



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

July 2008

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Summer is a time when our dogs spend a lot of time outside. Many people are composting and we must be careful that the area we use is secure so that our pets do not have access to it. Hazards such as coffee grounds, corncobs and onions can lead to medical problems if ingested. Cocoa mulch can be dangerous and when using mulch see that the label says free of CCA, treated wood. Keep fertilizers, insecticides and pool chemicals, home improvement products such as paint, paint thinner and expandable glue in closed sheds and garages.

Sally Grottini offers some advice on Heat Stroke and Heat Exhaustion since she had this experience with her Newfoundland, Bentley. There is a difference between heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Heat Exhaustion you see a lot of panting, the tongue will slightly increase in size, there will be an increase in heart rate, drooling and a rise in temperature. To cool the dog down, lay cool moist towels over the feet and abdomen. You can also put rubbing alcohol on the paw pads. Spray the dog with a mist of cool water and place a fan in front of the dog. Never immerse the dog in a tub of cold water, or wet the dog to the skin. Put the dog in air conditioning, if possible. Do not allow the dog to drink large amounts of water at a time. (this can cause bloat). Putting ice cubes in with a small amount of water will prevent the dog from taking in large amounts of water. Take the temperature rectally every three minutes to ensure the temp is going down. (A dog's normal temperature is 100.5 - 102.5). If the temperature drops to 103, stop the cooling procedure. Dry the dog off and continue to monitor the thermometer.

Heat Stroke can shut down the body's major organs. Heat stroke occurs when the core temperature is 105 or higher and Emergency care is needed as soon as possible.

Minimize the risk of heat exhaustion - keep the interior of your home well ventilated during periods of extreme heat. Avoid over-exercising your dog during the hottest hours of the day. Make sure your dog has access to plenty of drinking water. If you travel with your dog take a good supply of drinking water with you. You can freeze a plastic bottle filled with water and as it defrosts your dog will have a cool drink.

Groom your dog regularly. This will keep their coats clean and unmat- ed. Brushing also helps maintain the health of the skin and avoids problems like hot spots. If your dog develops a hot spot it is important to shave the fur around the hot spot so the infection does not spread. Most effective over-the-counter products contain astringents such as witch hazel, alu-

Old Friends (Continued)

minum acetate (Burrow's solution) or zinc solutions. Hydrocortisone cream can be used but avoid ointments and creams that might seal in the infection and force it to go deeper. A severe infection requires antibiotics and you should consult your veterinarian.

There is a weed and grass killer which is much cheaper than commercial products and safer for use around pets: 1 gallon white vinegar, 1 cup salt, ¼ cup dawn dish liquid.

Summertime can be fun for you and your dog, but by taking some precautionary measures it can keep your dog healthy and fit.

“If you go to work on you goals, your goals will go to work on you. If you go to work on your plan, your plan will go to work on you. Whatever good things we build end up building us.”

--Jim Rohn, motivational speaker.

Till next time,

Connie

June 26, 2008 - The Dog Law, House Bill 2525 has passed Committee and will be brought before the House of Representatives for a vote. Please notify your district representatives to vote in favor of this Bill.

Minutes (June 3, 2008)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club will come to order

Report of the President:

It is nice to be back at the Marina Park. We do have rain to deal with. If it does shower earlier in the day I will be here for training if it clears. Please bring water for your dog as the faucets are not in working order.

Dog licenses - The county is checking on current dog licenses. I have seen their truck at the park. A dog must be licensed at 3 months of age.

On Fox news this morning there was a report that there is an increase in round worms infection in children, especially those with puppies. Be aware of your dogs stool and seek treatment from your vet.

I had previously posted in the newsletter that 2008 membership was due by June 1. Our club insurance covers our members when training at Selinsgrove Center and the Shikellamy Marina. We have an up-dated list and we will not send E-mails for those not current on dues.

I want to say thank you to the club for the memorial bouquet for Dixie's grave.

Minutes (Continued)

Treasurers Report

(Treasurers Reports are not available in the online edition of the STDTC Newsletter.)

Old business – The last meeting we had I asked for donations for a project that two Air Force men were trying to raise money to bring home two puppies from Afghanistan. After the meeting I received a call from Kevin Bittenbernder stating that he received an email that they had collected the amount needed to bring the dogs to this country. I am holding the \$12 I received to be used for any future worthwhile donations that we may do.

A group of us did Reading to Dogs at Chief Shikellamy for the past school year. It was very rewarding and fun for the dogs. Katie Mertz, who coordinated the program had a nice celebration for us on the last day. We will be continuing the program in September and anyone who is interested in joining us please let me know.

I have a pass out on Puppy Mills. I received a letter from Representative Phillips. In talking with Sherry Carpenter the new legislation is House Bill 2525. If you are sending correspondence to your legislator, please include that no.

Any new members present

This week we are visiting Manor Care in Sunbury. If your dog is people and dog friendly and working towards its Good Citizenship and TDI you can participate.

Does anyone have anything to add to the meeting

May I have a motion to adjourn

Breed of the Month

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever

submitted by Connie Cuff

Hunters in Yarmouth County in southwest Nova Scotia wanted a dog that would attract birds as well as retrieve them. They skillfully blended a Golden Retriever, Labrador Retriever, a little Cocker Spaniel, Irish Setter and farm Collie and when they were finished had a small enticing redhead with boundless energy and animation. They called it the Little River Duck Dog.



For more than 100 years the Little River Duck Dog was known only in the province until 1945 when the Canadian Kennel Club recognized the breed and changed the name to the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever.

Owners say this sporting breed has a lot going for it: personality, size, versatility and easy-care coat. Tollers are not for everyone. They are smart, independent and active, that needs an owner that can meet the dog's needs for exercise, entertainment and consistent patient training. They are finding a niche in agility, flyball and agility and are suited to a weekend hunter or an active family.

Their medium-length water-repellant coat is easy to maintain, requiring only weekly brushing throughout the year, except during the spring and fall shedding season when daily brushing is necessary.

Like most breeds, the Toller has some hereditary health problems such as progressive retinal atrophy and hip dysplasia. Buyers should ask if both parents have been certified free of eye disease and OFA for hip dysplasia.

Its sporting heritage gives the Toller alertness for a good watchdog. They are a good choice with school-age children.

The Tollers have negative traits as well, one of which they can be aggressive, so early socialization is necessary. Use of a crate is a must as a Toller left all day to its own devices may get into trouble.

If you decide this challenging breed is right for your family, don't count on running right out and getting one. The Toller is still a rare breed, so expect a wait of at least a year for a puppy. And like Toller owners say, "They're like peanuts; you can't have just one".

Bloat in Dogs

by Sally Grottini



Naptime!

BLOAT (also known as gastric torsion) can take your dog's life within an hour.

Dogs that are most at risk for bloat are medium to large breed dogs with large breed dogs being of greater concern. More common occurrences are found with dogs that have deep chests, are pure bred dogs, & dogs over 50 pounds. Bloat is rarely seen in small dogs or cats.

Risk factors, drinking quickly large amounts of water at once, exercise just after eating, hereditary, feeding one meal a day rather than two smaller meals, high fat content in food, eating a meal too quickly, ages 2 years or older, & dogs with deep chests. Males have more occurrences than females.

Bloat is a twisting of the intestines caused by a gas buildup which the dog can not expel. The intestines may rotate from 90 degrees to 360 degrees. It reduces blood supply to the stomach, the gastrointestinal tract and other abdominal organs, damages the spleen, causes irregular heartbeat (due to the lack of blood supply), and causes toxins and bacteria to enter the blood stream. Eventually shock and death occur if not caught in time. In some cases, treatment is initiated too late and the dog can not be saved.

Bloat happens when the dog's body takes in too much air such as: through panting and excitement, eating and drinking large amounts of food or water (and too quickly), or exercising after eating. Always call your vet and let them know you are bringing in a dog with suspected bloat.

What to watch for:

Excessive drooling

Restlessness

Vomiting, leading to nonproductive retching. (bringing up only phlegm and no stomach contents is a hallmark sign)

Abdominal pain

Altered mind state (no response when talked to)

Abdominal distention (you can see the stomach expanding)

Treatment will be releasing the gas through a tube inserted into the stomach and stabilizing the dog, then emergency surgery may be performed. The vet will take out the dog's intestines and examine them for damage. Damaged (dead) tissue must be cut out and the healthy tissue sewn together. When the intestines are put back in they will be tacked to the abdominal wall to hopefully prevent future episodes, however this is not guaranteed that another occurrence will not happen.

Keep Gas X (or Pepcid) in the home, if you suspect the dog is bloating, Gas X may help the dog to expel some of the gas, however surgery will still be necessary.

Keep phone numbers of your vet and the nearest Emergency vet (with directions) on the side of the refrigerator for easy access. I have always known my vets phone number by heart, However my mind suddenly went blank when I needed it most!

Heat Stroke in Dogs

by Sally Grottini

Dear Friends,

I just recently went through an experience With Bentley (Chance's Dad) that was very serious so I wanted to share a couple of tips with those of you who own dogs so you will know what to watch for during the hot summer days.



As some of you know, Bentley had to have Emergency Surgery for **BLOAT** as well as having to be

treated for **HEAT STROKE**. I'll start with heat stroke since that applies to all dogs and other animals. Heat stroke can happen in a matter of fifteen minutes, sooner if the dog is overly excited, overworked or left in a hot car. There is a difference between **heat exhaustion** and **heat stroke**. With **Heat Exhaustion** you will see a lot of panting, the tongue will slightly increase in size, there will be an increase in heart rate, drooling, and a rise in temperature. To cool the dog down, lay cool moist towels over the feet and abdomen. You can also put "rubbing alcohol on the paw pads. Spray the dog with a mist of cool water and place a fan in front of the dog. **Never immerse the dog in a tub of cold water, or wet the dog to the skin.** (*When soaked to the skin water lays on the body and the body heats the water causing the dog to hold in more heat and raises the core temperature.*) Put the dog in air conditioning if possible. Do not allow the dog to drink large amounts of water at a time. (*this can cause bloat*) Putting ice cubes in with a small amount of water will prevent the dog from taking in large amounts of water. Take the temperature rectally every three minutes to ensure the temp is going down. If the temperature starts off at 104 and after the cooling process has begun, the temp. drops to 103, *stop the cooling procedure!* Dry the dog off and continue to monitor with thermometer. If you don't stop the cooling process, the temp will continue to go down to 99 or below and will have an opposite reaction. (hypothermia)

Heat Stroke: Heat stroke can shut down the bodies major organs,(kidneys, liver, brain function, gastrointestinal problems such as bacteria, toxins, bleeding, & muscle breakdown) and can send the dog into shock causing seizures, coma, or death. Heat stroke occurs when the core temperature is 105 or higher and for this Emergency care is needed. Start the cooling procedure with the damp towels on the way to the vets office. The vet will start supportive care with IV fluids to keep the dog hydrated and give medications depending on underlying aggravating conditions. (*kidney failure, liver failure, etc.*)

What to watch for: *Excessive panting, expansion of the tongue, excessive drooling, noisy breathing, weakness, altered mental state (the dog does not respond to your voice), bright red mucus membranes (very red tongue, gums, eyes), hemorrhages on the gums or skin, collapse, & coma.*

A dog's normal temperature is between 100.5 -102.5

Keep these items handy in your home :

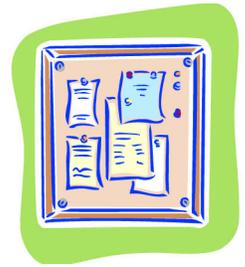
Rubbing alcohol (to put on paw pads)

Rectal thermometer & Vaseline (to take the temperature, put Vaseline on the end and insert into anus about one inch, hold for two minutes or until it beeps if it is digital)

Filled spray bottle



Notes and Notices



The Club has purchased window decals for the firemen to identify our pets. They are \$2.00 each. I will have them each week at class and we will be selling them at Riverfest and the Dog Walk at the Marina.

If anyone comes across articles that would be of interest for the Newsletter, please let me know.

I wish to thank everyone who participated in our visit to the Sunbury YMCA. The staff were very appreciative that we came and the children really enjoyed seeing the dogs.

There is a 3 day AKC Dog Show at the Bloomsburg Fair Grounds – Friday, July 25, Saturday July 26 and Sunday July 27. Classes are Breed, Obedience and Rally. For those interested in seeing a certain breed, if you check the web site www.google.com “Jim Rau Dog Shows” – five days prior to the show date you can get the time your breed will be showing.

Brandon, who coordinates our newsletter and website has completed his second year as a Software Engineering and Public Policy double-major at RIT in Rochester, NY and is spending the summer working on semantic visualization at the Air Force Research Labs in Rome, NY. With his busy schedule, we appreciate the time he takes to complete our newsletter each month.

We will be selling homemade dog biscuits at Sunbury River Festival. They are always a hot item and we need bakers. I have recipes for anyone who needs them. There are also a few under the recipe section of our club website.

Congratulations to Lori Steele for passing her CGC/TDI with Kelly.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

July 1 (Tues)	Medium Security Allenwood Badged members only	12:00 pm
July 2 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
	HAPPY JULY 4th	
July 9 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
July 10 (Thurs)	Northwestern Academy Life Geisinger, Kulpmont Shamokin Hospital	1:00 pm 2:00 pm 3:00 pm
July 10 (Thurs)	Penn Lutheran Village Selinsgrove	6:45 pm
July 16 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
July 17 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00 pm 1:45 pm 2:15 pm
July 23 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
July 24 (Thurs)	Elm Croft of Lewisburg	6:45 pm
July 30 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
July 31 (Thurs)	Geisinger Health South	2:00 pm
Aug. 6 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Aug. 7 (Thurs)	Emmanuel Center Danville	6:45 pm
Aug. 16 (Sat)	Sunbury River Festival	9:00 am

Newsletter coordinator: **Brandon Pastuszek**
E-mail: brandon@stdtc.org
Club web site: <http://www.stdtc.org>

July 2008

June 2008

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July 2008

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August 2008

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- US Holidays
- Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30 12:00 PM Medium Security Allenwood	1 10:00 AM Riverwoods	2 10:00 AM Riverwoods	3 Independence Day	4	5
6	7	8 10:00 AM Riverwoods	9 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital 6:45 PM Penn Lutheran Village	10 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:15 PM Sunshine Corners	11	12
13	14	15 10:00 AM Riverwoods	16 10:00 AM Riverwoods	17 6:45 PM Elm Croft of Lewisburg	18	19
20	21	22 10:00 AM Riverwoods	23 10:00 AM Riverwoods	24 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	25	26
27	28	29 10:00 AM Riverwoods	30 10:00 AM Riverwoods	31	1	2