

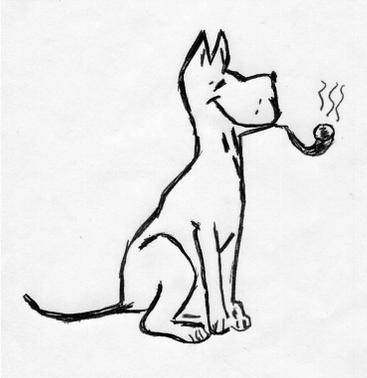


# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

January 2006

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Another year on the way for our club. Keep up your interest in helping make it another great year.

The secret of youth in old age is to use the body, mind, and the heart through exercise, study, and love. By joining a dog club you meet new people and make new friends. Having your dog become a TDI dog and going to hospitals, schools, prisons, and homes for the elderly sometimes might be sad in a way, but you are giving so much love and happiness to each person you come in contact with. You yourself will only go away feeling what a great dog you have. (taken from Feb. 2002 newsletter)

It is important to remember that people doing therapy work need to keep their dogs socialized with other dogs. Many times we see dogs who do not get together and they sometimes have a problem adjusting to new dogs during a visit.

A few facts taken from Dog Psychology by Leon F. Whitney D.V.M.:

In the back of the dogs head lies the organ which controls the entire behavior of the dog which come to it from special senses of sight, hearing, taste, smell, and feeling.

Hearing All dogs are born deaf, the ears are closed until the tenth day of life. What he hears makes very little impression but develops in his mind as he matures. He has to learn that a growl is generally followed by pain inflicted by teeth or a bark means to be alert.

Taste There is little need for chewing. He relies on his sense of smell and very little on taste to accept or reject food. If a toxic substance had no odor he gulps it down regardless of how it tastes and that is why many dogs are poisoned annually.

Smell It has been calculated that the area in a dog's head over which air contains odors is about the size of the skin on his body, while ours is about the size of a postage stamp. Just as his scenting tool is much larger, so is his memory of smells. When all other memories have failed, the smell memory of a dog lasts.

Dogs recognize places where they have been happy and also disagreeable experiences. That is why dogs, when adopted, have different phobias which they have experienced early in their life. It is up to the new owners to help these dogs through their new challenges.

What are the tools for recognition? Dogs have receptor calls and since the dog's nose waters, the chemical odor dissolves in the water filling the nostrils with the sensation of smell. What a dog does when he receives these sensations depends upon what orders are in his inherited pattern, be it a bloodhound, beagle, retriever, or "Irish Terrier"

Dog food manufacturers can tell many facts about what foods dogs like.

### Old Friends (Continued)

What smells good to human might actually turn a dog off. Also while most humans smell pretty much the same to each other, to a dog everyone is different.

What can our dog learn by sniffing a fire hydrant? Among other things, he can determine the age, sex, health status, and even the emotional state of the last pooch to pass by.

No one knows their dog better than you. Knowing a few facts about our dogs nervous system and why they do the things they do makes training ever so much interesting.

May everyone enjoy a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Till next time,

*Connie*

### Minutes (December 6, 2005)

Our twentieth monthly meeting as held Dec. 6, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. at Selinsgrove Center.

Connie Cuff, President, called the December meeting to order.

Secretary's Report—In the Newsletter

Treasurer's Report—Mary Lou Walsh gave the treasurer's report as follows:

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

#### Old Business:

We will not have classes Dec. 13 and Dec. 20 because the Center will be using the gym for a banquet. Please keep in mind weather conditions for class.

Everyone who needs to use the bathrooms at class, please use the ones on either side of the stage.

#### New Business:

Our Christmas party was an overwhelming success. We all had a wonderful time. Dr. Donald Kamsler purchased Club pins for members. They were done in memory of Dixie. We also had a silent auction which netted us about \$300. There

## Minutes (Continued)

was a collection of goods and money for Cheryl Hill, Mostly Mutts, and with the cash received and money collected, the Club wrote her a check for \$100.

Awards were presented for TDI for 50 visits to Sally Grottini, Erin Pastuszek, Karen Sodrnick, and Joan Haire-Campbell. A special award was made to Brandon Pastuszek for his work throughout the year on our Newsletter.

Club membership is due beginning in January. Everyone must fill out a new application and include an updated health record. If your dog is TDI, just make a copy of the form you send to TDI. Anyone paying dues after Nov. 1 will be considered paid for 2006.



## Notes and Notices



We will be visiting the residents at the Selinsgrove Center, Wed. January 18 at 6:30 p.m. We meet at the main building on the right coming off of Rt. 522, there is a large parking lot in front of the building. Since we use the Selinsgrove Center gym to train we must give something back and I would appreciate as many people to visit as possible. The residents really love seeing the dogs.

We have not scheduled any evening therapy visits as a club during January and February due to weather conditions which may develop during the nighttime. Our daytime visits will continue as scheduled.

Anyone who does not have E-mail access and missed our monthly newsletter can call me for therapy visits and club information 286-9537.

We received a wonderful gift from the Milton Elementary school, a check for \$300.00. It is a donation to our club. This fall we did Reading to the Dogs for them at their school. This monetary gift will subsidize our any volunteer activities which we do for the community and continue Dixie's legacy.

Anyone who is available on Wednesday at 9:00 a.m., we will be visiting White Deer Elementary to "Read to the Dogs". Ann Trudnak will have more information for us. After our school visit we will go to Riverwoods for our weekly 10:00 a.m. visitation.

### **We wish to welcome our new members:**

Christy Emigh from Lewisburg with Cammie, a Welsh Corgi

Cinda Klatil from Sunbury with Ty, a Golden Retriever

Gerry and Anne Dijkstra from Elysburg with Pasha, a Giant Schnauzer

Denise Kreider from Sunbury with Abbey Jo, a Rottweiler

### **Congratulations for acquiring TDI-CGC titles:**

Sally Biddinger with her Great Dane, Moses

Marlin and Colleen Moyer with Hanna Marie, their Golden Retriever. They also have rescued and adopted a Golden mix Cooper.

# Acknowledgements

Throughout the year there have been people who coordinated and did a little extra which I would like to acknowledge.

Linda Bennett for coordinating the Bucknell visits and Union County Library Reading program.

Ann Trudnak who helped get the reading program together that we did for the Milton Elementary School.

Sally Biddinger for her baked goods after our therapy visits.

Kevin and Molly Bittenbender for their effort in arranging the memorial at the Shikellamy Marina and also for everyone who supported it.

Marjean Krech, Sara Fry, Sally Grottini, and Virginia Pentz for training new dogs at the Goodwill Palyground and club training nights.

Sherry Carpenter who has contributed articles to our newsletter throughout the year.

I appreciate and thank everyone who has attended classes, therapy visits, picnic, parades, and helped with Pawsabilities at the Farm Show.

## Sherry's Corner

by Sherry Carpenter

There is a virtual dog show open to ALL dogs. The address is [www.dogshowusa.com](http://www.dogshowusa.com). I think the readers would enjoy going there and entering their dog in the show. The two hosts, David Frei and John O'Hurley were part of a teleconference I participated in. John O'Hurley said if he could be a dog he would be an English Springer Spaniel/Boston Bulldog mix. He also told us about dancing with an afghan. He said it was hard to get the dog to stand up and then when he went to hold her-- she was all hair!! As most of you know David Frei is the host of both Westminster and the National and is very active in therapy.

## How to Rub Your Dog the Right Way

submitted by Connie Cuff

Here are a few steps to give your dog a great massage:

Start with strokes: with a flat palm and fingers, gently pet the dog. Gradually increase the pressure and speed until you reach 15 stokes per minute. Strokes should be directed along the fur line, down the back and down from shoulder to front foot and hip to hind foot.

Next, use the fingertip technique: with two or three fingers extended and kept close together, rub the underlying muscles. Maintain contact with the skin as you make small circular movements. Start between shoulder blades and work slowly down toward the base of the tail. Increase pressure as you feel the dog's muscles relax. Repeat three to four times.

Introduced acupressure: use a thumb—or with very small dogs, the index finger—and press straight down on the various acupuncture points. Five seconds on each point is sufficient. Repeat two to three times on each point.

Follow with deep massage: knead, pull, roll, and lift skin between fingers and thumb along the back, flank, and chest. Be slow and rhythmic. Repeat three to four times.

Next comes friction: use the balls of the first two or three fingers of one or both hands to give fast, invigorating strokes. The pressure should be sufficient to remove loose fur but not so much that it stops movement from being smooth and fast—about one to two strokes per second. Repeat until you are sweeping your dog with long, light strokes.

Finally, extend your palms and fingers and press your hands slowly over the dog's body, barely touching it as you go. Follow the fur line from nose to tail, and sweep gently from shoulder to forepaw and rump to hind foot. Give five to ten slow passes, talking quietly to your dog as you work.

## UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>Jan 4 (Wed)</b>	<b>White Deer Elementary “Read to the Dogs”</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
<b>Jan 18 (Wed)</b>	<b>Selinsgrove Center (Main Administration Building)</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b><u>Every Wednesday</u></b>	<b>Riverwoods Lewisburg, PA</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b><u>3rd Thursday</u></b>	<b>Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home, Market St. Sunbury</b>	<b>1:00-1:30pm 1:45pm</b>
<b><u>Last Thursday</u></b>	<b>Geisinger Rehab—Health South</b>	<b>2:00-3:00pm</b>

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# January 2006



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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Read to the Dogs  
(White Deer  
Elementary)  
9am

Riverwoods  
(Lewistown)  
10am

8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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Riverwoods  
(Lewistown)  
10am

15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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Riverwoods  
(Lewistown)  
10am

Sunbury Hospital  
(Sunbury)  
1pm - 1:30pm

Selinsgrove Center  
(Selinsgrove)  
6:30pm

Mansion Nursing  
Home  
(Sunbury)  
1:45pm

22	23	24	25	26	27	28
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Riverwoods  
(Lewistown)  
10am

Health South  
(Danville)  
2pm

29	30	31
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