



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

September 2007

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



As a trainer, we like to teach dogs to do things, but we don't always do a very good job of telling how to get dogs not to do something.

Yelling at our dogs sounds foolish, but it's a common response when an animal is doing something we don't want him to do. Dogs aren't barking at squirrels or chewing shoes because they don't respect you as the alpha pack leader, because that's what dogs do and it is our job to teach them what we want them to do.

As an example if your dog is barking at the window at a squirrel or something passing by, if you keep yelling "NO" you aren't telling him anything about what he should be doing. And by accelerating your voice you only add fuel to the fire.

Instead, go to your dog and hold his favorite toy or a small treat in front of his nose. Now you have his attention. Then lure him away from the window and have him sit or lie down. You've just shown him what you want him to do. By interrupting the problem behavior and redirecting him to something appropriate, you have turned the situation into a teachable moment. Eventually he'll do it all by himself, knowing it's rewarding to turn away from the window.

Bad habits can be changed, but we all know it is not as easy as starting from scratch. Good dogs are those who were taught good habits early in life and were parents from learning bad habits. That is why it is so important to start a puppy at 3 months old. What he learns from 3 to 6 months he will retain the rest of his life.

It is so good to see our club members come to class and train, but more importantly the dogs are being socialized. Most dogs look forward to Tuesday night out, just as we look to going to a movie and spending time with our friends.

After we leave the Marina, which should be the beginning of October, we will start at the Selinsgrove Center Gym for the winter. Hopefully we can all enjoy our get togethers and have fun training our special friends.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (August 7, 2007)

Submitted by Ginny Pentz

If at any time your address, phone, number or E-mail changes, please leave Brandon and Connie know so we can keep our records updated.

PA Pet Dog Walk is Saturday, Sept 8. We will be testing for the CGC/TDI from 9 to 2. Pre-registration is required. Our club demo is at 1:00pm. I would appreciate as many club members as possible to participate. Everyone is welcome, even if you have only been training for a short time. Please sign up at class or call Connie.

Sunday, Sept. 9 at 1:00pm is our Club Picnic at Pavilion 2 at the Marina. Everyone brings a covered dish and an item for the Chinese auction. We supply hot dogs and soda. Bring the family and the dog for a fun day.

Thursday, Sept. 13 is our demo at the McClure Bean Soup. We also will do our famous Square Dance, so we will have a practice at class for anyone who will participate.

We welcome new members:

Megan King, Selinsgrove, Golden Doodle, Dublin
Angela Klinger, Sunbury, Gunner, Ger. Shorthair Pointer
Nicole Shelley, Richfield, Moxie
Sonja Ware, Trevorton, Takoda, Australian Shepherd
Donna Campbell, Sunbury, Rocky, Pitt Bull mix
Peggy Walter, Sunbury, Teddy, Toy Poodle
Billijo Bilger, Mason, Cho. Lab
Amy Neuhard, Sunbury, Max, French Bull Dog
Debra Martin, Natalie, Bear, Dachshund

I wish to thank the Giant grocery store for supplying the dog bags at the Marina.

Everyone who helped at the Riverfest did a great job and we met and educated a lot of people. Our dog bones were a huge success and many thanks to all.

Please check your E-mail for updates on when we will move to the Selinsgrove Center. Beginning in September our beginning is at 6:00pm and the advanced at 7:00pm. The day will stay at Tuesday.

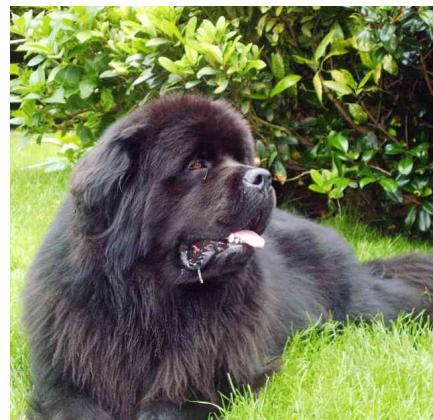
Breed of the Month

Newfoundland

submitted by Connie Cuff

There is some uncertainty about the origin of the Newfoundland, but all agree that he originated in Newfoundland. There in the 1600s the water-resistant double-coated dogs were established partners of fisherman and settlers.

They're great family dogs, love kids, but they really blossom when they find their working niche. Although he is a superior water dog, the Newfoundland has been and is still used in Newfoundland and Labrador as a true working dog, dragging carts, or more often carrying burdens as pack horse. He must be able and willing to help his master perform his necessary tasks at command, and have the intelligence to act on his own responsibility when rescue work demands it.



Newfoundlands may look as if they require a lot of space, but keeping them in the backyard or kennel will break their hearts. They want to be with you and you can expect a paw on your arm couple with an adoring stare when you sit down to watch TV.

Along with having a natural rapport with children, they make great therapy dogs. They also enjoy the company of other pets. Though Newfies generally make poor guard dogs, their size and hearty bark can be intimidating.

A daily brushing is a must and a weekly comb-out to prevent mats. The breed's drool factor is high so stock up on towels.

Since the Newfie is a large breed, hip and elbow dysplasia are concerns. The breed has a higher risk of bloating, epilepsy and cataracts.

Most importantly Newfies excel at companionship and understand your emotions and needs.

Sherry's Corner

Canine influenza confirmed in the Poconos

More than 70 dogs have been infected by a confirmed new strain of dog influenza at Trifecta Kennels in Gilbert, PA. As a precaution, the Monroe County SPCA is under quarantine. No dogs will be taken until tests determine the health of the current canine population at the SPCA.

"If we take in a sick dog and it spreads to the rest of the kennel, we can't adopt out any dogs," Elaine Skypala, chief operating officer for the Pennsylvania SPCA said. If your dog has been in a group setting, look for these symptoms: a runny nose, low grade fever and a cough. When caught early, an antibiotic treatment cures canine influenza in about a week. Left untreated, the illness may progress into a bacterial infection that can be deadly to dogs. So far, humans have not been affected by the illness.

Canine influenza looks like kennel cough, but spreads more quickly. In a group of 50 dogs, 5 might get kennel cough while 30 out of 50 could be infected with canine influenza in the same amount of time. It was the rate of transfer, more than 70 affected dogs, that alerted local vets to the outbreak at Trifecta Kennels.

Lisa Kane, who co-owns the kennel with Grace Mondrosch, said 3 veterinary clinics worked together to identify the illness, the Brodheadsville Clinic, East Stroudsburg Vet Hospital and Homestead Veterinary clinic. "Because of them this idea of influenza came up. Otherwise we would have gone on thinking we had a weird strain of kennel cough," Kane said. Samples from the dogs were confirmed by the College of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University.

Trifecta Kennels shut down voluntarily in mid-July [2007].

Reopening Friday [27 Jul 2007], they were closed twice the recommended amount of time and have disinfected the kennel. "We only had to do it twice, I bet we did it 20 times. We did not have fatalities and I'm convinced it's because we acted quickly," Kane said. They will be cautious for the rest of the summer.

That means a change in some of the kennel's policies. At Trifecta, they are asking people if their dog has been in a group setting in the past 2 weeks. If dogs are coughing when they arrive, they will not be accepted. And the mingling of pets in the doggy day care program will not happen until the disease is gone. A few coughing dogs and the close proximity of the Gilbert outbreak is the reason for caution at the Monroe County SPCA.

Diagnosis from the nose swab samples taken from dogs this weekend should be available mid-week, according to Dr. Ravi Murarka, chief veterinarian at the Pennsylvania SPCA.

In the meantime, Monroe County SPCA is still able to take cats -- they are not affected by canine influenza.

Joe's Comedy Corner

Dear STDTC Members,

This is what we will be working on at the next meeting:



UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Sept 6 (Thurs)	Nottingham Village Northumberland	6:45pm
Sept 8 (Sat)	PA Pet Walk	9:00am
Sept 9 (Sun)	Club Picnic Shikellamy State Park Pavilion 2 <i>(Bring dogs and a covered dish. Club will supply drinks and hot dogs.)</i>	1:00pm
Sept 13 (Thurs)	McClure Bean Soup Demo	6:45pm
Oct 4 (Thurs)	Maria Joseph Manor Danville	6:45pm
<u>Every Wednesday</u>	Riverwoods Lewisburg, PA	10:00am
<u>2nd Thursday</u>	Shamokin Hospital	2:00pm
<u>3rd Thursday</u>	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home, Market St., Sunbury Sunshine Corners, Market St., Sunbury	1:00-1:30pm 1:45pm 2:15pm
<u>Last Thursday</u>	Geisinger Rehab—Health South	2:00-3:00pm

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 Website: <http://www.stdtc.org>

September 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	Nottingham Village Northumberland 6:45pm		PA Pet Walk 9am
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Club Picnic Marina (Pavilion 2) 1pm			Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	Shamokin Hospital 2pm		
				McClure Bean Soup 6:45pm		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	Sunbury Hospital 1pm		
				Mansion Nursing Home (Sunbury) 1:45pm		
				Sunshine Corners (Sunbury) 2:15pm		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am		Buffalo Valley Lewisburg 6:45pm	