



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

August 2010

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Dog owners make excuses, not corrections. When your dog misbehaves in front of others, it's the same as when a naughty child acts up and makes a fool of you in the presence of others. In other words, you try to cover up his mistakes with a barrage of excuses.

For example, if Buster jumps up and almost knocks visitors over, the owners will say, "Oh Buster is so friendly, he really must like you," or "He's growling at you because you're wearing a big hat," or "Buster doesn't care for men." The cure all is saturating him with people with big hats and get him handled by a lot of men so he doesn't care about this issue anymore.

Many dogs behave perfectly at home but become uncontrollable in public. This behavior is attributed to factors such as cars, kids on bikes, or other people's dogs. Everyone who brings their dogs to class at the Marina in the summer is doing a good job in getting their dogs used to all types of situations. The ideal time to start is when your dog is a puppy (some people have the idea that you should wait until your dog is a year to start training) but it is never too late to socialize any dog.

Then there is the occasion when the owner just plain loses it and yells at the dog, thereby demonstrating "discipline" with the hope that others will see proof that you have the desire to have a well-trained dog. Dog owners who have not yet learned the one-word theory, this tirade may allow them to release their anger, but it is meaningless to the dog.

Then there is the example of excuses offered for the misbehaved, adopted dog. "I don't know where Buster learned that, he probably was abused and now he's uncontrollable."

These social tactics point to the fact that we resort to cover-ups. What we lack - and what is essential to working with animals is humility.

It is essential for people embarrassed by our dogs' behavior to remain in obedience class and not give up. It could easily take a few weeks of being with people and other dogs (some of which have the same problems) to

Old Friends (Continued)

benefit from the training. I see some people who are very faithful in coming to class and we are now seeing the results of their dedication in overcoming misbehaviors. Every dog learns at his own pace so don't get discouraged if it is taking longer for your dog to learn.

As I have mentioned many times, training is a lifetime commitment. Once you have a well-trained dog, you must keep up with socialization, not only at your home but out in public. A busy dog is a happy dog, and one that is a joy to live with.

"The right angle to approach a difficult problem is the 'try-angle.'"
--Guidepost 2010

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (July 6, 2010)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the STDTC was called to order by Pres. Connie Cuff with 27 members present.

Report of President: Congratulations to the following for receiving their TDI:

Eddie, handled by Elaine Walz
Marley, handled by Nan Ruhl
Tucker, handled by Phil Halden
Buffy, handled by Gail Lorady

CGC:

Boxer, handled by Pat Campbell

I want to address the proper attire when we do visits and demos for the Club. At the prison, we should have a club shirt, pants should be ankle length and no sandals. It is best to remove jewelry and any metal that is part of your attire. When making other visits or demos, if you have a club shirt, wear it or be dressed appropriately. I know with the summer heat we forget proper attire, but when we represent our club we should be dressed accordingly.

Report of Secretary: Minutes of the June 2010 meeting were approved as written in the July Newsletter.

Report of the Treasurer:

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

New Business: I want to remind everyone of our picnic on Sunday, Sept. 26, at 1 PM. We will have a sign-up sheet at class in August. I need to have a count in order to order hotdogs and soda.

I also have a sign up sheet for help at the Northumberland County Expo on Sat. Aug. 28. Please indicate the time you can help us. We are planning to have a square dance, dog olympics and a pet parade. We will have donations of dog toys, dishes etc., a raffle basket and Rally obedience. You can also bring homemade dog biscuits to sell.

Old Business: Everyone should know by now our 4th of July Parade problem with the flag. Last Fri. Kelly, Kevin Bittenbender and I met with Graham Showalter who was the head of the committee for the parade. He apologized to us for the way this was handled. Supposedly he had arranged for the Lions Club to display a flag (not under code) with the Boy Scouts carrying buckets for donations. Our flag was just ahead of theirs and he wasn't aware of the size and how we were displaying it. It was his decision to withdraw us since they had problems in previous years with flags being carried this way. If he had looked into this more, he would have had us placed at a different spot in the parade. I mentioned I would have posted a sign stating not to throw anything on the flag. He was sorry for the way Larry Erdley spoke to Kevin and will have him speak to him. In the course of the conversation, Kevin has volunteered to be on the committee and march in the front of the parade with the flag and our dogs. I told him I would have someone carrying signs to refrain from throwing anything on the flag. The date is set for June 25, the last Saturday in June. It is up to everyone if you feel you would like to do this next year.

TDI visit: Sunbury Hospital, Mansion, Sunshine corners, Thursday

If no one has anything to add or discuss, meeting will be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ginny Pentz, Secretary

Breed of the Month

Rhodesian Ridgeback

submitted by Connie Cuff

For those who share their lives with this compelling but complicated hound recognize their clever, intuitive personality as the true essence of the breed. The breed's roots trace back to South Africa, where the indigenous KhoiKhoi tribe kept a semi-domesticated dog with a ridge of hair on its back. It wasn't until the late 1800s that the Ridgeback emerged in its modern form through the breeding efforts of Rhodesian big game hunter Cornelius von Rooyen who interbred his pack with KhoiKhoi mixes and created a multipurpose hound that could perform a variety of farm chores, bring down antelope and the courage to bay or corner a lion. Ridgebacks were never bred to bring down lions but used their speed and agility to taunt the lion until the hunter arrived.

They aren't a giant breed, but they are big and very exuberant. The breed plays the way it hunts and instilled with prey drive they succeed at lure-coursing. They are unreliable off leash. Given a "come" command and following a squirrel, the average Ridgeback will ignore you.

But for all their independence, Ridgebacks crave companionship. You have to have personal contact with them at all times. If you're not there for them, don't get a Ridgeback. In the home, Ridgebacks are easy keepers, content to slumber away the day - preferably on the sofa. Easily house trained, they are quiet dogs, discriminating in what they choose to bark at.

The Ridgeback does not have a working-dog mentality; indeed, it is surprisingly soft and sensitive to heavy corrections and will shut down with constant drilling. Any punishment must be fair and justified. Harsh treatment will destroy their good character.

Socializing a puppy is paramount. The first impression is really important to this breed. Reserved but not suspicious with strangers, they have an uncanny ability to discriminate between a real threat and an imagined one.

A generally healthy breed they are prone to a hereditary defect called dermoid sinus, a tubelike opening in the skin that will become repeatedly infected. Reputable breeders will certify for hip and elbow dysplasia.

Owning a Ridgeback can be a delicate balancing act, navigating between its boundless athleticism and sensitive nature. If you are up to the challenge, "the payback is priceless." We are happy to have Michelle Blackwell from Watsonstown with her Ridgeback Jagger with us. She has just completed the "Star Puppy Class."





Notes and Notices



We will be participating at the Northumberland County Expo on Saturday, August 28 from 11:00am to 4:00pm. We will have Dog Olympics and Rally for the public to have fun with their dogs. A pet parade and costume contest for dogs will be held at 12:00pm. At 1:00pm, we will do a demo with our square dancing. Anyone who would like to make homemade dog biscuits to sell would be appreciated. Please call Connie or sign up at class to help that day.

If anyone enjoys camping with their dogs, there are two web sites you can check for a pet friendly vacation. Happy Acres Resort, 332 Little Pine Creek Road, Waterville, PA 17776, www.happyacresresort.net and KOA.com. Bellefonte/State College open April 1 to Nov. 28

If you intend to come to our annual dog picnic on Sunday Sept. 28 at 1:00pm, please sign up so we know how many hot dogs and soda to order. It is held at the Shikellamy Marina State Park and we will have a Chinese Auction, games for the dogs and lots to eat. Please bring tableware and a covered dish.

We welcome new members:

**Ryan Straub from Sunbury with a lab mix, Princess
Jane and Gary Landis from Northumberland with Yorkie, Molly
Lana Straub and Alan Cooke from Sunbury with a Great Dane, Daphne**

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

August 4 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
August 5 (Thurs)	Emmanuel Nursing Home, Danville	6:45pm
August 10 (Tues)	Maximum Prison Allenwood (NCIC only)	12:45pm
August 11 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
	Selinsgrove Center Demo, Courtyard	6:45pm
August 12 (Thurs)	Building Bridges Rt. 61 Kulpmont	12:15pm
	Northwestern Academy	1:00pm
	Life Geisinger	2:00pm
	Shamokin Hospital	2:45pm
August 18 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
August 19 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital	1:00pm
	Mansion Nursing Home	2:00pm
	Sunshine Corners	2:45pm
August 25 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
August 26 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab (Health South)	2:00pm
August 28 (Sat)	Northumberland County Expo, Mile Hill Road, Sunbury	11:00am - 4:00pm

August 2010

July 2010
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August 2010
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September 2010
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 US Holidays

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training	4 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	5 ■ 6:45 PM Emmanuel Nursing Home	6	7
8	9	10 ■ 12:45 PM Maximum Prison Allenwood (NCIC only) ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training	11 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods ■ 6:45 PM Selinsgrove Center Demo, Courtyard	12 ■ 12:15 PM Building Bridges ■ 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy ■ 2:00 PM Life Geisinger ■ 2:45 PM Shamokin Hospital	13	14
15	16	17 ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training	18 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	19 ■ 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital ■ 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home ■ 2:45 PM Sunshine Coroners	20	21
22	23	24 ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training	25 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	26 ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	27	28 ■ 11:00 AM Northumberland County Expo
29	30	31 ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training	1 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	2	3	4