

PREZ SEZ

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Greetings!

It's hard to believe after all of the snow and cold, Spring is finally here. But, then again, all I have to do is look at my Schnauzer's paws and beards, and there is no doubt what time of year it is! Between the seeds, leaves and mud . . . Where do they find it all??

And with it being Spring, it is time to start looking forward to our Specialty and all that goes with it. The Board and various committees have been very busy putting together some terrific events and opportunities for everyone to get involved. with We have already had a couple of very successful events this year, and are looking forward to many more. Up next is a general meeting on May 16th with a guest speaker from Pals on Paws to talk about therapy dogs. This is a great opportunity to get more information on a tremendous cause. After that, we have our annual volunteering with the Helping Paws Wag Walk Run. Always a great time—hopefully the weather will be better this year! Please check the website regularly for new events. Our webmaster, Kara Maytag is doing a fantastic job getting information posted quickly. Check it out! There is a lot to see . . .

Nationals are coming up in the middle of the month, and I plan to attend. I

have the luxury of watching and enjoying the events, a no-stress time for me! I look forward to seeing many of you there, and cheering you on. We are looking into several other get-togethers for the summer, leading up to our Specialty in August. Please be sure to watch for more information as it becomes available.

I hope that all of you had a healthy winter, and are getting in a lot of activities with your dogs. Please come join us for our club events, and if you have any ideas for future events, drop us a line. We would love to hear from you!

Happy Spring!

Kristin

"The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail instead of his tongue."
--Anonymous



THE HEARTBEAT

We Are All Prejudiced

By Roger Eriksen

Of course, I do not mean in the racial sense. However, we all have our own likes and dislikes and we would like to think that we are discerning in our choices. We have differing tastes and opinions for sure, which is a very good thing.

Some of us drive Chevies or Fords or Hondas. My ride is silver metallic, but some of you might prefer brown or heaven forbid, red. Would you like a big helping of chocolate or fried liver and onions? What was it exactly that attracted you to your soul mate? All of us make choices large and small every day. It seems that when we are prejudiced, it is usually against something and it is preference when we are for it.

The choices we make that are life changing or perhaps, life altering deserve just a bit more deliberation than what color tie to wear today. Selecting an animal with which to share a decade or more of your life with is certainly worth our best efforts.

I would like to share with you how my wife Deb and I came to select a Standard Schnauzer to come and share our home with us. Deb is a huge animal lover in general with a very loving and soft heart that would probably be satisfied with any mammal that starts out life being cute. And that pretty much covers them/us all. I am decidedly a dog man. We have each owned dogs in our pasts before we got together; one of which was a miniature schnauzer for her and a Doberman for me. The Dobe was my first dog of my own as an adult so it was very difficult to have to put her to sleep when the time came. I have not considered getting another dog for over three decades.

Now we are in our mid-fifties, it was now or never. We did not wish to get a pet when we were too old to enjoy it. The decision to get an animal was easy because we were simply ready now and wanted to do so. But which one?

My prejudice started the process of elimination of what I really did not want. I do not care for tiny lap dogs and having the Dobe, I was thinking the larger breeds would not be the best either. Once I narrowed the field down to a mid-sized, minimum shedding, fairly active dog it was time to look at preferences. My preconceived notions were telling me that the SS was a smaller dog with a big dog attitude. Muscular, athletic and manly as not to reflect poorly on myself with a salt & pepper beard to match my own, how can I go wrong? (Perhaps more on the psychology of pet/people relations in an upcoming article.)



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We attended the Land 'O Lakes show at the Excel Arena in 2007 to check out the different breeds. I had the mission to show Deb what the SS was in comparison to the miniature with which she was accustomed. That dog she had was a yappy barker and I wanted her to know the difference between a standard and a miniature. Also that teaching any dog what 'Quiet' means is very, very possible. Excessive barking is not something that has to be accepted or tolerated.

At the show in the grooming area we came across Jon Rosenberg from Cedar Falls, Iowa. We stopped to talk with him about his dog and even though he was busy prepping the dog for the ring, he took all the time we needed to answer our questions about the breed. He made the point that we were very fortunate to have so many excellent breeders in the Twin Cities area of a breed that is not overly available. He felt the area was rare to have such dedicated breeders concentrated here in the 'Cities'. For that we truly are blessed. Thanks to Jon and the dogs that showed in the ring that day, Deb agreed that this might be a great choice for us.

We contacted the Heartland SS Club for information on breeders and found one that happened to have puppies ready in the coming weeks for placement. I have to be honest that we just 'lucked out' finding George Huddle when we did and we are so very pleased. He had puppies that we could visit and, of course that was all it took to have Deb hooked. Would we have been just as happy with a pet from another breeder? Possibly. But any other puppy would not be our Ruger.

He has been with us now over a year and a half. He is a solid member of our pack, doing very well in obedience training and has become my bestest buddy. He is so happy to see me after work that he almost wiggles himself inside out. You know that feeling when they put their ears down, look up at you with those big brown eyes partially obscured by their eyebrows and the nubby little tail is going 187 revolutions per minute? I do! He goes nearly nuts when it is time to go to training class or for a walk just as long as he is with 'dad.' I am very fortunate to have had a fantastic dog as my first pet and I am very pleased and blessed with our current canine companion.

What do you get if you cross a dog and a lion ?

A terrified postman !

If you take your dog downtown, where should you leave him?

In a barking lot.

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SSCA 2009 NATIONAL SPECIALTY

Where: New Castle, PA

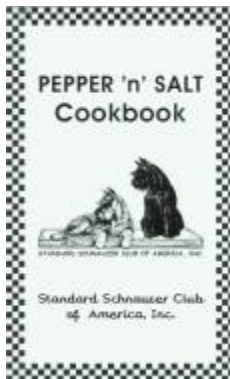
When: May 21—25, 2009

Host Hotel: Microtel Inn & Suites (sold out)

For more information on this year's SSCA National Specialty, please visit the SSCA website and click on "Events". Or visit the National Specialty website directly at:

<http://www.sscas2009national.com>

SSCA COOKBOOKS & SOURCEBOOKS



We will have copies of the SSCA Cookbooks and Sourcebook IV available for purchase at both our 2009 Specialty and the dinner/auction. This is a great opportunity, so don't miss out!

Wagging Rights

We would like to recognize all the wonderful milestones you and your Standard Schnauzer accomplish! Not only to promote what has been accomplished, but to also know our membership better and most importantly, about your SS. Did you recently finish an obedience class? Earn points toward you CH? First impressions of starting agility or rally? Anything you wish the rest of the club to be able to share? We would love to hear about it! Send us the information and we will include it here. Feel free to email pictures of you with your Schnauzer (or just your dog if you are camera shy) and it will be added, too.

Good luck!



THE HEARTBEAT

Performance Corner

By Roger Eriksen

This portion of our newsletter is dedicated to the performance activities available to our membership. Anyone that shares their home with a Standard Schnauzer knows full well they offer so much more than just a pretty face and a beautiful, sound body. Our buddies are the smallest breed in the working dog group and I will stack them up against all comers for speed, agility, intelligence, trainability and pure pleasure in working with their masters. Guest columnists welcome!

Our club's fun match held March 15 was just exactly that; fun. It was held as a fundraiser for the club, but the members who worked the event really enjoyed watching and learning about how well other breeds take to the competition ring. This type of event also serves very well as a means to raise the visibility of our club on the local dog scene.

At the match, a couple of observers asked what the difference was between the A group and the B group. "Do they perform different exercises or patterns?" they asked. The short answer, of course is 'no.' The expectations of the dog and handler's performance is the same in Novice A as it is in Novice B. The same is true in the Open and Utility classes.

So what is the difference? Thirty-four years ago, I showed a dog to complete her CD title. Even though it seems like a lifetime ago (and it was), I am no longer qualified to show any dog in Novice A. Because of my experience, I have to enter Novice B. The "A" sections of obedience classes are for lesser experienced dogs and handlers. This keeps the competition fair between newbies and the old timers. This is the major difference between the classes with the exercises and performance patterns being exactly the same for both. You compete against other handlers and dogs of similar experience levels.

Another question from the crowd concerned point deductions. "What will the judge be looking for as errors that will deduct points?" That's an easy one for those that have reviewed an obedience score sheet. All of the 'errors' that will deduct points from your score are listed. Lagging and forging on heel, crooked sits, slow response, breaking a sit or a down stay are all 'no-nos' of varying degree. Many do not realize that handler's errors can and do result in point deductions as well. The main, I say again, the MAIN objective of the AKC rules of obedience training is that the dog and handler work together as a team. You are both being judged.

.....Continued on next page.....



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Performance Corner . . . Continued:

So train hard with lots of fun and praise mixed in. You are working for the best score possible with reliability and consistency as your objective. Everyone enters the ring with a perfect score of two hundred points to start and it is up to you and your teammate to 'lose' as few points as possible.

Best of luck to you in training and remember that there are no 'losers' in obedience, agility or rally training. You are spending time with your Standard Schnauzer doing exactly what they love to do most with whom they love to be with and how much fun is that?

And halt. Exercise Finish!

Each issue of *The Heartbeat* newsletter is a means for the club to communicate, inform and hopefully, entertain the readership. All club members are invited to submit articles, photos, editorials or simply your comments on the dog related news items and happenings which you wish to share. "Letters to the editor" and op-ed pieces are your 'take' on what is important to you that you feel the club should be aware of.

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Newsletter Publisher: Kristin Hauser

Editor: Roger Eriksen

Graphics: Kara Maytag

Visit our Website:

www.heartlandstandardschnauzer.org



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Upcoming Events:

Animal Inn Training School has a very nice facility for us on the East side of town. Check out their web page at www.animalinntraining.com/ for all the details on all levels of training classes. Confirmation classes are usually held on Tuesdays.

C & E Dog Training Center has no special events coming up. Check out their web page and class schedule for puppy, beginning obedience, advanced obedience, intermediate, novice, pre-open/open, utility, rally, agility as well as conformation classes at www.cedogtraining.com/schedule.html

St. Paul Dog Training Club holds obedience run thrus for practice for trials typically on Friday evenings at 6:00 PM. Fee is \$7.00 for the first dog and walk-ins are welcome. Check their calendar at www.spdpc.com.

Also, their Spring agility trials will be held April 3, 4 and 5 if anyone wishes to observe. Entries are closed at this point. Again, see their web page for details.

Total Recall training facility will also be holding a therapy dog training session on April 1st (no fooling) at 6:00 PM. Check out the info at their web site at <http://trdogs.com>.

Another therapy dog training session will be held at **Dog Works** in Eden Prairie. The class starts May 5, 2009 and more information is available at www.dogworksinc.com.

Dog Works also offers Confirmation Run Throughs on Monday evenings at 7:30 for \$6.00 a session and walk ins are welcome.

Bloomington Obedience Training Club offers confirmation classes on Wednesday evenings at 8:15 for \$5.00. Call Bill at 952 895-1243 for more information or visit www.botcmn.org.

Walk ins are also welcome as non-club members in Novice, Open and Utility classes for \$8.00 per session. All classes are held on Tuesday evenings with both Novice and Open starting at 7:00 PM and Utility at 8:00 PM.

Both confirmation classes as well as several levels of obedience training classes are available at **Tails Up Dog Training** in Burnsville. Check out www.tailsupdogtraining.com for the scoop on what's happening there.

Saving the best for last, Ruger's mom & dad have provided 4 girls and 4 boy puppies to 'Grandpa' George Huddle recently. Gibson & Kohl's breeding was so spectacular (because it brought my Ruger to me) that George just had to have one of their puppies for himself and who could possibly blame him. Congratulations George & Gibson.