



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

April 2007

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



### "Pet Therapy Teaches Kids Some Great Lessons"

We all know from participating in Pet Therapy with our dogs what it has done for patients in hospitals and nursing homes. It also has affected our own lives as adults, but pet therapy can also play an important "teachable moment" in the life of a child.

It helps your child develop life values, like compassion and volunteerism. We live in a world where pop-culture—specifically, TV, movies, celebrities, the media, music, video games and sports stars—have thrown traditional values out of the car window like it was a piece of trash. Just look at the negative influences they are exposed to every day. This is not a losing cause, and your pet might be just the solution.

Once the volunteer (you and your child) go through training with the pet, the rest is easy. Getting kids to volunteer at hospitals or nursing homes (they must be accompanied by an adult) shows kids great life lessons of compassion and concern for the sick and the infirmed. Pet therapy teaches them about illness and the end of life, and it helps children to alleviate much of their fear.

Another benefit is that it teaches the child responsibility. Kids learn the importance of keeping appointments, and more importantly, keeping their word. If a child learns that their pet is helping a patient deal with loneliness, isolation, or medical suffering, they are more likely to become more responsible.

Finally, the most important benefit is that the interactions between volunteers, their pets, and patients teach the true meaning of caring and kindness. When children see how their pets transform the lives of the sick or the elderly, it awakes their sense of compassion.

As an example, a program began a few years ago with the Palliative Medicine Dept. at Geisinger. Dixie and I have trained students from Danville High School to participate in a pet therapy program at Danville nursing homes. I have continued this program and see how it has changed the lives of the participants.

In our club we have been blessed to have Brandon and Erin Pastuszek with us for many years. They have shown me how the benefits of children volunteering can teach values of compassion and concern for others.

If you know of a child who would like to become involved in pet therapy, encourage them as it may be a "teachable moment" that will last a lifetime.

***"The dog was created especially for children. He is the god of frolic".***

**-Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887)**

Till next time,

***Connie***

## Minutes (March 6, 2007)

submitted by Virginia Pentz

The meeting of the Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club was called to order with 22 members present.

**Report of the President** - The first thing I would like to talk about is an event sponsored by the Pet Platoon in Lewisburg. It is a Pet Adoption Expo to be held May 5 at the AI Auction Hall on Rt. 15 in Montgomery. We have been asked to participate and I would like to know how many people would be able to help that day. It will be 10 to 4 and we will have a table with dog literature and our therapy dogs. If anyone could make dog biscuits we could sell those. It costs us nothing to set up. Marjean and Sally have volunteered to do CGC/TDI testing, so I must check with the Platoon if we could do it that day. I will send a tablet around to see if I can get enough people to help. You can put down the time you will be available.

Mary Lou Walsh received information on Riverfest which is held in Sunbury Aug.18. We have done it the past 2 years and sold dog bones. This year the fee will be \$70 and we use 2 electric plugs for \$10 which is a total of \$80. We have our therapy dogs and a table with literature. We use this as a community service. I would like to know if you feel we should continue to participate? It was agreed by members present that we would continue to participate this year.

The Northumberland County Expo will be held at the Sunbury Armory Aug. 23. We would do it in the afternoon on Sat. and would try to have CGC/TDI. testing that day and have our therapy dogs there. If I can get a group we could do our square dancing.

Minutes were approved as read.

Treasurers report was approved.

**New business:** From now on I must sign in at the administration building each week and pick up a key.

### **Welcome new members:**

*Stephanie Oruemer, Danville, Lab mix, Sarah  
Jennifer Hansum, Lewisburg, Mix breed, Sheba  
Kang TChou, Lewisburg, Terrier mix, Briscoe  
Bill James, Selinsgrove, Pit Bull, Simon  
Bonnie Schlagel, Sunbury, Lab mix, Tucker  
Lana Gulden, Northumberland, Lab Ret, Ocho*

Special congratulations to Kate Hafer (from Riverwoods) on the birth of her daughter Hannah. Best wishes to Grandma, Christine Dotterer.

We are taking shirt orders.

I have car decals and need to order more if anyone is interested. We sell them at cost \$3 each.

Anyone who did not receive a pin and is interested I have them.

I have dog food coupons if anyone can use them.

## Minutes (Continued)

Joan Haire-Campbell said their rescue group will be picking up a group of puppy mill dogs. They need someone to foster a Pomeranian, if you or someone you know could do this let Joan know.

**Marina:** We will have a stick pick-up at the marina the first nice Sunday *after* Easter. Members will be notified via e-mail or phone (if you don't have e-mail).

I talked to Linda Bennett and they will be starting a Reading to Dixon's Dogs at the Union County Library the week of Mar. 26. If anyone is interested please get in touch with Linda Bennett and she will put you on a list. The library will get in touch with the schools the next 2 weeks and children will sign up. The dogs must be TDI to participate. I would suggest you do it as soon as possible as it is first come first served. I have slips made up with information to get in touch with Linda.

Old business - everyone should get their dog licenses for 2007.

Anyone who has passed the CGC should have a certificate from our club that they have passed basic obedience.

PawsAbilities is being help at the State Farm Show this Sat. and Sun. It is sponsored by Susquehanna Service Dogs.

Does anyone have anything to add to the meeting. Meeting adjourned.

## Grooming Tips

**Paint** - To clean oil-based paint from a small area of the coat, dampen a cotton ball with mild fingernail polish remover and dab it on. For large areas wipe the fresh paint off with clean, dry, cotton cloths; wipe away from your dog's body (rubbing inward might get the paint onto the skin). Then wash your dog in warm water and dog shampoo. When the coat dries snip off the ends of any paint-covered hair. Leave at least an inch of hair to avoid cutting your dog's skin.

**Tar** - To remove tar, rub vegetable shortening, olive oil, or mineral oil into toe affected areas until the tar softens. Follow with a slicker brush. Pull outward to avoid irritating your dog's skin with the stiff bristles.

**Burrs** - To remove burrs, leave your dog's coat dry. Use your fingertips or a pair of tweezers in a sliding outward motion, being careful not to pull your dog's fur. Snip stubborn burrs with small nail scissors. The best preventive against burrs matting the fur is to brush your dog at least weekly, if not daily. Burrs and stick-ers tend to slide right out of regularly groomed coats.



## **Breed of the Month**

### **Golden Retriever**

submitted by Connie Cuff

Devotion and versatility make the Golden Retriever the nation's second most popular breed. Even though he's often called the perfect family pet, he doesn't come pre-trained.

Goldens first appeared in Scotland during the mid-1800's. At the time, hunters needed an intelligent, medium-sized dog to work in rainy, cold conditions, both in the water and on upland game. Records show that Lord Tweedmouth used a dog named Nous and crossed it with a Tweed Water Spaniel. Further crosses with these Spaniels, Irish Setter, and perhaps Bloodhounds produced the Golden Retriever as we know it today.

Originally called "Yellow Retrievers", the breed picked up the "golden" when it was shown as a "Flat Coat (Golden)" in 1908 at the Crystal Palace in England.



AKC registered the first dog in 1925 after being brought to the United States in the 1890's. At first the darker colors were favored but as more dogs were imported from England and Scotland the medium colors became popular.

Goldens definitely need guidance and ample opportunities for exercise. They will carry around anything that isn't nailed down. They wiggle their way into your heart - and if given half a chance, your bed. They love to be touched, and if your hands are not busy, they keep nudging you.

A member of the Sporting Group they have a keen nose for tracking game and are used extensively for hunting and field trials. Their strength, intelligence and gentleness make them popular for therapy, guide and assistance work. They make excellent show dogs, obedience and agility dogs. One job he is ill-suited for is guarding property. They are so accepting of people, they don't realize there could be a threat.

People drawn to the breed must realize they are prone to genetic and inherited diseases such as hip dysplasia, eye problems and cancer. They are also known to get ear infections and skin allergies.

Be sure to purchase a dog through a reputable breeder who expands time and money to check for genetically based, inherited diseases.

Also, if you are drawn to the breed's appearance, your trade-off in maintaining a shiny coat is daily brushing. Goldens shed all year long and their coat attracts burrs and other vegetation.

Goldens live to please you, they want to do whatever your want them to do, because their greatest mission in life is to make you happy.



# Notes and Notices



**There will be a Pet Adoption Expo, sponsored by the Pet Platoon, Lewisburg at the AI Auction Hall, Rt. 15 and 54, Montgomery on May 5. Our Club will be participating with a table with pet literature, our therapy dogs, and Marjean and Sally will be testing for the CGC and TDI. I have asked for people to make homemade dog bones, and I have recipes at class if you need them. There is a sign-up sheet at class for anyone who can volunteer, if only for one hour.**

**In our area there is a facility called Echo-Brin Acres, a private dog exercise area. It is located in New Columbia. We would like to visit as a group, but there are rules and regulations we must follow. One is proof of vaccinations which I have a record of. If anyone has not given me an up-dated form, please do so. There is a pond which dogs may use. There is no admission fee, but donations are accepted and will go to a local shelter or rescue group. As soon as we can make arrangements we will keep you informed as to the date and time.**

**There is a survey which has been published by the American Kennel Club for input from Delegates, Specialty Clubs, Obedience and Agility Clubs to evaluate the potential benefits for having mixed breeds participate in AKC activities. Mixed breeds already compete in hundreds of events sponsored by alternate registries and dog sport organizations. The survey remains open until Mar. 31 and results will be tabulated and released to clubs. We will keep you informed on the progress of this AKC survey.**

## ACA Registration

Advertisement in our local newspaper list dogs registered with ACA instead of AKC. The Following is information I have obtained on the American Canine Association.

The ACA Legislation is based in Phoenixville, PA with registration made to Wilmington, Del. The terms they list for the sale of their puppies are (1) Show - Sold with the warranty of show ability (eligible for entry in ACA-sanctioned shows only) (2) Standard - Sold with No warranty of show ability in conformation shows, no obvious genetic deformities (3) Pet may have improper structure, bite, genetic deformities or a poor representative of the breed.

They propose that #2 from each liter registration is used to stop unfair legislation and regulations. You also are eligible for ACA-sanctioned dog shows (I have never seen a listing for any of their shows). You also become the owner of an 8 1/2" certificate with a gold seal.

In my opinion these registrations are on paper only and show no proof that your dog is of sound quality with no parent history of possible health problems.

## UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>Apr 9 (Mon)</b>	<b>Bucknell University Lewisburg (TDI Only)</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>April 12 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Grandview Danville</b>	<b>6:45pm</b>
<b>Apr 30 (Mon)</b>	<b>Bucknell University Lewisburg (TDI Only)</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>May 3 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Emmanuel Center Danville</b>	<b>6:45pm</b>
<b>May 9 (Wed)</b>	<b>Nifty After Fifty Columbia Mall, Buckhorn Demo with Square Dance</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>May 12 (Sat)</b>	<b>Mt. Carmel Lions Demo Mt. Carmel (in front of Library)</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
<b><u>Every Wednesday</u></b>	<b>Riverwoods Lewisburg, PA</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b><u>2nd Thursday</u></b>	<b>Shamokin Hospital</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>
<b><u>3rd Thursday</u></b>	<b>Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home, Market St., Sunbury Sunshine Corners, Market St., Sunbury</b>	<b>1:00-1:30pm 1:45pm 2:15pm</b>
<b><u>Last Thursday</u></b>	<b>Geisinger Rehab—Health South</b>	<b>2:00-3:00pm</b>

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# April 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am			
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	Bucknell University (Lewisburg) 6pm			Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	Grandview (Danville) 6:45pm	
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	Sunbury Community Hospital 1pm-1:30pm		
				Mansion Nursing Home (Sunbury) 1:45pm		
				Sunshine Corner (Market St., Sunbury) 2:15pm		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
			Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am		Geisinger Rehab (Health South) 2pm-3pm	
29	30					
	Bucknell University (Lewisburg) 6pm					