Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

November 2019

Old Friends
by Connie Cuff

Training a dog can seem like a very difficult task, particularly if you've never done it before. As a trainer we should try to get newer students and their dog on the same side.

What does it mean to be on the same side? It means that you are working together and that both parties are getting their needs met. It means developing teamwork rather than rote obedience. In early years the accepted approach was to do whatever it took to make the animal conform to the trainer's wishes. No one cared how the dog felt about the process as long as the dog did as he was told. When there is an unbalanced relationship it promotes conflict rather than cooperation. For the human to "win" the dog must "lose".

So how do you build this type of teamwork? Think of enlisting your dog as an ally rather than treating him as an adversary. You and your dog are in this training relationship together and you can work towards common goals. Most dogs are very happy to go along with the training program if it's fair and reasonable and fun. It's our job as the human half to set up our training sessions so that our dogs want to do what we want them to do.

Where do you start? We should begin with two basic concepts: focus and zen work. Focus sets us on the path of mutual engagement, which is the foundation of a great working relationship. This is what I start every training session and encourage everyone to work on this in their home. Zen work helps our dogs learn that they can control their own behavior, and that when they do, really good stuff happens for them. If you lay the foundation with these two concepts, you'll have a training partner who works with you to figure out what you want.

If you treat your dog as a thoughtful, sensitive creature he will make good choices when the options are clear. And not so surprisingly, when we take this approach then dogs respond with interest and eagerness.

Thanks to Marjean for this very helpful article. She is always with us even though her home is in Maine.

Till next time,

Connie

Notes and Notices

As most of you have noticed, we are now training in another part of the gym building. We are fortunate that the Selinsgrove Center found us another location, and we will be training there until further notice

I wish to thank everyone who participated in the Sunbury Halloween Parade. Also acknowledge Myra and Kelly who did a good job in getting things together. At this time, we are scheduled to walk in the Northumberland Halloween Parade on Wed. Oct. 30 with our Little Red Ridinghood Theme.

Welcome to new members: Christine Benfer and her Goldendoodle Ginger; Lauren DiMarino and her dog Rusty; Dino & Judy Baca and their dog Charlotte; Clint Stettler and his dog Theo; Mary McCreary and her Boston Terrier, Gunner

We are looking forward to our Christmas Party at the Packer House on Sunday Dec. 1 at 5:00pm. The cost is $20 and I will need registration and payment by Tuesday, Nov. 26. We also do a Silent Auction with any item of your choosing and a gift exchange for our pups which should be wrapped omitting a name.

Bucknell is hosting Caines at Christy Mathewson Stadium for the Leigh at Bucknell Football game on Nov. 9. Game time is 1pm and the gates will open at noon. The cost of the ticket for your dog is $5 with proceeds going to a charitable organization. You can purchase your tickets ahead of time by going on the Bucknell Box Office website. A form should generate that you will need to fill in regarding your dog's vaccinations that you will need at check-in. You also will be able to pay at the door (bring shot record in order to fill in the form).

Please be aware that those that are Certified with a Therapy Organization should use that name any time you do visiting, not the Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club. We train dogs but we do not certify, everyone contacts the organization of their choosing and should use that name when making visitations. If you are not yet certified you can sign in as a Volunteer.

Our Club carries an insurance policy to cover our training at the Selinsgrove Center and the Shikellamy State Park Marina.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Nov. 4 (Mon)	**5 Star**	**1:00pm**
	Bucknell University	**6:00pm - 8:00pm**
Nov. 6 (Wed)	**Buffalo Valley**	**10:00am**
Nov. 7 (Thurs)	**Nazareth Memory Emmanuel**	**1:00pm**
	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	**2:00pm**
Nov. 11 (Mon)	**Heritage Springs, Memory Care, Lewisburg**	**6:30pm**
Nov. 13 (Wed)	**Riverwoods**	**10:00am**
Nov. 14 (Thurs)	**Mt. View Manor**	**1:00pm**
Nov. 20 (Wed)	**Buffalo Valley**	**10:00am**
Nov. 21 (Thurs)	**Sunbury Hospital**	**1:00pm**
	Mansion	**1:45pm**
	Manor Care	**2:15pm**
Nov. 26 (Tues)	**Prison Camp, Lewisburg**	**12:00pm**
Nov. 27 (Wed)	**Riverwoods**	**10:00am**
Nov. 28 (Thurs)	**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**	
Dec. 1 (Sun)	**CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY**	**5:00pm**

November 2019

October 2019								November 2019								December 2019						
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27	28	29	30	31				24	25	26	27	28	29	30		29	30	31				

Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
US Holidays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29 — 6:15 PM Training — 7:15 PM Beginner Training	30 — 10:00 AM Buffalo Valley	31 Halloween — 10:00 AM Bloomsburg University — 1:00 PM Maria Joseph Manor — 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab–Health South	1	2
3 Daylight Saving Time Ends	4 — 1:00 PM 5 Star — 6:00 PM Bucknell University	5 Election Day — 6:15 PM Training — 7:15 PM Beginner Training	6 — 10:00 AM Buffalo Valley	7 — 1:00 PM Nazareth Memory Emmanuel — 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South	8	9
10	11 Veterans Day — 6:30 PM Heritage Springs, Memory Care	12 — 6:15 PM Training — 7:15 PM Beginner Training	13 — 10:00 AM Riverwoods	14 — 1:00 PM Mt. View Manor	15	16
17	18	19 — 6:15 PM Training — 7:15 PM Beginner Training	20 — 10:00 AM Buffalo Valley	21 — 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital — 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home — 2:15 PM Manor Care	22	23
24	25	26 — 12:00 PM Prison Camp — 6:15 PM Training — 7:15 PM Beginner Training	27 — 10:00 AM Riverwoods	28 Thanksgiving	29	30