



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

August 2012

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



A well-behaved dog often exhibits more good behavior than you bargained for. A dog that rests comfortably while watching TV will invariably invade your lap as you are reading the newspaper. A dog that loves to play ball will annoy you while you are on the phone.

To put your relationship back in balance, start by understanding how a behavior takes shape.

For example, you are at your computer and your dog wedges his favorite ball near the power strip. You ask the dog to back out and you crawl under and retrieve the ball. You toss the ball - a consequence.

Within 30 seconds your dog is back again returning the ball under your desk. This time you retrieve the ball and make a different connection. You ask the dog to "sit". You are asking the dog to do something in order to play.

To create good behavior, you should create a wrong behavior signal. Pick a word like "wrong" or "uh-uh" and use it when your dog offers an unacceptable behavior. After saying the word, make sure you have a short time-out and ignore the dog about 15 seconds.

Suppose you are reading the newspaper and your dog paws you for attention. As your dog raises his paw you say "uh-uh", ask him to sit and call a time out. On the first correct response, use excited praise and a treat. Repeat this process until the dog offers the acceptable behavior.

Learning to connect good behavior with pleasant consequences is the key to a well-behaved dog. The same ball that can teach a dog to rummage under your desk can also teach it to sit quietly while you are at your computer. The secret to avoiding too much of a good thing is to make sure you offer rewards for the right behavior.

Training Tip from Marjean: When first teaching anything to your dog, make sure you are in control of the situation before you give a cue to the dog. For example, do not tell a dog to "sit" when he is across the room.

Old Friends (Continued)

If he does not sit, which is very likely if he doesn't completely understand the cue, then you'll have to go to him. After this happens once or twice, your dog learns a lesson detrimental to your training program - that he can make a decision to respond or not respond when he is out of arm's reach.

Responding to cues at a distance is something that you will teach the dog only when he understands the cues very well while he is at your side and only after he is accustomed to automatically responding to your cues.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (July 3, 2012)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

Report of President: I wish to thank everyone who endured the walk for the 4th of July Parade in Lewisburg. I'm sorry that we didn't cancel but I didn't realize how warm it was until we got to Market St. Next year if we do the parade I will call everyone by 8 AM if conditions are too warm for us and the dogs.

Please mark your calendars for Sunday Sept. 23rd at 1 PM for our annual picnic here at the park.

Report of Treasurer:

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

Report of Secretary: Minutes of June 2012 meeting of STDTC approved as written in July newsletter.

Welcome of New Members:

Barbara Demshock from Coal Township with Sassy, a Toy Poodle
Brian Bitworth from Sunbury with Samson, a Lab/Poodle mix
Amber & David Page from Selinsgrove with Bruno, a Yellow Labrador Retriever
Collette Brandt from Coal Township with Harley, Miniature Pinscher
Carrie Fisher & Diana Eister from Northumberland with Lilly, a Pit/Rottie mix and Riley, a Doxipo
Kathy Lorelli from Bloomsburg with Kody, a Golden Retriever
Dale, Anne and Brett Shaffchick from Sunbury with App, a Bouvier

Check out Sherry Carpenter's blog on our web site.

Received a thank you note from Mostly Mutts, article is on table for everyone to see.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Virginia Pentz, Secretary

Breed of the Month

Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier

submitted by Connie Cuff

The Wheaten has a devil-may-care attitude and love of humans, all hallmarks of this merry, medium sized and mischievous Irish breed. They originated 200 years ago as a “poor man’s” all-around farm terrier. They did a little herding, rodent-hunting and house guarding.

Wheatens can be exuberant, and they can be quiet. They really are an all-around dog. This isn’t a breed for someone who works all day, unless they take their dog to work with them. They want to be with you, and if left alone all day, they can display serious separation anxiety.

Don’t expect this active working terrier to live without exercise, and definitely can’t be locked in an apartment all day. As an owner, these confident dogs require a firm but kind hand. They’re such cute balls of fluff as puppies, owners are often too soft on them.

They do well with the younger set when they’ve grown up with kids but children must learn to treat these dogs with gentleness and respect. They will not put up with abuse, but if you can manage your child, this will be one of the greatest dogs you ever have.

This is a high maintenance breed in terms of coat care, especially if you want to keep your dog in a neat terrier trim. Along with regular scissoring or clipping, Wheatens require thorough down-to-the-skin brushing and combing every couple days.

Wheatens should go through annual health screenings to help detect diseases of Addison’s, protein-losing enteropathy and nephropathy. With a clean bill of health, this hardy breed can easily live to 15 years. They never seem to grow out of their puppy stage. They’re young forever.





Notes and Notices



A big thank you to Sara Fry for conducting the CGC class. Also to Marjean Krech who has begun the Star Puppy Training. She just evaluated dogs for therapy with TDI and Congratulations to the following owners and dogs that passed the test: Jim Smith with Georgie, Terry Burns and Riley, Joe West and Riley.

Anyone who has not signed up to attend the Sunbury YMCA on Tues. Aug. 7 at 10am with their dogs in costume can contact me. There are 70 children in summer camp and we will promote the Northumberland County Fair at the Armory where we are doing a Pet Contest and Parade for them on Friday, Aug. 24 at 5pm.

We are meeting with Concern Foster Families at Knoebels Grove on Sunday, Sept. 9 in Pavillion D, at 1:30pm lasting about 20 minutes. We will be able to socialize our dogs in the park with people and other dogs, and we can enjoy some tasty food as well.

There are Doggie swims on the following dates:

Milton Swimming Pool - Sunday, Aug. 19 3pm to 7pm Dogs only

Northumberland Pool - Sat. Aug. 25 3pm to 7pm, Sun. Aug. 26 11am to closing

Swimming for owners and dogs to benefit the Dog Park

Lewisburg Pool (LARA) - Sat. Sept. 8 and Tues. Sept. 11 4pm to 7:30pm Dogs only

All dogs must show proof of Rabies

WE WILL NOT HAVE TRAINING CLASS AT THE MARINA ON TUES. SEPT 11 SO PEOPLE CAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SWIMMING NIGHT

Be sure to mark your calendar for Sunday, Sept. 23 for our annual club picnic at the Shikellamy State Park Marina at 1:00pm with our dogs. (Rain or Shine)

We welcome new members:

Dylan and Lindsey Bailey from Selinsgrove with Jackson

Charlotte Collins from Danville with Callahan

Carrie Fisher from Northumberland with Lilly

Larry & Ann Inderbitzen with Enso

Dale Ann Shaffchick from Sunbury with App

Erica Sechler from Kulpmont with Lincoln

Cindy Cardennis from Northumberland with ChaChee

Thank you to everyone who is getting their updated shot records to us.

Please check the newsletter, web site and E-mail for any club updates.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Aug. 7 (Tues)	YMCA Demo, Sunbury (Dogs in Costume)	10:00am
Aug. 8 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Aug. 9 (Thurs)	Northwestern Academy	1:00pm
	Life Geisinger	2:00pm
	Shamokin Hospital	3:00pm
Aug. 15 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Aug. 16 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital	1:00pm
	Mansion Nursing Home	2:00pm
	Sunshine Corners	2:45pm
Aug. 19 (Sun)	Swim Party (Milton pool)	3pm to 7pm
Aug. 20 (Mon)	Emmanuel Home, Northumberland	6:30pm
Aug. 22 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Aug. 24 (Fri)	Northumberland Co. Fair (Sunbury Armory)	5:00pm
	Pet Costume Contest and Parade	
Aug. 28 (Tues)	Medium Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only)	12:00pm
Aug. 29 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Aug. 30 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00pm
Sept. 8 (Sat)	Doggie Dips (LARA) Lewisburg Pool	4pm to 7:30pm
Sept. 9 (Sun)	Concern Foster Families, Knoebels Grove (Pavilion D)	1:30pm
Sept. 11 (Tues)	Doggie Dips (LARA) Lewisburg Pool	4pm to 7:30pm
	NO CLASS SHIKELLAMY STATE PARK	

August 2012

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
 US Holidays

July 2012							August 2012							September 2012																							
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Training 7:00 PM Beginner Training 7:00 PM CCG/TDI Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Concern, Foster Kids, St. Mary's Park (Lewisburg) 6:30 PM Vintage Knolls 		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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