

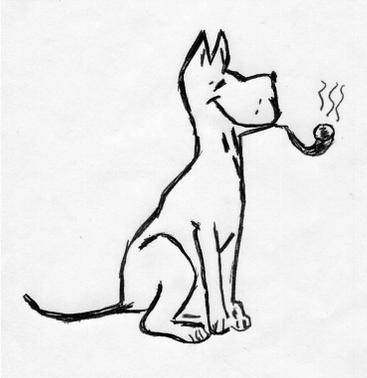


Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

December 2006

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Although the love we have for our dogs is often trivialized, there's nothing trivial about it. We're not always comfortable with the depth of emotion we can have for our dogs, but profound love isn't uncommon. The evidence is overwhelming that during the days leading up to Hurricane Katrina, thousands of people chose to risk death rather than leave their animals behind. These decisions compromised the safety of so many people that the state of Florida now provides shelters for pets as well as for people.

Surely love, "an intense feeling of tender affection and compassion" is the foundation of our relationship with dogs. The traditional answer to the question of why we so love dogs is that they give us "unconditional love." To a large extent, this rings true. But we need to address this in more depth.

First, we've seen that the faces of dogs are so expressive and similar to ours. When we look at our dogs, we're looking into a mirror. They express happiness so well, that the happiness is contagious.

Second, the social ability of dogs is similar in many ways to that of humans. Dogs are social species and naturally seek companionship, and that's why your dog is waiting at the window when you come home from work. Dogs want more than just to hang out with us. They seem to want to understand us and to want us to understand them. You may wish that you could talk to your dog, but sometime we'd rather now know what our dogs had to say to us. Overall it seems that what we can't say to dogs is a small price to pay for what we gain from our wordless style of communication.

There is also another factor that influence our devotion to dogs. We have evolved to be protective and nurturing and dogs elicit a force that says "I'm cute and cuddly and I need you."

As the writer and behaviorist Karen London states: "Dogs, the source of so much joy and warm comfort, are a reminder that perhaps the passion in our lives is too great to be contained within the bound of humanity." Dogs elicit the love and desire to nurture. We love them like children and at the same time feel loved by them. Dogs get us coming and going and in truth, we're the ones who are helpless.

As we come to the end of another year I wish to thank all of the members of the Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club for their support throughout the year in coming to classes, participating in club activities and therapy work. If your dogs could speak, I'm sure they would thank you for all the friendships they have formed in coming to class and being trained to become Canine Good Citizens and Therapy Dogs. Dixie would be proud of you since he wanted all of his dogs to make peoples' lives better by doing therapy work.

May all the love we have for our dogs and one another bring us much happiness over this holiday season, and that is my wish for all of you.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (November 6, 2006)

Submitted by: Virginia Pentz

Meeting was called to order with 31 members present.

Announcements: Christmas Party is Dec. 3rd. Please sign up and make payment by Nov 29th. All the information is included in the newsletter. Also I need to know who has 50 or 150 visits with TDI. If you are 10 away please sign up.

Updated Shot records are due at the end of the year when you renew your Membership.

Congratulations to Marjean Krech with 2 legs in Rally obedience with Rosie and Elaine McDermott with Teddy who earned his CGC.

Sara Fry announced that Mostly Mutts will be setting up a gift wrap station in the mall again this year. You may sign up to help at mostlymutsonline.com, or you can gift wrap empty boxes to donate to them, or even donate wrapping materials.

Treasurer's Report—(Not Available in the Online Edition)

Our guest speaker tonight is Dr. Beverly Shaw from the Sunbury Animal Hospital. She is going to speak to us on Pet First aid.

First and foremost is to safely restrain the injured animal. We were shown easy ways to make muzzle and how to hold the animal safely. Items on should keep on hand are Gauze, Vaseline, Neosporin, tweezers, Poison control and Veterinarian Numbers.

Open Wounds: Flush wounds with clean water. For bleeding, apply pressure for at least 2 minutes. If real bad use ice pack on padding with pressure bandage. Non-stick pads work well as do Maxi pads and tube socks.

Fractures: Below the elbow use a splint to stabilize, newspaper works well, wrap snug but not tight. If it is a compound fracture, ie. the bone is out, leave it out. If the injury is above the elbow do not wrap, keep the animal calm and transport to Vet. Wrapping this type of injury can cause more damage.

Burns: Keep it covered. Liquid butter is a good sealer for a quick fix. Keep clean and dry

Pad Cuts: Soak in Epsom salt 2 - 3 times a day. (can use a Ziploc bag if dog won't put foot down) Although pads bleed profusely it is highly unlikely for a dog to lose enough blood to require a transfusion. Wraps must be kept clean and dry, if they get wet change as soon as possible.

Bee Stings/Insect Bites: Tobacco is a good pain reliever when applied to sting area. Keep Benedryl on hand, proper dose is 1mg per pound of dog. Keep close watch on swelling particularly in the head region as tongue swelling can restrict or prevent breathing.

Eyes: Red and weepy not critical. Closed, not opened get immediate attention. Dogs have a 3rd red inner eyelid. This could indicate a bacterial infection. Foreign object in eye can cause ulceration in eye which if not given the proper attention can cause blindness in a couple days.

Choking: Depending on object you can perform Heimlich Maneuver. For chicken bones feed dog lots of bread as that will coat the bone.

Punctures: On limbs put Icthamal (drawing salve, Black sauve) on it and keep an eye on it. If on the trunk of the body, it needs to be checked. Animal bites need to be accessed to evaluate and underlying damage.

Minutes (Continued)

Snake Bites: Most dogs will tolerate Copperhead Bites, same as people. Most Rattlesnake bites need anti-venom. If you or your dog is bitten stay calm and get to vet as soon as possible. It is also wise to call ahead to the hospital so they can have the anti-venom there when you arrive. If you have an extractor (sold in the sporting goods section of Walmart, also good for removing bee stingers) you may use that to extract as much venom as possible. Also try to identify the type of snake that bite the animal.

Holiday Hazards: If your dog gets into your holiday Ham or Turkey, get them to throw it up within 60 minutes, as it can cause Pancreatitis. You can get your dog to vomit by giving them 1 tablespoon of Peroxide every 2 minutes until he vomits.

Overexertion Stiffness: You can give non-coated buffered aspirin (1/2 tablet per 30lbs dog weight).

Humane Holiday

Provided by: The Humane Society of the United States

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation's largest animal protection organization, encourages people to deck the halls with festive items that won't pose a safety risk curious pets and cautions individuals against giving companion animals as holiday gift.

- Place holiday plants out of reach of pets. Some may be harmful or even poisonous.
- Keep presents, wrapped with yarn or ribbon away from pets. Serious harm can result if they are chewed or swallowed.
- Take steps to decorate a curious critter-proof Christmas tree.
- Resist furry family members begging for holiday treats from the table. Rich foods can upset your pet's stomach or cause pancreatitis. Chocolate and alcohol can cause serious illnesses.
- Store trash away from animals after holiday meals. Poultry bones can cause internal damage if swallowed.
- Anti-freeze is poisonous—even a small amount can be fatal. Clean up spills immediately.
- De-icing salts are irritating to dogs' paws, so be sure to wash and dry them after walks.

The HSUS urges consideration of the following when thinking of giving pets as holiday gifts:

- Pets should not be given as gifts. Pets given as gifts often end up being relinquished to animal shelters due to a person's lack of time or financial resources.
- Reptiles make especially poor gifts. They carry Salmonella bacteria that can be transmitted to humans and are more difficult to humanely care for than either gift-giver or recipient anticipates.
- Instead, give an alternative pet-related gift, such as a pet care book or video, pet supplies, or a spay/neuter gift certificate.
- Encourage anyone considering a new pet to adopt from their local animal shelter. Suggest that they wait until the holiday commotion settles down to allow for quiet time to help the new pet adapt to his or her new home.
- Resist the impulse to purchase an animal from a pet store. Pet stores are often stocked "puppy mills," mass breeding facilities that subject animals to inhumane conditions in the pursuit of profits. It is difficult for consumers to distinguish between puppies from puppy mills and those from responsible breeders.

Dog Breed of the Month

Labrador Retriever

by Connie Cuff

I chose to write about the Labrador Retriever since we have a fair amount of them within our Club. It is the most popular breed in the United States. People value them for their excellence as hunting companions, exercise partners and family dogs.

The Labrador Retriever did not, as his name implies, come from Labrador, but from Newfoundland. They earned a reputation as eager retrievers of fish and game. Compact enough to ride in a fishing boat and sturdy enough to withstand the frigid conditions.

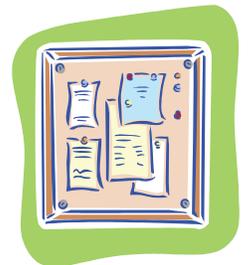
Early in the 19th century the Earl of Malmesbury saw one of the dogs that had been carried to England by fishermen and immediately arranged to have some imported. The Labrador gradually died out in Newfoundland on account of a heavy dog tax which, with the English quarantine law, practically stopped the importations into England. Thereafter many Labradors were interbred with other types of retrievers.

The Labrador Retriever was first recognized as a separate breed by the English Kennel Club in 1903, and by the American Kennel Club in 1917. In England, no Labrador can become a bench show champion unless he has a working certificate too.

The Lab's capabilities, fine temperament, and dependability have established it as one of the prime breeds for service as a guide dog for the blind, or for search and rescue work.



Notes and Notices



For those who do volunteer therapy work, keep track of your mileage as you may be able to use it when preparing your income tax return.

If you have reached the 150 visits with TDI, please continue to have your record of visitations signed as there are now two additional titles—Remarkable Performance Volunteer Achievement (TDIRVA) for 250 visits and Exceptional Achievement Volunteer Achievement (TDIEVA) for 350 visits.

We will not be doing evening therapy visits as a club in January and February due to inclement weather conditions. Daytime visits will continue as usual. Anyone can contact a facility and do therapy work on their own if they wish.

We were pleased to have Dr. Beverly Shaw from the Sunbury Animal Hospital to give us a lesson in First Aid at our November meeting. It was a very informative session and we will be placing some of the information on our web site.

It is nice to hear that Sherry Carpenter is now back in her home and doing well

New members:

Kim Gaugler, Port Trevorton with Buddy, Pug
Mary McCreary, Sunbury with Rocky, Boxer

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Dec 3 (Sun)	Christmas Party Susquehanna Valley Country Club (Silent Auction, Gift Exchange, Cheryl Hill Donation)	5:00pm
Dec 4 (Mon)	Bucknell University, Coleman Hall Lewisburg TDI Only	6:00pm
Dec 6 (Wed)	Reading Program White Deer Elementary	9:00am
Dec 7 (Thurs)	Emmanuel Center Danville	6:45pm
Dec 14 (Thurs)	Mt. View Manor Trevorton	6:45pm
Dec 12, 26 (Tues)	NO CLASS	
Dec 20 (Wed)	Reading Program White Deer Elementary	9:00am
Jan 2 (Tues)	CLASSES RESUME	
<u>Every Wednesday</u>	Riverwoods Lewisburg, PA	10:00am
<u>3rd Thursday</u>	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home, Market St. Sunbury	1:00-1:30pm 1:45pm
<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>

December 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Club Christmas Party (Susquehanna Valley Country Club) 5pm	4 Bucknell University (Coleman Hall) 6pm	5	6 Reading Program (White Deer Elementary) 9am Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	7 Emmanuel Center (Danville) 6:45pm	8	9
10	11	12 NO CLASS	13 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	14 Mt. View Manor (Trevorton) 6:45pm	15	16
17	18	19	20 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	21 Sunbury Community Hospital 1pm—1:30pm Mansion Nursing Home (Sunbury) 1:45pm	22	23
24	25	26 NO CLASS	27 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	28 Geisinger Rehab (Health South) 2pm—3pm	29	30
31						