



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

February 2016

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Dogs are one of the rare species of animals who play throughout their lifetime; perhaps it's one of the reasons we have such strong bonds with dogs, because we too play as grown ups. Look how much time is devoted to sports with balls, we truly must be Retrievers at heart.

Given that play is something people and dogs love, surely we should use it as a reinforcer in training and it encourages us to train more. Play can help dogs who may have serious behavior or be aggressive with other dogs. With the reinforcement of play around other dogs, the magic of classical conditioning takes place and ultimately the dog associates the sight of other dogs with the light-hearted emotions associated with play.

Dogs that run to the door when visitors arrive can be taught to get his toy when they arrive, and can "take it" and "drop it" when you play games, which can be a cornerstone of positive-based family dog training.

Trick training is a nice way to incorporate a playful demeanor into your dog's life. We have held classes for dog tricks and our members enjoyed learning new ideas to have fun with their dog. Those of us who do therapy visiting find it provides enjoyment to the people we visit along with diverging them away from unacceptable behavior.

Instead of commanding our dog in a low voice to "down" we can do it in a "cheerful voice" and make it into a "roll over" in a more fun loving attitude. It makes it more fun for the dog and handler. The same way with a "sit". Give a "yah, Good Dog" along with offering him his ball or favorite toy.

A word of caution. Don't confuse your fun with the dog's fun. It should be enjoyable for both of you. Every dog is different and enjoys different things. Observe your dog carefully with his reward. If he turns and walks away from his reward you need to rethink what type you are using, food (is it extra special) toy, petting or a ball.

In training our dogs, especially with new exercises, we should use patience and not expect results until the dog has figured it out. We must ask ourselves if we are both having fun and learning something in the process. "Let the games begin!"

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (January 5, 2016)

submitted by Connie Cuff

President's Report

Please remember to sign in each week at class. A new schedule will be printed after new classes begin the week of Jan 12-19

Thank you notes were received from Mostly Mutts for contributions of goods and cash collected at our Christmas party and also from Brandon for his Christmas gift.

Reminder to new people that we have a 50/50 drawing each week to help defray club costs.

Membership of \$15 is due by March 1st. Also please turn in new shot records as you get them to keep our records up to date.

Congratulations to Arris Moser for award of TDIRVA 250 visits with her dog Ryley and to Mary Jane Purnell for 50 visits with Mitch.

Our STDTC Facebook page is a closed site for members only. Some people who have access have not paid dues for quite a long time. It was the consensus of the club members present to post a notice on the site that anyone not up to date with dues after March 1st would be have their access to the site revoked.

There are quite a few books available to anyone who wants them. I will donate the remainder to the library. There are also some free items donated from dog food companies on the table.

Submitted by,
Karen Sodrick



Notes and Notices



It is nice to see some new faces in the Beginners, CGG, and Star Puppy Classes. I appreciate that you have taken the time to train and socialize your dog which will bring you many rewards in the years ahead. New members:

**Joan and Shuby Marquette with Golden Retriever, Abby
Amy Domaracki with Choc. Lab., AJ
Elaine Komara with Pekigese, Peekie
Britany DeSantis with Golden/Shep, Ty
Jessie Malin with Shih/poo, Pookie
Thelma Wagner with Golden Retriever, Maddie
Tonja Struble with Labrador Ret., Zoey
Aleigh & Tonja Heimbach with Mix, Brutis
Logan Scholl with Golden Ret., Ellie
William Weaver with Golen Ret., Buddy**

Please check emails or Club posting before you leave for class. I try to send out emails by 4:00pm but changes in the weather can occur at the last minute so I may need to cancel later.

We do have a Facebook page for STDTC members only. If you are interested in joining, post and someone will invite you. Dues are being collected and must be paid by Mar. 1. Anyone not renewing will be removed from our Facebook page and not be covered by our Club insurance policy.

I have been asked to participate in the Federal Correction Emergency Preparedness Day on Thursday, May 12. We will set up a table and be there with our dogs from 9:30am - 12:00pm. Lunch is provided to participants.

There is a Pet First Aid and CPR Class being offered by the Educators at 12 Commerce Ave., which is located behind Aubrey Alexander's on Rt. 11 & 15. (in the former Music Building). It will be held from 9am - 12pm on Feb. 6 and Feb. 10 from 6pm - 9pm. The course includes a booklet and handouts. If interested you can call 570-259-9732.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Feb. 3 (Wed)	Riverwoods Heritage Springs	10:00am 11:15am
Feb. 4 (Thurs)	Maria Joseph, Danville Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm
Feb. 8 (Mon)	Nottingham Village	6:30pm
Feb. 9 (Tues)	Low Security Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only) (Back-up date in case of bad weather, Tues. Feb. 23)	12:00pm
Feb. 10 (Wed)	Riverwoods Heritage Springs	10:00am 11:15am
Feb. 11 (Thurs)	Shamokin Hospital Life Geisinger	12:45pm 1:45pm
Feb. 15 (Mon)	PRESIDENTS DAY	
Feb. 17 (Wed)	Riverwoods Heritage Springs	10:00am 11:15am
Feb. 18 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Manor Care	1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm
Feb. 22 (Mon)	Elmcroft, Lewisburg	6:30pm
Feb. 24 (Wed)	Riverwoods Heritage Springs	10:00am 11:15am
Feb. 25 (Thurs)	Holy Family Convent Geisinger Rehab, Health South Maria Hall	1:00pm 1:45pm 2:30pm

Newsletter coordinator: Brandon Pastuszek
E-mail: brandon@stdtc.org
Club web site: <http://www.stdtc.org>

February 2016

January 2016


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February 2016

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March 2016

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 US Holidays

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1	2 Groundhog Day 6:15 PM Training 6:45 PM AKC STAR Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	3 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs	4 1:00 PM Maria Joseph 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South	5	6
7	8 6:30 PM Nottingham Village	9 12:00 PM Low Security Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only) 6:15 PM Training 6:45 PM AKC STAR Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	10 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs	11 12:45 PM Shamokin Hospital 1:45 PM Life Geisinger	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13
14 Valentine's Day	15 Washington's Birthday	16 6:15 PM Training 6:45 PM AKC STAR Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	17 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs	18 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:45 PM Manor Care	19	20
21	22 6:30 PM Elmcroft	23 6:15 PM Training 6:45 PM AKC STAR Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	24 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs	25 1:00 PM Holy Family Convent 1:45 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South 2:30 PM Maria Hall	26	27
28	29	1 6:15 PM Training 6:45 PM AKC STAR Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	2 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs	3	4	5