



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

January 2011

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



As Cesar Milan mentions in his magazine in October 2010, people usually need more help understanding their dogs than dogs need in understanding their humans. It is in a dog's genes to know how to read our facial expressions, body language and changes of mood and energy.

Humans, on the other hand, constantly are misreading dogs' attempt at communication. For example, many people interpret any wagging tail as a signal of being friendly, but to an expert we know this isn't the case.

The first key to having the obedient dog is to define what obedience means to you. Some people have different ideas in what they want from their relationship with their dogs. I have known people that will put up with excessive barking since their comment is that is part of my dog's nature and they are willing to live with this kind of behavior.

When you bring a dog into your home, don't think of what you want from him. Think first of what you need to give this dog to make him happy to live with. A good suggestion is to make a checklist of the qualities you would like to have in the dog that shares your life with you.

Since all breeds have different personalities, it may be a good idea to do this before you purchase or adopt a dog. Even getting a dog from a shelter you may be able to know the mix and background of the breed.

Even though you want a dog to love, love is not enough. Cesar's three-part formula is (1) exercise, (2) discipline (rules, boundaries and limitations - this includes training), (3) affection, in that order.

Exercise - Does not mean a run in the back yard. A walk of 45 mins. or longer every day is not only good for the dog but you as well.

Discipline - You must have clear and simple rules, and this means for every member of the family including children.

Old Friends (Continued)

Affection - Doesn't just mean petting or overabundance of treats. Foremost, it means the bond of trust and respect between you and your dog.

Starting the New Year by better understanding our dogs with training and socialization they will bring us much happiness and all the people who come in contact with them.

"The best part of life is when your family become your friends and your friends become your family"

--Robin Roberts

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (December 7, 2010)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the STDTC was called to order by Pres. Connie Cuff with 24 members present.

Report of the President: Our dog club had a lovely evening on Sunday with the party held at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club. We had good food, our silent auction and gift exchange. I wish to thank the club members for the lovely framed picture and gas cards. It was a wonderful surprise.

We will not have class here on Dec. 14 since the center will be using the gym.

Report of the Treasurer:

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

New Business: Beginning in January we will be starting our membership renewals. Anyone who paid after Oct. 1 will be good for 2011.

As I mentioned in the newsletter no evening therapy visits until further notice.

Old Business: We have talked about walking in the 4th of July Parade again next year. Since I received the application early, I will be filling it out and sending it in with all the details.

Does anyone have anything to add?

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully Submitted

Ginny Pentz, Secretary

Breed of the Month

Basset Hound

submitted by Connie Cuff

Known for a “laissez-faire” attitude - it is a French breed - an adorable droopy face and extreme devotion to humans. They also harbor intelligence and a stubborn streak; they do as they please.

Old-school hunters, Bassets use their thick, powerful legs and loose skin to push through thickets in search of game. The lovable wrinkled face, droopy ears and dewlaps - those pronounced folds of skin around the throat - catch and keep scents.

Mention of a low hound with hunting ability go back thousands of years, but the hush puppy hound we know today can be traced to 18th century France. Only the Bloodhound exceeds the Basset in tracking skills.



In the 20th century, the Basset went from tracking to TV. It became the official mascot of Hush Puppies shoes. In 1956 a Basset Hound named “Sherlock” wore a top hat and a sad-faced look as Elvis sang “Hound Dog” on the Steve Allen Show, and it was immortalized on tape, in picture and collectibles.

The breed remains popular and it ranks 22 out of 150 AKC recognized breeds.

Many people don’t realize the cute puppy will grow into a 60 lb. lapdog that sheds constantly, requires regular grooming, smells a bit funky and drools. They thrive on attention, need exercise - long walks that call for patience since they will track every scent along the way.

Known health problems - prone to glaucoma and ear infections, bleeding disorders, and their joints and bones require special care.

Rescue groups are overwhelmed with these dogs so one rescue tests the potential owners by putting them in a ring full of Basset puppies and if they can put up with the puppies’ drool, you may be allowed to adopt one of the Basset dogs.

We are happy to have a new member of our Club, Mrs. Beasley, a Basset Hound owned by Dagney Leininger, and she is a rescue from North Carolina.



Notes and Notices



A Happy New Year to all. May 2011 be a year of fun training our dogs and new experiences in pet therapy. The joy our dogs bring to others cannot be measured and it echoes the joy we receive as well.

We are involved in so many diversified activities as you well know - Reading to Dogs, Bucknell University, Health-South Rehab, Federal Prisons, Northwestern Academy, Community Hospitals and many nursing homes.

Two new fields where animal-assisted therapy is being used are - for high-risk pregnant women who are admitted to a hospital for bed rest. The therapy has shown that it relieves boredom and anxiety levels while the women were hospitalized. Therapy dogs are also being used to provide support in courtrooms. A dog will calm victims and witnesses of violent attacks, and help children under stress who have witnessed domestic violence.

We have to remember a dog must enjoy his work. Some dogs may be more well-suited for certain therapies than others, so it is you the handler that must read your dog and participate in the type of work your dog is comfortable in doing.

We have lost Annie, a Golden Retriever, owned by Joan Hair-Campbell. She exemplified what a therapy dog should be. Every visit was a joy for her and the people she met. Our sympathies to Joan who will surely miss her.

It is time once again to renew membership for 2011. Please give us updated shot records so we can keep our files current.

PawsAbilities at the Farm Show complex which supports Susquehanna Service Dogs is March 12 and 13, 2011. For more info visit www.pawsabilities.net or call 717-671-7813

Marjean will once again be starting a S.T.A.R. Puppy class beginning Jan. 11, please notify her or Connie if you intend to participate. It is a six-week class and in order to complete the training, you should schedule coming each Tues. for the 6 weeks.

I want to thank Ray Ramos for stopping by our training class in Dec. as we can always use his wonderful advice in how we can become better dog owners.

Don't forget to purchase your dog licenses for 2011.

Our Christmas party was a great success and enjoyed by all. Thank you to the club for my wonderful gifts. Mark your calendar for Sunday, Dec. 4, 2011 for a great evening.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Jan. 5 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 10 (Mon)	Reading Chief Shikellamy	9:00am
Jan. 11 (Tues)	S.T.A.R. Puppy Class begins Selinsgrove Center	6:30pm
Jan. 12 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 13 (Thurs)	Northwest Academy Shamokin Hospital	1:00pm 2:30pm
Jan. 17 (Mon)	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	
Jan. 18 (Tues)	Medium Prison Allenwood (NCIC only)	12:00pm
Jan. 19 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 20 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm
Jan. 26 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 27 (Thurs)	Health South Geisinger	2:00pm
Jan. 31 (Mon)	Reading Chief Shikellamy	9:00am

January 2011

December 2010

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January 2011

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February 2011

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US Holidays

Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	29 10:00 AM Riverwoods	30 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	31	1 New Year's Day
2	3 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	4 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	5 10:00 AM Riverwoods	6	7	8
9 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	10 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	11 STAR Puppy Classes Begin 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	12 10:00 AM Riverwoods	13 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:30 PM Shamokin Hospital	14	15
16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17	18 12:00 PM Medium Prison, Allenwood (NCIC Only) 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	19 10:00 AM Riverwoods	20 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:45 PM Sunshine Corners	21	22
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30 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	31 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	1 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	2 Groundhog Day 10:00 AM Riverwoods	3	4	5