



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

February 2011

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



John Paul Scott, (1909-2000) was the first Canine Behaviorist and founded the field with his pioneering studies beginning 65 years ago. He set the frame-work, the basis for advice behaviorists give dog owners every day. He had many dogs in his lifetime. As he quoted, "A dog will never tell you what a fool you are".

In 1945, in doing research at the Roscoe B. Jackson Memorial Laboratories in Bar Harbor, Maine, he found in studying human genetic and child development there was no parallel with dogs.

He began his studies which continued for 25 yrs, and along the way pinpointed the critical period for puppy socialization and all the fundamentals now known about canine genetics.

In his research, which began the moment a liter was born, he found that isolated puppies younger than 3 weeks would stay quiet and content as long as their basic needs were met. By the fourth week they were downright loud and needed company. With company, whether from a person or a dog, they were content.

Scott proved that from 4 weeks to 9 weeks pups will bond more easily with people, other animals, strange objects and strange places than after 10 weeks. In fact, from 4-9 weeks just a brief encounter can do the trick for a lifetime.

If you take a pup away from its litter earlier than 4 weeks and raise it away from other dogs, it will be solely attached to humans. It will be ill-equipped to interact with its own kind, a dog that thinks it's a person. If you remove a dog at 10 weeks or later he will be maladjusted to humans.

He also identified kennel dog syndrome. A typical dog may interact fine with its littermates, or other dogs raised strictly in the kennel setting it has always known. If it is removed to any other setting, the dog may be fearful or aggressive and will be a challenge to have as a housepet. Those

### Old Friends (Continued)

dogs pay the ultimate price for ignorant breeders and puppy mills. That is why pups must be socialized with various people and places during their critical period of socialization.

When purchasing a dog from a good breeder, they will tell you how they have socialized the puppies, handling each of them since birth, and having them introduced to new surroundings.

That is why our Star Puppy Class has been so successful, and I thank Marjean and Sara in training these young dogs to become well-socialized adult dogs.

"You can't get much done by starting tomorrow."

Till next time,

*Connie*

## **Minutes (January 4, 2011)**

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the STDTC was called to order by Pres. Connie Cuff.

**Report of the President:** Marjean will begin the Star Puppy Class next Tues. (it has been postponed because of weather). If you know of anyone who is interested, please let her or I know. Don't forget your dog license.

**Report of the Treasurer:**

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

**New Business:** Connie mentioned that the SPCA had a voucher for spay & neuter and they list the vet hospitals that accept it. Connie talked to the girl who gave her the information and she called the vet hospitals and they would not accept the vouchers. This information is also on the SPCA web site.

**Old Business:** I am filling out the application for the Lewisburg parade and I want everyone to mark their calendars for Saturday, June 25.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ginny Pentz, Secretary

## Breed of the Month

### Shih Tzu

submitted by Connie Cuff

The Shih Tzu is smart, tough and can learn manners as long as the owners do not give in to constant indulgence. These dogs travel well, don't dig, require a big yard and are the perfect balance between tough and pretty. People do tend to spoil them but this breed needs to be trained and well-behaved just like a big dog.

In the mid 1800s, these highly prized "lion dogs" were occasionally given to members of the Manchu dynasty as gifts from Tibet. It wasn't until the 1930s that the Shih Tzu was clearly distinguished from other breeds such as the Lhasa Apsa and the Tibetan Spaniel.

For the Shih Tzu, human companionship is job one, and this small dog with its magnificent coat, luminous dark eyes, expressive face and proud topknot is an expert in that field. They are patient, funny, friendly and tune in to the subtle moods and changes within the family.

Often a good match for seniors and empty-nesters. The Shih Tzu doesn't need much exercise. They make great companions for gentle children, however children should always be supervised around any dog.

There are challenges with this breed, such as grooming needs. Their gorgeous coat is long, soft, and similar to human hair, but the undercoat can mat easily. Many owners keep them cut short, but it still requires combing every few days to prevent matting. Also, the large and limpid eyes tend toward dryness and may require daily eye drops.

Known health problems include renal dysplasia, liver disease, dry eyes and anemia. They are good with other pets if kept safe when with larger dogs.

Perhaps they tend to sleep on pillows, live on laps, wear satin ribbons and bask in long, luxurious grooming sessions. Put in the necessary effort and you'll be rewarded with years and years of love.

It is nice to have Mary Lou Walsh with her Shih Tzu Missy and Makayla and Ashlynn Peachey with their Shih Tzu/Lhasa, Bella with us.





## Notes and Notices



**When you to come to class and participate in training, you also become educators to people you meet who may have questions and dog problems. By educating the public we may prevent a dog from being abused or going to a shelter. Just letting someone know to spay and neuter is one step in preventing an overpopulation of unwanted dogs. I wish to thank everyone in advance for their help in this matter.**

**Our weather certainly has brought havoc to our dog training. I certainly miss seeing everyone, but sometimes it is good for all of us to sit back and rejuvenate so we can become better trainers.**

**Since our 6:30 class seems to have grown, I would like to see only newer dogs come at that time until 7:00 so I can give them more one-to-one attention. I will begin class for our regulars at 7:00 and anyone from the first class is welcome to stay if they wish.**

**Also when coming into the gym, please keep all dogs on leash since we have new dogs in the Star Puppy Class who have not been socialized and a bad experience would not be good for their training. After the 7:00 class we let the dogs off leash with balls and toys so they can socialize with one another.**

**Remember to renew your dog license for 2011 and club membership.**

**Paws Abilities at the Farm Show complex March 12, 13, 2011 This event supports Susquehanna Service Dogs. For more info visit [www.pawsabilities.net](http://www.pawsabilities.net) or call 717-671-7813.**

**Anyone doing volunteer therapy work can deduct mileage under contributions on their federal income tax return.**

## UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>Feb. 2 (Wed)</b>	<b>GROUNDHOG DAY Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Feb. 7 (Mon)</b>	<b>Bucknell University (TDI only)</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>Feb. 9 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Feb. 10 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Northwestern Academy Shamokin Hospital</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:30pm</b>
<b>Feb. 14 (Mon)</b>	<b>Reading Chief Shikellamy HAPPY VALENTINES DAY</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
<b>Feb. 15 (Tues)</b>	<b>Maximum Prison Allenwood (NCIC only)</b>	<b>12:15pm</b>
<b>Feb. 16 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Feb. 17 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm</b>
<b>Feb. 21 (Mon)</b>	<b>PRESIDENTS DAY</b>	
<b>Feb. 23 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Feb. 24 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Health South Geisinger</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>

# February 2011

US Holidays

Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

January 2011

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February 2011

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March 2011

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	31 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	1 Groundhog Day 10:00 AM Riverwoods	2 10:00 AM Riverwoods	3 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:30 PM Shamokin Hospital	4 Lincoln's Birthday	5
6 6:00 PM Bucknell University (TDI Only)	7 6:30 PM Maximum Prison Allenwood (NCIC Only) 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	8 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	9 10:00 AM Riverwoods	10 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:45 PM Sunshine Corners	11 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	12
13 Valentine's Day 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	14 Washington's Birthday 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	15 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	16 10:00 AM Riverwoods	17 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	18 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	19
20 President's Day	21 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	22 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	23 10:00 AM Riverwoods	24 10:00 AM Riverwoods	25 10:00 AM Riverwoods	26
27	28 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	29 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	30 10:00 AM Riverwoods	31 10:00 AM Riverwoods		5