



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

July 2011

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Since many of our dogs spend a lot of time outdoors in the summer, we find them interacting with other dogs, be it at a park, walking our dogs, or just visiting friends.

People ask a lot from their dogs by expecting them to be social with every dog they meet. This can put a lot of pressure on a dog - and when dogs aggress at other dogs we punish them for bad behavior and force them into situations that make them feel insecure.

Before an introduction, be sure your dog is focusing on you, "watch me", and is good at following your direction. Ask your dog to "sit" and "watch me" and reward each time she complies. When a dog is using her "thinking brain" she is less likely to become emotional and feel the need to aggress.

Then, we often take our dogs to Dog Parks or places where they can run free together. There are signs to watch for in aggression as they play and you should be aware of "body language".

Play Bow - When a dog raises her hind quarters and drops forequarter, accompanied by direct eye contact - often the spirit of fun.

Social Status - Higher status dogs approach with assertive body language - standing tall, head up, confident. Lower status dogs- lower themselves to the ground, flatten their ears, hold tail low.

Mutual Enjoyment - Check that dogs appear comfortable with interaction. Some dogs gain confidence as they engage in group play.

Cut Off - The intensity of play increases as dogs romp together. When things escalate beyond the comfort level, the dog will yip, snap, or bark, then it is time for a "time out".

Dogs are social creatures. Playing with other dogs gives them a terrific exercise outlet. While some dogs can't wait to romp, some never play well together.

Old Friends (Continued)

A good example of play last year was a get together for a swim party at the Lewisburg Pool. Over 80 dogs participated and there wasn't one incident. There are plans for two parties this year. We will keep you informed.

Have a great summer everyone including the dogs!

"If people concentrated on the really important things in life,
there'd be a shortage of fishing poles"

--Doug Larson, American Columnist

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (June 7, 2011)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

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

Reminder: Everyone should sign in each week in case I need to refer to the list for cancellation. E-mails are sent out and those without a computer will be called.

Will be practicing with the flag for the parade on June 25, next Tues. June 14 (Flag Day) at 6:30. Even if you do not plan to participate, we could use your help that night. I still do not have the info on line-up time but I will notify everyone when I hear from the Committee. The notifications are to be sent out this coming Fri. from Showalter's Office, so I will let everyone know when I hear from them.

Checked for new members so they could be introduced.

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the May Meeting were approved as read at June meeting.

Treasurer Report:

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

New Business: I would like to make arrangements for our annual picnic here at the Marina. The date from last year was the last Sunday in Sept. That would make it Sept. 25 this year. Would you like it earlier?

Old Business:

Therapy visits: June 27, Nottingham Village at 6:30pm / July 5, YMCA N. 4th St., Sunbury at 9:45am.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Virginia Pentz

Breed of the Month

Cane Corso

submitted by Connie Cuff

When we visit prisoners at the Allenwood facilities they talk of dogs they have had in the past which include Rottweilers, German Shepherds, Pit Bull Terriers, Dobermans, and they are familiar with a new breed named Cane Corso.

The Cane Corso hails from Italy and is a Mastiff breed, but without the wrinkles and loose skin. In general, the public continues to have an initial reaction to Mastiff-type breeds that isn't entirely positive or realistic.

The Cane Corsos exhibit personalities that make each unique. Some can be clowns, devoted, eager to please, protective, and suspicious of strangers. Since some are softer than others, it is good to visit the breeder and spend time with the dogs. Watch the temperament of the parents closely as it will reflect on the puppy's temperament.

The breed only began to gain a presence in the U.S. in the early 80's and became eligible to compete in AKC shows on July 1, 2010.

Socializing early is a must for these dogs - interacting with children, other dogs and different kinds of people and settings (this is something that every dog that comes to our classes should be doing). Corsos need firm leadership but no harshness.

Cane Corsos can live anywhere, but the easiest and hardest part of owning this breed might be their profound attachment to their owners. They need a lot of exercise, the more this dog is integrated into daily activities, the happier he will be.

The upkeep is minimal since their stiff double coat will shed lightly at certain times, but a quick brush a few times a week will take care of this. The breed is susceptible to hip dysplasia, cherry eye and bloat.

In general, Cane Corsos should not be left off leash without proper supervision. It is a powerful dog that is intimidating to many people. It can be belligerent toward other dogs of the same sex, as any dominant breed tends to be.

Before choosing this dog or any dominant breed be sure to do your research and know the breeder. Many owners are very happy with this breed and compete in obedience and agility. They say, "there is really very little that a Cane Corso can't do."





Notes and Notices



I want to thank everyone for their patience and support with the flag for the Lewisburg Parade. Even though it didn't turn out as I planned, we did make a very nice showing when we walked in the parade. People enjoyed seeing us with our dogs, so it did make for a nice day.

On a special note, the drawing for the tickets that were sold to help the Wounded Warrior expense was exciting since Kelly Pastuszek, our member, won the bike. Now she can peddle to work at Bucknell!

I have been asked by Kevin Bittenbender if we would carry the flag at the Cavalcade of Champions Drum & Bugle Corps Competition at Bucknell on Sat., July 30. I am asking for help as we will be recognized as the Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club. Since the weather may be warm and with so many Corps groups attending, I'm asking that we not have our dogs with us. The time to be at the Bucknell Stadium is 6:00pm. Would you please let me know ASAP if you can assist me.

Lydia Storey and her Airedale, Shadow, has completed the AKC Star Puppy Program with Marjean. Congratulations.

Sit Happens in Williamsport donated \$75.00 to our club for the services Marjean Krech and Sally Grottini do for them in testing for TDI.

With sympathies to Elaine & Bob Walz with the loss of their beloved Beagle, Barney. This was Elaine's very first dog so I know how special he was to them. Also, Sally Biddinger lost her Golden Retriever, Zeus, who contributed many hours of work as a Therapy Dog.

There has been an outbreak of Parvo at the Danville SPCA. They have not closed the facility and are in the process of disinfecting it. If you know of anyone who may have adopted from them recently and has a sick puppy, please inform them of this serious problem.

Anyone who may be experiencing loose stools with their dog from time to time may benefit in using a spoonful of yogurt daily in their food. It does a great job in firming up their stools.

I have been asked by Northwestern Human Services to visit Central Oak Heights, West Milton to visit a summer camp attended by mentally challenged children on Wed., July 27 at 12:30pm. Anyone who is available that day is most welcome to join us to make a special time for these children.

The AKC will now recognize TDI as a title. This title is for dogs who have already worked as therapy dogs. For more information or to download an application visit www.akc.org/akctherapydog or contact them at 919-816-3900.

Get well wishes to Josette Zielinski who is recuperating after fracturing her ankle.

Please mark your calendar for Sun. Sept. 25 at 1:00pm for our annual picnic at the Shikellamy Marina Park. Pavillion 2.

Thank you to Giant Foods that donated two boxes of bags to be used at the Marina to clean up after dogs.

Recently I received the Volunteer of the Year Award for the USP at Allenwood. This recognition was so meaningful to me since Dixie began the program there over 12 years ago. The experience I have had visiting that institution and the Medium has been something that I will cherish always. We could not perform this therapy visitation without the support of our members and I wish to thank each and every one of you.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

July 5 (Tues)	Sunbury YMCA Bite Prevention and visit with Summer Camp Kids	9:45am
July 6 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
July 7 (Thurs)	Emmanuel Center, Danville	6:30pm
July 13 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
July 14 (Thurs)	Northwestern Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital	1:00pm 2:00pm 3:00pm
July 18 (Mon)	Elmcroft, Lewisburg	6:30pm
July 19 (Tues)	Medium Prison Allenwood (NCIC only)	12:00pm
July 20 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
July 21 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm
July 27 (Wed)	Riverwoods Central Oak Heights, West Milton	10:00am 12:30pm
July 28 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00pm
July 30 (Sat)	Cavalcade of Champions, Bucknell University (without dogs)	6:00pm
Aug 4 (Thurs)	Grayson View, Selinsgrove	6:30pm
Aug 8 (Mon)	Penn Lutheran Village, Selinsgrove	6:30pm

July 2011

June 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

July 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

August 2011

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

- US Holidays
- Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 ■ 6:30 PM Nottingham Village	27 ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	28 ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	29 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	30 ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	1	2
3 Independence Day	4 ■ 9:45 AM YMCA Summer Camp ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	5 ■ 9:45 AM YMCA Summer Camp ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	6 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	7 ■ 6:30 PM Emmanuel Center	8	9
10	11 ■ 6:30 PM Elmcraft	12 ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	13 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	14 ■ 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy ■ 2:00 PM Life Geisinger ■ 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital	15	16
17	18 ■ 6:30 PM Elmcraft	19 ■ 12:00 PM Medium Prison Allenwood (NCIC only) ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	20 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	21 ■ 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital ■ 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home ■ 2:45 PM Sunshine Corners	22	23
24	25 ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	26 ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	27 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods ■ 12:30 PM Central Oak Heights	28 ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	29	30 ■ 6:00 PM Bucknell Cavalcade of Champions (Without Dogs)
31	1 ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	2 ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	3 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	4 ■ 6:30 PM Grayson View	5	6