- Health – Online Pet Pharmacies
- Photo Gallery – from our holiday party

## President's Letter



Dear Members,

After a long winter, spring is just around the corner along with our new year of activities. We are including presentations on topics relevant to the members, such as health, grooming, and breed information as part of our meeting agenda in an attempt to provide education so important for the breed. Additionally, this year we will emphasize the GOALS of our Club and provide guidance and educational opportunities for each of these goals throughout the year. (See the goals as stated in the Club By-laws, below.)

To help with your busy schedules, meeting dates through October are finalized – see the Events Calendar in this issue. Location and agenda for meetings and other activities will be published well in advance of the event date. We will also make every effort to include our minis at meetings whenever possible.

I hope everyone can attend our first meeting of 2011 at Sniffers Doggie Depot in Rockville. Bring your favorite mini(s) along for playtime with his other schnauzer buddies. We will continue the breed standard discussion started in November.

We have almost 60 Club members now. A roster with all names and contact information will be sent to everyone shortly.

I encourage each of you to make suggestions for specific activities that you would like to recommend to the club – places, or fun places that you may have experienced with your mini that we all could share in.

Rich Edwards  
MVMSC President

### MVMSC Goals:

- To encourage and promote quality breeding of miniature schnauzers of correct type in conformity with the breed standard as set forth by the American Miniature Schnauzer Club and approved by the American Kennel Club.
- To support the breed standard as the only standard of perfection by which miniature schnauzers shall be judged.
- To protect and advance the interests of the breed in breeding, exhibiting, grooming, and health care.
- To encourage sportsmanlike conduct at all times.
- To conduct sanctioned matches and licensed shows under the rules of the American Kennel Club.
- To provide the community educational events to encourage responsible ownership of the breed.
- To support local rescue organizations in their efforts to place unwanted miniature schnauzers.

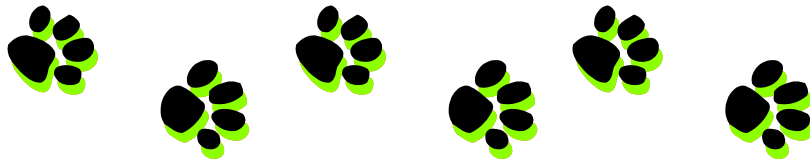
## Welcome New Club Members

Scott Mitchell – Washington, D.C.

Art Titus – Harrington, DE

**Congratulations** to Chris and Connie Franck on the arrival of Ryan Christopher, who arrived on February 3. Ryan weighed in at 6 pounds, 15 ounces and was 19.75 inches long. Best wishes to the Franck's and big sister Kate. (For those of you new to the Club, Chris is our web master and the family is currently living in Germany while Chris is on assignment with the State Dept.)

## Our Goals



“Our Goals” is a new feature of **Beard ‘n Brows**. Each issue will focus on one of the seven goals of the MVMSC as stated in our constitution and by-laws. This issue focuses on the second goal – “to support the breed standard as the only standard of perfection by which miniature schnauzers shall be judged”. We hope that these articles will help your understanding of our breed as well as heighten your knowledge of the entire canine kingdom.

The following is an excerpt from an article written in 2006 by the late Anne Rogers Clark regarding breed standards and their application during judging. Ms. Clark was legendary in her love and knowledge of dogs and was an all-breed conformation judge for many years and co-author of the International Encyclopedia of Dogs.

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When starting out as a breeder, you are encouraged to read and understand your breed standard. Well, reading is one thing – *understanding* is something else again. But as a judge, your application of the standard is different from a breeder’s.

**The standard is usually based on the function the breed was originally developed to perform.** Retriever, sight hound, vermin hunter – you name it- there is a purebred dog that will fill the bill. In the long run, the part of the standard that defines breed type (usually at the beginning of the text) is really the most important part for the judge’s purposes. Without knowledge of the type, you will not be able to determine what the breed you are looking at is – or is trying to be.

Type is a mixture of important factors, such a balance and proportion. Terriers and many other breeds are described as being “square” (the MS standard is “nearly square in proportion of body length to height”.) This means as measured from the point of shoulder (where the upper arm and shoulder join) to the pin bone or ischium (farthest protruding area below the tail) and from the top of the shoulder blade (whither) to the floor. The square is NOT measured from the point of shoulder to the set-on of tail – a mistake made by many people just starting out.

The standard will go on to discuss many key requirements of the breed: size, top line, coat, color, balance of bone to size, head, eye and expression, ear-set, temperament, tail-set and carriage, correct movement at a trot, with correct head carriage for the breed. Then we get down to the nitty-gritty – teeth (how many and how spaced), eyes (size shape, and color). Disqualifications for each breed are also listed in the standard. They are there for a reason – pay attention to them.

The foregoing is just a quick overview of information conveyed by a typical breed standard. Remember that **the dog show was invented to evaluate breeding stock**. It provides a place where a knowledgeable expert undertakes to recognize and reward the animal that most closely resembles the written breed standard in every respect.

Initially this may seem simple enough: You make your first cut on type and then reward the soundest of your specimens. That's easily said, but sometimes hard to accomplish. Many things occur that get in the way of your making sharp, clean, clear decisions. There may be dogs in competition who are too fat or too skinny, whose coats have not been properly prepared for the ring, and the list goes on.

When I judge I have the class brought into the ring in numerical order. This helps in keeping track of what has been examined and aids in making cuts in large classes. I make full use of examination tables for table breeds. In an outdoor show, the table allows you to see the entire dog with feet and ankles up out of the grass for all to see.

I cannot make decisions if I am prevented by weather or a crowded ring from seeing each dog move from the side as well and down and back. When I first "walk the class" after they get into the ring and set up, I look to see just what I have to work with. The good specimens jump out at me – if I have some! When I allow the class to circle the ring for the first time, it is my hope that the "typey" ones will make the same picture in motion from the side that they did standing – it is the sum total of all parts moving correctly. Of course, all will be tested on the down-and-back as the judging procedure continues. Ever present is the template in my mind's eye of the best example of this breed that I have ever judged.

After evaluating each entry with the standard in mind, my thoughts go to where this breed came from, where it is today, and in what direction it should be urged – and this takes years of experience in each breed. Experience is the best teacher, and if the breed in question has allowed certain prevalent faults to creep in they must be mitigated against in an attempt to bring the breed back to its original and correct form. This is very important part of a judge's job.

To me, a weekend spent at shows, in the ring, getting the chance to go over, evaluate, and place each class as befits my job as a judge, is all a pleasure and a privilege. Each time I find a dog or bitch who embodies its breed standard, it raises goose bumps on my arms and I realize what prospecting for gold must be like.

## Events Calendar



Mark your calendar now for this year's meetings/activities. Email notices (or hard copy notices for those not receiving email) with complete details regarding place, time, directions, program outline and speaker will be provided well in advance of the meeting date. Note that all activities will be held in the afternoon. Other activities, such as hikes, dog park outings, dog-friendly boat rides, etc. may be added as the dates of such activities are known.

**March 19 (Saturday)** - Club meeting at Sniffers Doggie Depot, 7300-1 Westmore, Rockville, MD 20850– bring your mini(s)!

**April 17 (Sunday)** - Social event with the dogs

**May 21 (Saturday)** – Regular club meeting

**June 19 (Sunday)** – annual picnic and Puppy Match with the dogs at the Walden’s house near Frederick


**July-August – summer vacation** 

**September 18 (Sunday)** - club meeting including presentation of slate of officers and Board for 2011-2012

**October 15 (Saturday)** – MVMSC Specialty at Howard County Fairgrounds, followed by luncheon and meeting

**November (date TBD)** – social event – bring your mini

**December (date TBD)** – Holiday party

<b>American Miniature Schnauzer News</b>	
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**Notes from the AMSC –**

If you haven’t already made plans, hurry up and plan to attend the AMSC’s first National Specialty of the year. This year it will be in Louisville, KY March 16-20. Obedience trials will be held on Wednesday, March 16, with conformation shows, including local Specialty shows for the Columbus and Cincinnati, OH clubs on March 17-19, culminating with the National Specialty on Sunday, March 20.

There are several events offered by the AMSC that will take place during these shows, including a judges’ seminar, where you can learn more about our breed from MS experts, a three hour grooming seminar, a seminar about contracts (puppy, stud, etc.) headed by an attorney, a health seminar featuring eye issues, and a dinner on Saturday night. All events except the dinner are at no charge. If you are interested in attending and want more information, please contact Sharon Edwards.

<b>Spotlight</b>		<b>on Agility</b>
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For anyone interested in agility, Leslie and Webb Anderson, of Canton, GA, are household names. They have been involved in agility since 1994 and are both AKC agility judges. As an added bonus, they own and compete with miniature schnauzers. In an excerpt from a 2009 interview, Leslie talks about training the MS for agility.

To be competitive with the super-fast dogs in today's agility ring, a MS needs the right structure, temperament, and training. What comprises "the right training" for the MS's unique temperament and personality?

We typically think of MSs as determined, tenacious dogs. To cultivate the drive needed to succeed in agility, we should focus that determination and tenacity toward the game. The noises, sights and smells of an agility trial can work against your efforts to keep your dog focused. To maintain focus and an intense work ethic, your dog must believe that you are the most exciting thing in the universe – more attractive even than the interesting-smelling dirt only inches from his nose, or the Sheltie waiting near the start line. Developing that kind of focus starts when your MS is a puppy.

When we get a new puppy, we separate him from the adult dogs until we are convinced that he will choose us over any toy, treat, or other dog. Segregating him from the group ensures that all his fun and excitement come from us. He has access to the best toy only when we are on the other end of that toy. While he does have free access to some toys, he is never left alone with *the* favorite toy.

He gets exercise and play through play-training games with us. We test his readiness to join the other dogs by allowing him to play with another dog and watching his reaction when we enter the environment with a toy. If the puppy leaves the other dog to play with us, we know we have been more exciting than the other dog. Schnauzers can quickly become bored if confronted with too many repetitions and not enough reward. When training for agility, break technical skills down into tiny steps, rewarding profusely at each step. By trying to force a MS to do something the right way, you will simply give him reason to tune you out and look for more interesting pursuits. Watch for signs of boredom and "zoning out". You should discontinue the exercise before the dog comes anywhere close to quitting on you. If he loses enthusiasm or becomes disinterested, you've gone way too far.

With a single-minded tenacious breed, you must make it fun. For a dog with a high food or toy drive, it is easy to do. Use the favorite toy or treat when training a new skill or reinforcing an existing but difficult one. If you've done your puppy-motivation work correctly, your dog already knows that you are the most interesting creature on earth. Prove him right by bringing out the good stuff when he is in learning mode.

When teaching a complex skill, it is important to break down the tedium by alternating difficult tasks with easy ones the dog already knows. Alternate tight, technical sequences with straight-on, run-as-fast-as-you-can sequences, and conclude each training session with a fast-running set. Speed should be trained and rewarded just as much - perhaps more than - controlled work. With the right training, the MS's tenacious temperament can help make him a focused athlete in the agility ring.

### **And now that you've mastered training, you need a backyard agility course to put your pup through the paces -----**

A three station course is easy to build using 1 ½ inch PVC plumbing parts and a wood board. It's so easy to build your MS will be running circles around it in no time. Not only will it give you and your MS some bonding time, it is also good for your dog's health and longevity.

Doing a balancing act on the **teeter-totter** helps dogs gain confidence and trust your commands. The **jump bar** helps your MS build up his hindquarters and it helps other breeds prone to hip problems improve strength and agility. **Weave poles** keep your dog agile by working his joints and muscles. Start with three poles, and then add more as your pup progresses.

Just because your MS spends time out back each day even he's getting a workout. Dogs don't exercise on their own, you have to engage them. An agility course has physical and behavioral benefits for dogs of all sizes. Remember that dogs are not color blind – they just don't see colors as vividly as we do. Use bright-colored tape on the jump bars and weave poles so that they can see them better.

For information on building your own equipment and designing your agility course, google "dog agility course design". Many hours of fun and a healthy MS await you!

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Mt. Vernon Miniature Schnauzer Club**  
**Saturday, November 13, 2010**

Meeting convened at 4:30 PM at Sniffers Dog Resort in Gaithersburg. Present were 7 members and one guest.

Minutes of the October meeting were read and approved.

**President's Report**

Thanks to the many club members who completed and returned the member questionnaires in September and October. The results of this questionnaire will be summarized in the next newsletter. In summary, there are two areas that members feel are very important. The first is education – about the breed, health issues, grooming, events and how to get started with your MS. The second area of importance is the ability of members to social with other MS lovers and the ability to bring their dogs with them to meetings for fun and socialization. Interestingly, members are split equally on which of these areas is more important. As a result, we will be catering our meetings to alternate between the two.

Remember the holiday party will be December 12, so everyone please save the date.

Over the winter break, the board will be putting together the spring meeting schedule including dates and locations. It will be published prior to the first spring meeting so everyone will have sufficient time to mark their calendars for several months of events.

Most members have renewed their membership for 2011. If you have not, there is still time – contact Laurese Katen.

**Secretary's Report - none**

**Treasurer's Report**

Since the October meeting date, we have income of \$436, consisting primarily of \$260 in dues receipts and \$176 from the Hatboro KC for our supported entry. Expenses were \$248, all related to the annual championship plaques awarded at our Specialty and food for the Specialty. Bank of America balance is \$7,237, comprised of \$65 trophy (excess of 2010 trophy fund revenue over expenses), \$1,228 rescue, and \$5,944 in the general fund.

As of today, 50 members have renewed their memberships for 2011. This consists of 22 regular members (with voting rights) and 28 associate members (no voting rights). Members who live a long distance from the central D.C. area have opted for the associate membership in order to not impact the club's ability to obtain a quorum needed for voting on items required by the club by-laws.

One new member application has been received from Art Titus of Harrington, DE. His membership will be voted on by the board at the next board meeting.

### **Unfinished Business**

The idea of changing our annual Specialty to the spring in conjunction with the shows at the state fairgrounds in Timonium has been rejected. The feeling is that the potential of the October date is greater for getting larger entries than is a spring date. The spring date was considered because of the possibility of hosting the spring roving national specialty. However, our proximity to Philadelphia, where the fall national Specialty is held annually, would preclude us from getting the spring national. We will be able to select the judge for our fall Specialty going forward and this should help increase the entry size. Our goal is to get entries outside the club. This year there were only three entries not owned by MVMSC members.

The results of the member questionnaire were presented at this meeting and will be summarized in the late fall newsletter.

**Committee Reports** – none

**New Business** - none

A motion was made for adjournment at 5:10 after which a discussion of the breed standard was led by Sharon Edwards.

Respectfully submitted by:  
Sharon Edwards for Lois McCormick, Secretary



### **Bragging Rights**

*Due to the number of conformation shows, Beard 'n Brow only reports wins of club members' dogs at Westminster, Eukanuba, and AMSC Nationals. For MVMSC Specialties full results are posted.*

#### **Eukanuba – Long Beach, CA – December 4-5, 2010**

Best of Breed: GCH. Earthsong Remedy for the Blues – bred by Karen Hoffmann, co-owned by Karen and Rachael Hoffmann, shown by Shawne Imler. (see photo page 10)

#### **Westminster – New York City, NY – February 14-15, 2011**

Award of Merit: CH. Ernharts Little Miss Magic – bred and owned by Tanya and Rich Arnold and Shawne Imler. Handled by Shawne Imler. (photo not available at press date – look for it in the next issue)

## Local Mini's End 2010 ranked 1st and 2nd in breed

2010 was a good year for MVMSC dogs – two local dogs ended the year ranked first and second in the nation in breed points. (Breed points are determined by the number dogs defeated during shows throughout the year.)

**GCH. Lonestar's Wicked Good (Elle)** ended 2010 as #1 Mini Schnauzer in the country. Elle is now retired and living the good life and looking forward to having puppies. Elle is owned and bred by Rich and Sharon Edwards and was conditioned and presented by Terrie Houck of Charlotte, NC.

**WICKED GOOD**

Elle  
GR Ch. Lonestar's  
Wicked Good

**#1 MINIATURE SCHNAUZER 2010**  
Best in Show Winner | 3 Time National Specialty Winner  
Multiple Specialty Breed Winner | Multiple Group Winner

Thank you to all the judges who have recognized  
Elle's outstanding qualities.  
Our deepest appreciation to Terrie Houck for  
her loving care and wonderful presentation  
of Elle throughout the year.

Owned and Bred by Rich & Sharon Edwards, Lonestar Miniature Schnauzers, LLC, 10774 A. ...  
Presented by Terrie Houck, Wicked Good Miniature Schnauzers, The Wicked Good Club

Dog News – February 11, 2011

**GCH. Earthsong Remedy for the Blues (Blue)** ended 2010 as second in the nation in breed points. He's semi-retired, also living the good life, but ever-ready to make a show appearance and always willing to offer his "services". Blue was bred by club member Dr. Karen Hoffmann DVM, is co-owned by Dr. Hoffmann and Rachael Hoffmann of MI and was conditioned and handled by our own Shawne Imler.



Blue- photo courtesy of Tania Kidd

**Canine Chronicles –**



This is a new feature that will be in each issue of **Beard 'n Brows**. An interesting fact, story or trivia from times past will be featured in each issue.

This month's blast from the past is a blurb from the **New York Times, October 24, 1884** ---

"I told you so," remarked Mrs. Wheatleigh to a *Times* reporter last night. "Didn't I tell you that my little TuTu should have had first prize in the open class pugs, and that I wouldn't let him accept second place?"

In the original award, another pug had been given first and Mrs. Wheatleigh's dog second. Mrs. Wheatleigh, indignant at being given second place, examined the first place winner, and found on his breast a suspicious-looking stain. Examining his nails, she found that they were not of the right color, to

her thinking. Then she entered a protest. The winner was taken to a private room. The stain on his breast – a nasty yellow one – was apparent to the naked eye when the ribbon around his neck was lifted. Then a microscope was produced and a few of the discolored hairs were plucked and cut into minute sections. Subjected to the microscopic test, they were found to contain white matter. Hence, the hairs, before staining, were white hairs. A white patch or white hairs on the breast of a pug is death to his chances as winner of any prize, so the decision was reversed.

*Editor's note: Hmmm.....*

## Tip of the Month –

If you're trying to control you MS's weight, use frozen French-cut green beans as treats. Place them in a strainer and run hot water over them to warm them up a bit before using as treats. Dogs love the crispy treat and it's so healthy for them.

## Canine Health Corner



## On-Line Pharmacies

Buying medication from an online pharmacy could put your dog's health at risk. The Food and Drug Administration has found unscrupulous Internet businesses selling counterfeit, outdated, mislabeled, and incorrectly formulated animal medications.

Pet owners who purchase drugs from these companies may think they are saving money, but in reality, they may be short-changing their pet's health and putting its life at risk, says the Office of Surveillance and Compliance in the FDA's Center for Veterinary Medicine.

Of course, legitimate companies sell discounted prescription drugs and other therapeutic products online, too. So how can you protect yourself and your dog? You should order from a website that belongs to a Vet-VIPPS accredited pharmacy. Vet-VIPPS, the Veterinary Verified Internet Pharmacy Practice Sites is a voluntary accreditation program that the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy began offering in 2009. Companies earning this "seal of approval" meet strict criteria, including federal and state licensing and inspection requirements.

So far, only a few businesses have gone through the accreditation process and are listed on the board's website, [www.nabp.net](http://www.nabp.net). For more information about safely purchasing pet medications from e-pharmacies, visit [www.fda.gov/animalveterinary](http://www.fda.gov/animalveterinary).

## Recipe for A Stinky Dog

For a change, instead of an edible recipe, here's one we hope you never have to use. Chance encounters with a skunk usually end in an odoriferous pup, so here's a recipe that will remedy the skunk smell.

Ingredients:

1 qt. 3% hydrogen peroxide

¼ cup baking soda

1 teaspoon liquid castile soap (available at health food stores)



Mix all ingredients in a medium sized bucket because it will fizz. Soak your dog, being careful not to get the solution in eyes, nose, ears, or mouth. Although these ingredients are natural, they have acidic properties and can cause irritation.

Soak the dog well in the solution, kneading it into the coat. Use a sponge to clean around the eyes and head. Rinse thoroughly and towel dry the dog.

This solution changes the chemical properties of the skunk spray to break it down, so the odor is eliminated, not masked. If any solution is left in the container, get rid of it. DO NOT store it, as the chemical reaction resulting from being stored could cause an explosion.



## At the Shows

**Conformation New Champions – source: Schnauzer Shorts**

CH. Blythewood The Rifleman, owned by Joan Huber

## Photo Gallery – 2010 Holiday party

