



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

February 2021



Old Friends

by Connie Cuff

With February being Valentine's Day we think of our dogs that give us "unconditional love". Surely love "an intense feeling of tender affection and compassion" is the foundation of our relationship with our dogs.

First, we've seen that the faces of dogs are so expressive and similar to ours. When we look at our dogs, we're looking into a mirror. They express happiness so well, that the happiness is contagious.

Second, the social ability of dogs is similar in many ways to that of humans. Dogs are social species and naturally seek companionship, and that is why they just want to hang out with us. You may wish you could talk to your dog, but sometimes we'd rather not know what our dogs had to say to us. Overall it seems that what we can't say to dogs is a small price to pay for what we gain from our endless style of communication.

There is also another factor that influence our devotion to dogs. We have evolved to be protective and nurturing and dogs elicit a force that says "I'm cute and cuddly and I need you". We love them like children and at the same time feel loved by them.

With all every day routine during this pandemic we may become lax at our dog's manners, but the day is coming when we will be back together and training at the Marina with all those good smells, squirrels, and new dogs and we want our dogs to think we are the most important things on the planet. Tapping into a dog's potential can pay off in a long and rewarding relationship and will make you into the kind of person your dog already believes you to be.

Try to incorporate some basic training, if only for 15 minutes, each day as we see our dogs look to us for their every need. Your dog will enjoy this as we spend so much time together.

May all the love for our dogs and one another bring us much happiness through this pandemic and I look forward to seeing all of you, and especially the dogs, when we are able to be together soon.

Till next time,

Connie