



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

June 2009

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Many of us consider our pets as bona fide family members. Treating pets like family may partially explain why good pets go bad.

With so many pets ending up in animal shelters because of behavioral problems we must take a good look at how the "family" views our pets and the hierarchy in relating to each other.

The only effective way to correct improper pet behavior is to make clear where the pet stands in relation to the rest of the family. The entire household must change the way they interact with their pet in order for the pet's behavior to improve.

Problems mostly occur when boundaries between a pet and its owner become enmeshed. When an owner responds to every little attention-getting action the dog or cat believes it's in the driver's seat. This often leads to acts of dominance, aggression and separation anxiety.

There are two main principles you should remember when attempting to change your pet's behavior:

1. Change the way you interact with your misbehaved dog. Do not look at, talk to, pet, feed, play or let out your dog when it is in the act of misbehaving. If you do, you are rewarding the very misbehavior you seek to eliminate.

2. Notice good behavior whenever it occurs and then look at, talk to, pet, play and feed your dog. By positively reinforcing good actions and not reinforcing the bad, your pet will misbehave less.

To make them understand why you're punishing them, you must catch them in the act, interrupt them and redirect them to a preferred behavior.

After you've separated the good behavior from the bad, the next hardest task is to change the emotional boundaries between you and your pet.

### Old Friends (Continued)

One of the problems I try to address in class is separation anxiety. By incorporating having dogs being held by other members I try to help the dogs to relax with other handlers which is part of the test for TDI. This should be practiced at home and other places other than at training class.

With a little love, work and patience you can transform despondent dogs into friends of the entire family.

*"Animals are such agreeable friends - they ask no questions, they pass no criticism"*

-George Eliot

Till next time,

*Connie*

### **Minutes (May 5, 2009)** submitted by Ginny Pentz

Meeting was called to order by Secretary, Virginia Pentz, with 23 members present.

Report of President: None, President absent due to death in family.

Report of Secretary: Minutes approved as written in newsletter.

Report of Treasurer: None

Old Business: As in April Newsletter.

New Business: None. Signed card for Connie Cuff and voted to send gift card from Gilberts in Memory of her mother.

TDI: Upcoming demo on Saturday at Mt. Carmel Lions club. Be there by 1:45 PM.

Meeting adjourned.

## Breed of the Month

### Irish Wolfhound

submitted by Connie Cuff

The Irish Wolfhound might be one of the world's largest dogs but its gentle nature belies its great size. They are so much like people, they love the entire family – the kitty, bunny, what have you.

Irish Wolfhounds are huge – typically 3 feet tall (8 feet standing on their hind legs) and more than 100 pounds. They grow quickly – a puppy can go from 1 ½ to 50 pounds in only weeks.

Despite the Wolfhounds costly maintenance and short life span – about 8-10 years – owners are loyal to the breed.

Wolfhounds have inspired a loyalty to the breed for more than 2,000 years. The breed emerged as a favorite in 391 A.D. when the Roman Consul

Aurelius received seven of the dogs and wrote that “all Rome viewed with wonder” his imposing gifts. The Romans, who conquered the Celts, are credited with taking the Wolfhound to Ireland sometime around the birth of Christ. There are numerous references in early Irish Literature to the animal, called the great hound of Ireland.

The modern Wolfhound lineage can be traced to a Scotsman Capt. G.A.Graham since he noted the breed's disappearance as a result of exportation and the extinction of its prey, the Iris Elk and wolf. In 1862 he supervised the creation for the modern standard. The Wolfhound is a sight hound unlike a scent hound, which never looks up when tracking its prey.

Wolfhounds are couch potatoes. It's not unusual for them to greet everyone, even burglars at the front door with love and affection, and rarely bark at intruders.

Walking a Wolfhound could be a challenge as they are glorious hunters. They love to dig which jeopardizes their owners' gardens and shrubs. Electronic fences are useless as they ignore the electronics.

They are prone to bone disease, hip dysplasia, cancers, heart and kidney disease as are usual ailments in other breeds. The difference is their size and is seen as early as 8 years.

A lot of devotion to the Wolfhound has to do with the romance of the breed. The Irish Wolfhound does not live to please you. You have to learn to live with it on its own terms.





## Notes and Notices



**I wish to thank everyone who participated in the Lions Club Demo at Mt. Carmel. We received a check in the amount of \$35.00.**

**For all those who took part in the Reading programs at Boughner Elementary at Milton and Chief Shikellamy in Sunbury, we received a big thank you from both schools and they are hoping we will be back in the fall. If anyone wishes to participate in the program please let Connie know.**

**Congratulations to our new AKC Star Puppies:**

**Mary Nielson with her Great Dane Thor  
Michelle Wert with Brody  
Pat Campbell with her Boxer Lucy  
Tiffany Benfer with her Rotweiler Nyah**

**Those completing their CGC are:**

**Megan Mertz with Bailey  
Phil Hallden with Sage**

**There will be a detour on Rt. 11 from Duke Street to the Barry King Bridge in Northumberland beginning June 2nd and continuing for 21 days. All traffic will be detoured over the Veterans Memorial Bridge which will cause some traffic back up. I will start beginner's class at 6:30 pm so everyone is able to make it to the Marina.**

**Laura Girard with Cody & Cleo has moved to McClure. We wish her well in her new home but we will miss her.**

**I have recently heard that our member George Schreffler had a serious fall in March. He is coming along nicely and we wish him a speedy recovery.**

**I wish to thank the Club for the lovely arrangement purchased for Dixie's grave for Memorial Day.**

**If anyone is interested in Sally Grottini's Blog they can connect to it through (K-9 Capers 2nd Chance) <http://2ndchance-caninecapers.blogspot.com/>.**

**Your kindness and sympathy with the death of my Mother has been so much appreciated along with the gift card the Club purchased. The Club also received a \$100 donation in her memory from Dr. & Mrs. Donald Kamsler. My Mother knew how much the Club meant to me and I know she would be very pleased.**

## UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>June 3 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>June 10 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>June 11 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Northwest Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital</b>	<b>1:00 pm 2:00 pm 3:00 pm</b>
<b>June 16 (Tues)</b>	<b>Medium Prison Allenwood Memo members only</b>	<b>12:00 pm</b>
<b>June 17 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>June 18 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners</b>	<b>1:00 pm 1:45 pm 2:15 pm</b>
<b>June 24 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>June 25 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Geisinger Health South</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>
<b>June 30 (Tues)</b>	<b>Sunbury YMCA Demo</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>July 2 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Penn Lutheran Village Selinsgrove</b>	<b>6:45 pm</b>
<b>July 21 (Tues)</b>	<b>US Penitentiary Allenwood (Maximum) Memo members only</b>	<b>12:30 pm</b>

Newsletter coordinator: **Brandon Pastuszek**

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Club web site: <http://www.stdtc.org>

# June 2009

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US Holidays

Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

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