



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

November 2025



Old Friends

by *Connie Cuff*

When people come to a training class with high expectations, they wonder, "How long will it take to train my dog". They want a quick fix for leash walking, sit, down, come, etc.

In working with dogs for many years, I make sure to tell them, "I do not train your dog, I teach you how to train your dog."

Now the next question is, "how do you want to train your dog?"

Looking back, it was prong collars, no food, yanking on leashes, yelling at dogs. Yes, your dog would respond to all of this, but how would the dog feel? I have seen fearful dogs

after this type of training and it will last a lifetime.

Now how long does it take to train a dog? It depends. Keep in mind that dogs learn more quickly with practice and patience.

Another factor to be aware of is different breeds have different types of skills and intelligence. Your dog is always sitting, watching and thinking even if you are not aware of it.

Using high value treats at the beginning of training, such as cheese, chicken and hot dogs, will get a better response than normal treats. After your dog is accomplishing an exercise, it is time to wean them off, but remember, they always need that occasional positive reinforcement to keep the dog happy and responsive.

Training is all about the dog learning to focus on you and coming to classes each week, I see the progress of all our dogs, even with the distraction of squirrels, motorcycles. Occasional train whistles, etc.

Being able to be at the Marina for classes helps to give our dogs real life experiences and I appreciate the Shikellamy State Park Marina for allowing us to have our training there.

Socializing and keeping our dogs happy is what STDTC is all about. I am around of all of you.

Till next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



Training will continue at the Park until we notify otherwise. As long as the weather holds, it will be better as our classes will now need to move to a room in the Rec Building at the Selinsgrove Center. The use of the gym at the Center will not be available until January.

We received a THANK YOU, from the Veterans Grove Community in Harrisburg for our Therapy Dog Visit on October 10th and also for the "Wonderful and Useful Donations".

Congratulation to the **Star Puppy Grads**:

Lauren Purdy, with Golden Retriever, **Cruz**

Edna Wenrich, with Chocolate Labrador Retriever, **Millie**

Arpirta Dev, with Husky/Pyrensse, **BoPeep**

Jennifer Reish, with Jack Russel, **Poppy**

Welcome to **new members**:

Mike and Julie Keeley, with German Shepherd, **Skye**

Natalie, Brady & Rick Shock, with Border Collie mix, **Riggs**

Congratulations to **Elaine Walz** and **Ollie** for passing the **ATD Test** (now we have all 3)

Most dogs that are ATD Certified, we see at classes often. If your dog has not been to class for awhile and may join us on a visit in a group, it may keep our dogs more focused on it, rather than doing the visit as a Therapy Dog. I would appreciate seeing your dog in class occasionally.

Be sure too check our web page for any cancellations and notices as sometimes events change at last moment.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Nov 1(Sat)	Buffalo Community Church (ATD only) Buffalo Community Church (ATD only)	3:15 pm 6:30 pm
Nov 3 (Mon)	5 Star (Certified only)	12:15 pm
Nov 5 (Wed)	Heritage Springs Buffalo Valley	10:00 am 10:45 am
Nov 6 (Thur)	Nottingham Retirement	6:00 pm
Nov 7 (Fri)	Shikellamy HS (ATD only) Bucknell (ATD only)	8:00 am - 10:00 am 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Nov 10 (Mon)	Lewisburg HS (ATD only) <i>Please note time change</i>	10:00 am - 10:45 am
Nov 12 (Wed)	Riverwoods Penn State (ATD only)	10:00 am 11:00 am
Nov 13 (Thurs)	Mountain View	1:30 pm
Nov 14 (Fri)	Bucknell (ATD only)	12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Nov 17 (Mon)	Columbia County (Certified only)	1:15 pm
Nov 18 (Tues)	Allenwood Max (Badged only)	12:00 pm
Nov 19 (Wed)	Heritage Springs Buffalo Valley	10:00 am 10:45 am
Nov 20 (Thurs)	Mansion	10:30 am
Nov 25 (Tues)	Penn Lutheran	10:00 am
Nov 26 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Nov 27 (Thurs)	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	



Today < > November 2025 Month						
SUN 26	MON 27	TUE 28	WED 29	THU 30	FRI 31	SAT Nov 1
1pm Advanced Trai 2pm Beginner Train		10am Penn Luthera	10am Riverwoods		12pm Bucknell - AT	3:15pm Girl Scouts 6:30pm Girl Scouts
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1pm Advanced Trai 2pm Beginner Train	12:15pm 5 Star (Cer		10am Heritage Spr 10:45am Buffalo Va	6pm Nottingham R	8am Shikellamy HS 12pm Bucknell ATD	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1pm Advanced Trai 2pm Beginner Train	10am Lewisburg HS		10am Riverwoods 11am Penn State Ur	1:30pm Mountain V	12pm Bucknell ATD	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
1pm Advanced Trai 2pm Beginner Train	1:15pm Columbia C	12pm Allenwood M	10am Heritage Spr 10:45am Buffalo Va	10:30am Mansion M		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
1pm Advanced Trai 2pm Beginner Train		10am Penn Luthera	10am Riverwoods			
30	Dec 1	2	3	4	5	6
1pm Advanced Trai 2pm Beginner Train			10am Heritage Spr 10:45am Buffalo Va	12pm Lewisburg Ca	8am Shikellamy HS 11am Hold - Allenw 12pm Bucknell ATD	

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Events shown in time zone: (GMT-04:00) Eastern Time - New York

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