



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

January 2010

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff

"Why We Love the Dogs we Do?"



About 40 percent of all dogs bought as puppies are returned to their breeders, abandoned or given up to shelters. On the other hand, there are a lot of people who form attachments with their dogs that last a lifetime. They continue to buy the same breed of dog and keep them as companions throughout their lives.

One factor that causes us to bond with some dogs is the match between the personality of the person and the nature of the dog itself. Our personalities are sort of our lifestyle, it's how we look at the world. A dog can have an attitude or set of behavior patterns that either fits with our personality or doesn't.

We deal with a dog in much the same way that we would a young child or other family member. Are you dominant or not so dominant, are you trusting or controlling, are you an introvert or extrovert?

Most people choose a dog for the wrong reasons and decide on a dog because it looks pretty, they look at a litter or see a dog in a pet store and fall in love with it. If you've grown up with a particular breed of dog you have a lot more knowledge and you will likely get that kind of dog again.

As an example of a good match between personality and breed, there is the self-assured dog which includes a lot of the terriers. This dog is very popular with people who have dominant personalities.

Many of our presidents chose dogs in the self-assured group. President Kennedy had a Welsh Terrier named Charlie and at one point during the Cuban missile crisis, as people were running around like crazy he asked for Charlie to be brought to him. He took the dog in his lap and petted it for a few minutes and then said to his advisers, "we have some decisions to make." Quite clearly Kennedy was calmed by the presence of this familiar and loved dog.

We have dog groups of protective dogs, clever dogs, friendly dogs, independent dogs, self-assured dogs and steady dogs.

Before purchasing a dog one should look at their own personality and how it fits with the breed. Also go and look what those dogs are like as adults. There is not a puppy in the world that you don't want to pick up and take

Old Friends (Continued)

home. You live with that dog for 6 months; it turns into an adolescent then an adult. You have to love the adult as well as the puppy.

No matter what type dog you have chosen every dog should go through one obedience class. Along with training your dog it is being socialized with people and other dogs. It is so rewarding to me to see people take the time to train their dogs. May this year of 2010 bring good training and friendships to all our club members.

"Animals are such agreeable friends--they ask no questions,
they pass no criticisms."

-George Eliot

Till next time,
Connie

Dog Groups - From the above article "Why We Love the Dogs We Do"

Protective Dogs - Akita, Boxer, Briard, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, American Staffordshire Terrier, Bullmastiff, Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Chow Chow, Rottweiler, Standard and Giant Schnauzer and Weimaraner.

Clever Dogs - Border Collie, Corgi, Doberman Pinscher, Australian and German Shepherds, Standard, Miniature and Toy Poodles.

Friendly Dogs - Bearded Collie, Bichon Frise, Old English Sheepdog, Vizsla, Border and Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier, English Setter, Keeshond, a variety of Spaniels, Brittany, Cavalier King Charles English, American, Springer, Field and Flat-Coated, Golden and Labrador Retrievers.

Independent Dogs - Airedale, Afghan, Alaskan Malamute, American and Irish Water Spaniels, Borzoi, Chinese Shar Pei, Dalmation, American and English Foxhounds, German Short-haired Pointer, Greyhound, Irish Setter, Norwegian Elkhound, Samoyed and Siberian Husky.

Self-Assured Dogs - Australian, Cairn, Irish, Jack Russell, Lakeland, Scottish, Smooth, Wire and Yorkshire Terriers, Miniature Pinscher and Schnauzer and Shih Tzu.

Steady Dogs - Basset Hound, Bernese Mountain Dog, Bloodhound, Great Dane, Irish Wolfhound, Mastiff, Newfoundland and Saint Bernard

(Taken from Dog Fancy Magazine)

Minutes (December 1, 2009)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the STDTC was called to order by President Connie Cuff with 29 members present.

Report of the President - Please pick up a newsletter if you do not get it on line.

New Members -

Karina Stuter - Middleburg with Choc Lab Thor
Bernita Wert - Lewisburg
Dave Lawer - Selinsgrove with Yellow Lab, Jake
Paul & Kristen - Lewisburg with their Boxers

Report of Secretary - Minutes of the November meeting were approved as written in the December Newsletter.

Report of Treasurer -

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

New Business -

Shot records are due. If your dog was to the vet during the year I need an updated shot record. Club dues will be due beginning Jan 1st. Anyone who joined after Oct. 1st is paid for 2010.

We recieved a thank you card from Haven to Homes, which was read at the meeting.

As I have stated in the newsletter starting ttime for class is 6:30 for beginners and 7:15 for advanced. I cannot get in the gym until 6:15 and dogs should have some socialization before we start.

With winter months please check E-mails before coming to class in case of the inclement weather. I will not do evening therapy visits during Jan & Feb.

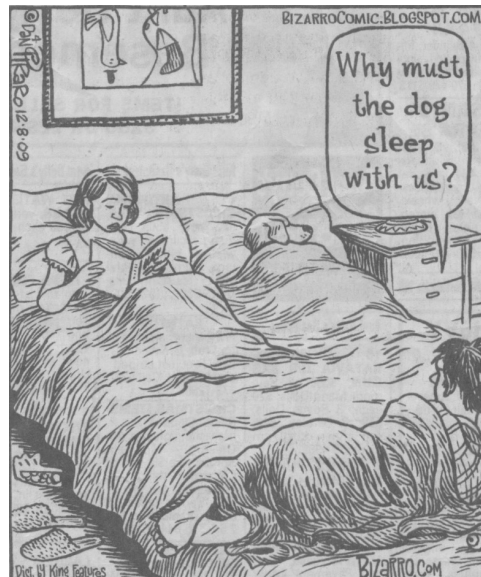
Old Business - Our Christmas party is Sunday, Dec 6th. We are looking forward to a nice evening to celebrate the coming of the holidays. I'm hoping we can have more join us next year.

TDI Visits - Thurs. Elm Croft of Lewisburg

Monday Dec. 7 Bucknell and Shikellamy reading

No Class Dec 15. Medium prison visit at Noon.

Respectfully Submitted
Ginny Pentz, Secretary



Breed of the Month

Akbash Dog

submitted by Connie Cuff

From time to time we have dogs with us which have a strong background in herding. Such is the case in Akbash Dog, with Turkish ancestry, which is to guard sheep.

The breed is the Turkish counterpart of the French Great Pyrenees and the Hungarian Kuvasz and other white sheep-guarding breeds. An average male stands 30" to 31" at the withers and weighs about 120 pounds with lean muscular appearance.

The Akbash dog has been bred for centuries as a guardian dog, its primary function to protect sheep from predators. The dog was introduced to North America in 1978 and is used to guard sheep, goats, llamas, horses and cattle from coyotes, wolves, mountain lions and bears. The excellent performance of the breed in both open range and small farm is well documented.

The conformation and temperament can be attributed to its ancestry of gazehound (a hound that hunts by sight) and mastiff. The Akbash Dog still exists in Turkey as an agricultural guard dog.

The calm, quiet demeanor of the Akbash Dog, necessary to its integration with sheep and other livestock, is also greatly appreciated by its human family. The breed is easily housebroken, learns quickly and often adapts well to the home environment. Although independent in nature, the Akbash Dog is usually sensitive to firm, verbal reprimands and responds well to moderate praise. Training is relatively easy during the formative years, but correcting bad habits in adulthood is often difficult.

The guarding temperament and impressive appearance of this dog is attractive to many people, but prospective pet owners should know about the strong tendency of all sheep-guarding dogs to be protective toward their families. For this reason pet owners should begin socialization as soon as the new owners acquire the dog. The owners should establish an "alpha" relationship with their dogs, accomplished through owner attitude and early training, not by harsh physical punishment.

Akbash Dogs are confident, protective, intelligent, brave, affectionate yet reserved and always loyal. They also have long memories. They never forget their foes, and they always remember their friends.





Notes and Notices



Beginning in January, club dues and up-dated shot records are due.

Be sure to check our web site and emails before coming to class if there are changes in the weather. We try to watch news reports and keep up with conditions before we cancel. Since people come from a wide area it's better to cancel than have members experiencing trouble with road conditions.

It's time to renew your county dog license for 2010

Marjean will begin a new Star Puppy Class in January. She along with Sara will be giving the TDI/CGC test in January for those dogs who are prepared for the testing.

Winter can be a season of celebrations, romps in the snow and freedom from ticks and fleas, but it is also a time when the cold could mean danger for our dogs.

We don't want our dogs to turn into pudgy couch potatoes during the winter, so exercise is important. When temperatures take a nose dive, plan excursions during mid-day or toss a ball. Watch for ice patches and don't allow your dog to test the ice on streams and lakes.

If your dog is elderly or shorthaired you might consider a doggie coat or sweater. The hair on dogs paws should be kept trimmed and coating them with baby oil also helps prevent ice balls. Chemicals or salt used on roads and sidewalks can only cause irritation they can be toxic to the dog if it licks its feet, so wash your dog's feet to remove these products.

Antifreeze poisoning is lethal if the dog ingests it.

During winter months artificial heat dries the air and produces static electricity. There are conditioners you can spray on your dog's coat to help with this problem.

Did you know that people who walked dogs 20 minutes a day 5x a week lost an average of 14 lbs a year according to a Univ. of Missouri study. This should be a New years resolution for everyone. Another medical prescription for dog walking--it will lower your cholesterol.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Jan. 6 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Jan. 11 (Mon)	Reading Chief Shikellamy	9:00 am
Jan. 13 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Jan. 14 (Thurs)	Northwest Academy Shamokin Hospital	1:00 pm 2:15 pm
Jan. 19 (Tues)	Federal Prison (Max) Allenwood (NCIC only)	12:30 pm
Jan. 20 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Jan. 21 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00 pm 1:45 pm 2:15 pm
Jan. 27 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Jan. 28 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00 pm
Feb. 1 (Mon)	Reading Chief Shikellamy	9:00 am
Feb. 3 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Feb. 8 (Mon)	Bucknell University (TDI Only)	6:00 pm
Feb. 16 (Tues)	NO CLASS SELINGROVE CENTER	

Reading Dates for Chief Shikellamy

**Feb. 22
March 15
April 12
May 3
May 24**

January 2010

December 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		


January 2010

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31						

February 2010

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

 US Holidays

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	31 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South 	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Year's Day 	2
3	4	5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	7	8	9
10	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy) 	12 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training 	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:15 PM Shamokin Hospital 	15	16
17	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:30 PM Federal Max Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only) 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:15 PM Sunshine Cor-ners 	22	23
24	25	26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South 	29	30
31	1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy) 	2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundhog Day 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training 	3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	4	5	6