



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

August 2021



## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff

Cognitive scientists confirmed what we had expected all along: Canine behavior is far more complex; our canine companions are capable of grasping and applying complex concepts. The role of "relationship" in training doesn't just have a role; instead training is relationship.

Many of us now use a "cue" instead of "command". A training class is about "good manners" instead of "obedience". We help our dog do a behavior (Star Puppy) rather than "make" him do it. It is our job to get our dogs to demonstrate that they happily and eagerly want to do what we ask.

There was a time when dogs ran freely, ate, slept and played when they chose or had a job, ex. herding and retrieving. Today's life is strictly regimented. They live in social isolation. They are told when to get up, go to bed, during free time they are expected to be "well behaved". They have no control over what happens in their world.

One way to make choices into our dog's daily lives is through "shaping". The dog must figure out what behavior to offer in order to elicit a treat from his owner. This is what I train in offering treats in both hands for attention, not saying his name but getting the dog to look at his owner in order to get the treat. Lots of behavior choices happen in the everyday lessons of a force free program.

We use a bucket with treats, perhaps touching the ears in preparation for cleaning. As you reward the dog with his focus on the bucket you can continue your task. Once his attention is away from the bucket the procedure stops. The dog learns that he controls the procedure and as a result becomes less stressed by continuing the task by gazing at the bucket.

Another way for choice is letting your dog choose his route to be walked, at least sometimes, follow his lead instead of telling him which way to go.

We can become more sensitive to the role relationships play in our lives with our dog while still using positive based training methods in order to live happily with humans.

Till next time,

*Connie*



## Notes and Notices



### **Congratulations to Star Puppy Graduates:**

**Vicki & George Sims with Marcy; Corine Kleman with Stella; Wyatt Reitz with Chloe; John & Linda Semicek with Matty; Jean Swartz with Ava, Sally Thomas with Gertrude, Joannah McGreggor with Cassandra**

**Passing the CGC: Ann Gilfert with Finn, Bev Sees with Jasper**

### **Attaining the ATD Title:**

**Amy Griffith with Winnie; Karen Sodrick with Henley; Lori Zerbe with Peyton Rose; Lori Steele with Sadie, Elaine Walz with Willow**

**New Members: Cathy McDermott with Kayle; Jennifer Thomson with Zephyr, Doreen Wagner with Lucy**

### **Star Puppy Class:**

**Norine Armish with Nuygget; Meg Martin with Tupelo; Julie Brosius with Winslow; Lydia Klinefelter with Henry; Nick Roseth with Finley; Connie Hepner with Mabel**

**I received a thank you from the Ralpho Township Public Library for those that visited with their dogs for the Summer Reading Program. The kids enjoyed the dogs and were amazed how calm they were during the program.**

**I have learned that Marjean Krech from Maine will be visiting our classes at the Marina on Tuesday Aug. 24. Hope you are able to come and spend some time with her. She spent years teaching classes for us and we sure do miss her.**

**If anyone will be using Front St. Sunbury in coming to classes at the Marina after July 31 it will be closed for over 1 month for construction. I would suggest anyone coming from Lewisburg or Selinsgrove should use Rt. 11 to come to the Marina. Coming from Paxinos, Elysburg area you can use N. 4th St. to Shikellamy Ave.**

**Please mark your calendar for our annual picnic at the Marina on Sunday, Oct. 3 at 1:00pm.**

## UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

- Aug. 4 (Wed) Riverwoods 10:00am**  
**(masking, temp ck. form filled out, vaccine not required, Copy of Rabies vaccine)**
- Aug. 5 (Thurs) Geisinger Rehab, Health South 1:00pm**  
**(Temp ck. Vaccine required, form filled out, medical mask)**
- Aug. 9 (Mon) Columbia County Prison 1:00pm**  
**(masking, do not need vaccine, need to sign up for visit)**
- Aug. 10 (Tues) Sunbury YMCA Summer Camp 9:45am**  
**(anyone who is not vaccinated should be masked)**
- Aug. 17 (Tues) All classes will meet at this time 6:00pm**  
**Including Star Puppy, Beginners and Advanced**
- Aug. 18 (Wed) Riverwoods 10:00am**
- Aug. 26 (Thurs) Geisinger Rehab, Health South 1:00pm**
- Aug. 27 (Fri) Registration Northumberland County Fair 6:30pm**  
**Seven Points off of Rt. 890, Pet Costume Contest**

# August 2021

July 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

September 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

■ Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club  
 ■ US Holidays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 ■ 6:00 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:00 PM Beginner Training	4 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	5 ■ 1:00 PM Health South Geisinger	6	7
8	9 ■ 1:00 PM Columbia County Prison	10 ■ 10:00 AM Sunbury YMCA ■ 6:00 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:00 PM Beginner Training	11	12 ■ 2:30 PM Mountain View Manor	13	14
15	16	17 ■ 6:00 PM Puppy, Beginner and Advanced Training	18 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	19 ■ Ashura	20	21
22	23	24 ■ 6:00 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:00 PM Beginner Training	25	26 ■ 1:00 PM Health South Geisinger	27 ■ 6:00 PM Pet Costume Contest - Northumberland County Fair	28
29	30	31 ■ 6:00 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:00 PM Beginner Training	1	2 ■ 1:00 PM Health South Geisinger	3	4