



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

August 2025



Old Friends

by *Connie Cuff*

Can Dogs Understand Humans?

Dogs learn the meaning of individual words and phrases and understand your tone, facial expressions and body language, such as pointing. Communication over time can be shared with you and your dog which is unique from your experience together and your knowledge of the breed and upbringing.

While dogs can understand humans, there are limits. Once we get into full sentences things seem to break

down. Saying that one word is more understanding to our dogs.

A dog's language is made up of body language. They understand human facial expression, our posture and our gestures such as pointing. We also must read a dog's body languages as well. Dogs give us signals that let you know they are in distress - tense posture, dilated pupils, rapid breathing or constant fidgeting. On the other hand a happy, relaxed dog will show loose posture and a wagging tail.

In communicating with our dogs, as our dogs age, we need to find other than words to speak to them. The use of hand signals and facial expressions at an early age will help them as they age. One source of training is having your dog paired with a blinking light at a young age for a "come" command. As an example: When you put your dog outside at bedtime, the use of your outdoor light blinking 3x's, would have the dog, "come".

Dogs really understand humans quite a bit. It is just how each of us takes the time to learn from them.

Till next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



This summer has been a difficult one trying to manage classes. Between rain and the heat we have had to cancel classes but our visits have remained in place. I know each and everyone of you have been able to spend more time with your dog and I am sure they are happy about that.

Please check our web site and emails for cancellations due to weather conditions.

We do have a visit at the Mifflinburg Park (Mifflinburg back to school event) on **Thursday, August 14th from 4 to 8:30pm**. We will be set up with our canopy and a table and if rain, the date will move to Friday, August 15th.

The Greater Susquehanna Valley YMCA of Lewisburg is hosting a Community **Dog Days of Summer** at the Lewisburg Recreation Park/Pool from **4-6:30pm on Saturday, August 23rd**. There will be vendors as well as the Lewisburg Doggie Dips at the pool for dogs to swim. More information can be found on the Lewisburg Recreation website.

Our **picnic at the Marina** (Pavilion #2) will be held on **Sunday, September 7th at 1:00 pm**. We provide hot dogs and drinks and everyone can bring a covered dish. We do a Chinese Auction and ask, if you can, to bring a dog related item. This is always a wonderful get together for members and our dogs.

Congratulations to **Jonathan and Audrey Hayes** for passing **ATD Certification** with **Finn**.

Congratulations to the below **AKC Star Puppy graduates**:

Jenn & Grace Bowersox with **Annie** (Red Fox Lab)

Brittany McCreary & Isabella with **Copper** (Double Doodle)

Gary & Betty Meiser with **Buddy** (Golden Retriever)

Savannah Bucher & Gabe Tilford with **Remi** (Golden Retriever)

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Aug 5 (Tues)	Allenwood Max Federal Prison (Badged only)	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Aug 6 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Aug 7(Thur)	Celebration Villa (Elm Croft) <i>please note 5pm start</i>	5:00 pm
Aug 13 (Wed)	Heritage Springs Buffalo Valley	10:00 am 10:45 am
Aug 14 (Thurs)	Mt. View Mifflinburg Park for HS Summer Sendoff (ATD only)	1:30 pm 4:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Aug 18 (Mon)	Columbia County Prison (Certified only)	1:15 pm
Aug 20 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Aug 23 (Sat)	Dog Days of Summer, Lewisburg Recreation Center/Pool Doggie Dips	4:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Aug 25 (Mon)	Stayman Apartments, Shamokin Dam	10:00 am
Aug 27 (Wed)	Heritage Springs Buffalo Valley	10:00 am 10:45 am
Aug 29 (Fri)	Bucknell Paws for a Shake (ATD only)	12:00 pm
Aug 30 (Sat)	Bucknell Refresh @ Sojka Pavilion Lawn (ATD only)	4:00 pm - 8:00 pm