

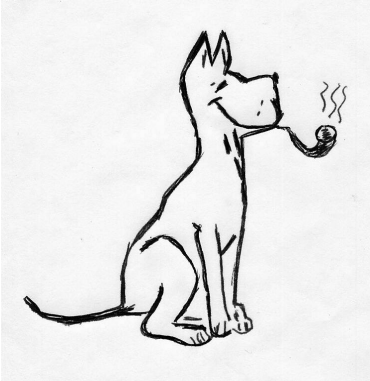


Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

April 2006

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Every handler and dog can teach us something new in our training. I'm sure you remember your first day at dog class, nervous and apprehensive, with your animal friend prancing and very full of life. He's the one who chews everything and runs the other way when called.

As the handler trains the dog in weekly sessions we see the apprehension transferred to the dog. We all know that everything travels down the lead. But as the handler becomes more confident he turns the table and picks up on the boldness and confidence of his dog. Somewhere in the middle of the transfer we see a happy medium and dog and handler begin to work as a team.

How many people have started classes and looked at already trained dogs and say, "My dog will never be able to do that." We are so fortunate within our club to have members who are willing to keep their eyes on new handlers and give them that added attention.

One observation I have in class is people should talk to their dogs more and give praise. Of course, every dog is different and some dogs need more praise than others. Waiting until a dog is settled and sitting helps to reinforce their quiet behavior. Petting should be brief (3-5 secs.) and applied on the upper chest or throat, which is one of the earliest sensor stimuli the puppy submits to when the mother dog licked it to stimulate elimination.

Another training mistake is the use of the training collar, whether it is a choke, martingale, or prong. The collar is like a traffic light when used properly. The loose chain is the green light. It means you can proceed with what you are doing. The tug of the collar is the yellow and the pinch is the red. It means you stop what you are doing.

When training, keep the collar on a "green light" at all times except when you make a correction. If you walk with pressure on the collar the dog is constantly under stress. Heeling a dog with constant tension causes the dog to notice a vast difference when he is finally free.

Make all corrections swiftly. Never repeat a command you have to correct. Help the dog associate the correction with his posture. You must deliver collar corrections effectively the first time and your dog will learn to respond faster to relieve the pinch and get back to the green light and earning your praise or other form of positive reinforcement.

As Dixie would say, "Don't forget your dog is watching you to see if you live up to being his leader."

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (March 7, 2006)

Submitted by: Lydia Storey

Our twenty- third monthly membership meeting was held on March 7, 2006 at approximately 7:30 PM at Selinsgrove Center.

Connie Cuff, President, called the March meeting to order. All members should have paid their 2006 membership dues by now and please make sure we have a current shot record for your dog. We will not meet on Wednesday, March 14th the gym will not be available.

Secretary's Report – minutes of the February meeting in the news letter. If there are any omissions or corrections please advise.

Treasurer's Report – treasurer report was not available at the meeting but is presented below:

(Treasurer's Reports are unavailable in the online edition of the STDTC newsletter.)

New Business:

A warm welcome was given to 3 new visitors and their dogs.

In beginning of May we plan to move to the Marina. At the Marina we will meet on Wednesdays at 7PM. Connie asked if there was any reason to consider a change from our traditional Wednesday meeting day

The club is contacting the Goodwill Hose Company about using the playground on Tuesdays for the six week beginner courses for dogs who preregister.

The club received a \$25.00 donation for the memorial for Dixie from Manuel and Gale Duque.

The Daily item is running a pet photo contest. Please submit your photos by mail or email by March 14th.

For those of your who are therapy dog volunteers check the IRS regulations which allow mileage deductions for volunteer travel and deduction for required veterinary examines.

On August 26 we will participate with the Northumberland County Expo at the Sunbury Armory. We will have a 30' x 30' tent outside. We will do a TDI/CGC testing, bite prevention and literature. We will do a Square Dance demo in the afternoon.

Old Business:

For the READ to the DOGS program at White Deer Elementary please notify Connie the Tuesdays before if you are going.

Pawsabilities at the PA Farm Show is next weekend. The club will not be participating this year but its great event and all dog lovers should consider attending.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

A few helpful tips on how to keep pet hair off furniture

Submitted by: Connie Cuff

One of the biggest challenges of being a dog or cat owner is usually dealing with pet hair everywhere! Where there are pets, there's pet hair! But here are some easy picker-uppers to keep it off of you and the furniture.

1. If your pet has a favorite sleeping spot, place a washable blanket or towel there to absorb skin odors and catch the hair.
2. Hold on to those old rubber gloves—they work wonders for wiping dog and cat hair off of clothes and furniture.
3. Fabric-softener sheets work well too, and can be tossed in the trash. Just be careful to keep the sheets away from pets, as they can be harmful if chewed.
4. Another great picker-upper—packing tape. Roll some around your hand with the sticky side out, then pat away to pick up fur from just about anything.
5. You can also spray your upholstery with static guard and then vacuum.
6. If you'll take the time to brush your dog or cat daily, you'll have a lot less fur to pick up.

Sherry's Corner

by Sherry Carpenter

On Wednesday night, February 8th I had the opportunity to listen to Lindsay Lawer talk about her work rescuing pets and animals post Katrina. Lawer explained her sixteen hour day schedule caring for the 30 homeless dogs and cats which were hers to nurture during her first trip to the flood ravaged city. She explained a pet culture which allows all pets to run unattended, dogs and cats who were not neutered because their owners **CHOSE NOT TO HAVE THE SURGERY** even if it cost nothing...there were so many puppies! And, of course there many pictures of dogs used for fighting. She showed us pictures of food and water drop sites and explained trapping homeless pets so they could be cared for. There were dogs waiting for their owners in the driveways of homes in rubble---owners who might never return.

I, for one, could not imagine the commitment and energy this young girl and all the volunteers from across the country gave to this effort. The smells, the dirt, the toxin coated pets, always danger of dog bites and attacks was vivid in the presentation. This was truly not a task for those who think love is enough!

The audience was filled with people from every animal group in our area--except the Pennsylvania SPCA. And, I am proud to say that all the commissioners were there for the whole evening and openly participated in the discussion. Also, our regional dog law enforcement director was there and available for questions. We now have a realistic picture of what could happen here. Will we be ready? Is Pennsylvania ready? Connie Cuff was there and we need dog trainers to be active in all of our CARTS. We also need groomers. And, since the loss of a pet can be devastating we need grief counselors.

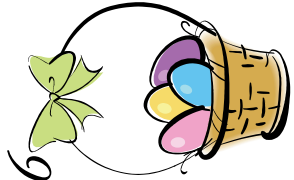
I am sorry more of you could not have been present. You missed an opportunity to understand what a disaster can do to the dogs and cats and all the other animals who share our lives with love and loyalty. Some New Orleans residents have acknowledged that their pets are all they have left of their families!

**Please Note: Class will start at the Marina on
Wednesday, May 3 at 7PM.**

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Apr 5 (Wed)	White Deer Elementary (Reading Program)	9:00am
	<i>(Directions: Rt. 15. At New Columbia exit come to a stop sign and school is across road.)</i>	
Apr 6 (Thurs)	Outlook Pointe Lewisburg	6:45pm
	<i>(Rt. 45, pass Brookpark Farms on rt. Nursing home on left.)</i>	
Apr 10 (Mon)	Bucknell University (TDI only) (Coleman Hall) Lewisburg	6:00pm
Apr 13 (Thurs)	Penn Lutheran Village Selinsgrove	6:45pm
	<i>(Rt. 522 across from Weis Markets at red lt.)</i>	
Apr 19 (Wed)	White Deer Elementary (Reading Program)	9:00am
	<i>(Directions: Rt. 15. At New Columbia exit come to a stop sign and school is across road.)</i>	
Apr 19 (Wed)	Selinsgrove Center (Main Building) Selinsgrove	6:30pm
May 1 (Mon)	Bucknell University (TDI only) (Coleman Hall) Lewisburg	6:00pm
May 3 (Wed)	WHITE DEER ELEMENTARY CANCELLED	
May 3 (Wed)	Nifty After Fifty Demo Columbia Mall	11:00am
May 4 (Thurs)	Nottingham Village Northumberland	6:45pm

April 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
			White Deer Milton 9am Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	Outlook Pointe (Lewisburg) 6:45pm		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	Bucknell University (Lewisburg) 6pm		Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	Penn Lutheran (Selingsgrove) 6:45pm		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			White Deer Milton 9am Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am Selingsgrove Center (Selingsgrove) 6:30pm	Sunbury Hospital (Sunbury) 1pm - 1:30pm Mansion Nursing Home (Sunbury) 1:45pm		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	Health South (Danville) 2pm		