



THE HEARTBEAT

October 2007

Special points of interest:

- 2008 Election of Officers and Board of Directors
- Results from our Regional Specialty
- Feasibility of Survey on Genetic Disease in the Standard Schnauzer

PREZ SEZ

by John Limpert

It was good to see everyone at the Specialty and picnic. We had a fine representation of Standard Schnauzers for the Specialty. The weather was great and the food was even better. The auction had many must have doggy items and fun was had by all. Thank you to Gary Smith and Jon Rosenberg for their talented contributions. Gary provided a hand carved Standard Schnauzer statue. Jon provided two framed Standard Schnauzer drawings. Also, thanks to all those who volunteered their time to make the events a success. Special thanks to Joe and Deb Axmacher for their warm hospitality in hosting our picnic.

The election of the 2008 Club Officers will be taking place soon. Please let me know if you are interested in any of the positions.

I would like to remind everyone of the HSSC's Schnauzer Walk around Lake Harriet in early November. Plan on getting you and your Schnauzer out for a nice walk before winter. Hope to see everyone there.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

~ John

HSSC Annual Dog Walk Around Lake Harriet

Our annual walk around Lake Harriet is fast approaching. The date has been set for Saturday November 3rd. We will meet at the band area at 12:45 pm and the walk will start at 1:00. There will be a stop mid-way with refreshments. ***Please check the website for current information.***

See you there!!!

If your dog is fat, you aren't getting enough exercise.

~ Unknown

2008 HSSC Board Nomination Information

The 2008 HSSC nomination committee is looking for candidates who would like to serve as officers or board of directors. All positions are open. Election will be held early January 2008. This is a good opportunity to take an active role in setting direction for the club with just a small time commitment. HSSC Officers are the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The two Board of Directors positions are also open for election. Following is a description of the club officers and directors duties.

Heartland Standard Schnauzer Club Officer and Board of Director Positions:

Officers:

- The Club's Officers, consisting of the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer, shall serve in their respective capacities, both with regard to the Club and its meetings, and the Board and its meeting.
- The President shall preside at all meetings of the Club and of the Board.
- The Vice President shall have the duties and exercise the powers of the President in case of the President's death, absence or incapacity.
- The Secretary shall keep a correct record of the proceedings at all meetings of the Club and of the Board of Directors and shall send all notices required or directed to be given by the Constitution and Bylaws, the President or the Board of Directors. The Secretary shall be the custodian of all records, keep committee reports and send notice to the membership or publish in the Club newsletter the notice for all meetings. The Secretary shall be responsible for all general correspondence of the Club that is not a function proper to any other office or committee.
- The Treasurer shall collect and receive the funds of the Club and shall deposit it in the name of the Club in a bank satisfactory to the Board.

Board of Directors:

- The Board of Directors shall be comprised of the four Officers of the Club and two other persons, all of whom shall be members in good standing and all of whom shall be elected to serve one year terms at the Club's annual meeting.
- The Board of Directors shall be vested with the management of the affairs of the Club subject to the provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws.

2007 HSSC Regional Specialty Results 8/25/07

Winners Sweepstakes ~ Judge Dr. Denise Wedel:

BSS Morgenwald Prim 'N Proper V Katon ~ Owner: Kathy Koehler

OSS Jordan Charlemagne of Windtree RN ~ Owner: Marjana Callery & Sondra Lambert

BVS CH VonLimpert Angelique Alexis NA NAJ ~ Owner: Linda & John Limpert

Winners Regular Classes ~ Judge Mrs. Margaret E. Robertson

Dogs:

W VonLimpert Count On Me ~ Owner: Lynn Tonkin & Linda, John & Jennifer Limpert

R Morgenwald Playboy V Katon ~ Owner: Penny Duffee

Bitches:

W/BW Charisma Sky Diving ~ Owner: Constance Adel (Agent: B. Combs)

R Jordan Brooke Of Windtree ~ Owner: Tamara Woods Rogers & Sondra Lambert

Best of Breed:

BB CH Pepper Tree Zorro V Morgenwald ~ Owner: Penny Duffee

OS CH Sketchbook Moonlit Madness ~ Owner: Julie Fogarty & Liz Hansen

Brace:

BBR Sketchbook Spring Willow ~ Owner: Julie Fogarty & Liz Hansen

BBR Sketchbook Springtime Serenade ~ Owner: Liz Hansen & Liz Holle

Feasibility of conducting a survey of the incidence of genetic disease in Standard Schnauzer

Standard Schnauzers are characterized as a long-lived, healthy breed. Although we believe this, it is important that we have data to justify this statement. It is equally important to develop a picture of any disease issues that may exist in our breed so that we can continue to make that statement. As was editorialized in the May, 2007 SSCA Newsletter, the participation in the survey conducted in 2004 was so limited that the only conclusions derived with any confidence were that “no single genetic disease exists in Standard Schnauzers that affects more than 10% of the dogs alive between 1998 and 2004”; 10% of the dogs alive during this period is over 500 affected dogs. This does not mean that we have substantial disease problems – only that we can not exclude that possibility with any degree of certainty. With the availability of the tremendous resources available for studying genetic disease in canines today, this is an unacceptable position!

It is increasingly feasible to determine the basis for a genetic disease from only a small number of well characterized affected individuals in a couple of litters (families in human studies). That means if we had the means for rapid identification of affected individuals, we could reduce the spread of a disease gene in our gene pool and with a genetic test, retain these carrier animals in our breeding programs. Health surveys enrolling a majority of the animals are critical in this strategy to reduce distribution of these genes and reduce the incidence of genetic diseases.

To address this deficiency, the Standard Schnauzer Club of America board has appointed a taskforce to conduct a new health survey. In order to derive valid conclusions regarding the incidence (or absence) of genetic disease in our breed, we need to obtain data for at least 20% of the dogs alive during the period of 2002-2007; this is data for more than 1200 dogs. This is more than the 800 dogs owned by SSCA members. That means that SSCA members must reach out to owners of Standard Schnauzers who are not members of our national club, the folks down the block or the folks that own and love one of your puppies, AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY DATA. If we do not have confidence that we can obtain data from sufficient dogs to derive conclusions with a significant degree of confidence, it is unlikely to be worth the investment of several thousand dollars and a lot of time to conduct a new survey.

To establish the commitment of Standard Schnauzer owners to assist in a survey of the incidence of genetic diseases in our breed, we are conducting a survey of the feasibility of collecting data for a sufficient number of dogs to insure obtaining a valid estimate of disease incidence in Standard Schnauzers. This form can also be obtained from the SSCA website www.standardschnauzer.org.

We would appreciate your “best estimate” responses to the following questions. For breeders, we will gladly accept information that you may provide on behalf of people that own one of your puppies (if the owners will not provide the information). It is important to obtain data for a maximum number of dogs, even if all of the information is not perfect.

If we obtain sufficient response to justify conducting a health survey, it will be initiated in January 2008. Survey forms will be included in the Newsletter and in the PNS and will be available from the SSCA website. Our goal is to have survey forms completed by July 1, 2008 so that data can be analyzed and summarized for presentation at the annual meeting in October, 2008.

All health survey forms will be sent to a third party who will remove all individual identifiers to insure confidentiality of participants prior to forwarding the data to the Health Survey Taskforce (Harvey Mohrenweiser, Annamarie Appel, Diana Barber, Diana Wall).

Please return your responses regarding the data that you can supply for the health survey to Dr. Harvey Mohrenweiser, 13389 Morrow Lane SE, Turner, OR 97392-9377 (paper copy) or mohrenweiser@wvi.com (either as an attachment or paste into the message window)

How many Standard Schnauzers have you owned since Jan 1, 2002? _____

How many litters _____/ puppies _____ have you whelped since Jan 1, 2002

Of the puppies sold:

How many are owned by SSCA members _____

How many are owned by members of regional clubs who are not SSCA members _____

How many are owned by folks that are not members of SSCA or regional clubs _____

How many of the folks in (c) can you encourage to participate in the health survey _____

Do you have contact with people who own a Std Sch who are not members of the local or national clubs _____

How many dogs in question 4 do you think you can help us obtain data for _____

In total, I can provide data for _____ dogs and help obtain data for _____ additional dogs

The taskforce will only tabulate responses regarding potential number of dogs. All information that might identify a respondent will be immediately destroyed. If we move forward with a health survey in early 2008, all health status data will be collected by a third party to insure the confidentiality of all participants.

What format would you prefer for the health survey: paper _____; electronic _____; web-based _____