



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

January 2020



Old Friends

by Connie Cuff

Wishing everyone Happy New Year and may you all enjoy a year of blessings with your dog. I am thankful for all your help in our training with the STDTC.

Dog Training is also a part of the PA State prison system for 12 years. Dogs have given inmates a sense of pride, accomplishment and opportunity to give something positive back to society. The inmates rehabilitate and teach socialization skills to unwanted shelter dogs or neutered puppies to become service dogs for people with physical or emotional needs.

At SCI Graterford it is a 12 week training curriculum for the inmate participants called "Saving and Reclaiming Lives". A non-profit organization called "New Leash on Life" monitors the program and dogs are brought to the institution from at-risk shelters.

This program prepares dogs with specialized skills to support wounded warriors who experience the impacts of PTSD. The inmates attend workshops on life skills, job readiness, basic animal care and positive reinforcement training with the possibility of earning internships in the animal care field when they are paroled. During the 12 week program the dogs live in the cell block 24/7 with the inmates.

Exercises used at Graterford is both physical and mental. Training your dog is always number one. One of the favorite exercises is using a Kong Wobbler that dispenses food and allows dogs to "work" for their food instead of eating out of a bowl. Their food is their paycheck so to speak. The dog is entertaining himself and he has earned it.

The FIDOS Program at Coal Township started in July 2014 and dogs are brought from a kennel of dogs needing a home. Obedience Training is done twice a week and the dogs are then available for adoption through the kennel which included spaying/neutering, shots and microchip. The program has helped inmates with mental illness, separation from family. As one handler stated "he feels good everyday knowing that he is helping save a dog's life. When the dogs leave our facility, it is as if they are brand new dogs".

At SCI Albion dogs are in a program, Canine Partners for Life (CPL) which provides highly-trained service dogs for individuals with physical, cognitive and developmental disabilities. It takes 2 years to raise and train a CPL service dog. The dog comes as a puppy and is taught basic obedience. At 14 months of age they are returned to the CPL campus for advance training and are adopted at 20 months of age.

A testimonial from an inmate, "A little piece of us leaves with each dog we train. We also feel that we are giving to society even though we took from society with the crime we committed."

Till next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



As we begin a New Year of training, I will have my Advanced Group at 6:15pm. If you have attained a CGC title, you are welcome to join the group. Everyone works at their own pace and we are all here to help one another. It is good to keep your dog socialized with other dogs and keep up with their manners if you wish to have your dog certified to become a therapy dog.

For those working in Beginners, I would like to keep a group working on CGC so we can have them certified. If you are new to the group, you should try to attend regularly so we can work on basic training. When Sara and Kelly are available we can work on individual skills. As I have often said we train the individual, not the dog. It is up to everyone to work on the skills and socialize your dog. Please let me know if you have any concerns.

Congratulations to Jim Smith who has earned his ATD title with Dusty. He is working hard on his rehab after surgery and hope we see him again soon.

Congratulations to Diane Ambrose who attained her CGC Title with Cassie, a Standard Poodle



If anyone would like to join us when we visit nursing homes, please let us know so we can help you and guide you through the facility. Residents look forward to our visits along with staff and it is a good socialization for your dog to prepare it to become a certified therapy dog. Your dog does not need to be certified to visit a nursing home. I would encourage you to have a Rabies Shot Certificate with you.

Membership dues are due for 2020 by Mar. 1. If you are on our STDTC Facebook page, you must be a current member to have access to our site.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Jan. 1 (Wed)	New Years Day	
Jan. 2 (Thurs)	Buffalo Valley	10:00am
Jan. 6 (Mon)	Five Star	1:00pm
Jan. 7 (Thurs)	CLASSES RESUME AT SELINGROVE CENTER	
	Advanced	6:15pm
	Beginners	7:15pm
Jan. 8 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 9 (Thurs)	Emmanuel, Danville	1:00pm
	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00pm
Jan. 13 (Mon)	Penn Manor, Selingsgrove	6:30pm
Jan. 15 (Wed)	Buffalo Valley	10:00am
Jan. 16 (Thurs)	Mt. View Manor	1:00pm
Jan. 20 (Mon)	Nottingham Village	6:30pm
Jan. 22 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 23 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital	1:00pm
	Mansion	1:45pm
	Manor Care	2:15pm
Jan. 27 (Mon)	Bucknell University (ATD only)	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Jan. 28 (Tues)	Low Security, Allenwood	12:00pm
Jan. 29 (Wed)	Buffalo Valley	10:00am
Jan. 30 (Thurs)	Vintage Knolls	1:00pm
	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00pm

January 2020

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
 US Holidays

December 2019
 S M T W T F S
 1 2 3 4 5 6 7
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 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
 29 30 31

January 2020
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February 2020
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1 New Year's Day	2 10:00 AM Buffalo Valley	3	4
5	6 1:00 PM Five Star	7 CLASSES RESUME 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	8 10:00 AM Riverwoods	9 1:00 PM Emmanuel 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South	10	11
12	13 6:30 PM Penn Manor	14 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	15 10:00 AM Buffalo Valley	16 1:00 PM Mt. View Manor	17	18
19	20 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 6:30 PM Nottingham Village	21 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	22 10:00 AM Riverwoods	23 1:00 PM Sunbury Hospital 1:45 PM Mansion 2:15 PM Manor Care	24	25
26	27 6:00 PM Bucknell University (ATD only)	28 12:00 PM Low Security, Al-tenwood 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	29 10:00 AM Buffalo Valley	30 1:00 PM Vintage Knolls 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	31	1