



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

August 2007

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



When choosing a veterinarian you are not simply looking for an expert, you're also looking for someone who can tailor his abilities to your particular needs, and be your partner to assist you in keeping your dog as healthy as possible for as long as possible.

This doesn't mean that your vet has to share your ideas in every detail. It does mean that he needs to listen carefully to what you want and to respect your instincts about the animal you know and love so well.

Most people find their vet through referrals from dog clubs, friends, and co-workers, and that's always a good place to start. A referral is only the beginning. You must do your own screening.

The worst time to go looking for a vet is when your animal is sick, since it's hard to think clearly. Bring your pet in for a check up, and use all of your senses to help make a decision.

The first conversation with a vet is the time to find out exactly what services he offers. Ask how and where off hours emergencies are handled, and be sure you know how to get to the emergency facility. Also ask to whom special cases are referred for second opinions.

You can also inquire about fees. You should know up front the approximate cost of various procedures. In general, vets leave fees to practice managers and may discuss only medical matters. Obtain copies of all medical records and keep them in a safe place for easy reference.

You can't choose a vet strictly on credentials. Your "sixth sense" may be your best guide to finding someone compatible. To work with a vet you need to trust his or her judgment. They must not only know their stuff but must know how to use it in a way that feels right for you and your pet.

There is now pet insurance available which can help you with expenses in taking care of your pet, especially when your dog develops a serious illness or needs surgery. The ideal time to acquire a policy is when you get a puppy, but you can get insurance at any time as long as your dog does not have some pre-existing condition.

Since most dogs dislike going to the vet, for the sake of our dogs, ourselves and the veterinarian, if we follow a few tips we can relieve some of the stresses.

1. Choose a vet that will take the time with a skittish, anxious or even exuberant dog. The entire staff should be sensitive to any needs your dog may have.
2. Make vet days "fun days". Follow every vet visit with a favorite activity. Knowing a good time will follow the vet visit can make your dog feel better about being there.
3. Train your dog to relax to your touch by practicing massage at home.
4. Practice simple things to alleviate stress during the physical exam.

Old Friends (Continued)

Step up on a small platform to help with getting on a scale, "belly up" for abdominal exams, "shake" to present a paw for blood, and "down-stay" for vaccinations.

5. Make your first visit to the vet an opportunity to get acquainted, sniff around the waiting room, meet the vet and staff. Have everyone give treats, extra special ones. It works if the dog knows he gets the most delicious treats at the vets office.

6. Finally, maintain a calm frame of mind yourself. Your emotions are contagious.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (July 3, 2007)

Submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club was called to order with 21 members present.

Notes:

Chance, who had a torn ligament, is doing fine after surgery.

We recieved a check from the Mt. Carmel Lions Club for our demo at their street fair.

It was brought up about a couple of new items on the market to relieve anxiety in dogs during loud noises, such as Anxiety Wraps and dog apeasing Phernomes.(scents).

Upcoming Events:

July 8th VA Hospital at Wilkes-Barre

August 18th Riverfest, Sunbury at Cameron Park

Sept 8th PA Pet Walk at Shickelamy Marina

We will be doing a demo and TDI and CGC testing

Sept 9th Club Picnic at Shickelamy Marina

We will have a chinese auction and games so please bring some small items for the auction.

Sept 13th McClure Bean Soup Fest at McClure

We are planning on participating in the Halloween Parade again this year, sugested has been red hat dogs. Please plan on participating.

Breed of the Month

Mixed Breed

submitted by Connie Cuff

Would a dog by any other name smile as sweet? The most popular and prevalent dog is now a mixed-breed, and the majority of shelter dogs in need of a home. There are more mutts in American homes than dogs of any single breed and that is saying something. Don't confuse them with cross breeds which are only one generation away from purebreds.

Even though all dogs originally came from mixed-breed stock, mutts have played second fiddle to their more high bred brethren for far too long!

The most attractive benefit of owning a mixed breed, other than sparing it from euthanasia, is they typically cost less to buy and keep healthy.

Nancy Navogard, owner of All-Tame Animals, Inc. a NY City based animal talent agency, saying mixed breeds are friendlier and are a bit smarter than their purebred counterparts. Also, Carol Ketay of Los Angeles who shares her home with a Bearded Collie-English Sheepdog mix says a mixed breed has a gentleness you can't find in a purebred.

Also, mixed breeds tend to be healthier, and free of genetic disorders.

However, mixed breed dogs are a surprise package. You don't know who the individual parents were and what problems they may have had.



There now is a mixed breed analysis called WISDOM Panel MX which will check your dog's mixed breed composition. It can detect more than 130 AKC recognized breeds and analyzes more than 300 distinct genetic markers. For more information, visit wisdompanel.com/vet.

Some advantages to owning a mixed breed are: the initial purchase price is lower, each mixed breed is unique and getting a mixed breed can contribute to a sense of satisfaction in having helped save a life of a dog that was "made just for you".

Even if you pay less for a mixed breed "the important thing to remember is that all animals have value no matter how much or how little you paid for them."

"He is your friend, your partner, your defender, your dog. You are his life, his love, his leader. He will be yours, faithful and true, to the last beat of his heart. You owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion.

Anonymous

Sherry's Corner

NEWS BRIEFS

SNUB-NOSED BREEDS FACE UNFRIENDLY SKIES

The American Kennel Club (AKC) Health Foundation is calling on the canine research community to study snub-nosed breeds in order to determine if their short noses are related to the high mortality rate during airline travel. Airlines have announced they are considering banning these breeds from flying.

DVD HELPS OWNERS CARE FOR DOGS WITH DM

The AKC Canine Health Foundation in cooperation with Scout's House in Menlo Park, California announces the release of an instructional video outlining how dog owners can care for their pets diagnosed with degenerative myelopathy (DM). DM is a degenerative spinal cord disease. Affected dogs show progressive rear limb weakness and ataxia and eventually paralysis. (888) 682-9696

ATTITUDES AND PURCHASING HABITS OF DOG OWNERS REVEALED

Forty two percent of women responding to an AKC study on dog ownership said they own a dog to enhance their personal health and reduce stress. This study also reveals that dogs figure in a car purchase choice. This exclusive survey covered decision making factors in obtaining a dog, health care practices, food purchased, grooming, shopping style etc. The 100 plus page report is available for \$650. Ariela Schulman (212) 696-8220.

"CASE OF THE LIMPING CRITTERS"

Crime scenes involving lameness in cattle, horses and companion animals will be part of the Penn State College of Agriculture Progress Days August 14th—16th. The CSI type presentations will be held at Russell E Larson Agriculture Research Center in Rock Springs. Admission and parking are free.

POST KATRINA

Email from Lindsay Lawer reminding us that it is 22 months post Katrina. She says animals are still living in debris and relying on feeding stations. Also writes that both dog fighting and cock fighting are part of the crime thriving in the area.

BLUE DOG TRUST

Blue Dog is a new dog bite prevention program launched by the American Veterinary Medical Association. It is the only dog bite, injury prevention program which has been tested and validated by experts in child psychology and cognition. It consists of a parent guide and CD--which is interactive, non-verbal computer animation for ages 3 to 6. The Animal-Vues dog bite prevention program is targeted at ages 4 to 8 and consists of a parent guide and coloring book. It features UGH DOG the symbol of the dangerous dog in the Dangerous Dog Law. The Animal-Vue program is region specific with input from teachers in area schools as well as the CSIU. It is published by the Geisinger Medical Center and either free or by donation.



Plenty of urban myths address the origins of the Frisbee. You hear about Yale students tossing pie tins made by the Frisbie Baking Co. around campus in the early part of last century. But, when it gets down to it, it was a man named Walter Frederick Morrison (Fred to those in the Frisbee world) who realized that the large popcorn-tin lid that he was throwing back and forth at a Thanksgiving Day family picnic back in 1937 could be something special.

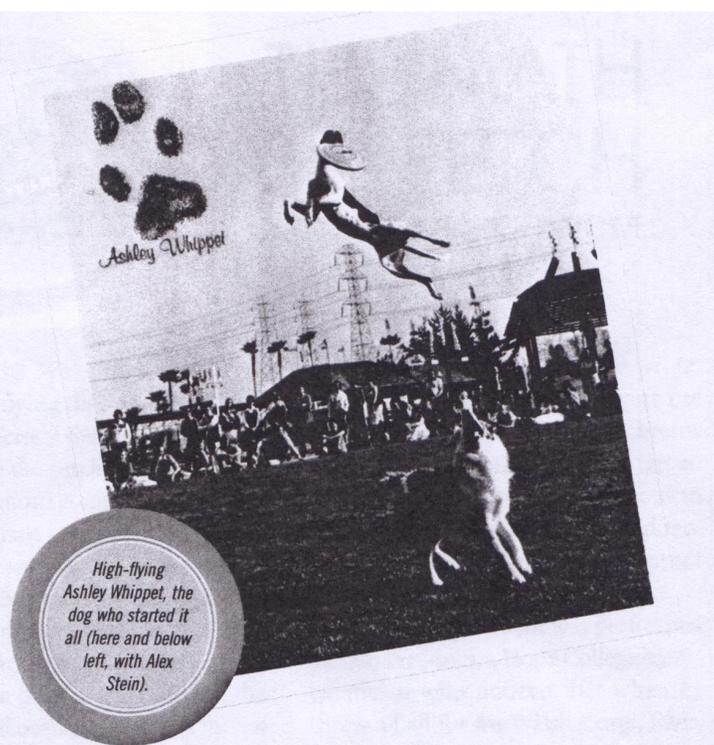
Special enough to begin manufacturing "Flyin' Cake Pans" that he and his wife, Lucile Eleanor Nay, offered for 25 cents on Santa Monica Beach. And when those cake pans started selling, Morrison and his wife took it a step further and produced the first plastic disc in the '40s, which they took to county fairs to demonstrate the fun of flight. And people ate it up. "We started demonstrating our plastic discs at the county fairs, and we just killed them; everyone wanted one and we couldn't make them fast enough," said the now-87-year-old Morrison.

Capitalizing on the popular culture's fascination with UFOs, he decided to reinvent his crowd-pleasing disc. "There were flying saucers being reported everywhere at that time, and we just took advantage of what the media was reporting," said Morrison, who latched on to the craze, molded his flying disc in the shape of a UFO and named it the "Pluto Platter." In 1955, it was something on which kids would spend their full week's allowance of 75 cents at the local five-and-dime.

And then, Wham-O. Literally. Along came the Wham-O company, which invited Morrison to its plant to discuss joining forces. Morrison agreed, and Wham-O began manufacturing the flying disc on January 23, 1957. It turned out, however, that in the marketplace, people were calling the flying object the Frisbee (influenced by those pie tins made by the Frisbie Baking Company); just a few months later, Wham-O renamed and trademarked its product the Frisbee.

As popular as Frisbee quickly became and has been over the years, the product (Morrison finds it aggravating to hear the Frisbee called a toy; "Do you call a baseball a toy?" he asks) may not have caught on in the way it has with dog lovers without the antics of Alex Stein and his Whippet, Ashley.

It was August 1974, and the Dodgers were playing the Reds at Dodger Stadium. At the bottom of the eighth inning, 19-year-old Alex grabbed his dog—and his moment. He hopped the field fence and took center stage in front of the packed stands (and TV cameras, which were broadcasting the game to the nation). It just took a few Frisbee throws at speeds of 35 mph, with Ashley leaping nine feet into the air to catch the disc, before the



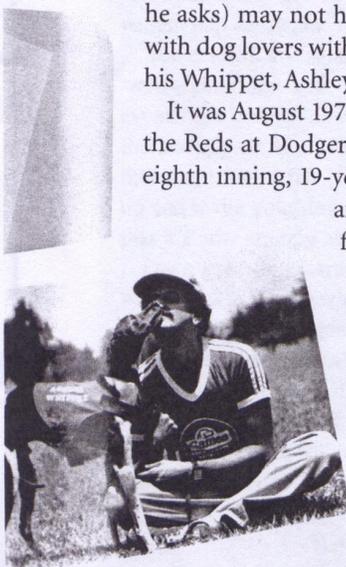
ball game was stopped and Joe Garagiola, the stadium announcer, began calling the Frisbee-throwing action. The police soon escorted Alex off the field, but not before the crowd cheered its approval. Alex would soon be invited to perform with Ashley at national events (they performed at the pre-game show of Super Bowl XI) and Ashley Whippet became famous (she even performed for Amy Carter at the White House). Alex went on to help organize the annual Frisbee Dog World Championship, which Ashley won the first three years.

When it comes to dogs and flying discs, Fred Morrison likes to promote the phrase "dogs jump for joy as Frisbees reach the completion of their flight." Fred's dog was a German Shepherd, and, when asked about his dog-playing days, he recalled: "We'd throw our discs, and he'd catch 'em and try and throw 'em back. And every time he'd flip his head, the Frisbee would get caught up on his fang. He was never a successful Frisbee flipper."

In the 50 years since he invented the Frisbee, Morrison has kept busy. He wrote a book recently, *Flat Flip Flies Straight! True Origins of the Frisbee*, with co-writer Phil Kennedy (who, by the way, has a collection of some 1,200 flying discs). But, he says, at 87, "my flipping days are just about over." You'd think he might be a bit of a local celeb in the town in central Utah where he now lives, but he says he's not. "They think I'm a multi-millionaire, which I'm not. Though the Frisbee's provided me with a comfortable life." Reminiscing over the history of his Pluto Platter, he says, "What's evolved is just amazing. I just sit back in wonderment."

Happy 50th birthday, Frisbee! And congratulations, Fred. ☺

Left (except Frisbie pie tin): Wham-O; this page: Ashley Whippet photos courtesy of Tom Wehrli



DO WHAT?

Teach your dog patience

Mealtime is one of the highlights of the day for our dogs. Many express their enthusiasm for this joyous event by jumping, barking, and bouncing around while their dinner's being prepared. Others try to hurry things along by leaping on the counter or getting in the way. If your dog does this and is then immediately fed, it will soon think it's being rewarded for demanding behavior. You can change that mistaken assumption by slightly altering your dog's feeding routine and teaching it that good things come only to patient pups.

Prepare your dog's dinner as you usually do, but ignore any barking, whining, jumping, or other impatient behavior. When the dog's food is ready, instead of immediately serving it, push the bowl to the back of the counter, and leave it there. Sit down and calmly read a magazine for 10 or 15 minutes. Ignore your impatient pup during this time. Give it a chance to settle down and realize you're not responding to its "hurry-up" demands. Then, if your dog is calm and quiet, get up and give the patient pup its dinner.

You can use this same strategy for walks, car rides, and other exciting events. Get everything ready, pick up the leash, your keys, etc. — then sit down and read. After 10 minutes, get up and invite your dog on the outing that it's now politely awaiting.

Once your dog learns the skill of waiting patiently for what it wants, it will become a calmer and more polite companion. Meals, walks, and outings will still be just as enjoyable for your dog, but the preparations leading up to them will be less chaotic and more pleasant for everyone.

— September Morn



WHEN A DOG SPEEDS ACROSS THE lawn after a flying disc and leaps into the air at precisely the right point and time to make the catch, there are more innate calculations going on in the mind of that dog than one might expect. In fact, researchers have done the experiments and have the data to show just what's behind those spot-on catches.

Scientists from Arizona State University made the connection between the way a baseball outfielder tracks a fly ball and chooses the optimal running path to catch it and the way a canine does the same with a Frisbee. As Ivars Peterson explained on *Science News Online*, "Basically, an outfielder selects a running path that allows him or her to keep the image of the moving ball on the same part of the retina. In effect, from the fielder's point of view, the ball appears to move in a straight line and at a constant speed relative to home plate and the background scenery." The technical term for this is the Linear Optical Trajectory (LOT) model.

To test out their theory that dogs use LOT in the same way, the ASU research team (Shaffer, Krauchunas, Eddy and McBeath) attached a small video camera to their canine subjects and taped them chasing Frisbees. When they analyzed the recordings, they found that the dogs' catches matched the paths that would be expected if they were following the LOT model.* Although, in the dog's case, the flying object is considerably more wobbly and prone to winds, making the dog's optimizing abilities that much more impressive than those of, say, San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds.

Yudhijit Bhattacharjee of *The New York Times* called it "instinctive mathematics" in an article about the scien-

THE MATH OF FETCH

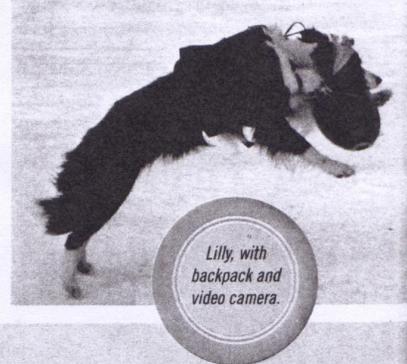
CATCHING A FRISBEE INVOLVES MORE THAN JUST LUCK

tists' findings. "Of course," he wrote, "neither dogs nor baseball players use the strategy consciously. Their brains take in the image of the moving target, perform split-second computations to estimate their required speed and direction at any instant, and make them act accordingly."

A related experiment was performed by Tim Pennings, a Hope College mathematician who noticed that when he threw a ball for his Welsh Corgi, Elvis, his dog seemed to select the optimal path to fetch the object. So optimal, in fact, that it corresponded with the path a calculus model would have directed, had one been used. Pennings put Elvis to the test, collected data (many throws of the ball), and presented his arguments in *College Mathematics Journal* (May 2003).

As Ivars Peterson wrote in *Science News Online*, "Of course, although he makes good choices, Elvis doesn't actually do calculus." Quoting Pennings, he noted that "Elvis' behavior is an example of the uncanny way in which nature ... often finds optimal solutions."

—Kevin Skaggs

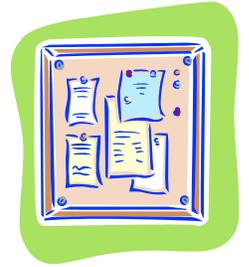


* Shaffer, D.M.; Krauchunas, S.M.; Eddy, M.; and McBeath, M.K. (2004). How dogs navigate to catch Frisbees. *Psychological Science*. 15 (7), 437-441.

Photograph (top left) by Pix 'n Pages; circular photo by Josh Grenell



Notes and Notices



We will be badging those who visit the U.S. Penitentiary and also will begin visiting at the medium facility in Allenwood because of new rules with Homeland Security.

There is paperwork which must be completed and Josette Zielinski will be in charge of paperwork, going over regulations, fingerprinting and photos.

We ask anyone that is interested, has their TDI, has kept their dog well-socialized and would do at least 3-4 visits a year to please call Connie as soon as possible so we can put you on a list.

Our participation in Sunbury Riverfest is Saturday, August 18 from 9am-2pm. We need volunteers to man our table with literature and bring their TDI dogs for petting. We will be selling homemade dog biscuits so we need some bakers to make them. If anyone needs a recipe, Connie has different ones. Please call Connie and let her know if you can help, since this is a great event to meet people and educate them on pet therapy and taking care of their dogs.

On Saturday, August 25 from Noon-3pm we will be at the Sunbury Armory with the Northumberland County Expo doing the same type of program as Riverfest. If anyone can help Connie it would be appreciated.

The PA Pet Dog Walk at the Shikellamy Marina is Saturday Sept. 8. We will be manning our stand to do TGI/CGC testing starting at 9am. Our club will perform a demo at 1pm. Last year everyone did a great job so I'm asking as many people as possible to participate. You can be at any level of training and we always like some trickster dogs. Dogs do not need to be TDI.

On Thursday, Sept 13 we will be doing a demo at the McClure Bean Soup at McClure. I know it is a quite a trip but we will have a chance to meet people at the other end of Snyder County. The time is 6:45pm.

Our club picnic with everyone and dogs will be Sunday, Sept 9, at the Shikellamy State Park at 1pm. We always have a lot of fun with good food and games. Everyone is asked to bring a covered dish and a dog item for the Chinese auction. We supply hot dogs and soda. There will be a sign-up sheet for those wishing to attend.

We are preparing a new list of members and updating our files with phone numbers, new addresses and E-mails. Please let us know if anything has changed.

Welcome new members:

Elaine and Larry Walters from Selinsgrove with Brandy Lee, a Boxer.

Rose Hager from Paxinos with Sophie and Daisy, Boxers.

Cindy Cardennis from Northumberland with Chachie, a mix.

Jan Mull from Sunbury with Sophie, a mix.

Ron and Ginny Borger from Mifflinville with Katie, a Min. Schnauzer.

A thank you to Denise and Renee from Sit Happens Dog Training in Williamsport for their generous donation of \$100 to our club. Marjean and Sally did TDI/CGC testing for them.

I wish to thank everyone who made the trip to Wilkes-Barre to visit the VA Hospital. The nursing home residents and staff thoroughly enjoyed our visit and we all had a great time. Hopefully we may be able to visit in the fall.

Available for adoption:

Healthy black male mix breed

Medium-size Collie / Flat Coat Retriever (4-6 months old, friend with people and other dogs).

Call 286-8805 for more information.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

August 18 (Sat)	Riverfest Sunbury	9:00am-2:00pm
	<i>(We will hand out dog literature and TDI/CGC information. We also will sell homemade dog biscuits. We will have therapy dogs with us.)</i>	
August 23 (Thurs)	Buffalo Valley Lewisburg	6:45pm
August 25 (Sat)	Northumberland Co. Expo Sunbury	12:00pm-3:00pm
	<i>(We will hand out dog literature and TDI/CGC information. We also will sell homemade dog biscuits. We will have therapy dogs with us.)</i>	
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	1:00pm
	<i>(Bring dogs and a covered dish. Club will supply drinks and hot dogs.)</i>	
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	1:00-1:30pm
	Mansion Nursing Home, Market St., Sunbury	1:45pm
	Sunshine Corners, Market St., Sunbury	2:15pm
<u>Last Thursday</u>	Geisinger Rehab—Health South	2:00-3:00pm

Newsletter Coordinator: Brandon Pastuszek E-mail: brandon@stdtc.org
 Website: <http://www.stdtc.org>

August 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am</i>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 <i>Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am</i>	9 <i>Shamokin Hospital 2pm</i>	10	11
12	13	14	15 <i>Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am</i>	16 <i>Sunbury Hospital 1pm</i> <i>Mansion Nursing Home (Sunbury) 1-4:5pm</i> <i>Sunshine Corners (Sunbury) 2:15pm</i>	17	18 <i>Riverfest (Sunbury) 9am-2pm</i>
19	20	21	22 <i>Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am</i>	23 <i>Buffalo Valley Lewisburg 6-4:5pm</i>	24	25 <i>Northumberland Co. Expo (Sunbury) Noon-3pm</i>
26	27	28	29 <i>Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am</i>	30	31 <i>Geisinger Rehab (Health South) 1-4:5pm</i>	