



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

February 2017

Old Friends by Connie Cuff



As I have mentioned before in Newsletters and at the class, the #1 tool is FOCUS. If you cannot train your dog to focus on you and have them feel that you are the most important thing in life, it is very hard to train your dog.

#2 in training is Praise as a reward for a job well done. Praise, when used correctly, will help him understand exactly what you want him to do, thereby facilitating the learning process. He sees praise as a sign of acceptance which stimulates and encourages him to continue trying and putting forth an effort to learn.

Praise can be verbal, such as "Good Boy", physical, such as a vigorous scratching on the ears or hind end. It can be coupled with a reward such as food or a toss of a favorite toy.

Each dog is different. The type of praise and how much praise your dog needs depends on his personality. Some dogs need energetic praise, such as "Baxter! What a GOOD boy" coupled with hand clapping. Other dogs need no more than soft spoken "Good boy".

Once you figure out the appropriate physical and verbal praise that best suits your dog's personality it is important to vary your tone of voice. If all your dog hears is a monotonous Good dog, Good dog, he will eventually tune out the praise as meaningless.

Some suggestions of buzzwords are "Excellent", "Fantastic", "Wow", "Yahoo", "Awesome Dog". Individual words are not critical but it is the tone of your voice that stimulates your dog. When chattering nonstop dogs learn to ignore them. A one word is all the dog needs.

As with every aspect of training - timing is critical. Praise that comes too early or too late will only confuse a dog.

People approach dog training differently. Your dog will not care if you act silly, he will join in the fun. So go ahead and get animated, clap your hands, hoot'n holler. When your dog does something good, make sure he feels good about himself!

Till next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



The Star Puppy classes are off and running with 13 dogs and handlers training with Marjean. I hope their enthusiasm rubs off for some of them to become therapy dogs.

It is time again to renew membership and update any new information you may have for our membership files, including shot records. Membership must be completed by Mar. 1 or you will be removed from the list which includes Facebook. In order to be covered by our Club insurance for training at Selinsgrove Center and Shikellamy State Park Marina, you must be a current member for 2017.

We send our sympathies to Sharon Frederick with the loss of her Golden Retriever, Sadie, a registered Therapy Dog.

Gail Lorady is doing much better after her recent surgery and we hope to see her and Buffy with us soon.

If anyone is interested in having their dog therapy certified, please let us know and we can direct you to an organization that performs these tests.

It was so nice to see a group of dogs with us on our visit to Penn Lutheran. Any new puppies are most welcome on our visits. It is a good time for them to enjoy a new experience, and residents and staff are most thankful to see them.

A book I found recently mentions the love the late Mary Tyler Moore had for animals. She seemed to derive a kind of energy from the enormous empathy she had for her fellow creatures. She was very vocal on the matter of animal abuse and believed the right of animals is not to suffer at the hands of man.

On the subject of intelligence, Mary, like most dog owners, had an opinion: “Dogs have an intelligence that is different from ours, but it is every bit as important. If only we had found a way to tap into it, how much better off might we be today”.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Feb. 1 (Wed)	Riverwoods Heritage Springs	10:00am 11:15am
Feb. 2 (Thurs)	Maria Joseph Manor Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm
Feb. 6 (Mon)	5 Star, Sunbury Nottingham Village	1:00pm 6:30pm
Feb. 8 (Wed)	Riverwoods Heritage Springs	10:00am 11:15am
Feb. 9 (Thurs)	Bloomsburg University (Heartline Science Bldg) Shamokin Hospital VNA Life Geisinger	9:00am - 11:00am 12:15pm 1:15pm 2:00pm
Feb. 15 (Wed)	Riverwoods Heritage Springs	10:00am 11:15am
Feb. 16 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Manor Care	1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm
Feb. 22 (Wed)	Riverwoods Heritage Springs	10:00am 11:15am
Feb. 23 (Thurs)	Holy Family Convent Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm
Feb. 27 (Mon)	Elmcroft, Lewisburg	6:30pm

Newsletter coordinator: Brandon Pastuszek
 E-mail: brandon@stdtc.org
 Club web site: <http://www.stdtc.org>

February 2017

January 2017



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February 2017

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March 2017

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 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
 US Holidays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Grayson View 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods Springs 11:15 AM Heritage Springs 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundhog Day 1:00 PM Maria Joseph Manor 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South 	3	4
5	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM 5 Star, Sunbury 6:30 PM Nottingham Village 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods Springs 11:15 AM Heritage Springs 	9 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Bloomsburg University (Heartline Science Bldg) 12:15 PM Shamokin Hospital 1:15 PM VNA 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 	10	11
12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lincoln's Birthday 	13	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valentine's Day 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods Springs 11:15 AM Heritage Springs 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:15 PM Manor Care 	17	18
19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presidents' Day 	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington's Birthday 10:00 AM Riverwoods Springs 11:15 AM Heritage Springs 	23 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Holy Family Convent 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South 	24	25
26	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Elmcroft 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods Springs 11:15 AM Heritage Springs 	2	3	4