



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

January 2009

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



What a wonderful year this has been meeting new people and training and socializing our dogs so they can become better canine citizens and better behaved companions to live with.

To all the members, thanks for making the new members feel at home when they come to class. Even though I do the training we are all here to help one another, so feel free to ask anyone for assistance if you need it.

As I have mentioned many times, don't skimp on the praise when training your dog, he'll reward you back. When used correctly, it will help your dog understand exactly what you want him to do, thereby facilitating the learning process.

Praise can be verbal such as a heartfelt "Good boy!" or "Aren't you clever!" Or it can be physical - a vigorous scratching on the hind end, or a toss of a favorite toy.

Each dog is different, even within the same litter. The type of praise and how much our dog needs depends on his personality.

Learn to read your dog's body language and figure which buttons to push in order to feed his ego and boost his confidence. Perhaps you need to act silly and animated or talk in a high-pitched voice.

Sometimes physical praise can be too stimulating for some dogs and cause them to jump up or bark - then stick the calm verbal praise.

The goal is to use enough praise to let him know he is right, but not so much as to make him wild and crazy. You can use lots of exciting buzzwords. The individual phrases are not critical, but the tone of voice will help to motivate and stimulate your dog.

As with any aspect of dog training, timing is critical. Praise that comes too early or too late will only serve to confuse a dog.

People approach dog training differently. Some owners are energetic, wild and silly. Others are more reserved and less willing to act foolish - even in front of their dog. Take a tip from the experts - your dog will not care if you act silly. So go ahead and get animated; when your dog does something good make sure he feels good about himself!

Old Friends (Continued)

Praise is not only good for the dogs but for those who come to class to train. I'll be showing more positive support to everyone who trains, so don't be surprised to see a crazy trainer clapping her hands, getting animated, or down-right foolish for a job well done.

May all the love we have for our dogs and one another bring us much happiness in 2009.

Till next time,

Connie

Since this is the year of a presidential inauguration, I thought you would like to know of the various pets that were kept at the White House starting with George Washington. He was an animal lover who was devoted to his horse Nelson and was credited with the creation of the foxhound. Thomas Jefferson kept his pet mockingbird, Dick, in his White House study, and he rode on his shoulder and took food from his lips.

Teddy Roosevelt's six children kept a lizard, pig, badger, owl, chickens, a rabbit and a pony. Outsized President Taft kept a cow that dwelled among Taft's cars in the White House garage and sometimes provided milk for the White House kitchen.

But perhaps the most endearing relationship was Franklin D. Roosevelt and his Scottish terrier, Fala. The President fed the dog daily himself, taught him tricks, and allowed him to sleep beside his bed. Fala was at FDR's side when the president died. He spent his remaining years with Mrs. Roosevelt at the Hyde Park estate. She described how for the rest of his life Fala would prick up his ears and thump his tail whenever he heard a siren, thinking it was a presidential motorcade bearing his living master home. Many dogs eventually forget. Fala never really forgot.

Warren Harding's Airedale, Laddie Boy, was ever present and became so popular with the press corps. Richard Nixon relied on his dog Checkers to defend his acceptance of gifts. Gerald Ford's golden retriever, Liberty, attempted to restore our confidence when Nixon left the White House.

We look to our Presidents for all the best in the qualities of leadership. Observing their private lives - how they interact with their family and clues to character can be found in how they act with animals. Presidents are just like the rest of us that way.

Minutes (December 2, 2008)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the December 2008 meeting of the STDTC was call to order by Pres. Connie Cuff, with 31 members present.

Report of President:

Our Christmas Party is Sunday at 5 PM at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club. We are looking forward to an enjoyable evening. Our guest is Cheryl Hill from Mostly Mutts no-kill shelter and we will present her with items of food and needy things for her use.

Our member Jack Semicek passed away and the family requested donations to our club. As a token of appreciation I have ordered a flag holder for the flag at the American Legion presented his wife Mary Lou.

Congratulations to Erin Pastuszek for receiving Student of the month from the Sunbury Lions. She did her Senior project on Pet Therapy. The Lions Club has a recycling fundraiser in Northumberland. They are there Wed. 5:30 to 7:30 PM and Sat. morning 8 to 11 AM. It is located on Rt 11 across from W & L Subaru. They would appreciate anyone's help since this is one of their main sources of income.

Report of the Secretary:

Minutes of previous meeting were approved as written in the December newsletter.

Report of Treasurer:

(Treasurer's Reports are unavailable in the online edition of the STDTC Newsletter.)

New Business:

AKC Puppy Program: AKC has a new star puppy Program for puppies. It involves a 6 week program with a test to take. Puppies passing the test will get an award from AKC. The program will start in January. There will be an e-mail sent.

As explained in the newsletter, there is a facility in Perry County, a Dog Sanctuary and they house dogs belonging to military personnel who are being deployed and have no one to care for them. I would like a discussion if the club would like to make a contribution to this facility. Motion to donate \$50.00, was carried by all members present.

Some of you have received an e-mail about our member Josette Zielinski's son who passed away at the age of 26, with 4 young children, ages 7, 5, 3, and 1. I will be attending his funeral in Elysburg tomorrow. I think it would be a kind gesture if our Club could have a collection from members along with a donation from the Club to the family for support of the children. A motion was made and carried by all members present to make a \$100.00 donaton to Jossette, for the children from the Club. I have Josette's address if anyone wishes to make a contribution to her for the children.

Minutes (Continued)

PawsAbilities will be held at the State Farm Show Complex Mar 14 & 15. You can go on the web site for information. www.keystonehumanservices.org/ssd. This supports Susuehanna Service Dogs

Old Business:

Sign up for visit at Selinsgrove Center Dec. 30.

Please check the calendar for December activities.

We will not have class Dec 9th, 16th, and 23rd. Our classes will resume Dec 30th

Breed of the Month

Tibetan Terrier

submitted by Connie Cuff

Although classified as terriers when they arrived in the West in the 1930's, Tibetan Terriers are not actually terriers. In 1957 the Tibetan Terrier Club of America was founded and in 1973 the AKC accepted the breed.

Originally raised by monks in the mountains of Tibet about 2,000 years ago, TT's served mainly as companion dogs, although they sometimes performed herding duties, too. The breed's thick coat offered protection from harsh Tibetan winters when temperatures can stay below freezing for weeks, and from summer dust storms. Long heavy eyelashes hold the hair away from their eyes while protecting them from the elements.

Shaggy, playful, and energetic, TT's surprise their owners using their paws to open containers as hands. They are smart in ways you wouldn't expect. Just as likely to disobey as obey, they need a firm boss. Their desire to please make them pleasant housemates when they receive solid training.

Tibetan Terriers were never sold, only given as gifts, and it was believed that no one would hurt a traveler lucky enough to have received a Tibetan Terrier. For this reason, they were sometimes called the Good Luck Dog.

The TT height is 15 to 16 inches and their weight runs 20 to 24 lbs. They adapt well to families with children and other pets and do better in a fenced-in yard. The long multi-colored coat requires frequent brushing and grooming but doesn't shed.

Like their ancestors they can be very active and do well in agility, obedience as well as walking and hiking. What they really love to do is jump.

The TT can thrive in the city, suburb or country. Since they are a terrific family dog don't be surprised if a Tibetan puts his paws around you like humans put their hands.



STDTC in the News

Kids see first snow and enjoy lasagna

By Karen Blackledge

The Daily Item

January 02, 2009 07:10 am

— DANVILLE -- When 11-year-old James Bogere saw snow for the first time, he made a snowball and threw it at one of his fellow choir members.

That was in Buffalo, N.Y., and since then, he and 16 children visiting from Uganda have seen snow in other places, including Danville.

Maureen Bogonzi, 10, another member of the Watoto Children's Choir, was surprised houses are built of wood in the United States. "I thought they would be brick," she said.

Among the new foods she's sampled is lasagna. Christine Nansubuga, 10, found doughnuts to be different. In Uganda, they don't have McDonald's restaurants either, she said.

The children, who have lost at least one parent to AIDS or to war, are traveling the country to raise money to build homes and schools for 10,000 kids without parents in Uganda. Watoto means children in Swahili, one of the many languages spoken in Uganda, according to choir director Eddie Mwesigye.

While the concerts are free, donations and sponsorships are accepted. The choir also sells CDs and DVDs of its concerts, T-shirts and African jewelry to support the tours.

"Whatever money comes through is helpful," Mwesigye said.

The children and 10 chaperones are being hosted by Barbara Walzer in her Danville home.

The choir will present a concert at 7 p.m. Sunday in Grove Presbyterian Church, Bloom Street. Other area concerts are at 7 p.m. Saturday in United in Christ Lutheran Church in Lewisburg, 9 a.m. Sunday in First Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mifflinburg and 7 p.m. Tuesday in Generation Life Church in Milton.

This past week, members of the Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club, headed by Connie Cuff, brought their therapy dogs for the kids to pet. They showed the children how the dogs are trained and tested. "The dogs are very friendly. In Uganda, dogs are used for security," choir member Maureen Bugonzi said. Mwesigye said dogs in Uganda also are kept as pets, but they live outside.

Among the therapy dogs visiting were Cuff's 10-year-old Irish terrier Dugan and 9-year-old golden retriever named Riley; Sarah, a 3-year-old black Labrador owned by Stephanie Fullmer; and Katie, a 3-year-old golden retriever.

"There are 2 million orphans, and we care for over 1,700 in our orphanage," Mwesigye said of the Watoto Child Care Ministries. Their long-range goal is to build homes and schools for 10,000 children without parents.

STDTC in the News (Continued)

The choir strives to heighten awareness of the AIDS epidemic in Africa and the vision of Watoto Child Care Ministries and raise money and support for the ministries. Thirty million of the 40 million people in the world infected with HIV or AIDS live on the African continent.

This is the third choir visit Walzer has hosted after she traveled to Uganda in 2001 with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, which also works with children in the U.S. and other parts of the world.

A former board member of the institute, Walzer saw the orphanages and AIDS crisis in the country.

“It’s a wonderful model for orphanages. They adopt them for life and build future leaders. They are well-schooled and well-cared for,” she said of the Watoto Children’s Orphanage, founded by Canadians Marilyn and Gary Skinner.

“It’s nice they can all be together,” she said of the group, which is staying with her through Jan. 7.

The choir and chaperones, who home-school the children while they tour for six months, arrived Dec. 22.

“Each child received a watch from the choir for Christmas,” Walzer said.

The kids went swimming at the Danville Area Community Center, plan to take in a movie and expect to go out to eat.

“They have been watching a lot of movies and have rested. They work so hard,” she said of the youngsters, who audition for the choir and practice for five months before beginning their bus tour, which ends in March.

Choir members tour once. Different choirs travel to various parts of the world.

To help, people may donate at the concerts, sponsor a child on a monthly basis or purchase concert items to help fund the tours. For information, visit www.watoto.com or call Watoto U.S. Director Don Champion at (813) 948-4343.

E-mail comments about this article to kblackledge@dailyitem.com.

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The Watoto Children's Choir sings a song for members of the Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club after meeting their dogs and seeing how the dogs are trained.



Jane Nakintu, 9, left, and Maureen Bugonzi, 10, meet therapy dog Sarah, a black Labrador. Sarah's owner Stephanie Fullmer is nearby.



Moses Serwanga, 10, and Katie, a Golden Retriever therapy dog. Moses is among the 17 children who are members of the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda presenting free concerts in the area.



Nicholas Muneza pets therapy dogs Dugan, an Irish Terrier, and Riley, a Golden Retriever, owned by Connie Cuff, of the Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club, during a visit to the home of Barbara Walzer.

Dog Dictionary

submitted by Mary Haas

LEASH: A strap which attaches to your collar, enabling you to lead your person where you want him/her to go.

DOG BED: Any soft, clean surface, such as the white bedspread in the guest room or the newly upholstered couch in the living room.

DROOL: Is what you do when your persons have food and you don't. To do this properly you must sit as close as you can and look sad and let the drool fall to the floor, or better yet, on their laps.

SNIFF: A social custom to use when you greet other dogs. Place your nose as close as you can to the other dog's rear end and inhale deeply, repeat several times, or until your person makes you stop.

GARBAGE CAN: A container which your neighbors put out once a week to test your ingenuity. You must stand on your hind legs and try to push the lid off with your nose. If you do it right you are rewarded with margarine wrappers to shred, beef bones to consume and moldy crusts of bread.

BICYCLES: Two-wheeled exercise machines, invented for dogs to control body fat. To get maximum aerobic benefit, you must hide behind a bush and dash out, bark loudly and run along side for a few yards; the person then swerves and falls into the bushes, and you prance away.

DEAFNESS: This is a malady which affects dogs when their persons want them in and they want to stay out. Symptoms include staring blankly at the person, then running in the opposite direction, or lying down.

THUNDER: This is a signal that the world is coming to an end. Humans remain amazingly calm during thunderstorms, so it is necessary to warn them of the danger by trembling uncontrollably, panting, rolling your eyes wildly, and following at their heels.

WASTEBASKET: This is a dog toy filled with paper, envelopes and old candy wrappers. When you get bored, turn over the basket and strew the papers all over the house until your person comes home.

SOFAS: Are to dogs like napkins are to people. After eating it is polite to run up and down the front of the sofa and wipe your whiskers clean.

BATH: This is a process by which the humans drench the floor, walls and themselves. You can help by shaking vigorously and frequently.

LEAN: Every good dog's response to the command "sit!", especially if your person is dressed for an evening out. Incredibly effective before black-tie events.

BUMP: The best way to get your human's attention when they are drinking a fresh cup of coffee or tea.

GOOSE BUMP: A maneuver to use as a last resort when the Regular Bump doesn't get the attention you require, especially effective when combined with The Sniff. See above.

LOVE: Is a feeling of intense affection, given freely and without restriction. The best way you can show your love is to wag your tail. If you're lucky, a human will love you in return.



Notes and Notices



What a wonderful time we had at our annual Christmas party at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club. We all enjoyed the fellowship and it was nice to have Cheryl Hill as our guest. Try to think about joining us in 2009 if you were unable to attend.

The following were recognized with plaques:

Ginny Pentz	TDIRVA Title	Katie Do
	TDIA Title	Sasha
Deb Weikel	TDIA Title	Lucy
Kathy Bohinski	TDIA Title	Oliver
Laura Girard	TDIA Title	Cleo
Stephanie Fullmer	TDIA Title	Sarah
Sally Biddinger	TDIA Title	Moses
	TDIAOV Title	Zeus
Brandon Pastuszek	TDIAOV Title	Kira
Joan Haire-Campbell	TDIEVA Title	Annie
Wanda Wilkinson	Rally Novice A	Ringo

Joan Haire-Campbell received a special award for her many years of dedication to the rescue and care of dogs and cats.

People recognized for help with different activities and functions throughout the year:

Ann Trudnak who coordinates our Reading to the Dogs at Boughner Elementary

Brandon Pastuszek who makes up the newsletter and Kelly who prints them.

Marjean Krech with training and TDI and CGC testing.

Sally Grottini, TDI and CGC testing.

Sarah Fry, CGC testing.

Virginia Pentz, Secretary.

Gary Heckman, helping at class.

Sherry Capenter who writes the blog for us.

Josette Zielinski who coordinates our program at the medium prison.

Mary Lou Walsh who coordinated our Christmas party and auction.

PawsAbilities will be held Mar. 14 and 15, 2009 at the State 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.

Renewal of yearly dues will begin in January. If you have an updated shot record, please make a copy for our records.

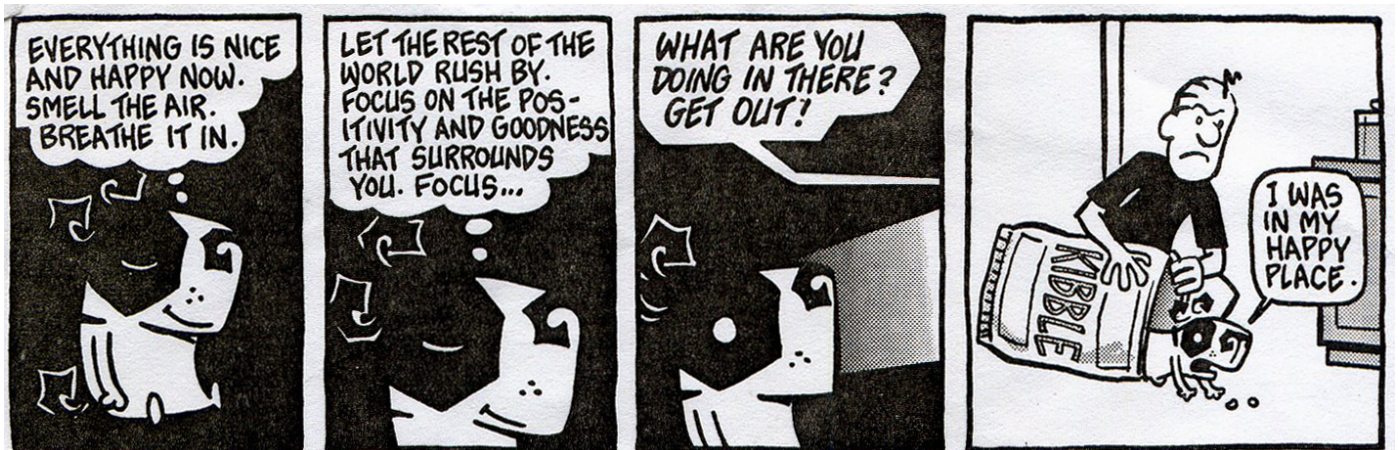
Be sure to get a 2009 license for the county you reside in. All dogs 3 months or older are required to be licensed by law.

Remember when filing your 2008 income tax you can deduct mileage used for therapy visits under contributions.

We have a new member of our training club, a daughter, Seraphina Lydia Ware born to Rev. Sonja and Rev. Michael Ware of Trevorton. She joins Takota and Daisy, her canine and friends.

An AKC Star program will begin in January for dogs 1 year or less. Marjean Krech, a certified CGC evaluator will be running the class. You can check our web site for more information.

A Reading with Dogs program is being offered at the Union County Library. Sign-ups run through Jan. 26 for the program beginning the first week of February. If anyone is interested in participating with their dog they may contact Linda Bennett to be put on the list. Her E-mail is lbennett@bucknell.edu.



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cartoon submitted by Mary Haas

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Jan. 5 (Mon)	Reading, Chief Shikellamy	9:00am
Jan. 7 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 8 (Thurs)	Northwest Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital	1:00pm 2:00pm 3:00pm
Jan. 14 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 15 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm
Jan. 20 (Tues)	USP Maximum Prison, Allenwood Memo members only	12:30pm
Jan. 21 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 26 (Mon)	Reading, Chief Shikellamy	9:00am
Jan. 28 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 29 (Thurs)	Geisinger Health South	2:00pm
Feb. 9 (Mon)	Bucknell University TDI Only	6:00pm

We will have reading at Boughner Elementary this month. Those involved will be notified.

January 2009

■ US Holidays

■ Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

December 2008

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			

January 2009

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 2009

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30 PM Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLASSES RESUME 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Day 	2	3
4	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy) 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital 	9	10
11	12	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:15 PM Sunshine Corners 	16	17
18	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30 PM USP Maximum Prison (Memo Members Only) 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	22	23	24
25	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Reading, Chief Shikellamy 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South 	30	31