



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

February 2010

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



February brings the Westminster Dog Show to Madison Square Garden in New York. Like the Super Bowl isn't just another football game, the Dog Show transcends the sport.

People come to New York from across the country to attend a show that has never missed a beat in 134 years--not during two world wars or the tumult of the 1960's. It runs pretty much the same way it did when it was organized by a group of wealthy New York men in 1877.

Attendance at the show can run to over 30,000, and a lot of people swear they'll never come to another Westminster, only to come back every year.

Backstage in the benching area, nervous handlers maneuver their meticulously groomed dogs through the crowd to get to the ring.

Many people at Westminster hire guards to protect their dogs at a \$300 a day. There is fear of extremist animal-rights organizations that might try to "liberate" the dogs, and whispered worries of competitors doing something to gain an edge in the show.

The biggest concern is the dog-loving audience who want to touch, hug, or kiss a dog. A long-time Westminster competitor remembers a woman crawled in the cage of her Komondor and curled up next to him, saying "I wanted to see what his coat felt like."

So, these dogs are never left unattended. Not for a minute.

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

Some of the top dog food companies host banquets to honor the top show dogs. Parties also are fund-raisers which include AKC Companion Animal Recovery Canine Support and Relief Fund.

### Old Friends (Continued)

If you are interested in watching the Westminster Show it will be held Feb. 15 & 16. I'm sure everyone will be rooting for their breed. Check the schedule for the class your breed is participating. Good Luck!

*"True happiness is when the love that is within us finds  
expression in external activities"*

-Mata Amritanandamayi, known as the "hugging saint" who has hugged more than 27 million people across the world over the past 30 years.

Till next time,

*Connie*

# Minutes (January 5, 2010)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the STDTC was called to order by Pres. Connie Cuff with 37 members present.

**Report of the President:** I want to thank everyone for participating in training and club activities this past year. I look forward each week to getting together with people and dogs, and I'm hoping we can enjoy a pleasurable year in 2010. It is nice to see young people take an interest and bring their dogs to class.

Many thanks from the club for the gas gift cards. They will surely come in handy.

**Report of Secretary:** Minutes of the December meeting of STDTC were approved as written in the January newsletter.

## **Report of the Treasurer:**

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

## **New Business:**

I have a book mark available for anyone who could use it for children. It shows a child the three steps for meeting a dog.

I had ordered club shirts and someone else has asked me to place an order, is there anyone who would like to order a shirt?

Just a reminder that it is time to get your 2010 dog licenses.

New members were introduced.

TDI/CGC testing will be the last Tuesday in January.

If anyone would like to do therapy visiting on their own during Jan. and Feb., you can call the nursing homes on their own.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginny Pentz, Secretary

## **Breed of the Month**

### **Dogue de Bordeaux**

submitted by Connie Cuff

Beasley's resolute wrinkles and deep, expressive eyes broke millions of hearts in the 1980 comedy movie "Turner and Hooch". Critics raved that Beasley's portrayal of Hooch, a junkyard dog that is the only witness to a murder, upstaged even his famous co-star, actor Tom Hanks.

Beasley's star turn triggered public interest and curiosity in this rare, large breed. Hooch was all Dogue: fiercely loyal, strong, powerful and protective with a sad, drooping face and eyes filled with expression.

The breed's origins are shrouded in mystery. Its ancestry is believed to date back more than 3,000 years, but official records began in France in 1863. Dogues were fighters, hunters, and protectors and many are believed to have perished with their aristocratic owners during the French Revolution.

Also known as the French Mastiff, the breed came to the United States in the late 1960's. They are muscular, large boned, and deceptively agile despite their size. Dogues are housedogs and require lots of attention. They also drool.

They are devoted to the entire family, not just one person, and they are excellent with children. And while they're not excessive barkers, they do make noise, sniffs, snores and snorts.

Would-be owners also should bear in mind this is not a dog for someone who doesn't have a lot of time to spend with a pet. They're people-oriented, and they love to be with their owners. Prospective owners should take into account the breed's background and realize it can be aggressive toward other animals. Thus it is good to socialize the dog early.

The Bordeaux has keen senses of smell and hearing and they make good guard dogs. They tend to be suspicious of strangers but will adjust their behavior according to their owner's moods.

The Dogue de Bordeaux has its share of potential health problems. Although their health has improved during the past several years, Dogues possess weaker immune systems than most breeds because of previous inbreeding. They are susceptible to viruses and skin conditions, hip dysplasia, heart murmurs, epilepsy, eyelid problems and bloat.

The Bordeaux can look forward to sharing their home with a loyal and loving family member that will reward them with an onslaught of affection. We are pleased to have Hanna and Lexi, Dog de Bordeauxs owned by Amanda Ritchard with us.





## Notes and Notices



**I am glad to see more dogs becoming certified as TDI dogs. Everyone is working hard in training their dogs. Marjean has a nice group of puppies in the AKC Star Program. When it comes to socialization this is where therapy training begins in becoming a therapy dog.**

**Marjean will be starting a new AKC Star Program on Tuesday, March 3rd. If interested, please contact Connie or Marjean.**

**Please remember we will not be at the Selinsgrove Center for training Tuesday, February 2nd (due to pipe that broke) and February 16th (gym in use by Center).**

**If you visit the federal facilities at Allenwood with your dog be sure you remove any personal identification you may have on your dog's collar.**

**Welcome new members:**

**Deb and Terry Burns from Middleburg with Reese, Yellow Lab  
William P. Gaskins III, from Selinsgrove with Finley, Yellow Lab  
Connie Hackenburg from Selinsgrove with Hayden & Taylor, Golden Retrievers  
Laura Kane from Winfield with Chewy, a Shih tzu  
Melvin and Sandra Foust from Northumberland with their Airdale  
Gail and Rick Lorady from Ashland with their Bichon Frise  
Jessica Murphey from Sunbury with Emmett, an American Bull dog  
Dianne Cizewski from Bloomsburg with Amber, a Poodle mix**

**Are Hilary Swank's dogs smarter than people? – "I've been able to transform my appearance quite a few times for characters I've played and I've been unrecognizable to some friends, which is always fun". But there's no fooling her dogs Rumi & Karoo. When she chopped off her hair to play Amelia Earhart in Amelia, She was able to go under the radar for awhile with people, but the moment her dogs saw her, they looked past the disguise. It's all about essence, smell and warmth. They remind her of the most important things in life, unconditional love. Animals don't pay attention to appearance.**

**People who walked dogs 20 minutes a day 5x a week, lost an average of 14 lbs. a year. – University of Missouri study**

## UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>Feb. 1 (Mon)</b>	<b>Reading Chief Shikellamy</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
<b>Feb. 2 (Tues)</b>	<b>NO CLASS</b>	
<b>Feb. 3 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Feb. 8 (Mon)</b>	<b>Bucknell University (TDI only)</b>	<b>6:00 pm</b>
<b>Feb. 10 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Feb. 11 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Northwest Academy Shamokin Hospital</b>	<b>1:00 pm 2:15 pm</b>
<b>Feb. 14 (Sun)</b>	<b>HAPPY VALENTINES DAY</b>	
<b>Feb. 15 (Mon)</b>	<b>PRESIDENTS DAY Westminster Dog Show</b>	
<b>Feb. 16 (Tues)</b>	<b>NO CLASS SELINGROVE CENTER Medium Prison Allenwood (NCIC Only) Westminster Dog Show</b>	<b>12:00 pm</b>
<b>Feb. 17 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 pm</b>
<b>Feb. 18 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners</b>	<b>1:00 pm 1:45 pm 2:15 pm</b>
<b>Feb. 22 (Mon)</b>	<b>Reading Chief Shikellamy</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
<b>Feb. 24 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Feb. 25 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Geisinger Rehab, Health South</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>

# February 2010

January 2010

February 2010

March 2010

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28	29	30	31			

-  US Holidays
-  Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	2 Groundhog Day NO CLASSES	3 10:00 AM Riverwoods	4	5	6
7	8 6:00 PM Bucknell University (TDI Only)	9 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	10 10:00 AM Riverwoods	11 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:15 PM Shamokin Hospital	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13
14	15 Westminster Dog Show President's Day	16 NO CLASSES 12:00 PM Medium Prison Allenwood (NCIC Only)	17 10:00 AM Riverwoods	18 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:15 PM Sunshine Corners	19	20
21	22 Washington's Birthday 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	23 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	24 10:00 AM Riverwoods	25 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	26	27
28	1	2 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	3 10:00 AM Riverwoods	4	5	6