



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

October 2025

Old Friends

by *Connie Cuff*



Why do dogs wag their tails?

Our dogs wag their tails because they are happy to see us. But what does it really mean - tails position, speed, and the direction.

In general, the higher the tail, and faster the wag, the greater the level of arousal. Low wagging often denotes fear and appeasement.

If you see a dog with a fast-wagging high tail, it does not always mean, "I am happy to see you". It can also mean "try to pet me and you are toast". Simple answer: body language. "Pet me" - soft eyes and open-mouth grin.

"Non-pet" - tense body and hard eyes.

Looking at a medium-height wag indicates a calmer, less-aroused dog - but then again, look at the whole body.

Circle tail wag - the favorite and wants to call you their friend.

Low wagging tail are likely to indicate fearful and defensive. Some dogs may roll over but do not attempt to engage. He may be pleading you to go away.

There can be a dog with a non-wagging tail which says, I am in "Zen", but it could also mean fear.

As our dogs interact with other dogs, be sure to take note of the whole dog's body language. Let the dog come to you. Our dogs are talking to us all the time. Remember to listen with your eyes.

Note: It is good to see our dogs together each week. It not only keeps our dogs happy but us as well.

Till next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



Tracy has started a Star Puppy Class with new members:

Edna Wenrich with Chocolate Lab, **Millie**; **Arpita Dev** with Husky/Pyrenees, **Bo Peep**; **Jennifer Reish** with Jack Russel, **Poppy**; **Lauren Purdy** with Golden Retriever, **Cruz**.

New member: **Richelle Finerghy**

Classes will remain at the Shikellamy State Park Marina until the weather changes, when we will move to the Selinsgrove Center Gym on Sundays with Advanced at 1pm and Beginners at 2pm.

Looking forward to our bus trip to the Veterans Grove in Harrisburg on Friday, October 10th. We appreciate your donations of items to share with the Veterans.

I appreciate the time everyone is taking to do visits with our dogs. Even if your dog is not certified you are able to visit nursing homes with us. It is good to get your dog familiar with this visit if you plan on having your dog certified as a Therapy Dog. As a reminder, dogs certified under Alliance of Therapy Dogs, Inc., require a two-foot rule, so when visiting, please maintain a two foot distance from other dogs.

Those who are certified must log in their visits. In order to continue with ATD, you must have 1 visit in a 3 month time frame or you will need to have your dog re-certified.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Oct 1 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Oct 2 (Thurs)	Lewisburg Main Federal Prison (Badged only)	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Oct 3 (Fri)	Bucknell Paws for a Shake (ATD only)	12:00 pm
Oct 6 (Mon)	Bucknell Classroom (ATD only)	12:00 pm
	<i>5 Star (Certified only)</i>	12:15 pm
	Bucknell @ Downhill entrance to Elaine Langone Center (ATD only)	5:00pm-6:00pm
Oct 7 (Tues)	Allenwood Max Outdoors (Badged only)	12:00pm
Oct 8 (Wed)	Heritage Springs	10:00 am
	Buffalo Valley	10:45 am
Oct 9 (Thurs)	Mt. View	1:30 pm
Oct 10 (Fri)	Bus Trip, Veteran's Grove (ATD only), Harrisburg	8:00 am
	Bucknell Paws for a Shake (ATD only)	12:00 pm
Oct 11 (Sat)	Christ Community Church	12:00 pm
Oct 14 (Tues)	Nottingham Village Heather Court	6:00 pm
Oct 15 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Oct 16 (Thurs)	Mansion	10:30 am
Oct 17 (Fri)	Bucknell Paws for a Shake (ATD only)	12:00 pm
Oct 20 (Mon)	Columbia County Prison	1:15 pm
Oct 22 (Wed)	Heritage Springs	10:00 am
	Buffalo Valley	10:45 am
Oct 24 (Fri)	hold - Shikellamy HS (ATD only)	8:00 am - 10:00 am
	Bucknell Paws for a Shake (ATD only)	12:00 pm
Oct 28 (Tues)	Penn Lutheran Village, Selinsgrove	10:00 am
Oct 29 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Oct 31 (Fri)	Bucknell Paws for a Shake (ATD only)	12:00 pm