



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

February 2009

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



A large portion of those individuals who deal with the pet-owning public (veterinarians, breeders, trainers) still do not understand the function of the animal counselor.

In most cases the veterinarian is usually the first person to whom an owner turns when he begins to experience a behavioral problem in his dog. Most veterinarians may have some suggestions or they may direct him to a trainer.

As a trainer I try to convey to everyone that you must become the dog's leader, keeping in mind that an educated dog needs supervision, instruction and boundaries, knows what's expected of him and has few anxieties. We are instructing you about how to train your dog.

Even as dogs are not born perfect, we as trainers weren't born perfect. As training methods change and we constantly are learning, there are many approaches to obedience that never changes. Everyone should have a goal when training their dog. You should want your dog to have a healthy attitude when he comes to class and you should enjoy what you are doing. Some owners get hard on themselves and act like one mistake means the whole training session is ruined.

If your dog trusts you, that is at least half the battle in helping him learn. You will be surprised at how confident a dog becomes as he masters his skills, meets your expectations and receives praise and recognition.

Sometimes after consulting a veterinarian or a trainer further help is needed with problems you are experiencing, especially in the home environment. This is where the animal counselor comes into play. The first job for them is to help the owner understand the reasons and causes behind a behavioral problem. Occasionally owners think a counselor can "fix" a problem like one fixes a TV set. The most he can do is give the owner a prognosis based on the assessment of the facts.

Next, and most important, is motivating the owners to work with the dog between meetings they have with the counselor. All owners desire an abatement of the problem, however, some do not have the time or may find it impossible to compromise their lifestyle. Owners have to realize that for most cases they themselves have to serve as the agents of change.

Ray Ramos has participated in some of our training sessions and has been a great help with his suggestions to our members.

Old Friends (Continued)

We as veterinarians, trainers and canine counselors all work together in helping an owner maximize the enjoyment of the companion animal.

“Love is the only thing that multiplies when we give it away”
-- Gloria Burgess

Till next time,

Connie

Westminster Dog Show

February 9 and 10 are the dates for the world's most prestigious dog show, Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, a national event like the Super Bowl.

If you aren't a New Yorker, it's likely you've never been any place this crowded. Think of the mall at Christmastime, make it 10 times more crammed and add more than 1,000 dogs each day.

Backstage in the benching area - where the dogs stay in crates when they're not in the ring - it is so tight at times no one can move. Only at Westminster would people hire guards to protect their dogs, at a price of \$300 a day. There are extremist animal-rights organizations who may try to "liberate" dogs, but the biggest concern is the dog-loving audience. Swarms of wee-meaning people want to touch, hug, and kiss the dogs. They'll poke at sleeping dogs or bark in a dog's face. At one show a woman crawled inside a Komondor's crate just to see what its coat felt like.

The dog-show faithful don't congregate only at the show; for them it's part dog show, convention, and family reunion. Days before the show they attend seminars, art shows, fun-raising events, meetings, award banquets and some of the best parties of the year.

This year David Fry said that 7 working TDI dogs will be honored at the show.

Minutes (January 6, 2008)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the STDTC was called to order by Pres., Connie Cuff, with 33 members present.

Report of the President:

I want to thank everyone who participated in our Christmas Party and hope others can join us this year. Mary Lou has purchased our favors which will be a nice surprise.

Be sure to purchase your 2009 Dog license!

I have been asked again to do the Mt. Carmel demo for the Lions Club. Do you wish to participate May 9th at 2 PM? Memberes showed an interest so it was tabled for later discussion.

One of our Members, David Lutz, passed away and I purchased a Mass card from St. Pious Church for the family.

Marjean will be starting the new puppy class on Jan. 27th.

Report of Secretary:

Minutes of previous meeting are printed in newsletter. Minutes were approved as written.

Report of Treasurer:

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

New Business:

Thank you notes from, Josette from Prison and from her son, Mary Lou Semicek for plaque, Paw Prints Sanctuary, and Mostly Mutts.

Minutes (Continued)

Linda Bennett will be letting people know who will be paired up with a child for the reading program at the Union County Library. Registration for the children is thru Jan. 26th with the program beginning the first week of Feb.

Sherry Carpenter will have a blog in the next few weeks about a product called DAP. It is used for fear and anxiety. She has used it on her older dog who was restless at night. She sprayed a neckerchief for around the neck and it seems to work well.

Old Business:

Marjean Krech and Sara Fry will begin the AKC Star program soon.

This week our Therapy visit is Sunbury Community Hospital, Mansion and Sunshine Corners. We will resume evening therapy visits in March when weather permits. Next Tues is our visit at the maximum prison at Allenwood at 12:30 PM for those who have memos.

New members who were present introduced themselves. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Pentz, Secretary

Breed of the Month

Greyhound

submitted by Connie Cuff

The athletic greyhound is the second fastest land animal on earth – only the Cheetah can outrun him. They like to exercise each other, and if you have more than one they will run circles or figure eights in your yard.

Many historians believe the Greyhound, depicted in Egyptian art as early as 3000 B.C., was among the first dog breeds to be selectively bred by humans. Ovid described the Greyhound in Rome around the time of Christ.

The Greyhound has been used on practically all kinds of small game, including deer, foxes, and so forth, but the hare is his natural quarry, and coursing is the sport with which he has been associated for centuries.



The Greyhound was brought to this country by Spanish explorers in the early 1500s to guard, hunt, intimidate and punish their enemies – in this case, the Indians.

They were among the earliest at American dog shows. The catalog of the first Westminster Kennel Club show in 1877 included an entry of 18 Greyhounds. In 1912, O.P. Smith invented the mechanical lure, and track racing for Greyhounds began. It is highly controversial, and many organizations have sprung up around the country to help place retired racing Greyhounds into pet homes. (Suzie, Barbara Minnick's Greyhound, was rescued from a track in Florida.)

Content to snooze the day away, they prefer soft surfaces, warm temperatures, and luxurious accommodations, living up to their reputation as being “couch potatoes”.

Quiet and polite, the Greyhound may seem easy to train. Think again. They aren't bred to do what you want, they are bred to think for themselves. Gentle, reward-based methods work best for the sensitive Greyhound.

Potential adopters should screen rescue organizations by asking questions such as a personality profile, return policy, a provision of basic health care, including “spay or neuter”, teeth cleaning, shots, working and a tick titer test.

Whether you love the breed because of its sweet temperament, elegant lines, or quiet ways, owning a Greyhound can be a deeply satisfying experience – for your senses and your heart.

Sherry's Corner

by Sherry Carpenter

Visit Sherry's blog at: <http://sherryscorner.stdtc.org>

UNO AND OBAMA

UNO, the Beagle who won Westminster last year celebrated his third birthday at the White House, quite a distinction since he became the first Westminster Best in Show winner to be invited there! Now UNO's term in office as America's first dog is closing, he too is a Texas native and dog lovers everywhere are eagerly awaiting the crowning of the 102nd Best in Show winner. (Ironically, one of the great show dogs of the year, a Pointer named Holly, is ineligible for the Show since she is owned by a member of the Westminster Kennel Club.)

To return to UNO's world, David Frei UNO's escort over the past year revealed that UNO had his own ticket on the plane and sat in an adjoining seat. UNO and Frei visited Ronald MacDonald Houses all over the country (Also, UNO did meet Cesar Millan). UNO will make an appearance during the Show with a friend, a double amputee, he met while visiting Walter Reed hospital. Frei says James, the 2007 winning English Springer Spaniel was probably the best therapy dog he ever worked with and that Westminster champions prove that Westminster is about real dogs.

I had to ask David Frei why he picked the Portugese Water Dog as the breed the Obamas should adopt from a rescue or shelter. After all, the Obamas are first time dog owners. The answer--predictability, hyperallergenic, gregarious, a breed noted for its health, bravery, and dedication to family members. Labradoodles are not hyperallergenic, Frei says, and warns it may even be a federal crime to lie to the president!

Frei has a superbowl ring (Denver Broncos, San Francisco 49ers and ABC TV Sports) but says his heart now is in the world of dogs especially therapy dogs. "It isn't what we teach our dogs, but what we learn from them, that is important," he stresses. "Therapy dogs are about the moment," Frei says and tells a story of 10 minutes of clarity with an Alzheimer victim when he visited the man with his own Brittany, Belle. And, he added the moment can be an hour with a child who will die in three days from cancer.

The Westminster Kennel Club airs on the USA channel February 9th and 10th.

AKC AGILITY INVITATIONAL

The AKC Agility Invitational will be Feb. 7th on Animal Planet at 8 PM. O'Neill's GY --their Petite BGV who won best of his breed will be on the show. Jackie judges and trains in agility and is a Bloomsburg native.

Peanut Butter Salmonella Outbreak

There's a searchable database on the FDA's web site to look up anything that may have been recalled, but it's best to NOT eat anything you have in your pantry that has peanut butter in it, like peanut butter crackers especially. Your JARS OF PEANUT BUTTER are SAFE! And PetSmart is voluntarily recalling seven of its Great Choice Dog Biscuit products that contain peanut paste made by Peanut Corporation of America (PCA). Here is more info about it:

Small Assorted 32 oz., UPC 73725702900
Small/Medium Assorted 4 lb., UPC 73725700601
Small/Medium Assorted 8 lb., UPC 73725700605
Small/Medium Assorted 10 lb., UPC 73725702755
Large Assorted 8 lb., UPC 73725700638
Extra Large Assorted 8 lb., UPC 73725700779
Peanut Butter 4 lb., UPC 73725700766

Customers who purchased the recalled dog biscuit products should discontinue use immediately and can return the product to any PetSmart store for a complete refund or exchange. Customers can visit www.petsmartfacts.com for more information or contact PetSmart Customer Service at 1-888-839-9638.

Here's the link to the FDA web site to look up products you may have. Cut and paste the address in your web browser. They update it every day.

<http://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/peanutbutterrecall/index.cfm>

This looks like it may be the biggest recall of peanut butter containing products in history. Watch the news, the FDA web site, and the CDC web site: <http://www.cdc.gov/salmonella/typhimurium>. If you fed your dogs or cats any peanut butter containing products, and they start to get bloody diarrhea or stool with a lot of mucus, call your vet right away. Most will get over it but others might require antibiotics. Dispose of the stool properly as Salmonella can shed from up to 30 days to a year!



Notes and Notices



We welcome new members:

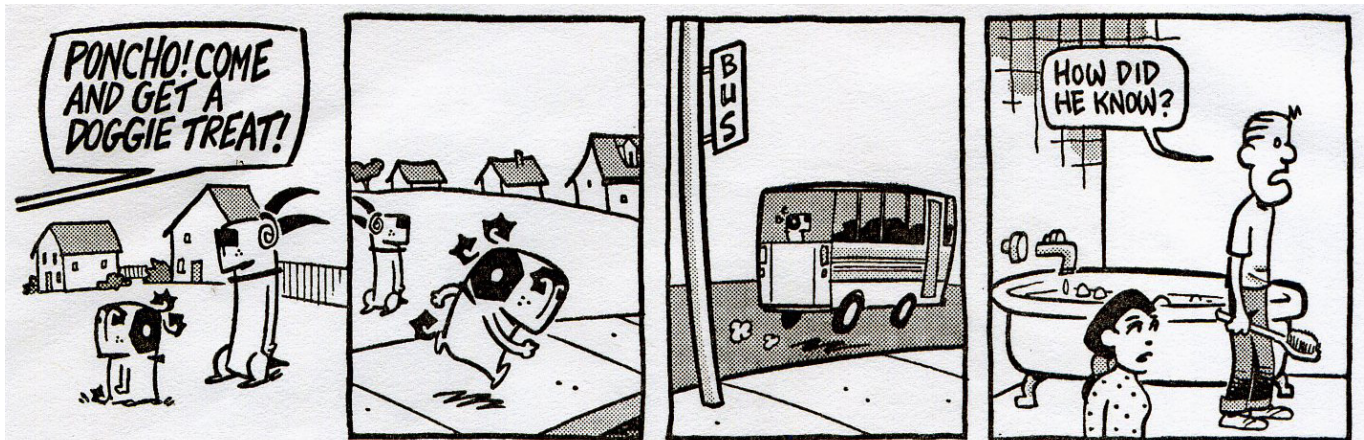
**Tiffany Benfer from Sunbury with her Rottweiler, Ryleigh
Laurie Cooper from Sunbury with a beagle/fox hound, Jack
Stephanie Perrais from Langhorne with her poodle, Bullpig
Jamie Smith from Watsonstown with her St. Bernard, JR**

Our training sessions for January have been a great challenge with the snow and ice. I would rather cancel class than have people taking chances in coming to class. With people coming from a wide area weather conditions vary in different locales. We will have plenty of time to catch up on our training in the months ahead.

Yearly club dues are due. Anyone joining us from Oct. 1, 2008 is paid up for 2009. We would like everyone to check our Email roster to be sure that we are able to contact you. If you are not receiving emails from us please let us know.

Remember when filing your 2008 income tax return you can deduct mileage used for therapy visits under contributions.

Our AKC Star program for dogs 1 Year or less will begin Feb. 3, with Marjean Krech and Sara Fry.



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cartoon submitted by Mary Haas

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Feb. 4 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Feb. 9 (Mon)	Bucknell University TDI Only	6:00 pm
Feb. 9 & 10 (Mon & Tues)	Westminster Kennel Club	
Feb. 11 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Feb. 12 (Thurs)	Northwest Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital	1:00 pm 2:00 pm 3:00 pm
Feb. 14 (Sat)	HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!	
Feb. 16 (Mon)	PRESIDENTS DAY!	
Feb. 18 (Wed)	Reading Boughner Elementary Riverwoods	9:00 am 10:00 am
Feb. 19 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00 pm 1:45 pm 2:15 pm
Feb. 23 (Mon)	Reading, Chief Shikellamy	9:00 am
Feb. 25 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Feb. 26 (Thurs)	Geisinger Health South	2:00 pm

February 2009

January 2009

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February 2009

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March 2009

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

■ US Holidays

■ Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Groundhog Day	3 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes	4 10:00 AM Riverwoods	5 Lincoln's Birthday 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital	6	7
8	9 Westminster Kennel Club 6:00 PM Bucknell University (TDI ONLY)	10 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes	11 10:00 AM Riverwoods	12	13	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 President's Day	17 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes	18 9:00 AM Reading (Boughner Elementary) 10:00 AM Riverwoods	19 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:15 PM Sunshine Corners	20	21
22 Washington's Birthday	23 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	24 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes	25 10:00 AM Riverwoods	26 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	27	28