



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

August 2018

Old Friends by Connie Cuff



Lets talk about emotion in dogs. Strong emotions cause behaviors to happen - whether we like them or not, we are stuck with them too. If you choose to ignore the emotions and focus solely on the behaviors you're likely to get nowhere in your attempts to create change. You also might actually aggravate the problem.

As an example, your dog is left alone all day (not in a crate) and has nothing to do. He is bored and looking for something to do. He starts to dig the dirt out of your houseplants. This dog is in a position to learn, learning solves the feeling of boredom, but you are not there to teach him something useful. In fact the feeling of boredom and his desire to eliminate that feeling leads to problematic learning.

When an animal is in a state of emotional overload we say that the dog is "over threshold". The dog's emotions are so great that he can no longer function effectively. He cannot learn very well at that time.

Dogs can learn to come when called, sit, wait at the door and not to dig in your garden, barking or pulling on the leash. However, you'll find that training goes a lot better when he is not under the influence of overwhelming emotions.

So how do we train. We want to train a dog who is engaged with us! We want to train a dog who is happy, alert, FOCUSED and motivated by whatever rewards we might offer, food, a toy, or a game. Dogs are curious and want to learn.

First and foremost if your dog's behavior is a direct result of emotion, then attempting to address the behavior directly without addressing the underlying emotion will create new problems.

Second, it will slow down your training and make it more laborious than it needs to be. Dogs who are fearful, overly excited, or angry do not retain information well because they cannot concentrate.

I sometimes sound like a broken record, but having your dog focusing on you, in my opinion, is the most important step to any dog obedience training. If your dog is focused, he will try to please you at any cost. When your dog is happy, alert and engaged, even a distraction is unlikely to break his concentration and focus on you.

Till next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



We will be moving to the Selinsgrove Center gym in September with the date to be announced. Please check emails and web site for the announcement. Some members have said they are not receiving Club Announcements. I would suggest you check your Spam Mail. If you change your emails, please let me know.

Please try to participate in our visit to the YMCA in Sunbury on Tues. Aug. 14 for the Kids Summer Camp. There are over 75 youngsters and they enjoy seeing our dogs. Puppies and dogs that are not already certified are welcome. Please email or let me know at class if you are able to attend. I ask that your dog be costumed or have a scarf (you can also be dressed in costume) We promote the Northumberland County Fair Pet Costume Contest on Friday, Aug. 24 at 6:00pm.

It is with much sadness that our Club has lost our member, Jan Mull, in an automobile accident. She has been part of our Club at the onset and has been a friend of mine for many years. It is a loss to everyone who knew her as she gave so much of herself in helping others. She did dog rescue and was always available to foster dogs and find them homes. Condolences to her family and may she rest in peace.

I have ordered Club Lanyards to hold therapy dog information if anyone is interested.

There are three Doggie Swims as follows:

Sunbury Community Pool, STDTC is sponsoring for Sun Pets Sunday, August 26, 12pm to 6pm.

Lewisburg Community Pool - Friday, August 31 4:30pm - 7:00pm

Saturday, September 1 Noon - 4:00pm

Sunday, September 2 Noon - 4:00pm

Knoebels Grove Elysburg Doggie Dips Sunday, Sept. 9 11:00am - 3:00pm

Congratulations to the Star Puppy Grads:

Elizabeth Pavis and Hamilton



Carla Minori and Stella

Susan Belotti and Katie Scarlett

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Aug. 1 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Aug. 2 (Thurs)	Nazareth at Emmanuel Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm
Aug. 6 (Mon)	5 Star, Sunbury Penn Manor, Selinsgrove	12:30pm - 1:00pm 6:30pm
Aug. 7 (Tues)	Maximum Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only)	12:00pm
Aug. 8 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Aug. 9 (Tues)	Shamokin Hospital VNA	12:15pm 1:15pm
Aug. 14 (Tues)	YMCA Sunbury Summer Camp	10:00am
Aug. 15 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Aug. 16 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital Mansion Manor Care	1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm
Aug. 20 (Mon)	Elm Croft, Lewisburg	6:30pm
Aug. 22 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Aug. 24 (Fri)	North. Co. Fair (Pet Costume Contest)	6:00pm Reg. 6:30pm Pet Parade
Aug. 26 (Sun)	Doggie Swim, Sunbury Pool	12:00pm - 6:00pm
Aug. 27 (Mon)	Bucknell Univ. ATD only	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Aug. 29 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Aug. 30 (Thurs)	Bloomsburg Univ. Emmanuel, Danville Geisinger Rehab Health South	10:00am - 12:00pm 1:00pm 2:00pm
Aug. 31 (Fri)	Doggie Dips, Lewisburg	4:30pm - 7:00pm
Sept. 1 (Sat)	Doggie Dips, Lewisburg	Noon - 4:00pm
Sept. 2 (Sun)	Doggie Dips, Lewisburg	Noon - 4:00pm

August 2018

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
 US Holidays

July 2018

S M T W T F S
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August 2018

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September 2018

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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 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Nazareth at Emmanuel 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South 		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30 PM 5 Star 6:30 PM Penn Manor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00 PM Maximum Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only) 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:15 PM Shamokin Hospital 1:15 PM VNA 		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM YMCA Sunbury Summer Camp 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:15 PM Manor Care 		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Elm Croft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM North. Co. Fair 	
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
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