

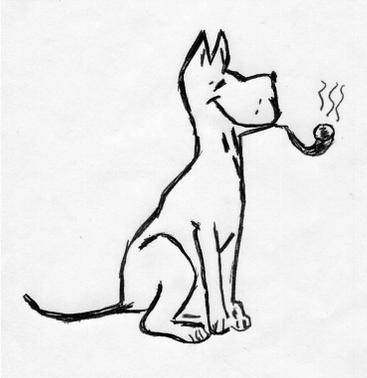


# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

February 2006

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Since this is the "Year of the Dog," lets get off to a healthy start for both you and your dog.

Since exercise burns calories it is good for both of you. A nice walk can benefit Fido and I'm sure he will enjoy his time with you. People think putting the dog out in the yard to run is exercise, but walking your dog daily establishes a bonding and shows the dog you are the alpha.

Obesity can reduce a dog's life span by 15%, an average of two years. People do not want to hear that their pet is heavy. When you examine your dog or cat from both the top and the side you should see a noticeable waist be-

low the rib cage. The ripple of the ribs should be felt as you stroke your pet's side.

If you have the opportunity to weigh your dog between vet checks, this is a good way to keep an eye on weight management. A few of us who take our dogs to Sunbury Community Hospital once a month use their scale to see how our dogs are doing.

By cutting back on your dog's calories does not mean to sacrifice nutrition. There are a lot of options out there but a good idea is to read the label content. (I have available at class a pass out that gives definitions of dog food comparisons). For young dogs they should be taken off of puppy chow at five months of age.

Sharing between meals snacks is fine as long as they are healthy. By spritzing the dry dog food lightly with olive or flaxseed oil will help reduce shedding and adds luster to their coat.

There's an outdated myth that says pets should not partake of "people food", but certain table scraps are fine as long as they contain nothing potentially harmful (chocolate, onions, grapes, raisins, salt, sugar, meat containing skin or too much fat).

Did you know that the dish a pet eats and drinks from is as important as what he eats. Cheap plastic bowls harbor bacteria and impart an off-putting taste to their contents.

To keep sticker shock in check, always discuss costs with your veterinarian before any procedures are performed. If you have a young dog, now is a good time to consider a medical insurance policy. Always keep a folder with lab results, vet receipts, vaccinations, and your envelope from your dog license. You'll need these if you change vets, as an animal hospital can refuse treatment if you can't prove your dog has been vaccinated. Always bring a list of medications or herbal remedies your dog is taking. If your pet has recurring health problems ask your vet if you should see a specialist to get more in-depth treatment.

### Old Friends (Continued)

By loving our dog through good nutrition, exercise, play and training, we can have our dogs with us for a long time. May this truly be the "Year of the Healthy Dog".

Till next time,

*Connie*

**Note:** It is important to remember that anyone doing therapy work should keep their dogs socialized with other dogs.

## Minutes (January 3, 2006)

Submitted by: Lydia Storey

Our twenty-first monthly membership meeting was held on January 3, 2006 at approximately 7:30 PM at Selinsgrove Center.

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

Secretary's Report – Lydia Storey

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:

Everyone enjoyed Christmas Party and Chinese Auction.

Mary Lou has shirts to give out and club pins given by Dr. Kamsler.

New Business:

Wed 9AM reading program at White Deer Elementary

Renew memberships - \$12.00 single and \$15.00 family

Keep envelope that dog license comes in, in dog's file.

Mostly Mutts online.com – this has really helped

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.



## Notes and Notices



Special recognition to Lindsay Lawer who went to New Orleans to give aid to homeless animals. If you still wish to donate items, a list can be found at [www.animalrescueneworleans.com](http://www.animalrescueneworleans.com). Lindsey, we appreciate everything you are doing!

There will be a Reading to the Dogs Program beginning at the Selinsgrove Library and information will be available as the librarian provides it to us.

A new organization called SUN CART (Snyder, Union, Northumberland County Animal Rescue Team) is being formed and is looking for members. There will be a Pet First Aid course on Feb. 13th at Career Link in Selinsgrove. The cost is \$10 and a book is extra. There is also a CPR and Human First Aid Class on Feb. 27th. If anyone is interested please call Connie Cuff at 286-9537 so she can get in touch with the people who are running the classes. The purpose of this organization is to have people trained in case of a disaster so people and their animals, large and small, can be sheltered at a central location.

### When Table Scraps are Toxic

from Better Homes & Gardens

Some foods that are good for you may be deadly for your dog. Memorize this list and let your children know that slipping Bowser one of these items can make him very sick.

- **Raisins**—Both grapes and raisins can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and kidney failure. “If a dog eats a small number it isn’t likely to be a problem,” says Steven Hansen, D.V.M., executive director of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals’ poison control center in Urbana, Illinois. “But we don’t know what the minimum safe dose is, so it’s best to avoid them altogether.”
- **Chocolate**—Chocolate contains a caffeine-like substance that can be toxic to dogs. The darker the chocolate, the more the effect. “Just one quarter of an ounce of baking chocolate can cause serious problems in a small dog, whereas it will take two ounces of mil chocolate to produce the same effects,” says Hansen. Consumption may cause excitement, muscle tremors, seizures, and rapid heart rate.
- **Sugarless Gum**—Dogs will eat a pack of gum, wrappers and all, any chance they get. Sugarless gum, and candies for that matter, often contain xylitol, a sugar alcohol that can cause a rapid drop in blood sugar for dogs. So keep your purse out of your dog’s reach.
- **Onions**—A chemical in onions damages dogs’ blood cells and can cause anemia. One small whole onion may be fatal.
- **Macadamia nuts**—Never leave these nuts unattended on your coffee table. A compound in them may leave your dog with temporary paralysis in his hind legs. The good news: “Dogs who eat too many macadamia nuts fully recover with no treatment at all, and no long-term effects,” says Hansen.

# Stopping Puppy-mills

from Bark Magazine

Puppy mills are to dog breeding what factory farms are to animal husbandry. Just as the intensive confinement of pigs and chickens on factory farms violates decent standards that have long governed responsible farming, puppy mills are a betrayal of humanity's closest friends in the animal world.

Both puppy mills and factory farms are systems of production, with the creatures viewed as nothing more than commodities. Their obvious suffering, when it's noticed at all, is written off as the cost of doing business. Missing entirely is any sense of kindness or stewardship. It is pure exploitation and domination.

Outside the squalid world of puppy mills, dogs are showered with love and attention and usually regarded as members of the family. In a culture that grants dog this place, it is hard to believe that more than 3,000 puppy mills are allowed to operate. It is time we rid our country of this institutionalized neglect of and cruelty to dogs.

The mills churn out puppies for the pet trade; the bitches are viewed as production machines and no thought whatever is given to their well-being. Sometimes the mills are stand-alone operations producing thousands of puppies each year, but often, the owners are farmers supplementing their incomes. While puppy mills can be found in any state, they are concentrated in the Midwest. Missouri is recognized as the puppy-mill capital of the US, with Oklahoma, Kansas and Iowa not far behind in contributing to the problem.

Puppy-mill dogs kept for breeding spend their entire lives in cages. It's a life of loneliness and privation—miserly veterinary care, litter protection from the elements, filthy water, rotting food, no one to play with and no hope of ever being part of a family. They live and sleep on plastic-coated wire, because federal law does not even require a solid surface to stand or rest upon. Small comforts—dog toys, a soft bed, a pat or kind word—are a world away for these animals.

The best way to rid the country of puppy mills is to convince people not to buy animals from these pet traffickers. For everyone looking for a faithful and loving dog, there is one to be found at a shelter or rescue group.

Almost every animal at a pet store comes from a puppy mill, and pet stores selling puppies should not be patronized. But seemingly harmless sellers are also acting as pathways for puppy-mill dogs. They are often sold through innocent-sounding newspaper ads, and, more and more, over the Internet. These sellers never concede that their puppies come from a mill—in fact they often will assure customers that “we never sell puppy-mill puppies.” But usually these people are enablers for the whole puppy-mill industry. For reliable information on puppy mills and current laws in your state, I recommend [www.stoppupmills.com](http://www.stoppupmills.com). But beyond the individual choices we make in obtaining dogs, it's also essential that we support policies addressing the larger problem. Legislation now before Congress would restrict the incredible growth of the Internet as a venue for the sale of puppy-mill dogs. The Pet Animal Welfare Statute (PAWS), S. 1139 and H.R. 2669, would bring these Internet sellers under the oversight of the federal government and its Animal Welfare Act inspection program. PAWS would not restrict breeding and would only cover large kennels, which are defined as those producing at least seven litters a year.

By applying minimal standards to operators who entirely sidestep any federal regulation, PAWS would be an important step in solving the larger puppy-mill problem. Please contact your senators and representative and urge them to cosponsor PAWS.

# Congratulations!



Kathryn Starkey  
Tessy Mae

Sara Fry  
Dugan



Kate Hafer  
Bella



Mary Lou Walsh  
Buddy

Kayann Bushaus  
Ryder

Barbie Laughmax  
Odie

Deane Spolito  
Skye



Mary Lou Walsh  
Buddy

Sharon Frederick  
Sadie

Josette Zielinski  
CJ



Linda Hafer  
Mason



Steve Hafer  
Bentley



## UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>Feb 8 (Wed)</b>	<b>White Deer Elementary (Reading Program) *</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
<b>Feb 13 (Mon)</b>	<b>Bucknell University (TDI only) (Coleman Hall) Lewisburg (Wear red scarf for Valentine's Day)</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Feb 15 (Wed)</b>	<b>Selinsgrove Center (Visiting Residents)</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Feb 22 (Wed)</b>	<b>White Deer Elementary (Reading Program) *</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
<b>Mar 2 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Outlook Pointe Lewisburg</b>	<b>6:45pm</b>
<b>Mar 9 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Emmanuel Center Danville</b>	<b>6:45pm</b>
<b>Mar 11 &amp; 12 (Sat/Sun)</b>	<b>PawsAbilities Farm Show, Harrisburg Tickets at the door \$10 adults, \$5 Child Tickets purchased ahead of time \$7 adults, \$4 child</b>	<b>8:00am - 4:00pm</b>
<b>Mar 15 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods St Patrick's Day Demo and Square Dance (Bring dog's favorite toy)</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Mar 23 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Buffalo Valley Nursing Home Lewisburg</b>	<b>6:45pm</b>
<b>Apr 10 (Mon)</b>	<b>Bucknell University (TDI only) (Coleman Hall) Lewisburg</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>May 1 (Mon)</b>	<b>Bucknell University (TDI only) (Coleman Hall) Lewisburg</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>

*\* White Deer directions: Rt. 15. At New Columbia exit come to a stop sign and school is across road.*

**UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES  
(CONTINUED)**

**May 3 (Wed)                      Nifty After Fifty Demo                      11:00 am**  
**Columbia Mall**  
**Bloomsburg**

**Every Wednesday                      Riverwoods                      10:00am**  
**Lewisburg, PA**

**3rd Thursday                      Sunbury Community Hospital                      1:00-1:30pm**  
**Mansion Nursing Home, Market St. Sunbury                      1:45pm**

**Last Thursday                      Geisinger Rehab—Health South                      2:00-3:00pm**

**Newsletter Coordinator: Brandon Pastuszek**  
**E-mail: [BrandonP63@gmail.com](mailto:BrandonP63@gmail.com)**  
**Website: <http://www.stdtc.org>**

# February 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
		Riverwoods Lewisburg 10am				
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
			White Deer Elementary 9am			
		Riverwoods Lewisburg 10am				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Bucknell Lewisburg 6:30pm			Sunbury Hospital (Sunbury) 1pm - 1:30pm		
				Mansion Nursing Home (Sunbury) 1:45pm		
			Selinsgrove Center 6:30pm			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			White Deer Elementary 9am		Health South (Danville) 2pm	
			Riverwoods Lewisburg 10am			
26	27	28				