



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

June 2008

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



As we begin our training at the Shikellamy State Park, going from inside to outside, we will now have a lot of new distractions for our dogs to deal with - squirrels, bicycles, skate boarders and people jogging. These activities are an excellent training tool to help us in placing our dogs under command and pay attention to us.

A dog is placed under command for one of the following reasons: to instill a new training concept, to reinforce previous training, to avoid danger, to promote convenience and/or comfort of owners and dog.

To place a dog "under command" is to tell him to do something - to move, to stay, to come, to follow, etc. Every time you speak or gesture to your dog, other than in casual affection, you are placing him under command.

Success in training brings rewards and relief from stress. Therefore it is important that the dog succeed more times than fail. It is important that the dog associates the lead and collar with success. That means it should be put on properly and used correctly. NO matter what type of collar you use - choke chain, pinch, martingale, or just a regular buckle collar - it is the jerk at the back of the neck that corrects the dog. A well-timed correction clearly contrasts right from wrong, followed by a verbal reward - GOOD DOG.

If you are training your dog to become a therapy dog you should switch off and on from a training collar to a regular collar since you must test with a regular buckle collar.

Twenty small, nagging corrections to achieve one success is a poor ratio. If he dislikes the collar he will heel well with it on and then run away when it is removed.

It is important that you teach your dog a new command on leash and then anticipate his errors with firm, well-timed corrections when you practice the new command off-lead. He should not distinguish any difference in the timing or firmness of the correction on-lead or off-lead. Be certain the new command is well-established and understood before you try it off-lead.

Apply your command in many situations. ex. barking at other dogs, people coming to your home, etc. When it does happen put him under command at once.

### Old Friends (Continued)

By placing him under command (1) you merely distract him with work (2) you place him under control (3) you reinforce the concept that his attention be on you and the command he has been given.

"A vision without a task is but a dream; a task without a vision is drudgery; a vision and a task are the hope of the world" - seen at a 17th century church in Sussex, England.

Till next time,

*Connie*

### Minutes (May 7, 2008) submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the STDTC was called to order with 17 members present.

#### REPORT OF PRESIDENT:

I was able to attend a dinner sponsored by the Selinsgrove Center to honor members who have been visiting the facility. They presented our club with a certificate for our participation. I hope this fall I will have a group to come into the Came Room as the residents enjoy seeing the dogs.

Sally Grottini left me know of a young boy Jackson Dixon from Bloomsburg who collected an array of dog food and products for Mostly Mutts. Instead of receiving gifts from a birthday party he asked for donations for a shelter since he loved animals. He gave them to our club which I directed to Mostly Mutts. I have sent him a note and think what a wonderful way to celebrate a birthday.

INTRODUCE NEW MEMBERS: Katie Davis for passing CGC.

REPORT OF SECRETARY: As in May newsletter. Approved as written.

REPORT OF TREASURER:

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

#### NEW BUSINESS

Moving to marina next week May 13.

A check was written for the Sunbury River fest for our participation on Sat. Aug 16. We always have a homemade dog bones. If anyone has any ideas of other items or ways we could make some money let me know.

There has been some questrion on a new Flea & tick protection called Pro Meris. If anyone is interested in reading the e-mail they can find it at <http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/promeris.asp>

#### FUNDRAISING ARTICLE FOR KEYSTONE:

I would like some discussion about a topic we had mentioned before in donationg articles for dogs serving in Afghanistan. My son-in-law, Kevin Bittenbender, was in touch with his group at Camp Fiaz where he was stationed. While therepuppies, two of which are trying to be adopted by two Air force personnel. D.O.G. was shot and killed defending the base. The cost of adoption is rather expensive, from \$2000 to \$2500. Costs are

### Minutes (Continued)

for feeding and caring, transporting them from Afghanistan to NY and keeping them quarantined for 30 days. I realized there are a lot of pets in need of adoption here, but I feel with a small donation from our club it will help these airmen to adjust back here in the States when they return from Afghanistan in August.

If the club would agree we could keep a jar at our class for the month of May and we could make our donation to Left-Eye who is SFC Rob LoMonacos, PO 672, Pickerington, OH 43137.

Also for a fundraiser I have been in touch with a company in Bloomsburg who manufactures window decals for firman to identify our pets. There are two types and they are sending me copies for our consideration.

Type I	1 to 249	.95each
	250 up	.85 each
Type II	1 to 249	1.50 each
	250 up	1.25 each

#### OLD BUSINESS:

I need people for this Saturday at Mt Carmel at 2PM. Any level of obedience. People just enjoy seeing the dogs.

#### TDI VISITS:

Thurs. Northwestern Academy  
Life Giesenger  
Shamokin Hospital

NOTE: PA Pet Walk will be held Sept 6th

Bob Walz dog Barney has stomach ailment, please keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Will have a Raffle Basket for the Riverfest.

Respectfully Submitted  
Virginia Pentz, Secretary

## Sherry's Corner

by Sherry Carpenter

### AKC Canine Health Foundation Media Alert

American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation Announces Genetic Test for Canine Degenerative Myelopathy [Thursday, May 8, 2008]

Canine Degenerative Myelopathy (DM) is an adult-onset, progressive spinal cord disease causing weakness in the hind limbs and eventually paraplegia. Dog owners usually elect euthanasia within a year of diagnosis; however, when euthanasia is delayed flaccid paralysis and widespread loss of muscle mass occur. Because common acquired compressive spinal cord diseases can mimic DM, a definitive diagnosis currently can only be accomplished postmortem by histopathologic observation of the spinal cord.

Drs. Gary Johnson and Joan Coates at the Animal Molecular Genetics Laboratory of the University of Missouri and Drs. Claire Wade and Kerstin Lindblad-Toh at the Broad Institute of MIT/Harvard and their colleagues have identified a DNA mutation that is a major risk factor for development of degenerative myelopathy in dogs. The research project was funded by the AKC Canine Health Foundation, American Boxer Charitable Foundation, Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, French Bulldog Club of America, and French Bulldog Rescue League.

A DNA test will soon be available for breeders and pet owners, along with information about what the test can and cannot tell them. The test clearly identifies dogs that are clear (have 2 normal copies of the gene), those who are carriers (have one normal copy of the gene and one mutated copy of the gene), and those who are at much higher risk for developing DM (have

## Sherry's Corner (Continued)

2 mutated copies of the gene). However, having two mutated copies of the gene does not necessarily result in disease.

[Click here to read more about this genetic test.](#)

Information about the benefits of this test, testing forms and instructions, and suggestions for using the test to reduce the frequency of DM will soon be available online here.

[Click here to support important research at the AKC Canine Health Foundation and please consider a recurring gift.](#)

Contact:

Erica Kitchen

Development Associate

AKC Canine Health Foundation

919-334-4010

888-682-9696

[www.akcCHF.org](http://www.akcCHF.org)

The AKC Canine Health Foundation, founded in 1995 by the American Kennel Club, is the largest nonprofit worldwide to fund health research exclusively for canines. Our goal is to help dogs live longer, healthier lives. The AKC Canine Health Foundation is the leader in non-invasive genetic health research, stem cell research, and biotherapeutics benefiting both canines and humans. Through the generous financial support of the American Kennel Club and the Nestlé Purina PetCare Co., we're proud to announce we have allocated more than \$20 million in canine health research through more than 75 schools and research institutions worldwide.

### I Hope we can all Learn from this

I Just received this from a friend of mine and I hope you all will continuously monitor the yards your dog are out in. This is the second friend of mine that has experienced their pups eating mushrooms with devastating results. Leslie has English Setters and the other gal breeds Eng. Springers.

Bertie Nielson

Gleneire

\*\*\*PERMISSION TO CROSSPOST TO YOUR RESPECTIVE DOG LISTS & BEYOND\*\*\*\*

I'm not sure how I should start this off, but suffice to say that I hope that everyone learns from it, and that it NEVER happens to them.

On Thursday this week, I came home as usual, put the 3 puppies I have here (Trace/Hannah/Smartie) into their puppy pen so I could let the big dogs out to do their thing. As usual, after the big dogs were done, they all came into the house and I let the puppies out into the big yard to play and explore with me as I go around picking up poopies and sticks and stones before the lawn got cut. At 5:30pm as usual, I tell the puppies that it's supper time, and in I go to make up their dinner and they all follow me to the gate. I quickly answered (an OK typed) email to a prospective puppy client while the dinner is warming up, look out to the side yard, rap on the window and tell them to leave it (I thought it was white plastic) and come for dinner. This was a space in time of under 10 minutes. I go out to the gate, and as usual, Trace is sitting at the top of the stairs waiting for me and Smartie comes along staggering and whimpering and can't get up the stairs. I'm thinking sh\*t, what is going on here, grab the 'phone, call my veterinarian, screaming at the gals that it was me and I was coming in, that I have a puppy crashing and putting Smartie into one kennel and Trace (who's fine by the way) into the other. I'm running around looking and calling for Hannah and I can't find her and not thinking that she was in trouble, I kept thinking she's escaped (although there is no open holes or anywhere to escape from). My clinic fones to tell me that the 'phones are being put onto pager, and I'm just screaming that I can't find the bitch and ask (I think it should be I told her ) to get Gywnne, my vet tech friend to wait by her cell and I'll 'phone when I hit the road. It took me what seem like hours, but only minutes to find Hannah, under the porch in a very dark place behind the lattice work and I just ripped the lattice work off, pulled her out and put her on the

## Sherry's Corner (Continued)

bed inside my truck, and hit the road. What usually takes me 40-45 minutes to drive, took me 16 minutes with my flashers on, high beams blinking at those stupid people that insist on driving in the passing lane, and horn blaring.

I hit the back door of the clinic with a seizing Hannah and Gwynne grabbed Smartie and we (I was helper only) prepped them for IV's with a quick assessment by my beloved veterinarian Al. This clinic is emergency trained and there was 3 techs, 1 runner, Al, and myself scrambling to get these puppies stabilized. They were crashing and crashing fast. Protocol warrants Valium for seizing dogs, so after a quick weigh on them, Valium was given to Hannah through the IV and whatever the prescribed amount was for her weight, a lesser amount of 0.5mgs (?) was given, and as they are working on Smartie, I'm with Hannah & Cathy (vet tech), and IMMEDIATELY she stops seizing and her heartrate is going down fast and stops. Out comes the emerg kit, she's tubed and atrophine is administered to bring her back and after a few minutes she comes back and appears to stabilize again. It is a given that her stomach needs pumping however at that moment in time it was impossible as they were trying to keep her alive. Smartie at that moment, is still with us and then I bring Trace in for assessment and he is fine (thank god for his food hound attributes, cause food is his life and thanks to his sire is probably why he is still alive).....and then

.....Smartie crashes.....

When it finally appeared that things were settling down (a matter of minutes, not hours), Al wanted us (Gwynne & me) to go home, look for the cause and of course, Gwynne was to monitor the other dogs vitals, just in case. We looked around in the area where I had seen them playing for that brief moment and found mushrooms....Gwynne called Al.....

The pieces we found explained the small piece (the size of an eraser on the top of your pencil) that was pumped from Hannah's stomach. At that time, they were being monitored and appeared stable and much the same as when we left them. Within the hour (although my sense of timing by this time was gone), Al 'phoned and told me what was going on and that all his training, all his experience, all his energy, could not save these puppies and that the best thing would be to let them go. The decision was made to let them go as they were in a coma and being kept alive by machine and human hands. There was nothing else that could be done.....they were just 4 months old.....and so I let them go.

So, from my tragedy, I hope you learn about these mushrooms. Of course, we can't have our dogs living in glass houses and not be allowed to be just.....dogs.....I have almost 6 acres of property and 1-1/2 is fenced for the dogs and the dogs DO NOT access the rest of the property. I clean up poop daily and pick up anything that looks or could look to be offensive to the dogs. What else can I do? I have never, in the 24 years of living on this property with puppies and/or adults, lost dogs to this. Of course, when poop scooping, like all of us, we get rid of mushrooms as we find them, as a precaution, but to have this happen is a shock.

These particular mushrooms are not prevalent in this area. There is one school of thought that they appeared on Vancouver Island in '98....others say there are not on the Island. There is at least 2 species from what I learned in my research and it is not certain if these are the mushrooms I have found or not. When Gwynne and I were searching for the cause we found more and they were taken to the clinic for evaluation. I found 6 or 7 on the Friday, none on Saturday, and one today (Sunday). They are not dangerous in their button stage as juveniles as they haven't developed the spores to reproduce, but they will kill if ingested! Mushroom fanatics have died simply by touching them, cross contaminating them to their edible mushrooms and cooking those.

When in the juvenile stage, they are pretty much white and level with the ground and they hide under vegetation which makes it difficult to find them. I have had to rake the area north to south and south to north, then east to west and west to east morning and late afternoon to try and find them. I have not found many more. They were in one general area where lots of sunlight hits the ground but with some low growing vegetation that keeps the ground moist. Every one I have found, save one, since the incident has been in it's juvenile stage so they won't be reproducing. Given time, they will be gone, but they could crop up again from the adults that had spores that I did find or that the puppies had eaten. When the Summer hits, they will go dormant and sometimes not always, reappear in the Fall.

## Sherry's Corner (Continued)

I have been in contact with a mushroom expert and I am awaiting his instructions. The pictures I have sent to him appear to be of one species and their odour is nauseating. The link I am providing [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amanita\\_phalloides](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amanita_phalloides) is one of many. You may cross post to any dog lists or friends that you think may benefit from this or if any of you are involved in a dog magazine, you have permission to use this article along with my name.

Finally, I would like to send out a HUGE THANKYOU to my clinic, Prevost Veterinary Clinic in Duncan, B.C. Canada, specifically Dr. Allan Longair, Cathy, Gwynne, & Erin (all 3 are Veterinary Techs) and Karen who was a big help in trying to keep me calm. They went above and beyond to save Hannah and Smartie.

May the shamrocks fall softly you two.....Darkenwald's Lit'l Miss Sunshine (Hannah) and Darkenwald's Smartie Jones (Smartie); January 4th, 2008 to May 8th, 2008, exactly 4 months and almost to the hour when they came into this world, they left it. Someone said 'God musta wanted Hannah & Smartie back. When I figure out the reason why, I'll let you all know.....

Leslie Anne Davey  
Darkenwald Setters (1968) & K9 Clips(1988)  
Ladysmith on Vancouver Island  
Beautiful British Columbia, Canada [setters@shaw.ca](mailto:setters@shaw.ca)

## Breed of the Month

### Jack Russell Terrier

submitted by Connie Cuff

This high-energy breed specializes in problem solving. And when excited, Jacks can get air-borne like no other. It's like they have springs in their feet. The breed's firecracker personality requires clear rules, obedience training, socialization and consistency.

The Rev. John Russell first bred the Jack Russell Terrier in the mid 1800's in Southern England to assist on mounted fox hunts. The dogs trailed the fox and shuttled them out of their dens so the hunt could continue. Today Jacks are a common fixture on the horse show circuit.

JRTs have extreme mental and physical requirements. Their high energy makes them one of the top agility breeds. They also excel at tracking, lure coursing, earthdog trials, flyball and obedience.

When properly exercised, the Jack Russell will happily settle down next to its favorite human and stay close.

The best home for JRTs is indoors with lots of outdoor play in a fenced yard. They will chase small animals resembling prey. Known health problems are juvenile cataracts.

If you feel this life style is for you, be sure you have the time and energy to devote to this larger than life personality. As one owner of JRT stated, "he thinks he owns the house. We think it's nice he lets us live here with him".







## Crack Down on Puppy Mills in Pennsylvania

Dear Friend,

Puppy mills commonly house animals in overcrowded, filthy, and inhumane conditions with inadequate shelter and care. Mother dogs are constantly bred and their puppies are taken at 8 weeks of age for sale at pet stores. Take action today to crack down on puppy mills in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania has developed a reputation as a haven for puppy mills, with more than 2,100 breeding facilities in the state -- some 430 of which have 100 dogs or more. A recent Oprah Winfrey Show highlighted the horrific conditions at puppy mills with undercover footage taken at a facility in Lancaster, Penn. Fortunately, legislation has been proposed in the Pennsylvania General Assembly to strengthen the law on these cruel operations.

It is critical that your state representative hear from constituents who support this legislation!

### TAKE ACTION

Please make a brief, polite phone call to urge your representative to co-sponsor new legislation proposed by Representative James Casorio. This legislation will be introduced in the next few weeks and needs to have as many co-sponsors as possible before then.

When you call, you will likely speak to a staff member who will pass your message along to your representative. Remember to be polite and professional, and leave your name and address so it is clear that you are a constituent. You can say:

“Hello, my name is [your name] and I am calling from [your city] to ask [representative’s name] to co-sponsor Representative Casorio’s bill to overhaul the Dog Law and give stronger protections for dogs in breeding facilities. It’s time to crack down on puppy mills in Pennsylvania. Thank you.”

After making your call, send a follow-up email to your representative in support of legislation to crack down on puppy mills.

And don’t forget to tell your friends and family in Pennsylvania how they can take action, too.

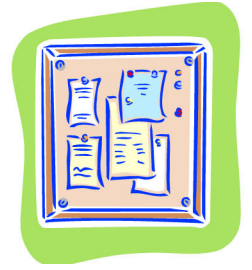
Thank you for all you do for animals.

Sincerely,

Mike Markarian  
Executive Vice President  
The Humane Society of the United States



## Notes and Notices



**Recently I attended a meeting at Representative Dave Millard's Office in Bloomsburg with Jesse Smith, Esq., Special Deputy, Commonwealth of PA Dept. of Agriculture, pertaining to the revisions to the new Dog Law, House Bill 445. This law gives additional protection for dogs raised in commercial breeding kennels. We need to crack down on Puppy Mills in PA.**

**The legislation was taken before committee on May 12. It will be brought before the House later this summer. Please write or email your legislature – a sample letter is as follows: My name is (your name) and I am asking you to co-sponsor Representative Casorio's bill to overhaul the Dog Law and give stronger protection for dogs in breeding facilities. It's time to crack down on puppy mills in Pennsylvania. Thank you. In our area you can address it to: Merle Phillips, 106 Arch Street, Sunbury, PA 17801.**

**Giant Foods has graciously provided clean up bags at the Shikellamy Marina for dogs.**

**The Mt. Carmel Lions Club gave our club a \$25 donation for putting on a demonstration for them at their street fair.**

**We welcome new members: Mary Kay and Brian Young from Mifflinburg, Katie Mertz from Northumberland, and Lori Steele from Elysburg.**

**I wish to thank the Dog Club for their kindness in placing the artificial bouquet on Dixie's grave for Memorial Day.**



## UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>June 2 (Mon)</b>	<b>Reading Chief Shikellamy</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
<b>June 4 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>June 5 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Manor Care, Sunbury</b>	<b>6:45 pm</b>
<b>June 11 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>June 12 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Northwestern Academy</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>
	<b>Life Geisinger, Kulpmont</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>
	<b>Shamokin Hospital</b>	<b>3:00 pm</b>
<b>June 17 (Tues)</b>	<b>Federal Prison, Allenwood (Badged for Federal only)</b>	<b>12:00 pm</b>
<b>June 18 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>June 19 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Sunbury Hospital</b>	<b>1:00 pm</b>
	<b>Mansion Nursing Home</b>	<b>1:45 pm</b>
	<b>Sunshine Corners</b>	<b>2:15 pm</b>
	<b>Nottingham Village</b>	<b>6:45 pm</b>
<b>June 25 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>June 26 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Geisinger Health South</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>

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

# June 2008

May 2008


S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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June 2008

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28	29	30	31			

July 2008

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27	28	29	30	31		

 US Holidays

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	3	4 10:00 AM Riverwoods	5 6:45 PM Manor Care	6	7
8	9	10	11 10:00 AM Riverwoods	12 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital	13	14 Flag Day
15 Father's Day	16	17 12:00 PM Federal Prison, Allenwood	18 10:00 AM Riverwoods	19 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:15 PM Sunshine Centers 6:45 PM Nottingham Village	20	21
22	23	24	25 10:00 AM Riverwoods	26 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	27	28
29	30	1 10:00 AM Riverwoods	2	3	4 Independence Day	5