



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

December 2008

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



What is leadership in dog training? It is a partner who the dog wants to follow and work with because he knows exactly where he stands and what the relationship is, and more importantly, enjoys being with and working with you more than anything else.

Developing an understanding of your dog can help you adjust your training style and other ways of teaching your dog the commands you want him to learn. If your dog is shy around other dogs, keep an eye on the more aggressive dogs and don't let them have a negative experience. Some dogs will train better for a handler who has a soft voice, while others need a more stern voice. How your dog reacts to different situations can be a big help in training your dog to keep a positive outlook on his training. One thing for sure, patience plays a big part in how well your dog will progress in learning each exercise.

Don't be afraid of mistakes. We know we all learn from them. Even a trained dog will make a mistake. He is not a programmed machine. A great many dogs will lead far less stressful lives if only their owners would remember that fact.

Dogs are like people in many ways. They come in many different types, sizes, and shapes and also many different personalities, intelligence levels and dispositions. No two dogs are alike, even from the same litter. By studying your dog and watching his eyes, facial expressions and actions, you can learn many things. Even though he cannot talk, he often tries to show you what he is thinking.

Consistency is crucial. Dogs know when they are at work and when they can go play. Different collars for each activity will show the dog what is expected of them. Training collars can be dangerous if left on all the time so keep a buckle collar with an I.D. and rabbi's tag on your dog when not working him.

Finally, always end training on a positive note. Save the exercise the dog loves best for last, then give tons of praise, even if the session went badly. Your dog will always remember how her day ended.

I am so happy to see so many people coming to class and how well the dogs are doing. Be sure to incorporate the exercises we do in class with your every day activities. Dog are creatures of habit and what they learn will last a life time.

Old Friends (Continued)

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.

“There are only two ways to life your life. One is though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle.”
--Albert Einstein

Till next time,

Connie

Recently it was brought to my attention of a facility, Paw Prints Dog Sanctuary and Canine Corps located in rural Spring Township, Perry County, that is a non-profit sanctuary on five acres.

It houses senior dogs from rescue groups and PA military personnel with dogs on deployment that their best buddies will be well-cared for, free of charge until they return.

All of the current corps dogs belong to single service members who didn't have other options for their dogs' care. They must exhaust all other resources because there is limited space. The Canine Corps is a "saving grace" for soldiers who have to leave behind dogs and don't have family or friends to care for them.

One of the sanctuary's founders is a veteran so "They trust the gentlemen there. They have a bond". Although military personnel who enlist their dogs in the Canine Corps know they will get them back, the partings can be painful.

The dogs live in a new building with an American flag attached to the front, constructed by an Amish builder at reduced cost.

Radiant tubes beneath the concrete floor, which is covered with rugs and dog beds, heat the building. The pods where the dogs live are furnished with couches and recliners and have dog doors for outside runs.

Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legions throughout the state have contributed to this worthwhile cause. I think it would be a nice gesture for our Club to make a contribution for the holiday season.

Anyone wishing to make a donation on their own can mail it to:

Paw Prints Dog Sanctuary and Canine Corps

P.O. Box 161

Shermans Dale, PA 17090

717-789-3236

siberianhuskykodiak@yahoo.com

Minutes (November 4, 2008)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of STDTC was called to order with 23 members present, by president Connie Cuff.

Report of the President:

I am happy to report our club came in second place in the Sunbury Halloween Parade and received a cash prize of \$75. I wish to thank everyone who participated. You did a great job.

New Members who were present were introduced.

The American Profile Magazine is running an America's Cutest Pet Contest - it ends Dec. 31, 2008. You will have a chance to win \$3,000. A portion of the proceeds go to Happy Tales Humane Shelter in Franklin, TN. To enter go to www.americanprofile.com/pets. You can encourage family and friends to vote.

I need people to visit the residents at the Selinsgrove Center Tues. Evening before class. You are asked to be there at 6:30 PM and it only takes about 15 minutes of your time.

Congratulations to "Lucy" for winning Pet Idol and also most talented at the Susquehanna Valley Mall. She and her owner, Deb Weikel were a "skunk" team and did a great job with a frisbee toss. Our demo went very well and I thank everyone for taking the time to participate. Pictures of Pet Idol are on the internet.

Report of Secretary: Minutes of October meeting were approved as written in the newsletter.

Report of Treasurer:

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

New Business: Christmas Party, Please sign up so I have an a count of the number of people attending. Payment by Dec 2nd. We have a gift exchange for dog or dog-related items with a price around \$10. You may bring something for the silent auction and Cheryl Hill's shelter.

I am preparing plaques for this year. I Need to know if you have the qualified TDI visits or any other titles you may have received.

This week Wed. Bucknell 6PM, Thurs, Penn Lutheranm Selinsgrove 6:45PM.

Meeting was ajourned.

Breed of the Month

Flat-Coated Retriever

submitted by Connie Cuff

The Flat-Coat has remained less common than the Golden and Labrador Retrievers, but under a watchful eye of dedicated breeders it is equally at home in the field or the obedience ring and now agility.

The retriever was developed and fixed as a breed in the late 1800's in Britain. It is likely descended from the St. John's Newfoundland and was crossed with a variety of breeds such as Collies and Setters. The breed became popular among gamekeepers in Britain due to its excellent working ability, but it wasn't until 1960 that the Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America was formed.



One thing that distinguishes the Flat-Coated Retriever from many other sporting breeds has been the refusal of dedicated breeders to allow a split into separate field and show lines. Breeders preserve the working traits that are fundamental to the breed; mental and physical soundness and longevity.

Their training should be positive and they can become shy and fearful if overly harsh methods are used. They should show both a willingness to work and its independent happy-go-lucky attitude should be maintained throughout its life.

It is generally a healthy breed, but breeders test for hip dysplasia and ophthalmology checks before having litters. More research is being done on factors that contribute to cancer in Flat-Coats with members contributing to the program.

Properly trained and socialized at an early age, the Flat-Coat is unparalleled as a family pet. Its cheery disposition, loyalty, affection and its terrific temperament make it an excellent choice with older children and its human family. It does best in households that provide sufficient activities, such as hiking and hunting trips.

Since the breed is not well-known, most breeders develop a waiting list before planning a litter and frequently entire litters are placed prior to undertaking the breeding.

One recent puppy purchaser commented that they "started out in the pursuit of a puppy and ended up acquiring a new lifestyle." However, it's a lifestyle unparalleled in love and devotion.



Notes and Notices



In January we will be renewing our Club memberships. If anyone has an updated shot record, please hand it in at that time. Those who are renewing their TDI can make a copy of the renewal shot form.

Congratulations to Mandie, owned by Susan Heckman for passing her CGC.

We welcome new members:

**Kathy Sosnoskie from Marian Heights with Lucy, English Springer Spaniel
Jen Mattive from Penns Creek with King, Doberman
Joel and Paula Freed from Penns Creek with Penny, Boxer
Beth Krasman from Danville with Murdock, yellow lab
Megan Mertz from Northumberland with Bailey, Shep/Collie
Kathy Dalton from Selinsgrove with Babetta, Great Pyrnees
Maarianne Halco from Elysburg with Sydney, Chocolate Lab
Christina and Ryan Wolfe from Shamokin Damn with Daisy, Golden Retriever**

We should be aware of the graciousness of the Selinsgrove Center and the Shikellamy State Park for allowing us to train at their facilities throughout the year. Our club continues to visit the residents at the Center and place bags, supplied by Giant, at the Marina as a thank you.

Many thanks to everyone who celebrated Connie's birthday with cake and gifts.

Please be aware of the following dates when we will not be training at the Selinsgrove Center:

Dec. 9

Dec. 16

Dec. 23

The Center will be using the gym for decorating and a Christmas Party for the residents. We will resume training Tuesday, Dec. 30 at 6:00pm. Be sure to keep up with club visits which are scheduled for December. In case of inclement weather, please check emails for cancellations, check the main page of the web site under announcements or cancellations or call Connie.

Everyone keep up with every day training in your homes and have a safe holiday with your canine companions. This is a good time to incorporate obedience when entertaining friends and family so everyone does not become overwhelmed with your dogs.

Congratulations to Erin Pastuszek for receiving “Student of the Month” from the Sunbury Lions Club for her senior project on “Pet Therapy”. She has participated in our club activities over the years and is a great square dancer.

Our Christmas Party will be held on Sunday Dec. 7 at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club and I must have a final count by Tuesday Dec. 2. We are looking forward to an enjoyable evening which will begin at 5:00pm.

For those bringing large bags of dog food for Cheryl Hill’s dog shelter, you can leave them in the car and we will get them after dinner.



Our Sympathies



Our sympathies to Josette Zelinski (CJ and Artica, Siberian Huskies) whose son passed away unexpectedly. The address to send sympathy cards is found in the print edition of the newsletter and is available from Brandon Pastuszek (brandon@stdtc.org) and Connie Cuff.

Our sympathies to Mary Lou Semicek (Milo, Boston Terrier) for the loss of her husband, Jack. The address to send sympathy cards is found in the print edition of the newsletter and is available from Brandon Pastuszek (brandon@stdtc.org) and Connie Cuff.

Our sympathies to Denny and Donna Shaffer with the loss of their beloved Sadie.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Dec. 2 (Tues)	Last day to sign up for Christmas Party	
Dec. 3 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Dec. 7 (Sun)	Christmas Party Susquehanna Valley Country Club	5:00 pm
Dec. 8 (Mon)	Bucknell University TDI ONLY	6:00pm
Dec 9 (Tues)	NO CLASS	
Dec. 10 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Dec. 11 (Thurs)	Northwestern Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital	1:00pm 2:00pm 3:00pm
Dec. 12 (Fri)	Sun Com Industries (Demo) Northumberland	9:00am
Dec. 15 (Mon)	Reading, Chief Shikellamy	9:00am
Dec. 16 (Tues)	Medium Prison, Allenwood (Memo TDI Only)	12:00pm
	NO CLASS	
Dec. 17 (Wed)	Reading, Boughner Elementary Riverwoods	9:00am 10:00am
Dec. 18 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm
Dec. 22 (Mon)	Geisinger Health South	2:00pm
Dec. 23 (Tues)	NO CLASS	
Dec. 24 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00pm
Dec. 25 (Thurs)	MERRY CHRISTMAS	
Dec. 30 (Tues)	CLASSES RESUME	
Dec. 31 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR	
Jan. 5 (Mon)	Reading, Chief Shikellamy	9:00am

Newsletter coordinator: **Brandon Pastuszek**
 E-mail: brandon@stdtc.org
 Club web site: <http://www.stdtc.org>

December 2008

- US Holidays
- Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

November 2008

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December 2008

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
5:00 PM Christmas Party	6:00 PM Bucknell University (TDI ONLY)	Last day to submit Christmas Party 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes	10:00 AM Riverwoods	6:45 PM Elm Croft of Lewisburg		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	NO CLASSES	10:00 AM Riverwoods	1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital	9:00 AM Sun Com Industries (Demo)	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
		NO CLASSES 12:00 PM Medium Prison, Allenwood (Memo TDI Only)	9:00 AM Reading, Boughner Elementary 10:00 AM Riverwoods	1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:15 PM Sunshine Corners		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	2:00 PM Geisinger Rehabilitation South	NO CLASSES	10:00 AM Riverwoods	Christmas		
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
		CLASSES RESUME 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes	10:00 AM Riverwoods	New Year's Day		