



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Old Friends by *Connie Cuff*

Recently, some of our members had the opportunity to visit a school and were able to educate them on greeting a dog and owner and bite prevention. With the summer months, we will encounter many children outdoors and it is a good time to teach them the proper etiquette of manners they should be aware of when approaching a dog.



As I have observed, many children have pets in their home and some have multiple. Studies have shown that interacting with and caring for pets are sources of developing behaviors and ideas related to nurturing others.

In a book by Barbara Shumamflang titled "Happy Kids, happy Dogs: Building a Friendship Right from the Start", she explains that parents must do three things to create a good relationship between their dog and their child: actively coach the child rather than merely supervise, teach the dog to have positive associations with the child, and evaluate interactions by monitoring the dog for signs of stress or other warning signs. She says it is essential to have a safety zone for the dog to go to when the dog shows signs of stress.

In Frank Ascione's "Children and Animals: Explaining the Roots of Kindness and Cruelty", he writes about the relationship between the abuse of animals and both physical and sexual violence toward people. As an indication of future problems, a child's cruelty to animals often shows up at an earlier age than bullying, vandalism or cruelty to people. He focuses on the importance of developing the ability to empathize with animals while young and the links between empathy for animals and empathy for people.

Even if you have no children in your household, you may be a grandparent or know of a family who has young children and a pet. A little nurturing and education on your part could help with the human and pet bond and eliminate the need for families to turn their dogs over to shelters because they are out of control and do not get along with their children.

A little information can go a long way in helping everyone.

Til next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



Classes begin at the Shikellamy State Park Marina on Tuesday, June 4. Advanced at 6:00 pm and Beginners at 7:00 pm. Joining us at 7:00 pm will be new members. I appreciate members that have trained with us who can guide new people to become more confident with their dog starting training with us. We all remember our first day at dog class, feeling nervous and apprehensive, but as weeks go on, dogs feel the confidence of handlers which travels down the leash. Let's all work together to make our training sessions enjoyable.

We are busy with visits with our dogs over the summer months. Some of the visits do NOT require certification. If you have any questions about a visit, please let us know. It is a good time to work on socialization if you intend to have your dog certified as a therapy dog.

If anyone needs a badge holder lanyard, we have some available.

We welcome new members:

David & Destiny Slother with German Shepherd, **Finn**; **Sue Noll** with Yellow Lab, **Sunny**; **Audrey Kuhns & Jonathan Hayes** with Mini Golden Doodle, **Finn**; **Chad & Dana Brandt** with Lab, **Oliver**; **Missi Shambach** with Bernadoodle, **Ozzie**; **Linda Persing** with Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, **Danu**; **Jim & Michelle Ward** with Yorkie/Chihuahua, **Kai**; **Til & Bob Chapman** with Toller, **Caper**.

Please be aware of weather conditions since we will now be working outside. In case of inclement weather, please check our web site and emails before coming to class. Cancellations will be posted on the web site announcement page by 5:00 pm and emails will be sent.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

June 4 (Tues)	Classes begin at Shikellamy State Park Marina	6:00 pm Advanced 7:00 pm Beginner
June 5 (Wed)	Heritage Springs Buffalo Valley	10:00 am 11:00 am
June 6 (Thurs)	Special Olympics @ PSU (ATD only) Geisinger Rehab, Health South (ATD only)	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 1:00 pm
June 7 (Fri)	Special Olympics @ PSU (ATD only)	11:00 am – 4:00 pm
June 8 (Sat)	Doggy Bash @ Buggy Days in Mifflinburg	10:00 am – 11:00 am Registration @ 9:30 am
June 10 (Mon)	Priestly Elementary School (ATD only)	10:00 am
June 11 (Tues)	USP Main Lewisburg (Prison Badged only)	12:00pm
June 12 (Wed)	Riverwoods Bucknell @ Uphill Langone Center (ATD only)	10:00am 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
June 13 (Thurs)	Mt. View Manor	1:30pm
June 14 (Fri)	H2 Church, Sunbury – Bible School	9:30 am - 11:00 am
		
June 17 (Mon)	Columbia County Prison (Certified Dogs only)	1:15 pm
June 18 (Tues)	Star Puppy Begins	6:00 pm
June 19 (Wed)	Heritage Springs Buffalo Valley Mifflinburg Library Reading Program @ Community Park, N 5 th Street, Mifflinburg	10:00 am 11:00 am 10:30 am – 11:30 am
June 20 (Thurs)	Mansion	10:30 am
June 24 (Mon)	Allenwood Prison Suicide Awareness Walk Correctional Officers Week	11:00 am
June 26 (Wed)	Riverwoods Bucknell (ATD only) Admissions Base Camp @ South Campus Apartments	10:00 am 4:45 pm – 5:45 pm
June 27 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab Health South (ATD only) Bucknell (ATD only) @ Uptown	1:00 pm 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm