

Der Schnurbart

AUTUMN 2009



Der Schnurrbart

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Beth Ross
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Greater Pittsburgh Standard Schnauzer Club Meeting

August 29, 2009

A meeting of the GPSSC was held at the home of Beth Ross on Saturday, August 29, 2009. The following members were present:

Diane Mitchell
Beth Ross
Jill Watson

Peter Theis and his son Nick were also present as guests and potential members.

The meeting was called to order by our president Diane Mitchell.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was not available.

Secretary's Report: Jill shared a Thank You Note received from the KSSC expressing their appreciation of our efforts in hosting the SSCA National Specialty. Diane mentioned that she had received many positive comments in that regard.

A letter was received from the PA Federation of Dogs requesting we continue our membership. It was decided not to renew our membership. A letter was received from the AKC indicating that everything associated with the GPSSC Specialty had been processed and closed out. The AKC also provided an application if it was our intention to hold our specialty in New Castle again next year. As our plans are to hold the GPSSC Specialty at the Pittsburgh show next year the application will be discarded. A notice about the KSSC Regional Specialty was also received.

New Business: Specialty 2010

Lori Walker who is the SSCA Committee Chairperson for the Judge's Education Task Force has agreed to serve as our Sweepstakes Judge at our Specialty on March 27, 2010 at the Pittsburgh show located at the Pittsburgh Convention Center in association with the Western Pennsylvania Kennel Association Dog Show. Ms. Walker requested that we look into a

Der Schnurrbart

venue for her to conduct a judge's education seminar. The cost of the seminar would be \$25.00 to cover the cost of reference materials and a DVD. The seminar would last about an hour and a half. She would like notice of the seminar to appear in the premium list. She would also like provide ring-side mentoring. At present an appropriate location has not been secured. No facilities at the Convention Center will be made available to us for this purpose. Other options will be pursued, such as the Westin Convention Center and the Ramada and Radisson in Greentree. A banquet on Saturday night could also be held at one of these hotels. Our application to hold the 2010 GPSSC Regional Specialty will be submitted to the AKC.

Membership

An application for membership for Peter and Alexis Theis was read and will be voted on at our next meeting.

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Jill and seconded by

Beth that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Watson
Secretary, GPSSC

Cheap and Fast Kennel Cough Cure

One of my co-workers, who already had two dogs, got a dog from a friend who could not keep her. The dog ran away the first chance she got. To make a long story short, she was found in a rescue facility and came home with kennel cough. My friend took her to the vet and got the antibiotics that the vet suggested she give the dog. This cost her about \$100 not including the vet visit fees. In the next few days the other dogs started coughing too.

The next day, she asked me for advise on what she could do to cure this and not have to spend another \$200 that she did not have. From experience, I know that kennel cough is like the common cold and flu in

humans. There are many different varieties and the bordatella treatment given at the veterinarian's office only covers about twenty five percent of the kinds we can all encounter at dogs shows and other places where large amounts of dogs gather. So, I went searching and found a great bit of advice online.

Using Vitamin C (500mg), garlic (500mg) and Echinacea (125mg) once a day for small dogs and twice a day for large dogs (the web site suggested the above dose for dogs under ten pounds) seems to work! My co-worker was thrilled that in 3 days there was less coughing and by the end of the week, all of her dogs were back to normal. It was not long after this that another friend called me and said she would not be going to a dog show we were both to attend (she had the only other class girl) because her dogs had picked up kennel cough when she left them at a

Der Schnurrbart

doggie care place while she was on vacation.

I raced over to my computer and pulled up the web site again and told her the ingredients in the cure I knew would work! She used it and the only dog who was coughing got better fast and none of her other dogs got sick. I recommend anyone showing dogs keep these key ingredients on hand in case they encounter kennel cough.

The side benefits are a glossy coat and bugs won't bother the dogs while they are on the garlic. I am thinking of trying garlic with my dogs all the time to help keep them safe from flies while at dog shows.

Reference:

<http://www.thriftyfun.com/tf32714097.tip.html>

Author: Diane R Mitchell



Windy as Yoda

Submitted by: Diane R Mitchell

Brain Cancer

Is it possible that in a not too many years, we may have a cure for brain cancer? Researchers think so! There is a research study currently going on that may still be taking applicants of any canine variety. The dog must have a brain tumor that is the primary cancer. In other words, it has to have started in the brain.

The National Cancer Institute in conjunction with the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine is funding this research. They have found that using surgery to remove the cancer is the first step. Then they take a form of gene therapy that will draw the dog's immune system to the cancer site and direct it to kill the remaining cancer cells. Lastly, they take the dog's own cancer cells and make a vaccine to help keep the cancer from coming back.

One dog, who has already gone through this process was diagnosed with the brain tumor and the owner was told he only had one to three more months to live. Over one year later, this dog is still going strong!

It is amazing how quickly medicine is advancing and what can be accomplished with dogs that can eventually help humans. Our furry friends are always looking out for us!

Author: Diane R Mitchell



Promise as Princess Lea

Submitted by: Diane R Mitchell

Cropping and Docking

There has been a lot of news lately about bans on cropping and docking as well as other cosmetic surgeries. One large veterinary

Der Schnurrbart

chain has banned all “cosmetic surgeries” as they call these procedures. Personally, I would not use a chain vet office no matter what! They have too many rules and regulations put in place by the parent company to handle my dogs with the care and love I am accustomed to in my local vet’s office.

Every person has a right to choose elective or cosmetic surgeries for themselves. Our dogs cannot speak for themselves, but should the owner of the dog not be allowed to make their own decision? I know I will not be happy if I can’t find a vet to crop some of the puppies from my next litter if their ears are too houndy or too short. I know in my state that they must be cropped by a vet and that law has been in effect for longer than I have been a breeder, but I still think I should have the final say in what care I can do with my dogs.

Next, they will tell me I can’t have my older schnauzer’s leg taken off at the knee because it is a cosmetic surgery and with some drug that I don’t want her to have she could be fine (not saying I would put her through the surgery, just making a point). What will the government tell us next? We can’t have botox treatments because they are cosmetic surgery and not necessary?

Author: Diane R Mitchell



I see as Darth Vader
Submitted by: Diane R Mitchell

Connecting with Children

There are many ways to take a shy or hyper dog and get them to connect with children and not have their teeth involved. For most of us, getting our schnauzers to want to play with the children is not a problem.

Getting the children to slow down and play with the dog in a safe way so they don’t over excite the dog and get hurt as a result can be a bit harder.

If a child is very excitable and wants to play with your dog, and if your dog gets excited when around any excitement, I suggest trying this method.

Find some kind of food the dog likes. Put it in a jar or bowl that is safe for them to eat out of. Tell the excited child they can be around the dog if they hold the bowl for the dog (it is best to tell the child the bowl will break if they drop it so they use both hands). Ask the child to stand still and hold the bowl, then bring in the dog and let them go straight to the food.

You may need to use an older child to practice on at first until the dog understands that there is food in the bowl. Once your dog understands they are getting food from the bowl,

Der Schnurrbart

they will probably not be concerned with all the other fun things going on around them. If the dog is calm, then the child will be calmer and once everyone is calm, it should be a good time to let the child pet the dog!

Author: Diane R Mitchell



GPSSCY at home on Schnauzer Ln.
Submitted by: Diane R Mitchell

AKC Rule Change

Effective January 1, 2010, all dogs entered in an AKC event must be either individually registered with the AKC or another foreign kennel club that AKC approves of. The list includes...

- AKC registration number
- Or PAL number

- Or foreign registration number and country for an unregistered imported dog
- Or identification number issued by AKC

Author: Diane R Mitchell

Reference:

<http://www.akc.org/pdfs/rulebooks/RREGS3.pdf>



Windy

Submitted by: Diane R Mitchell

Sniffing

Dogs are used for many different types work. They can sniff out drugs, guns, and bombs making our world a better place to live. Since hurricane Katrina came through, people have begun to use dogs to sniff out mold that is harmful to humans. This type of work for dogs has helped many people to get better and understand why they are ill. Now there is another type of sniffing that dogs can be trained to do which can also help save lives.

Dogs can be trained to sniff out tiny amounts of substances that some people are allergic to. In many cases, children can die if they get too close to the smell of peanuts, egg, or even milk. I know from experience that some smells make me more ill than others. Dogs can protect their owners from even a small amount of the smell of something and alert us to the smell so we can get safely away before we get sick! I never thought of using my dogs for this type of work, but I will consider it now!

Author: Diane R Mitchell

Reference:

<http://www.barkingbulletin.com/newsletter/2009/q3/A-New-Kind-of-Canine-Hero--Allergy-Detection-Dogs>

Welcome!

We would like to welcome Peter and Alexis Thesis to the standard schnauzer world. They have a wonderful 5mo old puppy. I am sure they will make a great addition to our club.

Greater Pittsburgh Standard Schnauzer Club

GENERAL MEETING



Saturday October 17, 2009

10:00 am

At Craig and Jill Watson's

(412) 856-7389

314 Penn Lear Court

Monroeville, PA 15146

craig-n-jill-watson@comcast.net

Please contact Jill for directions.

Please contact Jill by 10/7/09 if you are able to join us

Greater Pittsburgh Standard Schnauzer Club
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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY



Saturday December 6, 2009

11:30 am

Wooden Nickel

4006 Berger Lane
Monroeville, PA 15146
Phone: 412-372-9750

20% gratuity will be added to each person's bill – order off the menu.

Please contact Jill Watson by 11/30/09 if you are able to join
us!

As usual we will have a Chinese Auction and a doggy (\$10) and
people (\$15) gift exchange. Please bring something.