

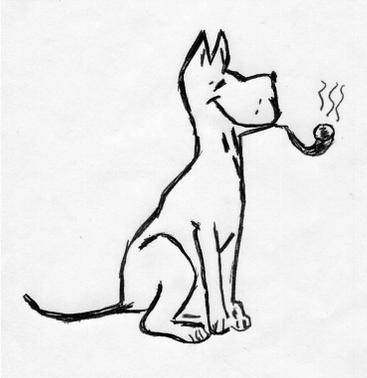


Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

August 2006

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



From time to time people have mentioned to me a problem they have with their dog of phobia to thunder, fireworks, loud noises, etc. This can occur in a young dog or sometimes as the dog gets older.

Most owners do not realize how they have either caused or contributed to their dog's fears and have no idea how their own actions influence their dog's behavior.

Owners do not know what to do when the dog shows signs of a problem and they end up doing the wrong thing. They attempt to reassure the dog and say such things as "It's OK. Be a good dog". The dog associates these words with being afraid as having the owner's permission that "It's all right" and that being afraid is

acceptable behavior.

There also are owners who yell at their dog and they become more frightened and associate loud noises with punishment.

So what is the solution? Say nothing to the dog whenever it shows a fear to loud noises. Ignoring an undesirable behavior sometimes helps put it to an end. It is also necessary to teach a dog to do something to keep it busy when the loud noise occurs. Even if you just teach it to heel and sit and keep the dog moving at a quick pace.

The following is a system you can try to desensitize your dog.

Play classical music while feeding your dog or scratching his ears so the dog associates the music as pleasant. Once the dog feels comfortable with the music, play the music along with a tape of the noise your dog is afraid of. Keep the volume low to start. If the dog shows signs of stress stop the recording and wait at least 1 hr. before renewing the procedure. This is a gradual conditioning and with patience and perseverance noise phobias can be cured.

In some severe cases you may need the help of a veterinarian to control the problem. Some dogs do well crated or kept in a confined area. Another mistake owners make when leaving their dogs at home alone is what they say as they are leaving the house. If you make a big fuss and get the dog excited as you leave this causes him to have an anxiety problem. Your best bet is to ignore the dog, get him used to one word as you leave, such as "wait" and leave without a big to do.

This also goes along with your return that you don't get excited when you see your dog and have him out of control on your return. Both of these mistakes on your part contribute to the dog's anxiety.

It seems that despite thousands of years of domestication most dogs are concerned with status. Dogs always want to know who's in charge, and if the owner's aren't, they will try to be. After all, every pack needs a leader and most dogs don't have a problem with you as "Top Dog".

Old Friends (Continued)

Properly socializing and shaping your puppy's temperament requires an investment in time. You will find that your efforts are worthwhile when you become the proud parent of a social friendly dog.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (July 5, 2006)

Submitted by: Connie Cuff

Our twenty-seventh monthly membership meeting was held on July 5, 2006 at approximately 7:35 pm at the Goodwill Playground, Sunbury.

Connie Cuff, President, called the meeting to order.

Everyone was asked to introduce themselves and where they are from.

We thank Giant for supplying the clean up bags at the Marina.

Secretary's Report: As reported in the Newsletter

Treasurer's Report:

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

New business:

Sally Grottini has two tickets available for the Dog whisperer in Sept. \$85 each.

Visitation sheets are available for TDI. There are additional awards for TDT visits for those who have reached 150 visits. They are for 250 and 350 visitations.

Flyers are available for the Northumberland County Expo.

A selection of books and tapes are available to borrow

Anyone who teaches his dog tricks should try to do it at class as practice.

Anyone interested in attending the Cabaret Theater at Millbrook Playhouse on August 16 - 20 should let Connie know.

Minutes (Continued)

Old business:

There are club pins available to new members or those who have not received one.

There are dog biscuit recipes available on our web site and at class for the Riverfest and North Co. Expo. Please sign up for these as well as the PA Pet Dog Walk.

Everyone seems to like the new location and we will stay at the playground until the Marina is cleaned up and the area we train is in useable, Please watch for E mails from Brandon when we make the change.

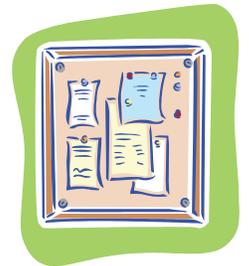
Kelly Pastuszek asked if people had checked the up-dated web-site and everyone liked the new format.

Please check the newsletter or the website for our July and August schedule of therapy dog visits.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:00 p.m.



Notes and Notices



Lydia Storey has resigned as Secretary. I want to thank her for her years of service to our Club and wish her well in her future endeavors. Virginia Pentz has volunteered to take over her position and I thank her for doing so.

New TDI:

Virginia Pentz, Golden Retriever, Katie-Do

Sharon Frederick, Golden Retriever, Sadie

Brace with 2 dogs:

Karen Mills, Jack and Turner, Cavalier/Cocker mixes

We wish Jim Hepner a speedy recovery after his knee surgery and I'm sure Trico and Lilly will take good care of him.

Marjean will be moving from Mifflinburg to Penns Creek. She has bought a home that was a barn and converted to a home. "Rosie" approved so everything will work out fine. We wish Don and Marjean much happiness in their new home.

Our Club picnic will be held at the Marina, September 17. I would like people to sign up with the number from their family so we know how many hot dogs and soda to purchase.

Sherry's Corner

by Sherry Carpenter

DOG LAW ADVISORY BOARD

Various newspaper stories have stated that the Dog Law Advisory Board was fired by Governor Rendell allegedly because he believed they were not doing enough about puppy mills in Pennsylvania. It occurred to me that probably many dog owners do not know who is on the Advisory Board and how it came to be. The Board was set up by the Dog Law (Act of 1996 with Amendments, No. 151) The Board is set up by the Secretary of Agriculture to advise him in the administration of the law. According to the Dog Law there is to be a representative of animal research establishments, a representative of the Pennsylvania Veterinary Medical Association, two representatives of animal welfare organizations, three representatives of farm organizations, a representative of dog clubs (Pennsylvania Federation of Dog Clubs) a representative of commercial kennels, a representative of pet store kennels, a representative of sportsmen and hunting organizations, a representative of a national purebred canine pedigree registry, a representative from lamb and wool growers, a county treasurer, and a representative of the police. In order for any other group to be represented, legislation amending the Dog Law would need to be enacted. For example, In 1995 I wrote to then Representative John Gordner asking him to include an eleventh member--an animal education organization. I felt then as I still do that a vital aspect of the process and procedures relating to the dog law has been education of pet owners about the proper care and handling of companion animals. I was then and continue to believe that material pertinent to dangerous dogs and therapy dogs needs to be part of dog law discussions.

The terms of each appointment to the board are set by the secretary and staggered. The Board may make nonbinding recommendations to the Secretary on all matters related to the Dog Law.

Who was fired by the Governor? Did he have to power to fire the members? Why didn't the Secretary of Agriculture fire the members he appointed?

All of this has been widely written about by a Philadelphia Inquirer columnist. It has fanned distrust among the many groups who care about dogs. Supposedly the animal rights groups are taking the lead in this influences battle by labeling all others who care about dogs as "users" and "breeders". Users may do pet therapy, enter performance events such as Rally, herding, obedience . Breeders are the worse because they do not know what they are doing and are adding to over-population problems.

The columnist who has picked up the banner is none other than John Grogan author of the number one New York Times bestseller, "Marley and Me" life and love with the world's worst dog. I intend to read this book in order to access the influence of this author on Pennsylvania's most shameful image and politics in the Commonwealth. Right now it would seem that the author needs to meet the Dog Whisperer, another author of a current best selling book!

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Aug 3 (Thurs)	Penn Lutheran Village Selinsgrove	6:45pm
Aug 10 (Thurs)	Nottingham Village Northumberland	6:45pm
Aug 19 (Sat)	Riverfest Sunbury	9:00am
Aug 24 (Thurs)	Buffalo Valley Lewisburg Demo (Dress-Up or Scarf)	6:45pm
Aug 26 (Sat)	Northumberland County Expo Sunbury Armory (TDI/CGC Testing, Bite Prevention, Demo)	9:00am-3:00pm
Sept 9 (Sat)	PA Pets Shikellamy Marina (Dog Bite Prevention, TDI/CGC Testing)	10:00am-3:00pm
<u>Every Wednesday</u>	Riverwoods Lewisburg, PA	10:00am
<u>3rd Thursday</u>	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home, Market St. Sunbury	1:00-1:30pm 1:45pm
<u>Last Thursday</u>	Geisinger Rehab—Health South	2:00-3:00pm

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August 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	3 Penn Lutheran (Selinsgrove) 6:45pm	4	5
6	7	8	9 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	10 Nottingham Village (Northumberland) 6:45pm	11	12
13	14	15	16 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	17 Sunbury Community Hospital (Sunbury) 1pm Mansion Nursing Home (Sunbury) 1:45pm	18	19 Riverfest (Sunbury) 9am
20	21	22	23 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	24 Buffalo Valley (Lewisburg) 6:45pm Dress Up/Demo	25	26 Northumberland County Expo (Sunbury) 9am
27	28	29	30 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	31 Geisinger Health South (Danville) 2pm		