



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

January 2015

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



As I look at Class each week and see so many different breeds of dogs, mixed or pure bred, I want to point out to everyone that taking your dog's breed tendencies into account during training or behavior modification will help you have more realistic expectations in how you train your dog. Take for instance Setters, they are flushers, they will be influenced on any movement when out of doors and focus on birds and pay very little attention to anything else, including your voice. Hounds are trackers and like to sniff the ground.

Rather than labeling your dog as rebellious, dominant, difficult to train or dumb, despite your best training efforts, you should acknowledge that you must work hard to reach a goal with positive training.

On the other hand, some behaviors may be desirable but can become annoying, or even problematic. You may enjoy your Golden Retriever's love playing fetch but he may have the tendency to carry items around which are less desirable.

Then there is the "protective breed", at times you may be less happy if your dog displays too much territorial behavior and threatens visitors.

When a dog is misbehaving, yelling or screaming sometimes makes the dog more nervous and he will continue to misbehave. Some dogs are seeking attention, fearful or anxious. By giving the dog something to do, such as a sit or down, draws him away from his misbehavior. When the dog calms down, immediately praise, pet or treat to reward him for his good behavior. Some dogs perceive any form of attention, even reprimands, as positive reinforcement. So if you yell at Max every time he barks, he may interpret that as a positive reinforcement.

I am not talking about generalization of the breed traits, but acknowledge breed tendencies. Not all breeds develop these problems. What you need to do is consider what your dog was bred to do. With this in mind, you can be more proactive when training and socializing your dog and take steps to compensate for these to prevent them from developing into problem behaviors.

"Change the way you look at things and the things you look at change"

--Wayne W. Dyer

Till next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



Welcome to everyone for a New Year of training with STDTC. Our group has grown which makes for fun with socialization and therapy visits that spread so much love to people in need. We are here to help one another and when we train our dogs, everyone is open to suggestions to help make classes more enjoyable and keep our dogs happy.

Our members have attained titles in therapy work as follows:

Jim Smith- Georgie, 250-350 visits; Joe West - Riley, 150 visits; Gail Lorady - Buffy, 500 visits; Mary Lou Walsh - Lizzie, 150 visits; Ginny Pentz - Missy, 50 visits; Katie Davis - Zeus, 150 visits; Kelly Pastuszek - Diesel, 50 visits; Dave Grose - Bo, 50 visits; Sally Bair - Lacey, 50-150 visits; Marjean Krech - Baxter, 50 visits; Joannah Skucek - Dascha, 150 visits; Phil Hallden - Tucker, 250 visits; Sage - 350 visits. Beth Aten has passed her therapy dog test with Finn.

Marjean will begin a Star Puppy Class on Jan. 13. Dogs must be up to 1 yr. of age and Pre-registration is required.

We will begin renewing membership for 2015. Dues are \$15 a year. Please up-date any shot records you may have received from your veterinarian. I should mention that keeping a copy of your dog's shot records in the glove compartment of your car would help if you would need it in an emergency. Also doing pet therapy we are often asked for a copy. If your emails have changed let us know so we can keep you informed of our Club Newsletters and cancellations. Anyone new to our Classes should call or email me so they know of times and what to bring to class.

I have been asked by the Selinsgrove Center to bring dogs in for a visit. We will be coordinating forms which are necessary. I plan on setting up a program at 5:45pm - 6:30pm on Tues. evening before class. I have been told that the visit will be held in the Game Room and the clients will be brought there to see our dogs. All the dogs must be registered therapy dogs, and since the Center makes the gym available to us, providing the clients with our dogs is our way of paying back for them allowing us to train there.

Our get together for the Christmas party was enjoyable and I was so glad the weather cooperated this year. I wish to thank all the Club members who contributed to my Christmas gift. It is all of you that make my training and Club activities so much a part of my life that it is a joy to work with you.



Sally Bair has information on a Trick Dog Performance Title that your dog can attain. Some dogs can do many of these required tricks. Anyone who is interested can talk to Sally at Class.

After reading the Newsletter and up-coming events, please mark your calendars with the dates so you are aware of all of our events.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Jan. 1 (Thurs)	NEW YEARS DAY	
Jan. 5 (Mon)	Vintage Knolls Geisinger Rehab, Health South Elmcroft, Lewisburg	1:00pm 2:00pm 6:30pm
Jan. 7 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 8 (Thurs)	Shamokin Hospital Life Geisinger Building Bridges Northwestern Academy	1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm 2:45pm
Jan. 14 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 15 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners & Manor Care	1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm
Jan. 19 (Mon)	MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY	
Jan. 21 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 26 (Mon)	Bucknell University, Library	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Jan. 28 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 29 (Thurs)	Holy Family Convent Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm
Feb. 4 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Feb. 5 (Thurs)	Maria Joseph Manor Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm
Feb. 9 (Mon)	Penn Lutheran Village, Selinsgrove	6:30pm

January 2015

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
 US Holidays

December 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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28	29	30	31			

January 2015

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February 2015

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Holy Family Con-vent 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CLASSES RESUME 6:30 PM Training 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	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"> 1:00 PM Vintage Knolls 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South 6:30 PM Elmcroft – Lewisburg 	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Training 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Shamokin Hospital 1:45 PM Life Geisinger 2:15 PM Building Bridges Academy 2:45 PM Northwestern 	9	10
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18	19 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Training 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	22	23	24
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