



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

December 2009

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



This time of year we find ourselves busy with activities preparing for the holiday season but we must be aware of the blessings we have in our lives. We must be thankful for the dogs we share our lives with, they truly love us beyond expectation.

Our therapy dogs bring smiles where there are none and help those less fortunate to recall pleasant memories when memories are often few and clouded. They help children, students and often those in prison where just a short pet enriches their lives.

We should also be thankful for the friendships we have made through our dogs. May we all continue to strive to be more like our dogs and be forever grateful for the wagging tails who enrich our lives.

Our Christmas party is almost here and another year has passed by quickly. I wish to thank everyone for your help with our club - training, therapy visits, demonstration, parades, and your friendship in being part of my life.

The gym may seem overcrowded at times, but in breaking our classes into different groups I try to make everyone comfortable when they come to class.

Many new handlers suffer agonies because they expect far too much of themselves and their dog. Nobody starts their first riving lesson on a speedway. A sense of failure in the beginning of dog training can communicate to the dog and turn the animal into a depressed dog. If your dog is taking training happy and his tail is wagging you're on the right track.

The holidays are a good time to practice your training skills when company arrives. Remember to be careful with turkey ham and all the trimmings that your dog doesn't feat on them or you will end up at the veterinarian.

The following is a quote from Cesar Millan from Guidepost:

"We can learn so much by observing the way our pets rejoice in life's simplest moments. For a dog, every morning is Christmas morning. Every walk is the best walk, every meal is the best meal. Take time every day to deliberate the may gifts that are hidden in the ordinary events of your life.

With all good wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (November 3, 2009)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting was called to order by President Connie Cuff with 35 members present.

Report of President: Please pick up your copy of the newsletter if you do not get it online.

New Member: Diane Clark from Trevorton.

I want to thank everyone for their help with the Halloween Parade, especially Kelly and Joe who decorated and drove the float. We did get First Prize, but I haven't received the check as of this time.

Since we are nearing the end of the year I would like everyone to make copies of their up-dated shot records.

One of our club members has left me know that there is a 2 to 3 year old Labradoodle available for adoption. His is with a family now and they are unable to keep him. He is all black and very friendly with other dogs and people. May need some training.

I announced last week about the use of food in the gym. Since we are now inside I would prefer if you do not use food when we are training. Marjean is training the puppy class and there is no problem with that beginner class. Once you start working on CGC and TDI you should have weaned your dog off of food as it is not permitted in testing or when you do visiting with your dog.

Report of Secretary: October minutes were approved as written in the November Newsletter. November minutes are as written in this newsletter.

Report of Treasurer:

(Treasurer's reports are unavailable in the online edition of the STDTC newsletter.)

New Business: As you can see in our newsletter we are using scarves to identify some dogs in training. This is a way that new people will know the personalities of some dogs until they become more socialized.

If anyone has achieved 50 or more visits with TDI please let me know. We need the name of your dog and the number of visits.

I have a sign up sheet for the Christmas party. I do not need the money until Tues. Dec 1 but would like to have an idea how many people will attend. We ask you bring an exchange gift of about \$10.00 for a dog or dog related item. Anyone who wishes can bring something for the silent auction and the dog shelter. If you have old rugs or towels they can use you can bring them at this time.

I've mentioned we would like everyone who participated at club events to have our shirt. I would like to place and order so if anyone is interested please let me know.

Visits this week: Bucknell University Wed. 6 PM, TDI only.

Penn Lutheran Village at Selinsgrove, Thursday at 6:45 PM, You can bring your dog even if it isn't TDI, but it should be under control.

Shirts are \$19 for short sleeve and \$22 for long sleeve (add \$1.00 more for XXL).

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginny Pentz, Secretary.

Breed of the Month

Vizsla

submitted by Connie Cuff

The energetic Vizsla craves close human companionship. If you want a dog that lies quietly in the corner all evening, look elsewhere. This is a dog that would rather get petted than eat. They adore their humans and need to be in contact with them. They do best when they are in the house and part of the family.

Long a protected breed in its native land, The Vizsla was both hunter and companion to the Magyar people who migrated across Central Europe to settle in Hungary over a thousand years ago.

It was brought to the U.S. in the 1950's and recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1960. They are run in field trials, hunt tests, tracking and agility. Vizslas don't need bathing very often as it is detrimental to their skin. They are very clean and do not have an odor, even wet, they smell clean. And since they have a tight coat they scarcely shed.



Some breeders won't sell a Vizsla unless it is used to its potential. With its great nose, stamina and affection for humans it is growing in popularity for search-and-rescue teams and as a guide for the sight impaired.

"Vizsla" means "alert" and "responsive" in Hungarian and those traits sum up the breed. It is a sensitive dog, often trembling at loud noises and prone to separation anxiety when left alone for extended periods.

The antics of the Vizsla include mouthing - very softly, and are cat-like in the use of their paws. They play with their paws and even groom with their paws.

It is generally a healthy dog but conditions known to affect the breed are hip dysplasia, Von Willebrand's disease, hemophilia and epilepsy. Buying through a reputable breeder is the best insurance against these disorders. As a breeder states, "you breed for health, temperament, field ability and conformation."

Talk to Vizsla people and they will tell you, "this is a sensitive dog. They really believe they're human. You can carry on a conversation with these guys. Once you've had a Vizsla, anything is just a dog."



Notes and Notices



We welcome new members:

Bernita Wert from Lewisburg with Skippy, a lab/chow mix

Dave Lawer from Selinsgrove with a yellow lab

Diane Clark from Trevorton with yellow lab, Sable

Karina Stuter from Muddleburg with choc. lab Thor and jack russell/poodle Zeus

With the colder weather upon us and our dogs not getting walked as often, please watch their diet and don't overfeed. Since you will be using antifreeze in your car for the winter be careful of leaks as it only takes a small amount if your dog swallows it to be fatal.

During the months of January and February I will not be scheduling evening therapy visits but the daytime ones will continue.

This year we said good-bye to the following therapy dogs:

Karen Sodrick's English Spring Spaniel - Tibsy

Wanda Wilkenson's sheltie - McCray

We will always be grateful for the contributions these dogs and their owners made to the lives of others.

Dagney Leininger's dog "Gracie" has her portrait in the book "Dog Joy" by the editors of Bark Magazine. Her photo was 1 of 500 chosen out of 1000's of photos submitted over the years. Gracie is on page 132. www.thebark.com. CONGRATULATIONS!

For those of you who travel during the holiday, it may be a good idea to keep a copy of your dog's shot record in your glove compartment. If any emergency should arrive and you need to seek another veterinarian you will have a record in case you need it.

Marjean will begin a new Star Puppy Class in January. She also will be giving the TDI/CGC test in January for those dogs who are prepared for the testing.

Did you know? People get their E-mail every day, but did you know that your dog gets his "p-mail" every time you take him for his walk, pausing at intervals to make sure he didn't miss anything important. Some messages were merely read and deleted. Others were more urgent and required an immediate squirter and reply.

I would like to address our training schedule in the gym.



Notes and Notices



We are not permitted in the gym at the Selinsgrove Center until 6:15pm. You should try to come between 6:15 and 6:30 to have your dogs socialize before we begin training. I will start the beginners class promptly at 6:30pm along with Marjean, Sarah, Wanda, Kelly and Ginny. Our next class will begin at 7:15 for more advanced dogs.

If possible, please try to make our starting times since arriving late does interrupt training and some dogs become disruptive.

Don't be afraid to ask for help if you do not understand an exercise. We are all here to help one another. You'll be surprised how just one little tip makes a difference in getting the dog on the right track to doing the exercise.

By way of example, Marjean mentioned using canned air for correcting dogs in certain behavior problems. I have purchased some cans to try on dogs in our training classes.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Dec. 2 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Dec. 3 (Thurs)	Elm Croft of Lewisburg (Rt. 45)	6:45pm
Dec. 6 (Sun)	Christmas Party Susquehanna Valley Country Club	5:00pm
Dec. 7 (Mon)	Reading, Chief Shikellamy Bucknell University (TDI Only)	9:00am 6:00pm
Dec. 9 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Dec. 10 (Thurs)	Northwestern Academy Shamokin Hospital	1:00pm 2:15pm
Dec. 15 (Tues)	NO CLASS SELINGROVE CENTER	
	Medium Prison USP Allenwood Memo Members Only	12:00pm
Dec. 16 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Dec. 17 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm
Dec. 23 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Dec. 25 (Fri)	MERRY CHRISTMAS	
Dec. 30 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Dec. 31 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00pm
Jan 1 (Fri)	HAPPY NEW YEAR	

December 2009

November 2009

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December 2009

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January 2010

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- US Holidays
- Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 ■ 6:30 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:15 PM Advanced Training	2 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	3 ■ 6:45 PM Elm Croft of Lewisburg	4	5
6 ■ 5:00 PM Christmas Party	7 ■ 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy - TDI ONLY) ■ 6:00 PM Bucknell University (TDI ONLY)	8 ■ 6:30 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:15 PM Advanced Training	9 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	10 ■ 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy ■ 2:15 PM Shamokin Hospital	11	12
13	14	15 NO CLASS ■ 12:00 PM Medium Prison USP Allenwood (MEMOED ONLY)	16 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	17 ■ 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital ■ 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home ■ 2:15 PM Sunshine Cor-ners	18	19
20	21	22 ■ 6:30 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:15 PM Advanced Training	23 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	24 Christmas	25	26
27	28	29 ■ 6:30 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:15 PM Advanced Training	30 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	31 ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	New Year's Day	2