



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

July 2009

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



To err is human, to forgive is canine. Your dog was not born perfect, but neither were you and even dog trainers weren't born perfect.

What most people want is an animal who sits there like a live stuffed animal and occasionally gets up and plays with them. Sometimes you must let a dog be a dog. Some dogs are genetically predisposed - Retrievers and Terriers hunt, they will do a perfect heel until they see a squirrel. Can I teach him not to run? Absolutely, but its reversing his instincts.

Put your own emotions aside when addressing a behavior problem. First thing is a realignment of your perception of how the dog thinks.

People have expectations without doing the foundation work. By removing the expectations the teaching can start.

An owner's most common mistake is that if the dog does something right once or twice, the dog understands, but it takes many, many repetitions. As I have stressed many times, if these commands are used only in training sessions your dog will think they are only used for training. Use the commands around the house or on your walks. The more you incorporate commands into your daily routine, the better your dog's response will be.

Dogs are incredible specific learners. If a dog learns to sit in your living room, you have to reteach it everywhere until the dog starts to generalize.

Timing and consistency are key to successful training. We must never forget to reward the desired behavior and this should be done within a second after the dog achieves what we are asking him to do.

Old Friends (Continued)

We all learn from our mistakes, including dog trainers. People honestly think trainers do everything right, their dogs are perfect. That's not the case. Training our dogs is a lifetime experience and keeping them socialized is forever a commitment. Certain owners get so hard on themselves and think that one mistake means the whole training session is ruined.

We come to class to have fun and share experiences and helpful tips about our dogs. Every time you make a good training decision, it's a deposit in the bank.

"The only failure is not to try"

--George Clooney

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (June 2, 2009)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the STDTC was called to order by Pres. Connie Cuff.

Report of President: Welcome new members

Congratulations to new Star puppies and CGC dogs

We had to cancel the Selinsgrove Center visit. They would like us to visit on a Wednesday evening, I would like people to sign up who could come that night and I will pick a date.

Congratulations to Joe & Kelly Pastuszek on their 25th wedding anniversary.

I will have Ray Ramos visit our training class on June 30, weather permitting, from 6 to 8 PM to observe and address behavioural problems with our dogs. We will break into small groups for 1 1/2 hrs and spend a half hour for questions. Since our time is limited, if anyone wishes to spend more time with Ray, they can make arrangements to do so.

Secretary's Report: As printed in newsletter.

Treasurers Report:

(Treasurer's Reports are not available in the online edition of the STDTC newsletter.)

New Business: Marjean Krech will begin a new Star program June 16.

Breed of the Month

Dalmatian

submitted by Connie Cuff

Dalmatians are energetic, loving and clever and constantly craving human companionship. This breed is a lot of work. More to the point, do you match its lifestyle?

Training and socialization are a must for a Dalmatian. Puppy class, obedience and daily training provide an outlet for the breed's tremendous energy. They also must have a mental stimulation or they'll get into trouble.

After the 1996 release of Disney's "101 Dalmatians" people rushed out and bought the adorable spotted puppies, but the love affair lasted briefly for many of them. The number of Dalmatians relinquished to shelters increased 25%. Because they must be socialized before they can calmly interact with kids, people found they become too much to handle.



This is a great breed for a jogger, as they can handle as much long-distance running as anybody with two legs can offer them. They excel at flying disc, obedience and agility. They have a history of serving as war dogs, guards along the border of Dalmatia (a region of Croatia), herding dogs, vermin catchers, and sporting dogs. The breed has been everything from a circus clown to a distinguished companion for European aristocracy.

Known health problems are deafness and they may require a low-protein diet to ward off bladder stones.

Ever wonder why Dalmatians are the traditional fire-station dog? It's their affinity for horses. Before the motor engine was invented, horses pulled fire wagons. Dalmatians cleared the way and kept the horses calm at the scene of the fire.

Active families that research the breed might find they are ready to sign on the "spotted" line. They just wiggle their "spotted" way right into your heart.

We welcome Gracie, Dagney Leininger's Dalmatian who does pet therapy with us.



Notes and Notices



Marjean has started a new star Puppy Class. Students are:

**Abby, a Yorkie, owned by Tammy and Elmer Straub, Milton
Bella, Golden mix, owned by Karen Dyer, Danville
Asha, Jug, owned by Robert Fontaine, Coal Township
Sadie Rose, Choc. Lab, owned by Sue Noll, Selinsgrove
Jenna, Boxer, owned by Rachael Meckley, Selinsgrove
Jasper, Boxer, owned by Joanie Meckley, Selinsgrove**

New members who are training their dogs with us:

**Bruce Manney from Shamokin with Minnie, Sheltie mix
Ryan LeBreton from Lewisburg with Lennox, Lab/Pit Bull
Kim Clemens from Paxinos with Bo & Silver, Calahoala/Lab
Cathy Hall from Selinsgrove with Jasper, Choc. Lab
Shelly M. Hall from Middleburg with Dominico, Terrier Mix**

I would like to mention a summertime risk to our dogs. For those who cut their lawns, be careful with grass clippings left to molt as they can be toxic to your dog. Over time it has a sweet taste and is very attractive to dogs. They can go into a diabetic like shock and as Kelly Pastuszek experienced, she was told by her Vet to get Karo syrup into the dog.

Get well wishes to Phil Halden who underwent recent surgery.

We welcome Sophia, Donna & Denny Shaffer's Golden Retriever puppy. May they have many years of joy with her.

Dog Shows:

**Breed & Obedience - Nita-Nee Kennel Club, at Grange Fairgrounds Centre Hall -
Saturday July 18 & Sunday July 19**

**Breed, Obedience & Rally - Lackawanna Kennel Club Bloomsburg Fair Grounds,
Bloomsburg - Friday, July 24 and Saturday, July 25**

**Obedience & Rally - Williamsport Dog Training Club Bloomsburg Fair Grounds,
Bloomsburg - Sunday July 26**

Central Susquehanna Valley will be going to the dogs in 2009! Nine area public and academic libraries are collaborating for a community-wide shared reading experience for all ages. Their book selection is Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog by John Grogan. Libraries are busy planning activities to promote reading, literacy and responsible pet ownership. The majority of events will take place in August and September 2009 at participating Libraries.

The kick-off for Read Across the Valley will be a Pet Parade on August 22nd in Northumberland. The grand finale will be author John Grogan speaking at Susquehanna University's Weber Chapel on Saturday, October 3, 2009.

For more information and schedule of events, please visit www.readacrossvalley.org

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

July 1 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
July 2 (Thurs)	Penn Lutheran Village Selinsgrove	6:45pm
July 4 (Sat)	HAPPY FOURTH OF JULY	
July 8 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
July 9 (Thurs)	Northwestern Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital	1:00pm 2:00pm 3:00pm
July 15 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
July 16 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corner	1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm
July 21 (Tues)	US Penitentiary Allenwood (Maximum) Memo members only	12:30 pm
July 23 (Thurs)	Emmanuel Center Danville	6:45pm
July 29 (Wed)	Riverwoods Union County Library - Reading to Children (TDI Only)	10:00am 11:00am
July 30 (Thurs)	Geisinger Health South	2:00pm

July 2009

- US Holidays
- Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

June 2009

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28	29	30				

July 2009

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August 2009

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30	31					

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM Sunbury YMCA Demo ■ 6:00 PM Ray Ramos at class ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6:45 PM Penn Lutheran Village 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy ■ 2:00 PM Life Geisinger ■ 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital 		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital ■ 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home ■ 2:15 PM Sunshine Corners 		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 12:30 PM Maximum Security Prison, Allenwood (MEM-OED ONLY) ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6:45 PM Emanuel Center 		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods ■ 11:00 AM Reading to Children, Union County Library (TDI ONLY) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South 		