



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

July 2010

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



When your beloved pet develops a medical issue, chances are you are inclined to do some Internet research. What can you do to make your online research more productive and how do you discuss your pet's condition with your veterinarian?

1. Ask your vet for her web site recommendations. It may reinforce information she has provided.

2. Veterinary college web sites provide reliable information. Search for them by entering "veterinary college" or "veterinary school" after the name of the disease or symptom you are researching.

3. Web addresses ending in ".org", ".edu" and ".gov" represent nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies that are likely to be sources of accurate information.

4. If your dog has a breed-specific disease, pay a visit to the site hosted by that specific breed's national organization.

5. Avoid business-sponsored web-sites that tend to make money when you believe at what they profess.

6. Check out disease specific online forums sponsored by Yahoo. They not only provide you with a wealth of information but also provide you with a large community of people who are dealing with the same problem as you. Look for a group that focuses on a specific disease, has lots of members, and has been around for several years.

After you have surfed the 'net, how do you share what you've learned with your veterinarian?

1. Let your vet know you appreciate her willingness and patience in helping you understand what you've learned online.

2. Ask your veterinarian for her web site recommendations.

3. Wait for appropriate time during the office visit to discuss what

Old Friends (Continued)

you've learned. Allow your vet to ask questions and examine your pup before beginning your discussion.

4. Be brief and to the point with your questions. Have them written on a paper.

5. Communicate in a respectful fashion that invites conversation, opposed to "telling" your vet what you want to do.

On the internet we have a great tool at our fingertips. Approach conversations with your veterinarian tactfully and these strategies are bound to create a win/win situation for you, your veterinarian and your pet.

(taken from the "Whole Dog Journal, March 2010)

"If you aim at nothing, more than likely you'll hit it."
--Laverne Hart

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (June 1, 2010)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the STDTC was called to order by Pres. Connie Cuff.

Report of the President:

I see there are a lot of dog walks advertised in the news. They mention that you must have a dog license. Be sure you also have up-to-date rabies, though they do not mention it.

You can purchase dog stamps at the Post Office. They are pictures of dogs from a shelter in Connecticut. I wish to acknowledge a donation of \$50.00 to our dog club by "Thor", owned by Mary Nielson, in memory of Riley. We also received a donation \$35.00 from the Mt. Carmel Lions Club for our participation.

Report of the Treasurer:

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

Report of Secretary:

Minutes of the May 2010 meeting were approved as written in the May newsletter.

Old Business:

As I have mentioned, we will be participating in the Lewisburg 4th of July Parade on Saturday, June 26. Everyone should be at the Lewisburg High School by 9:00 AM. We will be walking with our dogs weather permitting. Everyone should be in long pants, either jeans or navy pants and the dogs should have a flag scarf. We will have a group from the National Guard Alpha Company from Berwick helping us with the flag and also a Hum-vee will be with us. If anyone has not signed up with us, please do so with phone numbers and a cell in case I need to call you. If anyone finds they cannot make it, please contact me as I need a certain number to carry the flag.

New Business:

I would like to schedule our party for the Marina before the pavilion is taken. Would you rather do August instead of Sept.? New members were introduced.

TDI visit Thursday at Outlooke Pointe Lewisburg.

Meeting was adjourned.

Breed of the Month

Rat Terrier

submitted by Connie Cuff

Rat Terriers are invaluable farm dogs, exuberant watchdogs and cherished companions. They fit into almost any mold - although they are happiest when they get to earn their keep.

Because of their colorful origin, you will find their origin is a pinch of this and a pinch of that. In the 1890's the rat terrier was introduced in the United States from England and was soon combined with other breeds. More Smooth-Coated Fox Terrier was added, Beagle crosses enhanced hunting ability, and Italian Greyhound crosses added the skills of the sight hound and also gave the Rat Terrier an elongated body and calmer temperament.

Probably the most famous Rat Terrier owner in American history was Teddy Roosevelt's loyal companion "Skip" who helped rid the White House of a rat infestation.

During the '30's and '40's Rat Terriers were the most common breed in the country. Almost every farm had one. With the advent of pesticides and more mechanical farming, Rat Terriers became less necessary. With the rise of purebred dogs in the 1950's Rat Terrier numbers began to dwindle and it is now considered a rare breed.

Rat Terriers are a sleek, beautiful, low maintenance breed, requiring only an occasional brushing, nail trimming and teeth cleaning. They are proficient hunters of prey. They'll guard you and your family and get along well with children and with other dogs. They love to please and really excel in agility.

If good health is a concern this is the dog for you with a life span from 12 to 17 years. These healthy survivors, hard workers, are always willing to do whatever you do and go wherever you go. They really can do it all.

A recent article in USA today talks of a Purdue University researcher, David Walters, who has been leading a research team that studies aging and cancer in pet dogs. Over the past 3 years, they have compiled a database of scientific data on 140 Rottweilers with only 15 still alive. These dogs have lived to 13 years, 30% longer than average. Typically they don't live past ten.

He has made a trip across the country to visit these dogs, performing physical and neurological exams, collects DNA samples, checks bone density and body weight and height. He also interviews the homeowners, exploring the home environment and the things the owners have done to keep their dogs healthy. One owner's dog has been fed healthy, low-grain food, gets plenty of exercise, and was neutered at the age of 6. They worked hard to keep his weight down. While genetics gets 30% of the blame for cancer, 70% is lifestyle.

The focus was on the Rottweiler because of the similar pattern of aging and cancer behavior for those that are afflicted. One owner has also agreed to donate her dog's body to research when he finally passes on so there will be some fruit to her pet's labor.





Notes and Notices



I wish to welcome new members:

**Virginia Mendler with her beagle Daisy from Shamokin Dam
Chuck Rothermel with a Pit Bull, Buddy from Herndon
Kathie Flock with her English Setter Shelby from Middleburg
Trena Dale with her chi-pug, Pixie, from Mifflinburg
Michelle Blackwell with her Rhodesian Ridgeback, Jog, from Watsontown
Sharon Novack with her German Shepherd, Ruby, from Danville
Jackie Prentiss with her Jack Russell Terrier, Rusty, from Sunbury
Heather Williard with her Yorkshire Terrier from Selinsgrove**

Congratulations to the following who passed the TDI test:

**Tucker handled by Phil Hallden
Marley handled by Nan Ruhl
Eddie handled by Elaine Walz
Buffy handled by Gail Lorady
Passing the CGC Test: Pat Campbell with her Boxer**

I want to remind everyone that we will have our annual picnic at the Shikellamy State Park on Sunday, Sept. 26 at 1:00p.m. (rain or shine) There will be a sign-up sheet so we know how many hot dogs and soda to order. Mark your calendar now as the dogs really have a fun time and the meal is always delicious.

We will be participating at the Northumberland County Expo on Saturday, August 28. We plan to do a pet parade and have games for the dogs. Our Club will also do a demo and square dancing. I hope everyone can help with this project.

I wish to thank everyone who was involved in preparing for the Lewisburg 4th of July parade. Everyone was so supportive and I appreciate the time and effort you gave to this project.

Unfortunately we ran into a problem the day of the parade which prevented us from carrying the flag. We had carefully researched the Code of Ethics and our application to the committee indicated what we were doing.

We are in the process of attending a meeting with the Committee and I will let everyone know the results.

Even though we did not use the flag, everyone paraded with their dogs and the spectators enjoyed seeing us with the dogs. This meant so much to me.

Just a Dog

submitted by Connie Cuff

People have said to me from time to time things like “lighten up, it’s just a dog” or “that’s a lot of money for just a dog.” They say to me they don’t understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for “just a dog”. Some of my proudest moments have come about with “just a dog”. Many hours have passed and the only company I had was “just a dog”, but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by “just a dog” and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of “just a dog” gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

For those of you who do not understand the whys and wherefores of “just a dog”, then you will probably understand phrases like “just a friend”, “just a sunrise”, or “just a promise”. “Just a dog” brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. “Just a dog” brings out in me the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of “just a dog” I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future. So for me and folks like me, it’s not “just a dog” but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment. “Just a dog” brings out what’s good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day.

I hope that someday they can understand that it’s not “just a dog” but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being just a man. So the next time you hear the phrase “just a dog”, just smile, because they - “just don’t understand.

Just a thought, Richard Biby

Reprinted NAVHDA Feb 2006 issue

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

July 6 (Tues)	Sunbury YMCA (Demo)	9:45am
July 7 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
July 8 (Thur)	Northwestern Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital	1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm
July 13 (Tues)	Medium Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only)	12:00pm
July 14 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
July 15 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm
July 21 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
July 22 (Thurs)	Nottingham Village, Northumberland	6:45pm
July 28 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
July 29 (Thurs)	Health South, Geisinger	2:00pm
Aug. 28 (Sat)	Northumberland County Expo, Mile Hill Rd. Armory Building, Demo and Dog activities for the public	

July 2010

June 2010

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July 2010

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August 2010

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29	30	31				

 US Holidays

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Beginner Training 7:00 PM Advanced Training 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	1	2	3
4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independence Day 	5	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:45 AM Sunbury YMCA (Demo) 6:15 PM Beginner Training 7:00 PM Advanced Training 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 2:45 PM Shamokin Hospital 	9	10
11	12	13 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12:00 PM Medium Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only) 6:15 PM Beginner Training 7:00 PM Advanced Training 	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:45 PM Sunshine Cor-ners 	16	17
18	19	20 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Beginner Training 7:00 PM Advanced Training 	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	22 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:45 PM Nottingham Village, Northumberland 	23	24
25	26	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Beginner Training 7:00 PM Advanced Training 	28 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South 	30	31