



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

June 2006

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Many of you are aware of Cesar Millan, The Dog Whisperer, who is seen on the National Geographic Television Channel, Friday evenings at 8:00 p.m.

Cesar is not a tall man. He is in his mid-thirties and crawled across the border from Mexico fourteen years ago. He has no formal training. He learned what he knows growing up in Mexico on his grandfather's farm in Sinaloa. As a child he was called el Perrero, "the dog boy", watching and studying until he felt that he could put himself inside the mind of a dog.

When Cesar was twenty-one he traveled from his home town to Tijuana, and a "coyote" took him across the border for a hundred dollars. They waited in a hole, up to their chests in water, and then ran over the mudflats, through a junk yard and across a freeway. A taxi took him to San Diego. After a month on the streets, grim and dirty, he walked into a dog grooming salon and got a job working with the difficult cases and sleeping in the offices at night. He moved to Los Angeles and took a job detailing limousines while he ran his dog psychology business out of a white Chevy Astrovan.

Cesar related to dogs because he didn't feel connected to people. His dogs were his way of feeling like he belonged to the world, because he wasn't people friendly. His thinking about this has changed after seeking a therapist, and the most important moment of his life is when he understood that to succeed in the world he could not just be a dog whisperer but needed to be a people whisperer.

In the mornings, Cesar takes the pack (he has forty-seven dogs right now) on a four hour walk in the Santa Monica mountains. Cesar in front, the dogs behind him. If you watch him on television this is always the case. The Pit bulls, Rottweilers, and the German Shepherds with backpacks so that when the little dogs get tired Cesar can load them up on the big dogs' backs. Then they come back and eat. Exercise then food. Work, then reward.

In every TV episode he arrives amid canine chaos and leaves behind peace. He is the teacher we all had in grade school who could walk into a classroom filled with rambunctious kids and get everyone to calm down.

His theory is that a dog cares deeply which way your body is leaning. Standing straight with your shoulders squared, rather than slumped can mean the difference between whether your dog obeys a command or ignores it. Breathing evenly and deeply, rather than holding your breath, can mean the difference between defusing a tense situation or igniting it. For example—the meeting between two leashed animals on a walk. The owners are often anxious about how well the dogs will get along. Many humans signal tension by tightening the leash, as many owners do, you can actually cause the dogs to attack each other. (This information was taken from the *New Yorker*, May 22, 2006.)

In "Book Review" published by *Bark Magazine*, May/June 2006 issue the following is a review by Pat Miller of *Cesar's Way: The Natural Everyday Guide to Understanding & Correcting Dog Problems*.

Old Friends (Continued)

"His generalization about projecting calm assertive energy and calm submissive energy is good advice but the book does not explain how to accomplish these things. In Millan's world, every behavior problem is addressed in terms of dominance and submission. How many people can give their dog a four hour exercise he engages in every morning? The danger of Cesar's Way is that it assure owners that quick fixes and easy answers lie in the hands of a smiling man with the elusive calm-assertive energy.

A group of club members will be attending a presentation by Cesar October 28 in Lancaster. We hope to bring back with us some ideas of how we can better rehabilitate and train our canine friends.

Our club will be participating in upcoming events in August and September, and we will need everyone's support in these activities. I will have a sign-up sheet at class or you can call me to be put on the list. The following are dates and an explanation of the event. (You can sign up for a certain time, even if you can only do 1 hr it would be appreciated)

Riverfest, Sunbury, Saturday, August 19. We will be selling homemade dog biscuits and passing out dog literature. Therapy dogs will participate for petting. We are hoping for the same location as last year in the park with a canopy and fans. We plan on starting at 9AM.

Northumberland County Expo, Sunbury Armory, Saturday, August 26, Mile Hill Rd. TDI/CGC testing 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Dog literature will be available and therapy dogs for petting. We will do our dog square dancing at 1:00 p.m. The area will be tented with fans.

PA Pets Dog Walk, Saturday, September 9, Shikellamy State Park. We will have TDI/CGC testing and pass out dog literature and have dogs for petting. We plan on starting at 10am and ending at 3pm.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (May 3, 2006)

Submitted by: Lydia Storey

Our twenty- fifth monthly membership meeting was held on May 3, 2006 at approximately 7:45 PM at the Shikellamy Marina State Park.

Connie Cuff, President, called the meeting to order.

We received a recognition certificate from the Selinsgrove Center for our volunteer work with the residents. We are working on a program for next year and tentatively we may have our visits on Tuesday night, the night of training. A small group will visit at the dance in the gym from 6:30 -7.00 and a second group from 7:00-7:30. This way we can take care of it the same night we train.

Our club was also recognized by the Federal Penitentiary at Allenwood for our visits with the dogs.

Secretary's Report: Please read the minutes of the April meeting in the newsletter. If there are any additions or corrections please advise.

Treasurer's Report: There were no transactions this month.

New Business:

If you are interested Connie has Martingale collars, block kits to make training dumbbells and TDI ID card holders.

Sara Fry just received her TDI with Dugan. There was a notice included that within 3 months she had to report her visits and if she hasn't visited must explain why. I'm sure at renewal time they will require people to show proof of visits, so if you aren't participating, please try to take part in some of our activities. You also can do therapy work on your own.

We should set a date for our picnic at the Marina so we can reserve a pavilion.

Old Business:

There are still some people who haven't renewed their membership or given me shot records for 2006. I would appreciate if you take care of this matter.

We have started a beginners class at the Goodwill Playground on Tuesday nights for 6 weeks. We will donate \$5 from each student to the playground for their improvement fund.

There will be a TDI visit at Nottingham Village Thursday. The Lions Club Street Fair in Mt. Carmel is Saturday May 13 at 1 PM.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:55 PM.

Sherry's Corner

by Sherry Carpenter

Danger to dogs from cocoa bean mulch put in perspective

Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association June 1st

There have been no reports of poisoning from cocoa bean mulch filed this year although 16 reports were received at the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center none resulted in death. The story being circulated about a young dog named Calypso ingesting cocoa bean mulch may be true but the cause of death is suspect according to Dr. Steve Hansen, Center director. Nevertheless it is advisable to refrain from using cocoa bean mulch if dogs have access to the area. Vomiting and muscle tremors are the most common signs as well as hyperactivity and diarrhea.

Heartworm Guidelines after Katrina--important information for shelters and rescues

Sixty percent of dogs displaced after Katrina are likely to be infested with heartworms. In addition five to ten percent of cats are infested. These animals pose a threat to shelter populations and new owners should be advised.

Columns in the Item this month include precautions to take so your pet doesn't die from a commercial diet, Bloomsburg Fair Dog Show problems, new dog diets

THE BRYCE JORDAN CENTER PRESENTS

JUNGLE JACK HANNA

Friday, September 15, 7:00 p.m.

BRYCE JORDAN CENTER

UNIVERSITY PARK, PA -- Through his nationally syndicated television show Jack Hanna's Animal Adventures, and hundreds of appearances on the Late Show with David Letterman, Good Morning America and Larry King Live, animal expert Jack Hanna has become a household name.

Hanna began to receive national attention after he became Director of the rundown Columbus Zoo in Columbus, Ohio in 1978. He not only transformed the zoo into a model facility, but through his media savvy, made the Columbus Zoo one of the most recognized zoos in the United States.

Jungle Jack's live show features many of his favorite animal friends, as well as fascinating and humorous stories and footage from his adventures around the world. Audiences give Jack rave reviews – everyone from the youngest child to the oldest adult is entertained and inspired.

TICKET INFORMATION:

Reserved tickets are \$20.00 for adults and \$9.75 for children (12 and under) and Penn State students with I.D. Group rates are also available.

Call 814-863-1812 for more information. Tickets went on sale Tuesday, May 9 at 10:00 a.m. Tickets will be available at The Bryce Jordan Ticket Center, Eisenhower Auditorium, Penn State Tickets Downtown, the Altoona Campus ticket outlet, all Ticketmaster locations, or charge by phone at 814-865-5555, or 800-863-3336, or online at www.bjc.psu.edu.

Ocoee Beagle Who Saved Owner's Life Wins 2006 VITA Wireless Samaritan Award

Submitted by Brandon Pastuszek

ORLANDO, Fla., May 26 /PRNewswire/ -- A beagle that dialed 911 on her owner's Cingular Wireless phone, potentially saving his life after he went into a diabetic seizure, is the first animal to receive the prestigious VITA Wireless Samaritan Award. Belle and her owner, Kevin Weaver, will travel to Washington, D.C. on June 19, 2006 to be recognized at The 12th Annual Wireless Foundation Achievement Awards Dinner. Each year, CTIA-The Wireless Foundation presents the VITA (Latin for "life") Wireless Samaritan Awards to honor people (and, in this case, an animal) across the United States who used their wireless phones to save lives, stop crime and help in other emergency situations. Wireless carriers submit nominations for the awards. Cingular Wireless submitted Belle's nomination.

Weaver, an Ocoee, Florida resident with diabetes, got two-year-old Belle for companionship. But when Weaver learned of a nonprofit organization in Atlanta that trains dogs to alert owners of oncoming seizures and to respond, he decided to have Belle trained. By simply licking and sniffing the tip of Weaver's nose several times a day, Belle can detect through taste and smell Weaver's blood sugar levels. When his levels drop below normal, Belle warns Weaver by whining and pawing at him.

Weaver's \$8,000 investment in Belle's training paid off dearly on the morning of February 7th, 2006. Weaver awoke that day feeling badly. Belle whined and pawed at her owner, but Weaver misinterpreted Belle's actions as a sign that she needed to go out. Within minutes, he slipped into a diabetic seizure. Belle retrieved Weaver's wireless phone and pressed the 9 key -- which was preprogrammed to dial 911 -- with her teeth, as she had been trained to do. Paramedics were on the scene within minutes. When Weaver regained consciousness, he was in the hospital and was told his blood sugar levels had dropped to 25, way below the normal range of 80-120.

"I am convinced that if Belle wasn't with me that morning, I wouldn't be alive today," said Kevin Weaver. "Belle is more than just a life-saver; she's my best friend."

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Jun 8 (Thurs)	Emmanuel Center Danville	6:45pm
Jun 22 (Thurs)	Maria Joseph Manor Danville	6:45pm
Jun 28 (Wed)	Montgomery House Library Church St., McEweonsville (Bite Prevention and Dog Care)	1:00pm
Jul 10 (Mon)	Shamokin Elementary Demo	10:30am
Aug 19 (Sat)	Riverfest Sunbury	9:00am
Aug 26 (Sat)	Northumberland County Expo Sunbury Armory (TDI/CGC Testing, Bite Prevention, Demo)	9:00am-3:00pm
Sept 9 (Sat)	PA Pets Shikellamy Marina (Dog Bite Prevention, TDI/CGC Testing)	10:00am-3:00pm
<u>Every Wednesday</u>	Riverwoods Lewisburg, PA	10:00am
<u>3rd Thursday</u>	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home, Market St. Sunbury	1:00-1:30pm 1:45pm
<u>Last Thursday</u>	Geisinger Rehab—Health South	2:00-3:00pm

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June 2006

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
			Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	Emmanuel Center (Danville) 6:45pm		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	Sunbury Comm. Hospital 1pm-1:30pm		
				Mansion Nrs. Home (Sunbury) 1:45pm		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
			Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	Maria Joseph Manor (Danville) 6:45pm		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
			Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	Geisinger Rehab (Health South) 2pm-3pm		
			Montgomery House Library (McEwensville) 1:00pm			