

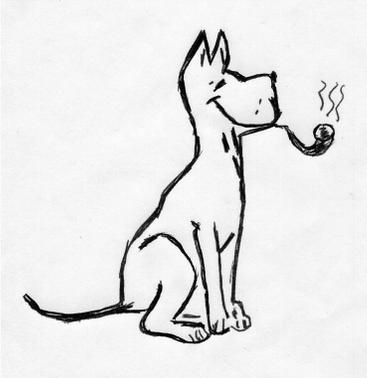


# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

December 2005

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Dog training can be successful if we understand the five factors for what you want out of life and these can be applied to having a happier, better behaved dog.

Factor #1 Dogs live in the present and they don't waste energy feeling guilty about past failures. A direct focused approach is the best way to be successful.

Factor #2 Be specific—you hear so many people say, "My dog knows how to sit, but he's just being stubborn," or, "He does it well at home, but doesn't want to do it here. There are too many distractions." A dog should sit anywhere, be it on carpet, tile floor, grass or concrete.

Training the dog in different locations lets him know what you are asking him to do no matter what.

Factor #3 Develop a step-by-step goal. Training your dog in small increments instead of spending hours on trying to correct a behavior will teach the dog in less time. Always end your training with something the dog knows so he can feel good about himself.

Factor #4 Learn to relax—A dog senses if you are tense. The calmer the trainer is, the more he will be in control of his dog. You hear people who compete in dog shows say, "I was so nervous that's why my dog didn't do well." The old saying of taking a few short breaths and relax is so true. Dixon always talked to the people he tested for TDI/CGC and they appreciated that he made them feel relaxed and at ease.

Factor #5 Choose the right environment and attitude to train—some things should be done with little distraction at first, but all dogs should be trained around other dogs so they can be socialized. You should be a leader but also display playfulness and affection. Success is attained when confidence rules. As stated by Paul Owens author of *The Dog Whisperer*, "Correct the problem not the dog. With that attitude, everything becomes a tail wagging game and that's the greatest Fido Factor of them all."

Make this a safe holiday for our pets. If you add preservative to tree water and Fido drinks it he can suffer vomiting and diarrhea. Tinsel and ribbon can ball up in the GI tract of dogs and cats and require surgery. Four to five ounces of chocolate can be toxic to your pets. Keep your pets away from poinsettias, mistletoe, and holly.

My wish to everyone this year is to have a joyful and holy holiday filled with good friends and fond memories of the people who have enriched our lives and made us the people we are today.

Till next time,

*Connie*

# Minutes (November 1, 2005)

Submitted by: Lydia Storey

Our nineteenth monthly membership meeting was held on November 1, 2005 at approximately 7:30 PM at Selinsgrove Center.

Our eighteenth on October at Shikellamy Marina Park was a special dedication ceremony. We had a large turn out for the dedication of the granite bench in memory of Dixon Cuff.

The bench is inscribed on the front, "Dixie's Field of Dreams", and on the top is an engraved golden retriever head in memory of Shamrock. The weather was just right. Representative Merl Phillips presented Connie Cuff with an official State Legislature certificate honoring Dixon Cuff for his many years of community service. After the formalities we all enjoyed a picnic dinner with the annual club picnic's left over hot dogs and many additional delicious casseroles, salads and desserts.

Connie Cuff, President, called the November meeting to order.

Secretary's Report – There was no business meeting in October please see above

Treasurer's Report – Mary Lou Walsh gave the treasurer's report as follows:

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

## **Old Business:**

If anyone is interested in participating in the Union county reading program please get the email and phone contact info from Connie.

Please tell Connie if you have 50 or 150 therapy hours this year.

Please email or send a card to Jason Swack stationed in Iraq. Please remember Jason for Thanksgiving and Christmas.

## **New Business:**

Our annual Christmas party will be on 12/4/05. This year we will hold a silent auction during the dinner and the gift exchange at the end.

Please bring dog items to donate to Cheryl Hill's Mostly Mutts shelter.

Please sign up for the dinner, the cost is \$16.00 per person.

We received a thank you letter and thank you bone basket for bringing the dogs to the "Read to the Dogs program" in Milton.

After this meeting is adjourned Lindsay Lawer will tell us about her experience as a volunteer in Louisiana with homeless dogs displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

# Sherry's Corner

By: Sherry Carpenter

According to the AVMA 2005 Membership Directory and Resource Manual there are 488 feline-exclusive veterinarians. BUT THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ONE CANINE-EXCLUSIVE PRACTICE! The question for 2006--should such a practice exist? Certainly there must be veterinarians who would like to focus just on dogs and only take a cat-patient if need be. Small animal practices, of course, take both cats and dogs. But, there is enough difference in the two species to warrant an overhaul of our present system. Perhaps veterinary hospitals should re-examine their patient population. It might be wise for them to conjure up a survey of patients to determine not only how many cats and how many dogs are patients, but within the species how many canines are engaged in specific performance oriented tasks like agility, therapy, search and rescue, protection, herding, pets-at-home, show, obedience etc. These functions often determine in part the injuries and specific problems which cross breeds.



## Notes and Notices



Congratulations to Cal and Susan Arter on the new member of their family Brando, a nine month old Doberman Pincher, who has already obtained a CD title. Cal, a Therapy Dog Evaluator, will be working with Brando to become TDI certified.

Congratulations to Sally Grottini who is our new CGC/TDI evaluator. Sally is the owner of Chance, a Newfoundland therapy dog.

We will be at Bucknell University, Monday Dec. 5 with our therapy dogs to visit with the students before their finals. Time is 6:00 p.m.

Thursday Dec. 8 we will be at Buffalo Valley Nursing Home in Lewisburg at 6:45 p.m.

**There is no training at the Selinsgrove Center Tuesday, Dec. 13 and Tuesday, Dec. 20.**

We will be visiting the residents at the Selinsgrove Center Wed. Dec. 21 at 6:30 p.. We meet at the main building on the right coming off of Rt. 522, there is a large parking lot in front of the building. Since we use the Selinsgrove Center gym to train we must give something back, and I would appreciate as many people to visit as possible. The residents really enjoy seeing the dogs.

We have not scheduled any evening therapy visits as a club during January and February due to weather conditions which may develop during the nighttime. Our daytime visits will continue as scheduled.

Please keep in mind weather conditions on Tuesday nights during the winter months. If you in doubt if we will be there, please call me—286-9537 or check your E-mail as Brandon will let you know.

Beginning in January we will be renewing our Club memberships. Everyone will fill out a new membership form since E-mail and other information may have changed. Also I would appreciated up-dated shot records.

Connie will be at the Center for training Tuesday, Dec. 27.

## Christmas Wishes for Dog Owners

Dear Santa,

Hey Santa, help me out here. Sorry I haven't written to you before. Guess I've been saving up. Well, this year I've got a big list, but I've been good. All I want for Christmas is.

One self cleaning kitchen floor. (Push a button and a shiny new surface emerges - minus pawprints)

Carpeting that doesn't bear the scars of the recent housebreaking war.

Dogsafe pantyhose. I'd like to get out the door without screaming "off, off, PANY-THOSE!!!"

A cold Winter followed by a dry Spring Please Santa, no more mud!!!

An end to rawhide fights.

How can I use the stuff as a cheap doggie babysitter if they are noisier WITH rawhide than without?

Considerate dog owners who leash their pets so I can move freely about the neighborhood with the furkids without being circled by yapping small dogs or menaced by ominously large dogs of unknown character.

An automatic Cocker ear detangler With a special Booda Bone setting.

Doggie sweaters that fit. That do not "grow" once on the dog covering tails and creating major irritation or shrink causing the poor dogs to look like sausages ready to pop.

An uninterrupted night's sleep. One without the puppy sobbing to get up at 4AM to play, or the old dog's bladder giving out at 2AM or the young dog returning something she ate at 5AM.

A full time "yard guard" to fill holes, scoop poop, repair dog damage, keep order and gather up the soft toys left outside and scrape off the earthworms before they come back into the house.

A seamstress to mend all the disemboweled dog toys piling up in the closet awaiting repair.

A lifetime supply of free vet care (or at least some sort of "frequent flier" discount)

Massive acts of love, kindness and sanity. I want everyone who loves dogs to do something nice for a local shelter or rescue. Take in treats or food, volunteer to walk a dog, cuddle a puppy - whatever. All pet owners to spay or neuter their pets so overworked shelter staffs can concentrate on the millions of homeless pets already in need. I want every lost pet to find their way home. I want every abused, neglected or abandoned pet to find a loving new home.

Oh, I know it's a tall order Santa, but they say miracles happen at Christmastime...

Oh, and could you please send an elf to take Duncan to puppy school.

dogmama

## UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>Dec 5 (Mon)</b>	<b>Bucknell University Lewisburg (Langone Center, same place as last time)</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>Dec 8 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Buffalo Valley Lewisburg</b>	<b>6:45pm</b>
<b>Dec 21 (Wed)</b>	<b>Selinsgrove Center (Main Administration Building)</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b><u>Every Wednesday</u></b>	<b>Riverwoods Lewisburg, PA</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b><u>3rd Thursday</u></b>	<b>Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home, Market St. Sunbury</b>	<b>1:00-1:30pm 1:45pm</b>
<b><u>Last Thursday</u></b>	<b>Geisinger Rehab—Health South</b>	<b>2:00-3:00pm</b>

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# December 2005



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

4

5

Bucknell  
(Lewisburg)  
6pm

6

7

Riverwoods  
(Lewisburg)  
10am

8

Buffalo Valley  
(Lewisburg)  
6:45pm

9

10

11

12

13

14

Riverwoods  
(Lewisburg)  
10am

15

Sunbury Hospital  
(Sunbury)  
1pm - 1:30pm

16

17

Mansion Nursing  
Home  
(Sunbury)  
1:45pm

18

19

20

21

Riverwoods  
(Lewisburg)  
10am

22

23

24

No Class

Selingsgrove Center  
(Selingsgrove)  
6:30pm

25

26

27

28

Riverwoods  
(Lewisburg)  
10am

29

Health South  
(Danville)  
2pm

30

31

