



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club



Old Friends

by Connie Cuff

As we begin a New Year of training and socializing our dogs, one of the prime functions of any dog instructor should be the nurturing of a better, more aware relationship between dog and handler. If the instructor does his job well, that owner will be more likely to love and care for his dog for many years. The instructor can only give each class his best; after the class is over, it is up to the owner to give his dog the best he has learned that week in training. He should incorporate methods learned in class in every day

activities at home.

Daily practice and consistent attitude (not losing your temper) coupled with the ability to follow directions and use common sense will get you the results you want. Remember each dog learns at its own pace, it takes time, but it also must be fun for you and your dog.

Kindness will accomplish much more than harshness and cruelty. A dog has a wonderful memory and won't forget one's attitude toward him. The ideal pack leader is fair, just, consistent and has authority. You're not begging a dog to do something. You're not requesting it. You're not even asking. You're TELLING him. Know what you want this dog to do, but remember, make it clear to the dog and after that there is no choice on the dog's part. Very few people use praise often enough. Praise is the dog trainer's secret weapon. The best dog trainers are able to give commands in a firm but quiet voice.

If you are having a hard time with a certain exercise or in the dog understanding a command, do the lesson in the evening just before you are going to put the dog and yourself to bed. Don't play with him; let him sleep on the command. When you start to train the next day, make this command the first one you give him. The dog usually performs it with little or no hesitation.

Since obesity is the leading nutritional disorder in pets, start the New Year with an exercise program for you and you dog. As Cesar Millan says, "Daily walking with your dog is an important tool in training your dog."

May everyone enjoy a Happy New Year.

Till next time,

Connie

Meeting Minutes (December 4, 2007)

The meeting of the STDTC was called to order by Pres Connie Cuff with 15 members in attendance.

Report of the President:

Since this will be our last meeting for the year, I wish to thank everyone for their support in coming to training, participating in events and pet therapy.

We will be here next Tues, Dec 11 and will not have class until Jan. 8. Everyone should check their e-mails in case we have a cancellation. If the weather is bad I will not be here.

Report of the Secretary:

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:	Previous Balance:	\$1986.55
Checks written:		
Gifts	\$393.00	
Trophies	\$ 81.00	
Party	<u>\$791.79</u>	
Total:	1265.79	<u>\$1265.79</u>
		\$ 720.76
Deposit:		
Party	\$658.00	<u>\$ 658.00</u>
	New Balance:	\$1378.76

New Business:

Membership renewals are due in January. Dues remain the same, \$12 for single and \$15 for family. Everyone will fill in a new form to keep the records up-dated. Please make copies of your TDI health record for me. It is good to have a copy for your car in case you may need it. I would like to thank Sherry Carpenter for donating her books to pass out to children "Teaching Children how to Fall in Love With Dogs". Let Connie know if you need any to hand out.

Old Business:

This is the last time you will be able to sign up for the Christmas party which is Sunday Dec. 9 at 5 PM at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club.

A thank you to Melanie Fisher for taking pictures of the dogs and making up cards for "Reading to the Dogs".

I will have sign ups in January for visits to the Selinsgrove Center.

We have a therapy visit Thursday at Buffalo Valley, Lewisburg and Thurs. Dec. 13 at Nottingham Village. This is a difficult time for residents of nursing homes so please try to participate.

Karen made motion to adjourn Meeting adjourned until January 8, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginny Pentz

Breed of the Month

Pembroke Welsh Corgi

The Pembroke Welsh Corgi is the smallest member of the herding group and are the choice of many big dog fanciers that don't have the space for a larger breed.



This intelligent breed likes to stay busy making training fun and productive. They participate in agility, tracking, obedience and herding. Whether in the home or the show ring the Pembroke focuses on the people in the room.

As much as they adore people, they won't hound you, as they can easily amuse themselves. They also are not a quiet breed and like to run around and get into the action.

Historians trace the breed to Wales and legend says they were used as cart pullers and herders. Many believe the Pembroke lineage was from the Spitz family and its counterpart the Cardigan Welsh Corgi was from dachshund stock. Interbreeding might have led to the strong resemblance between the breeds.

The Pembroke is the smaller and lighter of the two breeds, and some are born with a naturally bobbed tail. Others born with tails like Cardigans have their tails docked when they are a few days old.

Pembrokes shed year round and require at least a weekly brushing. Owners should watch their Corgi's weight as they long-backed breed occasionally suffers from intervertebral-disk disease. They are food-motivated and they get fat very easily.

They are suited to a farmhouse or a suburban home where organized play and training keep their active minds busy. Daily walks also calm them down.

More than anything else, Pembrokes want to be with people. Their love of humans is the main thing; the more you love them the more they love you back.

Notes and Notices

It was so nice to see everyone who attended our Christmas Party. We all enjoyed the fellowship, good food, and our silent auction. Try to think about joining us for 2008 if you were not able to attend.

I would like to recognize members who helped with different activities throughout the year:

Ann Trudnak who coordinates our Reading to the Dogs at White Deer Elementary.

Brandon Pastuszek who does a wonderful job in making up the newsletter and *Kelly* who prints them.

Those helping with training are *Marjean Krech*, who also evaluates dogs for TDI/CGC, *Sara Fry* who does CGC testing and *Virginia Pentz*, who is our secretary and *Mary Haas*. Also, *Sally Grottini*, who does testing for CGC/TDI.

Melanie Fisher has taken photos of our dogs to make up ID cards for our Reading program and other activities.

Josette Zielinski who has coordinated the pet therapy program and has us badged at the medium security at Allenwood.

Jim and Connie Hepner who most graciously donated whistles to our club. I know *Dixie* would be very pleased as he always felt this was a valuable tool in dog training.

Elaine Peebles who made Christmas scarves for the dogs when we visited the nursing homes.

The following were recognized with plaques for their TDI visits:

Ginny Pentz, TDIAOV Title (150) ***Katie Do***

Mary D. Haas, TDIAOV Title (150) ***Snookie***

Karen Sodrnick, TDIAOV Title (150) ***Tibsy***

Barbara Minnick, TDIA Title (50) ***Suzy***

Wanda Wilkinson, TDIA Title (50) ***Ringo***

Joan Haire-Campbell, TDIRVA Title (250) ***Annie***

Mary Lou Semicek, TDIRVA Title (250) ***Milo***

Kathryn Starkey, TDIA, TDIAOV, TDIRVA, TDIEVA, ***Tessie Mae***
(50) (150) (250) (350)

OBEDIENCE TITLE: ***Marjean Krech***, Rally Novice A Title, ***Rosie***

PawsAbilities will be held March 8 and 9 from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm at the Farm Show Complex, Harrisburg. It benefits Susquehanna Service Dogs. For more information check their website: www.keystonehumanservices.org/ssd. You can order tickets on line or call 717-671-7813.

Everyone should fill in a new application for 2008 when paying their yearly dues and give an up-dated shot record to *Virginia Pentz* who is handling this.

Remember when filing your 2007 income tax return, you can deduct mileage used for therapy visits under contributions.

Be sure to get a 2008 license for your dog.

I need people to sign up for visits to the Selinsgrove Center which we do every two weeks.

Our sympathies to *Sherry Carpenter* who lost her 6 yr. old English Springer Spaniel to lyme disease. Veterinarians are telling us to continue tick topicals through the winter months. Ticks are becoming very resistant and with some warmer days some of them are still around.

The names of contact persons and their phone numbers for therapy visits will be available at class.

Upcoming TDI visits and Club Activities

Jan. 9 (Wed)	Reading White Deer Elementary	9:00 am
Jan. 10 (Thurs)	Northwestern Academy, Rt. 61 (past Walmart) Life Geisinger (Life Independent for Elderly) 11 th Street, Kulpmont, make left 1 ½ blocks-Roosevelt Court Shamokin Hospital	1:00 pm 2:00 pm 3:00 pm
Jan. 14 (Mon)	Reading Chief Shikellamy	9:00 am
Jan. 17 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home, Sunbury Sunshine Corner, Sunbury	1:00 pm 1:45 pm 2:15 pm
Jan. 22 (Tues)	FCI, Medium Security, Allenwood Badged members only, please sign up if you are going	12:00 pm
Jan. 23 (Wed)	Reading White Deer Elementary	9:00 am
Jan. 31 (Thurs)	Geising Rehab, Danville	2:00 pm
Feb. 4 (Mon)	Reading Chief Shikellamy	9:00 am
Feb. 11 (Mon)	Bucknell University, Lewisburg TDI only	6:00 pm

January 2008

December 2007

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January 2008

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February 2008

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■ Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 ■ 6:00 PM CLASSES CANCELED	2 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	3	4	5
6	7	8 ■ 6:00 PM CLASSES RESUME	9 ■ 9:00 AM Reading (White Deer Elementary) ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	10 ■ 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy ■ 2:00 PM Life Geisinger ■ 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital	11	12
13	14 ■ 9:00 AM Reading Chief Shikellamy	15	16 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	17 ■ 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital ■ 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home ■ 2:15 PM Sunshine Corners	18	19
20	21 ■ 12:00 PM FCI, Maximum Security Prison	22	23 ■ 9:00 AM Reading (White Deer Elementary) ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	31 ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	1	2