



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

March 2025



Old Friends

by *Connie Cuff*

How do dogs learn?

Animals do what is best for them. This includes food, a sense of well-being, such as feeling safe, happy or engaged. They do avoid things that make them uncomfortable, so you must provide a pleasant experience when he/she cooperates.

Animals are consciously thinking what is happening around them, other times without any thought, but he/she is always learning. It is important to remember that

a dog's failure to perform has nothing to do with being stubborn, stupid or manipulative. Failure is simply a lack of understanding.

When you are teaching your dog to sit, he/she was learning more than just to sit. He/she was learning about training in general; is it fun and something to look forward to or something to be avoided? He/she learned to enjoy your company; is the world a safe predictable place? Take for example, dogs in general enjoy coming to class where they meet their friends and enjoy spending time with them.

It is critically important for your dog to relax because fear and anxiety block effective learning. If you set up disappointment to get the desired results, you are creating unpleasant responses to learning. Think of the recall; no matter if your dog does not respond, always reward when he/she finally does.

As we train, dogs key into our emotions, so you must have positive thoughts and avoid any unpleasant feelings as these travel down the leash.

Seeing the group of dogs at class and socializing with each other makes my job a wonderful experience that I look forward to each week.

Till next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



Congratulations to **Destiny Slother** with **Cash** for passing the CGC.

We have struggled with weather conditions but am happy with being able to do classes and when needed, to send messages to cancel.

Our Puppy Class is doing well with **Tracy** and sign-ups are put on waiting lists if anyone is interested.

Glad to see **Dagny Leininger** doing well after her surgery. Her pups are giving her a lot of Pet Therapy.

Jim Smith has **Biscuit** and **Dusty** to help him get well after his illness.

Thank you to **Ida** who has been providing us with holiday back-drops for us to photograph our dogs.

Looking ahead to an event at the **Emergency Prep** at the **USP Training Center at Allenwood** on May 15 from 9am to 12pm. Dogs do not need to be certified and we will have a spot along the track to share our dogs. Mark your calendar for this very worth-while event.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

March 3 (Mon)	5 Star (Certified only)	12:20 pm - 2:00 pm
March 4 (Tues)	Susquehanna University (ATD only) Bucknell (ATD only)	11:00 am - 1:00 pm 9:00 pm - 10:00 pm
March 5 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
March 6 (Thursday)	Geisinger Rehab, Health South (Certified only)	1:00 pm
March 10 (Tues)	Mifflinburg Elementary School (ATD only)	9:30am - 10:30am
March 12 (Wed)	Heritage Springs Buffalo Valley	10:00 am 10:45 am
March 13 (Thurs)	Mountain View	1:30 pm
March 14 (Fri)	Shikellamy High School (ATD only)	8:00 am - 10:00 am
March 17 (Mon)	Columbia County Prison (Certified only)	1:15 pm



Happy St. Patrick's Day!

March 19 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
March 20 (Thurs)	Mansion Nursing Home	10:30 am
March 24 (Mon)	Nottingham Retirement Center	6:00 pm
March 26 (Wed)	Heritage Springs Buffalo Valley	10:00 am 10:45 am
March 27 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab, Health South (Certified only)	1:00 pm