



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

February 2013

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



An important part of socialization is the establishment of consistent rules. Dogs are like children in that they derive a sense of security from knowing what behavior is accepted and what is not.

Don't say, "the dogs are not allowed in the living room during the week, but it's okay for them to come in on the weekend." Dogs don't have calendars and this leads to nothing but confusion and insecurity.

It should be recognized that the dog is NEVER at fault. He is a product of man's effect on breeding, on the dog's upbringing and subsequent training. You must accept full responsibility for any of his failures.

To analyze a particular problem a) the nature of the fault, b) the dog's attitude or frame of mind at the time of the failure, c) the handler's mental approach, which should be considered to be the cause of the failure.

Remember that dogs respond to the pleasant or unpleasant situations during the training of an exercise. First, he must understand what you are teaching him. A dog in a confused state of mind can find the simplest tasks beyond his reach.

The timing and extent of praise to be given cannot be stressed too strongly. Every dog reacts differently to praise. Dogs with a high energy level may find excessive praise can cause unwarranted conduct.

The consistency with which a dog is given a command, reinforced positively for following through and then released with another command such as okay. Commands and releases must be clear cut and distinct if he is to distinguish one from the other. A definite release eliminates guesswork for the dog and promotes eager response to a command. The dogs that work the hardest (assuming training and plenty of praise) appear to be the happiest.

Old Friends (Continued)

In training your dog if you, the owner, enjoy a class your dog will also enjoy his lesson. If you seem bored and ignore the instruction, your dog will invariably act the same. Putting energy and a good attitude into training proves invaluable in gaining the same response from your dog. As Dixie would mention in coming to class, all your frustrations of the day should be kept out of the gym. The 1 hr. training session should be focused 100% on your dog since the dog who responds to commands best is the one who expects to be near you and with you.

All the excitement and interests in his life center around you and the activities you share.

"It is what it is -- but it will become what you make it."

--Doris Dillon

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (January 8, 2013)

submitted by Karen Sodrick

President's Report:

Welcome back after a long break. Since the dogs have been apart for a long time and are excited to see each other it is important that we not congregate in front of the door as it might be overwhelming for some dogs, especially the newer ones.

Shirts that were ordered are being processed and will be available shortly. New orders are still being taken.

Treasurer's Report: is not available online.

Secretary's Report: is in the newsletter.

New Business:

We now have a Facebook page for our club. Details are in the newsletter or you can E-mail Sally Grottini with questions.

There is a visit Jan. 14 at Nottingham (since changed to Elmcroft because of the flu outbreak). If you are considering getting your dog certified as a therapy dog it would be beneficial to make a few visits to see if you and your dog find it enjoyable. Some dogs are uncomfortable in certain settings and get very stressed. Also, there are rules that must be followed: 1. Dogs must be on leash at all times and you must be the only one to handle the dog. 2. Not all dogs are comfortable in all types of conditions, e.g. some are good with children but not seniors, some do better visiting room to room rather than in large crowded areas. 3. If the dog is ill or having a bad day they should not do therapy work that day. 4. Many dogs do not like face to face greetings and it is a good idea to keep dogs about 2 feet away if possible. Some small dogs especially are intimidated by larger ones.

Submitted by,
Karen Sodrick



Notes and Notices



Club dues for 2013 are due. Anyone joining after Oct. 2012 will be paid for 2013. Please update your new information and medical records.

I have received notice from Shikellamy State Park that Frank Nanna, the Manager, will be leaving on Jan. 28 to assume a new position with State Parks & Recreation in Harrisburg. He has done an outstanding job at the park the past 7 years and has always been hospitable in working with our club. He had set-up my forms to use for training in the park which is covered for the next 5 years. I presented him with a small gift and card.

We will be visiting Bucknell University on Monday, Feb. 11 from 6-8pm. We have moved to the Library which is a higher traffic area and it will be well advertised. They have asked us to do some type of dress-up with the dogs since it is near Valentines Day. You can park in the same area as we did for Coleman. The building with the Library is to the left of Coleman and the one with the clock tower.

I would appreciate it if everyone that promotes the Club and invites potential dog owners to attend classes would have them either call or E-mail me before coming. This way I can be prepared with paper work and avoid confusion at the table so they feel welcome.

Since many of you like to schedule events on your calendars, I am printing the following for your information:

We will be at the Susquehanna Valley Mall on Sat. Mar. 2 with a Girl Scout Expo from 10am - 2pm. I promote dog bite prevention and will have the dogs with us to show how to approach and pet a dog. Would you please let me know if you can participate with me and the time you would be available.

I also have scheduled a visit at the Sunbury YMCA for Healthy Kids Day on Sat. April 27 from 10am to noon. We will have the dogs there for petting and bite prevention.

For anyone who can visit Health South, Danville the last Thursday of the month at 2pm, I was asked to bring the dogs to Holy Family Convent at 1pm. It is located on the hill behind Burger King. If you have any questions about the location, please call me.

We welcome new members:

Tina Murray from Lewisburg with her German Shepherd, Daisy

Eric Shartzler from Winfield with his Golden Retriever, Cooper

Andrew Morris from Selinsgrove with his Dalmatian, Lilee

Lee Ann Eichensehr with her three labs, Chelsea, Kevin and Duncan

Jill Young from Elysburg with her Standard Poodle, Bingley

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Feb. 6 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Feb. 7 (Thurs)	Grayson View, Selinsgrove	6:30pm
Feb. 11 (Mon)	Bucknell University (new location Library) (Dress dogs for Valentine's Day)	6:00 - 8:00pm
Feb. 12 (Tues)	Allenwood Low Security (NCIC only)	12:00pm
Feb. 13 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Feb. 14 (Thurs)	HAPPY VALENTINES DAY	
	Northwestern Academy	1:00pm
	Life Geisinger	2:00pm
	Shamokin Hospital	3:00pm
Feb. 18 (Mon)	PRESIDENTS DAY	
Feb. 20 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Feb. 21 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital	1:00pm
	Mansion Nursing Home	2:00pm
	Sunshine Corners	2:45pm
Feb. 25 (Mon)	Penn Lutheran Village	6:30pm
Feb. 27 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Feb. 28 (Thurs)	Holy Family Convent, Danville	1:00pm
	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00pm
Mar. 2 (Sat)	Girl Scout Expo, Susquehanna Valley Mall	10:00am - 2:00pm
Mar. 4 (Mon)	Nottingham Village	6:30pm

February 2013

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
 US Holidays

January 2013
 S M T W T F S
 1 2 3 4 5
 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
 13 14 15 16 17 18 19
 20 21 22 23 24 25 26
 27 28 29 30 31

February 2013
 S M T W T F S
 1 2
 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
 24 25 26 27 28

March 2013
 S M T W T F S
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 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
 17 18 19 20 21 22 23
 24 25 26 27 28 29 30
 31

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM CGC/TDI Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundhog Day
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM CGC/TDI Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Grayson View 		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Bucknell University Library (Dress-up) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lincoln's Birthday 12:00 PM Low Security, Alerwood (NCIC only) 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM CGC/TDI Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Valentine's Day 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital 		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President's Day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM CGC/TDI Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:45 PM Sunshine Corners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Washington's Birthday 	
24	25	26	27	28	1	2
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Penn Lutheran Village 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM CGC/TDI Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Holy Family Convent, Danville 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Girl Scout Expo, Susquehanna Valley Mall