



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

January 2012

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



In the last few months, I have received phone calls from people who have lost their pets. We see ads in the newspaper, there are flyers on telephone poles, phone calls to veterinarians and rescue organizations.

As well as we train our dogs on the recall, they are easily distracted, and if you own a hunting breed their natural instincts kick in and their focus is elsewhere.

Many owners today are turning to sophisticated GPS systems to recover lost dogs. These systems attach to collars and some include a "rescue button" that anyone who locates the dog can press to alert the owner or monitoring service immediately.

Some systems will allow owners to establish an electronic perimeter and if their dog strays beyond the designated area, owners receive a text and E-mail alert. The system also texts owners when their dog is moving faster than 35 miles per hour - an indicator that they are in a vehicle.

GPS systems are popular with those who compete in field trials or hunt with their dogs. Also, if you travel and bring your dog to unfamiliar hotel rooms, or rest stops they pose a threat for flight. One incident recently of a family visiting our area found a dog on the loose because of a thunderstorm and it escaped from the visitor's yard. Thankfully this dog was found.

GPS systems come in a variety of styles and prices, depending on your dog's lifestyle. They do not come cheap with the combination of collar and hand held receiver running around \$500.

Despite underground fences and the best efforts of watchful owners, dogs love to follow their noses and instincts. Some experts estimate that as few as 16% make it back home.

Remember to purchase your dog license for 2012 as this is a means for someone finding your dog to have it identified through his tag number.

"No Winter lasts forever, no Spring skips its turn."

Till next time,

Connie

Breed of the Month

Pug

submitted by Connie Cuff

Recently there has been a surge in popularity for this lovable, comical, quick-witted breed that is endearing to owners everywhere.

In Holland, the Pug became the official dog of the House of Orange after one special Pug saved the life of William, Prince of Orange, by sounding the alarm at the approach of the Spaniards in 1572.

They were known in Holland as “Mopshond” from the Dutch word meaning “to grumble”. The Pug Dog bears similarity to the Marmoset Monkeys - Pugs - that were popular in the early 1700’s.

Not everyone takes an immediate liking to the wrinkled features and squashed face of the breed. But many people enjoy the affectionate, easy-going nature of this sturdy, comical, excellent family pet.

The Pug’s easy-going temperament allows it to adopt to a variety of lifestyles. It can live happily as a city-dweller in an apartment or a county-dweller on a ranch. They require moderate activity to keep healthy and have a tendency toward being a “couch potato”. Though exercise isn’t on their list, companionship is. They are great comfort and just involved in your life.

They require little grooming - brushing as needed, nail trimming, ear cleaning and gently wiping the face.

Regular veterinary care is a must, with routine checkups and vaccinations. Don’t be tempted to overfeed his hearty appetite or the result will be a bulging waistline.

As with all snub-nosed breeds, the Pug can develop respiratory problems and have difficulties due to excessive heat and cold. Because of their prominent setting of the eyes, corneal ulcers or other trauma can occur.

Pug owners just want to have fun as evidenced by their active breed clubs, fun matches, picnics and penchants for dressing up. Our club finds competition in the Halloween Parade a challenge with this fun-loving group.





Notes and Notices



It is the beginning of a New Year and I am looking forward to our training, therapy work and fun activities for our Club. I welcome any suggestions from anyone who would like us to participate in any visits or functions in the months ahead.

Dues for our Club are due along with updated shot records. Anytime you visit your vet, make a copy and give it to us at that time.

I wish to thank everyone for my Christmas gifts from the Club. We had a very enjoyable Christmas party along with a visit from Dean Martin (Rick Lorady). Our silent auction amounted to \$226 and we collected \$95 for Mostly Mutts along with donations of dog food.

Marjean will begin a Star Puppy class Jan. 10, so if anyone is interested we need pre-registration since she limits her class size.

A thank you to Rick and Gail Lorady who have donated dog bones for our classes. I'm sure our dogs will look forward to coming to class.

In October, we took 2nd place in the Sunbury Halloween Parade and to date have not received our check. I have made numerous phone calls to the head of the Fire Police and he indicated the check would be in the mail. I am not aware if any other entries have received their prize.

There are no minutes for December since we did not have a meeting due to no classes at the Center.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Jan. 4 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 5 (Thurs)	Nottingham Village, Northumberland	6:30pm
Jan. 10 (Tues)	Star Puppy Class begins	7:00pm
Jan. 11 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 12 (Thurs)	Northwestern Academy	1:00pm
	Life Geisinger	2:00pm
	Shamokin Hospital	3:00pm
Jan. 16 (Mon)	Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday	
Jan. 17 (Tues)	Medium Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only)	12:00pm
Jan. 18 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 19 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital	1:00pm
	Mansion Nursing Home	2:00pm
	Sunshine Corner	2:45pm
Jan. 25 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 26 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00pm
Feb. 1 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Feb. 2 (Thurs)	Emmanuel Center, Danville	6:30pm

January 2012

December 2011


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January 2012

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February 2012

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 US Holidays

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Year's Day	2 New Year's Day (observed)	3 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	4 10:00 AM Riverwoods	5 6:30 PM Nottingham Village	6	7
8	9	10 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:00 PM Star Puppy Class Begins 7:30 PM Beginner Training	11 10:00 AM Riverwoods	12 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital	13	14
15	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17 12:00 PM Medium Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only) 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	18 10:00 AM Riverwoods	19 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:45 PM Sunshine Cor-ners	20	21
22	23	24 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	25 10:00 AM Riverwoods	26 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	27	28
29	30	31 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	1 10:00 AM Riverwoods	2 Groundhog Day 6:30 PM Emmanuel Center	3	4