



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

February 2015

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Most people attend dog training classes because they believe their dog has a behavior problem. The problem often lies not with the dog but with how the person handles his dog. If you confuse your dog in what you are trying to achieve in your training, it becomes impossible to correct the unwanted behavior.

If something is not working in your training, try to make a change and see if it makes it easier for your dog to understand what you are trying to teach him. One little change can bring out the best in your dog.

Patience is a very important tool when training our dogs. Beginner dogs learn by leaps and bounds, but sometimes a particular exercise can become frustrating to the owner and the dog becomes confused by the anger in a handler's voice. The process of a dog's performance should be a delicate procedure. A small mistake should bring only a small correction followed by praise. Do not let yourself fall into the trap of saying, "He should know this by now", or "He does so well at home". If he isn't doing it, he obviously doesn't know it yet and he needs more time and patience on your part and you need to re-evaluate your training approach.

I cannot stress enough that before you can achieve success in dog training you must teach your dog "focus". If the dog's mind wanders, no amount of words or treats will get him into a different frame of mind until the only thing that matters is YOU. Working at home through the day with a marker word, such as GOOD or YES when your dog is watching you is the beginning of a bond that will help as the dog is worked outside the home in different situations and at Class. Once the dog finds you are the most important object in the world, training new exercises will become easier to attain.

Now that we have the opportunity to be inside the gym, getting the dog to focus on you will help once we return to the Marina with many more distractions.

Remember a well-trained dog takes an obvious joy in what he is doing because he knows he is pleasing someone he loves - his owner.

Till next time,

*Connie*

## Minutes (January 3, 2015)

submitted by Connie Cuff

Marjean's puppy class begins Jan. 13, Star Puppy dogs are returning for CGC training at 7:30pm

Dues for 2015 are due. Please give us new shot records and Dog Licenses must be renewed for 2015.

I have contacted Erie Insurance and the policy covers members while training at the Selinsgrove Center and the Shikellamy Marina Park. Coverage is if someone who isn't a member approaches our dogs and an incident occurs, and members who are performing duties as related to the conduct of your business as "volunteer workers" related to the conduct of your business.

As for an incident at class with two people while training everyone signs a membership application that states "that all handlers agree that this activity shall be at my own risk against any injury, accident or casualty to myself or my property and that I take all risk of any kind, no matter how caused, and I hereby release and discharge the Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club, etc."

Everyone will sign a new application in renewing their membership for 2015.

Connie - "If anyone feels they may need extra help I wish they would speak to me so I can refer you to trainers in the area for home visits. Our mission as a club is to train dogs for therapy work, we are not in the business of advertising. I am available after class for any help and if I cannot give you an answer, I can direct you to someone who can."

On February 13, 2015, there will be a Meet and Greet with our therapy dogs at the Selinsgrove Library at 11:00am. Please sign up for this event.

There is a visit at Buffalo Valley on Jan. 19.



## Notes and Notices



Thanks to Gail and Sally, we have a nice group of dogs and their owners doing a Trick Class. Everyone seems to be enjoying it and it is a great way for you to bond with your dog.

We have a new group of dogs working with Marjean in the AKC Star Puppy Class. It is nice to see owners take an interest in training their dogs at an early age which is so important.

Arlene Knepp with German Shepherd Sarge; Karen Blue with terrier mix, Bella  
Joan Krick with Clumber Spaniel, Truvy; Lisa Bonshock with Goldendoodle,  
Ozzie; Krisann Martz with Aziah Shepherd; Florence Long with Australian  
Shepherd, Bleu; Siobhan White with Great Dane, Cordelia

I need to have everyone sign-in at the table each week, since I turn it in to the Center Office after Class.

Our Club has a private Facebook that members can join. If anyone is interested, they can get in touch with Majeane Krech and use STDTC Facebook in the subject line. We post some helpful training tips and other dog related articles.

I have received word that we will begin visiting the Selinsgrove Center residents on Tuesday evenings from 5:45 - 6:30pm. Paperwork must be completed along with a copy of the dog's shot record before we can begin our visitations. I will let everyone know when this is completed.

We will begin a new visit on Wednesdays at Heritage Springs, an assisted living, located behind Brookpark in Lewisburg. Our time is 11:15am after our visit at Riverwoods.

## UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>Feb. 3 (Tues)</b>	<b>Medium Prison, Allenwood, (NCIC only)</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>
<b>Feb. 4 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods Heritage Springs</b>	<b>10:00am 11:15 am</b>
<b>Feb. 5 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Maria Joseph Manor Geisinger Rehab, Health South</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm</b>
<b>Feb. 9 (Mon)</b>	<b>Penn Lutheran Village, Selinsgrove</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Feb. 11 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods Heritage Springs</b>	<b>10:00am 11:15am</b>
<b>Feb. 12 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Shamokin Hospital Life Geisinger Building Bridges Northwestern Academy</b>	<b>1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm 2:45pm</b>
<b>Feb. 13 (Fri)</b>	<b>Selinsgrove Library Kids Day</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>Feb. 18 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods Heritage Springs</b>	<b>10:00am 11:15am</b>
<b>Feb. 19 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Manor Care &amp; Sunshine Corners</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm</b>
<b>Feb. 23 (Mon)</b>	<b>Grayson View</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Feb. 25 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods Heritage Springs</b>	<b>10:00am 11:15 am</b>
<b>Feb. 26 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Holy Family Convent Geisinger Rehab, Health South</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm</b>
<b>Mar. 4 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods Heritage Springs</b>	<b>10:00am 11:15am</b>
<b>Mar. 5 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Emmanuel Nursing Home, Danville Geisinger Rehab, Health South</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm</b>
<b>Mar. 8 (Sun)</b>	<b>DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS</b>	

# February 2015

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club  
 US Holidays

January 2015

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 2015

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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

March 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Groundhog Day	3 12:00 PM Medium Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only) 6:30 PM Training 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	4 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs	5 1:00 PM Maria Joseph Manor 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South	6	7
8	9 6:30 PM Penn Lutheran Village, Selinsgrove	10 6:30 PM Training 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	11 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs	12 Lincoln's Birthday 1:00 PM Shamokin Hospital 1:45 PM Life Geisinger 2:15 PM Building Bridges 2:45 PM Northwestern Academy	13 11:00 AM Selinsgrove Library Kids Day	14 Valentine's Day
15	16 Presidents' Day	17 6:30 PM Training 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	18 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs	19 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital Home 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing 2:45 PM Manor Care & Sunshine Corners	20	21
22 Washington's Birthday	23 6:30 PM Grayson View	24 6:30 PM Training 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	25 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs	26 1:00 PM Holy Family Convent 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	27	28