



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

September 2008

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Whether training or walking your dog are you paying attention to them? Not only are you watching them, but are they watching you?

If you have your dog out for a walk and they are pulling you everywhere, especially if you use a retractable leash, you are not teaching them anything about walking on a loose lead. Many people spend time when walking on a cell phone, or chatting with a walking partner and are not taking the opportunity to train their dogs to walk on a loose lead.

When your dog pulls toward something, don't let him reach it (and thereby be reinforced); stop in your tracks and resist until he slacks the leash. Watch for even fleeting moments of good behavior and reinforce it the second it happens with lots of praise.

This is a good time to use your whistle. Every once in a while when walking, toot your whistle, say the dog's name and come, reward with praise and then give a small treat or use his favorite toy. You can use this especially when the dog is focused on a squirrel or anything that is more interesting than you.

Ray Ramos spent some time with us at class and did a nice job speaking to us about problems we were having with our dogs. One of his comments was to relax and have fun when training. It is important when we come to class to relax and enjoy what you are doing. A dog feels our emotions all the way down the leash. If we have tension on the leash, the dog will struggle when walking and learn nothing no matter what type of collar you are using on your dog.

The following was taken from the last newsletter written by Dixon - May 2005

*"If your dog is not paying attention to you, even the simple exercise will become one that takes longer for the dog to learn. Your dog should be looking at you at all times. The only time the dog should take his eyes off of you is when the exercise requires the dog to move away from the handler. When you are training get your dog up with a lot of praise and keep him that way throughout the training. If you want undivided attention from your dog, give him your undivided attention.*

Till next time,

*Connie*

## Minutes (August 5, 2008)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club was called to order by Pres., Connie Cuff, with 18 members present.

Report of President - As you can see it is starting to get dark earlier. Our second class will begin as 6:45 PM so we can be out of the park before darkness.

Report of Secretary - Minutes of July's Meeting are as recorded in newsletter. Minutes were approved as written.

Report of Treasurer -

**(Treasurer's Reports are not available in the online edition of the STDTC Newsletter.)**

New Business - There may be a meeting about new Dog Law which has been revised. A person from the Dept. of Ag would like to speak to Dog Clubs. Watch for an E-mail when and where this will take place. MarJean made note that Robin Montgomery has a Power Point presentation of dog law, for anyone interested in it.

I was asked to put a demo at the McClure Bean Soup this year but declined because of the distance with gas being so high. Since we do reading at White Deer Elementary I was wondering if we should go every 3 weeks instead of every 2. We presently are going to Chief Shikellamy every 3 weeks.

Lewisburg on Furnace Rd., 1 mile from Rt 15, It has walking and biking trails also. I have a pass out for anyone who is interested on how to socialize your dog with other at a dog park.

Of Interest - Ginny Pentz is having picnic at her home in Montgomery on Aug. 24. There is a sign up sheet if you plan to attend.

There is a Stay-NPlay Doggy Day Care being developed on Fairground Rd.(Lewisburg Vet Hospital). If anyone is interested you can call 570-522-3647.

Old Business - I have a sign up for Riverfest Aug 16. If you plan on making dog bones or contributing to the basket I need them by next Tues. Our stand is #126.

On Sat Sept 6 we will be at the Shikellamy State Park Marina for the PA Pets annual fund raiser. I will need help for the CGC/TDI testing.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for our picnic, Sat., Sept 28th.

Thurs. TDI visit Emmanuel Center, Danville at 6:45 PM, Aug 6

## **Breed of the Month**

### **Bernese Mountain Dog**

submitted by Connie Cuff

Known in Switzerland for hundreds of years, the Bernese Mountain Dog is one of four varieties of Swiss mountain dog. The sturdy breed historically specialized in drafting, trekking down mountain paths, pulling carts of milk and cheese. He also worked at his master's side as a guardian and general farm hand. The Bernese Mountain Club has revived the breeds original purpose by conducting draft tests.



Even though these dogs are naturally obedient, without training, leadership, and guidance you end up with a 100 pound dog that doesn't behave. Socialization is very important as they have a natural tendency toward shyness.

The dog's history as a working dog prepares the breed to succeed as a therapy dog and they also are good with children.

Like all large breeds, they must not grow too quickly in the first year or they can suffer from serious orthopedic problems later in life. Growing puppies must be kept from rough play and jumping as it puts too much stress on developing shoulders and elbows.

The Berner doesn't drool but it does shed. The double coat sheds heavily twice a year so a thorough brushing daily keeps them tidy.

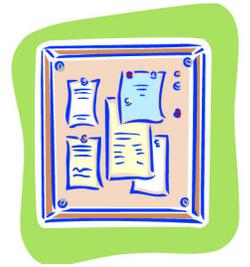
Susceptible to heat stroke they don't tolerate long hikes in hot weather, but when it snows, they think they've died and gone to heaven.

Potential owners should understand that a Berner's average life span averages only 7 1/2 years. The breed is prone to many medical problems including cancer, hip dysplasia, bloat, and von Willebrand's disease, a bleeding disorder.

Yet, despite their short lives, when Bernese Mountain Dogs give their affection, they really give it for life. As one owner said, "After discovering the Bernese after having many different breeds, it's been a love story ever since."



## Notes and Notices



**It was nice that Ray Ramos was able to visit us on August 19 and help us with training our dogs. If anyone is interested in having him come to their home he can be reached at 570-966-2914 or his cell 570-713-9413.**

**Our club picnic is Sunday, Sept. 28 at 1:00pm at Pavilion 2, Shikellamy Marina Park. I will have a sign up sheet at class and if you are unable to be at class you can call Connie to register (286-9537). We ask you to bring a covered dish and an item for the Chinese Auction. It should be for the dog or dog related. We supply soda and hot dogs.**

**I wish to thank everyone who helped at the Riverfest and made dog bones. It was a great day and the weather couldn't have been better. We made a profit of \$157.**

**Our reading programing will begin at Chief Shikellamy on Monday, Sept 8. at 9:00am. It lasts 1/2 hour and we are assigned to a class that we meet with every 3 weeks. If anyone is interested in doing this, please call Connie.**

**Our annual fun night at the Sunbury Halloween Parade is scheduled for Thursday, Oct. 23. The parade will form at Beiters on North 4th St. Sunbury and move to the Shikellamy High School. Our theme this year will be Old McDonalds Farm. We will have a hay wagon with straw for those who do not wish to walk. So get out your thinking caps and dress your dogs or yourselves as farm animals. I have red neckerchiefs and straw hats for anyone who needs them. Please be at the parking lot no later than 6:30pm.**

**On Saturday, Sept. 6 we will be attending the PA Pet Fund raiser at the Shikellamy State Park Marina. Our stand will be set up starting at 9:00am with literature and we will be selling our firehouse decals, dog bones, chances on the raffle basket and doing the CGC/TDI testing. If anyone can be of help even for an hour, call Connie.**

**I have been asked again by the Daily Item to put on a demonstration for Pet Idol at the Susquehanna Valley Mall on Saturday Oct. 11. Dogs of any level of obedience are welcome. We do need square dancers so I will be having practice after each class to have our partners ready for the big day. I do not have a time but will inform everyone when I hear from the Idol.**

**We will begin our reading program at White Deer and Boughner Elementary in Milton in October. If you are interested, let Connie know. The day will be Wed. from 9am to 9:30am. As soon as I hear from Ann Trudnak I will announce the date.**

**Check your E-mails to see when we move to the Selinsgrove Center.**

## UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>September 3 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>September 3 (Wed)</b>	<b>Career Link, Selinsgrove Meeting Dog Law</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>September 4 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Bucknell University TDI Only</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>September 6 (Sat)</b>	<b>PA Pet Fundraiser, Shikellamy Marina</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
<b>September 8 (Mon)</b>	<b>Reading, Chief Shikellamy</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
<b>September 10 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>September 11 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Northwestern Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm 3:00pm</b>
<b>September 16 (Tues)</b>	<b>Medium Prison, Allenwood Badged Members Only</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>
<b>September 17 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>September 18 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners</b>	<b>1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm</b>
<b>Bloomsburg Fair Week (Sept 21 - Sept 27)</b>		
<b>September 24 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>September 25 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Geisinger Health South</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>
<b>September 28 (Sun)</b>	<b>Club Picnic, Shikellamy Marina (Pavilion 2)</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>
<b>September 29 (Mon)</b>	<b>Bucknell University TDI Only</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>October 2 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Nottingham Village, Northumberland</b>	<b>6:45pm</b>

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