



Susquehanna Trail

Dog Training Club

February 2025



Old Friends

by *Connie Cuff*

In Obedience Training we want our dogs to be happy. It is more than a 15 minute a-day training session. It is a 24 hr-a-day relationship. Everything we do with our dogs affects their attitude and behavior from the way we let them out in the morning to where they sleep at night.

Don't merely take your dog for a walk, but interact with playing games with the dog. The source of fun is playing with you. The greatest motivator is the handler's voice. Food and toys are merely an extension or extra perk in training. If you don't get the dog tuned into you and excited and happy about being with you, the toys and food will do nothing for you.

Talking to our dogs in a normal tone of voice makes them happy and attentive with a wagging tail. Higher pitches makes them excited, so watch your dog as you speak and see their reaction. Are they motivated or bored?

The bottom line for producing a happy, motivated dog is (1) the dog must have a thorough understanding of what is expected, and (2) there must be a reciprocal trust and respect between dog and handler.

Praise is an important element of any behavior training. You will need to find the level that works best for your dog, so that neither overstimulation (loses focus) and under appreciated (loses interest). You must not overcorrect and must anticipate the dog's behavior so you can build a positive foundation and a strong bond.

Training should be in bits and pieces rather than huge leaps - a factor that often leads to impatience and frustration.

Whether we look upon dogs as children, entertainers, equals, dogs expect and ardently desire for us to become their kindly leaders. Tapping into a dog's potential can payoff in a long and rewarding relationship. But there's an extra benefit, too. Making an effort to understand the dog will make you into the kind of person your dog already believes you to be.

Coming to class each week is a plus, not only for them, but it gives us pleasure to talk among members and enjoy our time together.

Till next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



Congratulations to the following that graduated from Star Puppy:

Nicole Warnock with Golden Retriever, **Teddy**; **Kallie Shultz** with Labrador Retriever, **Luhla**; **Jenna and Corb Bowersox** with Australian Shepherd, **Maverick**; **Julie Shultz** with Golden Retriever, **Sasha**.

Welcome to new members: **Alex Martin** with Golden Retriever, **Penny**; **Chad and Terry Rapp** with German Shepherd, **Whiskey**; **Sophia Ramer** with Goldendoodle, **Phoebe**; **Robert Cook** with Shepherd mix, **Luna**; **Drew and Euan Griffith** with Standard Poodle, **Eno**.

Congratulations to **Mary Malafronte** for passing the CGC with **Reilly**, a Golden Retriever.

With the drop in temperatures and colder weather, be sure to have any heaters or your clothes dryers off when leaving your home. There have been a rash of fires and we want to keep our homes safe, not only for u but our pets as well.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 15 for the Emergency Prep at Allenwood Federal Prison Facility. Dogs do NOT need to be certified to attend. Agencies from throughout the area are represented and many people and children attend so it is a great place to socialize your dog.

When you come to class if you have any questions about training or any of our visits please let us know.

A note from Kelly - *Thank you for all the thoughts, prayers, emails and cards with the passing of **Dozer**. This meant a lot and helped to comfort our family during this time. I really miss him but feel blessed to have had him in our lives for almost 9 years. Dozer had a purpose in life and I appreciate all the support and love shown to him over the years. The Dog Club is truly a special group.*

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Feb. 3 (Mon)	5 Star (Certified only)	12:15 pm
Feb. 4 (Tue)	Lewisburg Federal Prison Max (Badged only)	11:30 am
	Bucknell University (ATD only) @ Langone Center	5:00 - 7:00 pm
Feb. 5 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Feb. 6 (Thurs)	Geisinger Health South (Certified only)	1:00 pm
Feb. 10 (Mon)	Nottingham Village, Heather Court (dogs do NOT need to be certified)	6:00 pm
Feb. 11 (Tue)	Allenwood Federal Prison Max (Badged only)	12:00 pm
Feb. 12 (Wed)	Heritage Springs Buffalo Valley	10:00 am 10:45 am
Feb. 13 (Thurs)	Mountain View	1:30 pm
Feb. 14 (Fri)	HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!	
	Shikellamy High School (ATD only)	8:00 am
Feb. 17 (Mon)	President's Day!	
Feb. 19 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Feb. 20 (Thurs)	Mansion Nursing Home	10:30 am
Feb. 24 (Mon)	Columbia County Prison (Certified only)	1:15 pm
Feb. 26 (Thurs)	Heritage Springs Buffalo Valley	10:00 am 10:45 am
Feb. 27 (Thurs)	Geisinger Health South (Certified only)	1:00 pm