



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Old Friends by Connie Cuff

Looking forward to starting classes at the Shikellamy State Park Marina on Tuesday, June 4. Our last class at the Selinsgrove Center is May 26.



The training environment is quite different with many more distractions than at the Center. There are ducks, squirrels, bicycles, skate boards, baby buggies and, of course, strange dogs.

When you introduce distractions in training on purpose to cause your dog to goof up, it is called "proofing". Proofing your dogs mean teaching him under all circumstances that you expect him to obey. Training is not a one-time event. He must be compliant when he sees a squirrel. Just because he does a sit stay in your living room or at dog class, the next step is to see that he reliably performs whatever is asked, no matter what is going on around him.

How much distraction should your dog learn to endure? As much as he's likely to encounter in the sort of world he lives in. Individual dogs vary as to their strength and weaknesses, so train at the pace your dog can handle.

It is why teaching attention is so important. If you want your dog to pay attention to you, then you have to be more interesting than any other possible distraction. Be sure to take the time to play with your dog.

If you need to correct your dog, it's more of "catching them off guard" when they get distracted instead of a harsh correction. Don't yell, nag or jerk your dog around. The goal is to have the dog WANT to look at you, not out of fear.

As we socialize with each other, it is important to keep your eyes on your dog 100 percent of the time. If you speak to someone else or get distracted put your dog on a down or a stay command until you tell him otherwise.

“Learn to think like a dog”. The dog looks to the human for leadership, safety, and security.

Til next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



Sympathies to **Ellen Roth** with the loss of her Lab, **Lucy**. She performed therapy work both in California and with our Club. **A JOB WELL DONE!**

Congratulations to **Beth Belotti** with **Willie**, **Heather Ettinger** with **Lincoln**, **Dagny Leininger** with **Midge**, **Tara Fulmer** with **Scarlet**, and **Patty Edwards** with **Cali**, for passing the ATD Therapy Dog Test.

Passing Star Puppy are: **Pam, Maci & Micala Clark** with **Charlie**, a Blue Heeler; **Jeanie Carroll** with English Bulldog/Charpei mix, **Winona**; **Mike Carroll** with French Bulldog, **Angus**; **Julie & Richard Gross** with Jack Russell, **Joe**; **Darlene Hoffmaster** with Goldendoodle, **Izzy**.

We have begun a Star Puppy Class and will complete the class the last week of May. Sign-ups are being taken for our next class in June.

We have purchased lanyard pouches for our badges with ATD. If you need one, please let us know.

Looking forward to the Emergency Preparedness Event at the Allenwood Training Center on Thursday, May 16th from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm. We will have a table for pass outs. You do not need to be certified to attend this event and puppies are welcome.

I thank everyone who is doing therapy events with us. As more become certified, it will give us more opportunities to do visiting and spread some smiles.

If at any time you have questions, please email us.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

May 1 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
May 2 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab, Health South (certified only)	1:00 pm
May 3 (Fri)	Shikellamy HS (ATD only)	7:45 am - 9:30 am
May 6 (Mon)	5 Star (certified only)	12:00 pm
May 8 (Wed)	Heritage Springs Buffalo Valley	10:00 am 11:00 am
May 9 (Thurs)	Mt. View Manor	1:30 pm
May 10 (Fri)	Southern Columbia Elementary School (ATD only)	9:00 am
May 12 (Sun)	Mother's Day	
May 13 (Mon)	Mifflinburg Elementary Grade K (ATD only)	9:00 am
May 15 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
May 16 (Thurs)	Mansion Emergency Preparedness Allenwood Federal Prison Training Center	10:30 am 9am – 12pm
May 17 (Fri)	Shikellamy HS Fun Fair (ATD only)	12:00 pm – 2:30 pm
May 20 (Mon)	Columbia County Prison (certified only)	1:15 pm
May 21 (Tues)	Nottingham Village Retirement Center	6:00 pm
May 22 (Wed)	Heritage Springs Buffalo Valley	10:00 am 11:00 am
May 27 (Mon)	Memorial Day Observed	1:00 pm
May 29 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1 10am - Riverwoods @	2 1pm - Health South certified only	3 7:45am - ATD-Shikellamy	4
5 1pm - Advanced Training 2pm - Beginner Training	6 12pm - 5 Star (certified)	7	8 10am - Heritage Springs 11am - Buffalo Valley	9 1:30pm - Mountain View	10 9am - ATD-Southern	11
12 1pm - Advanced Training 2pm - Beginner Training 	13 9am - Mifflinburg ATD	14	15 10am - Riverwoods @	16 9am - Allenwood 10:30am - Mansion	17 12pm - ATD-Shikellamy	18
19 1pm - Advanced Training 2pm - Beginner Training	20 1:15pm - Columbia county prison - certified only	21 6pm - Nottingham	22 10am - Heritage Springs 11am - Buffalo Valley	23	24	25
26 1pm - Advanced Training 2pm - Beginner Training Last class at Selinsgrove Center	27 	28	29 10am - Riverwoods @	30 1pm - Health South certified only	31	1