

Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

November 2026



Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Cognitive scientists confirmed what we had expected all along. Canine behavior is far more complex; our canine companions are capable of grasping and applying complex concepts. The role of “relationship” in training doesn’t just have a role; instead, training is relationship.

Many of us now use a “cue” instead of “command”. A training class is about “good manners” instead of “obedience”. We help our dog do a behavior (Star Puppy) rather than “make” him do it. It is our job to get our dogs to demonstrate that they happily and eagerly want to do what we ask.

There was a time when dogs ran freely, at, slept and played when they chose or had a job. Ex. Herding and retrieving. Today’s life is strictly regimented. They live in social isolation. They are told when to get up, go to bed, during free time they are expected to be “well behaved”. They have no control over what happens in their world.

One way to make choices into our dog’s daily lives is through “shaping”. The dog must figure out what behavior to offer in order to elicit a treat from his owner. This is what I train in offering treats in both hands for attention, not saying his name, but getting the dog to look at his owner order to get the treat. Lots of behavior choices happen in the everyday lessons of a force free program.

We can become more sensitive to the role relationships play in our lives with our dog while still using positive based training methods in order to live happily with humans.

This month we will be celebrating Thanksgiving. As some of you gather with your families, there are blessings that we can be thankful for. One being our dogs. Many of you can relate the feeling of having our dogs with us that bring much joy and comfort through these trying times. As we look back on all the dogs that have graced our lives, let us remember them in a special way.

May everyone enjoy a Happy Thanksgiving and be thankful for all the love our pets give us.

Till next time

Connie



Notes and Notices



Classes begin at the Selinsgrove Center on Sunday, November 1st. Directions can be found on our Club website. We will be in a room we have used before in the building which houses the gym. There will be orange cones at the walk leading to the door. You will see them on the road coming down to the building.

***** Advanced Classes will be at 1:00pm; Beginners #1 at 2:00pm and Beginners #2 at 2:45pm (this class is for those that were notified to come at that time)

Please keep in touch with us on our website for any notices that are sent.

We ask for thoughts and prayers for Ida Stauffer (Asha) who suffered a medical condition and recently transferred to a rehab hospital.

Get well wishes to Jim Smith (Biscuit and Dusty) after his recent knee replacement.

Glad to see Arris Moser doing well after her surgery.

With the holidays upon us, our visits are appreciated for many in nursing homes, prison and University students unable to make it home. Try to do some visiting when you can.

Take care with all food being cooked during Thanksgiving and Christmas that can be dangerous:

Ham, ham bone, onions, grapes, raisins, gravy, garlic, chocolate, yeast dough, avocados, some nuts, xylitol which can be found in chewing gum (if left in purse where dogs will find it).

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Nov 2 (Mon)	SUN Tech Photography Class (ATD only)	9:00 am - 11:00 am
	5 Star (Certified only)	12:20 pm
Nov 4 (Wed)	Heritage Springs	10:00 am
	Buffalo Valley	10:45 am
Nov 6 (Fri)	Shikellamy High School (ATD only)	8:00 am - 10:00 am
Nov 9 (Mon)	Nottingham Retirement	6:00 pm
Nov 10 (Tues)	Allenwood Federal Prison Max (Badged only)	12:00 pm
Nov 11 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Nov 12 (Thurs)	SUN Tech Photography Class (ATD only)	9:00 am - 11:00 am
	Mt. Carmel Sr. Living	11:30 am
	Mountain View Manor	1:30 pm
Nov 16 (Mon)	Columbia County Prison (Certified only)	1:15 pm
Nov 17 (Tues)	Danville Middle School (ATD only)	8:15 am - 10:15 pm
Nov 18 (Wed)	Heritage Springs	10:00 am
	Buffalo Valley	10:45 am
Nov 23 (Mon)	Lewisburg High School (ATD only)	10:15 am - 11:15 am
Nov 24 (Tues)	Penn Lutheran	10:00 am
Nov 25 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Nov 26 (Thurs)	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>1</div> <div>Change Clocks - Fall back</div> <div>1pm - Advanced Training</div> <div>2pm - Group #1 - Beginner</div> <div>2:45pm - Group #2 -</div>	<div>2</div> <div>9am - SUN Tech</div> <div>12:20pm - 5 Star (Certified</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>10am - Heritage Springs</div> <div>10:45am - Buffalo Valley</div>	<div>5</div>	<div>6</div> <div>8am - Shikellamy HS (ATC</div>	<div>7</div>
<div>8</div> <div>1pm - Advanced Training</div> <div>2pm - Group #1 - Beginner</div> <div>2:45pm - Group #2 -</div>	<div>9</div> <div>6pm - Nottingham</div>	<div>10</div> <div>12pm - Allenwood Max</div>	<div>11</div> <div>10am - Riverwoods @</div>	<div>12</div> <div>9am - SUN Tech</div> <div>11:30am - Mount Carmel</div> <div>1:30pm - Mountain View</div>	<div>13</div>	<div>14</div>
<div>15</div> <div>1pm - Advanced Training</div> <div>2pm - Group #1 - Beginner</div> <div>2:45pm - Group #2 -</div>	<div>16</div> <div>1:15pm - Columbia County</div>	<div>17</div> <div>8:15am - Danville Middle</div>	<div>18</div> <div>10am - Heritage Springs</div> <div>10:45am - Buffalo Valley</div>	<div>19</div> <div>10:30am - Mansion</div>	<div>20</div>	<div>21</div>
<div>22</div> <div>1pm - Advanced Training</div> <div>2pm - Group #1 - Beginner</div> <div>2:45pm - Group #2 -</div>	<div>23</div> <div>10:15am - Lewisburg HS</div>	<div>24</div> <div>10am - Penn Lutheran</div>	<div>25</div> <div>10am - Riverwoods @</div>	<div>26</div> <div>HAPPY THANKSGIVING!</div>	<div>27</div>	<div>28</div>
<div>29</div> <div>1pm - Advanced Training</div> <div>2pm - Group #1 - Beginner</div> <div>2:45pm - Group #2 -</div>	<div>30</div>	<div>1</div>	<div>2</div> <div>10am - Heritage Springs</div> <div>10:45am - Buffalo Valley</div>	<div>3</div>	<div>4</div> <div>8am - Shikellamy HS (ATC</div>	<div>5</div>