



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

June 2010

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Educating children about kindness and compassion with animals has become a goal of SPCA's Human Education. It has to be taught and made real through personal experience, especially in a world where the vast majority of children spend little time near animals or in nature across the country.

Human education took root in this country in the late 1800's. George Thorndyke Angell, the founder of Boston's MSPCA started the Bands of Mercy Clubs in 1892 inspiring school children across the nation to take a pledge to be kind to animals. A few years later he founded the American Humane Society and published Anna Sewell's classic of humane animal treatment "Black Beauty".

The first half of the 20th century saw humane societies turn their focus more to the plight of animals than the education of children. In the late 1960's humane education was incorporated into public school curriculum. Through the 1970's books on animal welfare were available to schools and field trips to humane societies were common.

Unfortunately with budget cuts in the next two decades humane education did not survive.

Today, humane societies are resuming a more active role in education through school visits, camps and resource centers for teachers for lesson plans which spans animal welfare issues, training and care.

Children and animals are the most vulnerable members of society. With abuse on the rise, the SPCA is trying to help reverse that trend, to foster kindness and respect for all living creatures.

In 2009, the San Francisco SPCA reached 2,900 students through camp sessions, weekend workshops, after-school classes and school visits. In the camps, children learn dog training, grooming and appreciate animals' individual needs and personalities. With interaction with animals, positive qualities are instilled: patience, cooperation, gentleness and a caring attitude.

### Old Friends (Continued)

There is no better start than changing cultural values than with children. Our members use the opportunity to teach children when we do our Reading to Dixon's Dogs at the Union County Library and reading in the elementary schools. Sherry Carpenter of "Animal Vues" has graciously provided us with a booklet which we hand out to the children on animal safety. Also our club has purchased bookmarks on the correct way a child should approach and pet a dog.

"Awards are on the outside. Rewards are on the inside."  
-Actress Kristin Chenoweth

Till next time,

*Connie*

## **Minutes (May 4, 2010)**

submitted by Ginny Pentz

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

### Report of the President:

It is nice to be back training again at the park. Unfortunately being outside we must deal with the weather. If we need to cancel, an e-mail will be sent and it will be posted on the web site.

We had Deb Trough, the animal communicator, speak to us the last class. I'm sure some of you questioned what she does. We all now have some idea what a person in her field is all about.

### Report of the Secretary:

Minutes are as written in the newsletter.

### Report of Treasurer:

### New Business:

We will be participating at the Northumberland County Expo on August 28. It runs Aug 26, 27, & 28. Last year we square danced and did a demo for them, which was well received. We would like to set up with some games, maybe agility equipment for people to bring their dogs and have some fun. You will hear more about this in a future newsletter.

As mentioned in the newsletter, we have registered to walk in the 4th of July Parade in Lewisburg. We would like to use the flag and I have asked Laurie Cooper to do some sewing so we can carry it better. We will do a run through at class with the flag to see how it works. If on that day, if the weather is too warm or we have rain, we will cancel. We have asked the committee to put us near the front so we can finish early. I would like everyone in a navy top, if you have a club shirt wear that. Also pants can be long jeans or navy pants. Dogs should have a flag scarf. I have a sign-up sheet if you plan to participate.

I was made aware of a therapy visit at Geisinger in their emergency room. You can schedule when it suits you (daytime only) and you go with your dog and the person in charge to different rooms in the emergency dept. If you are interested, contact Diane Laubach at Geisinger at 570-214-5111. Also Stephanie Fullmer has already participated and if you have any questions she will be glad to talk to you. If anyone would like to order a club shirt, I will be placing an order this week.

Anyone having a problem with separation anxiety with their dog, there is a pass out which helps you with the issue.

### Old Business:

Mt. Carmel Street Fair demo Saturday at 1:45 PM. Everyone is welcome to participate.

This Thursday we are at Nottingham Village in Northumberland at 6:45 PM. It is a good place to start to get your dog interested in therapy work. They do not need to be certified.

New members that were present were introduced to the group. Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Virginia Pentz, Secretary

## **Breed of the Month**

### **English Cocker Spaniel**

submitted by Connie Cuff

From kids to the elderly, English Cocker Spaniels have never met a person they didn't like. They are under your feet, on your lap or in your face – and those eyes – they make your heart melt.

The English Cocker is similar to its cousin, the American Cocker Spaniel, but is taller and heavier. The coat of an English is silky and slightly wavy but never curly.

They were bred as hunting companions with strong compact bodies, muscular necks and thickly padded feet. Its strong, wide jaws carry a soft bite to carry game without damaging it. Developed in Wales and southwestern England, it was first used to flush game birds but eventually its natural talent were utilized to retrieve birds on the land and in the water.



The American Kennel Club granted the English Cocker Spaniel breed status in 1946.

Because they are anxious to please and like being with people, doing whatever they are doing, constitutes a versatile breed. They compete in obedience, agility, tracking, field trials and are used in search and rescue programs.

Cockers are so smart they get bored quickly and try to play jokes on their owners. They will try to run the family if owners don't set limits. People who can't handle the grooming requirements, who want a watch dog, or can't tolerate a food demon, a "Engie" is not for you.

Although a healthy breed, they can inherit progressive retinal atrophy, nephropathy which can cause kidney failure, hip dysplasia and deafness.

English Cockers should be socialized early and get used to being handled. Regular grooming is essential, especially for the ears. The dog's diet should be watched because they are chow hounds and will eat until they explode. Since they are high energy, they need daily exercise and formal obedience training is recommended.

Elizabeth Barrett Browning, the writer and poet, wrote "How Do I Love Thee" about her beloved English Cocker, Flush. She said she loved the dog "better than the sunlight" and wrote a 120 line poem, "To Flush, My Dog".



## Notes and Notices



**Our weather has been a problem for training the past 2 weeks and I'm hoping it will cooperate for June so we can get together for our classes and socialization.**

**Don Wilkinson has offered to bring some of his agility jumps and with the tunnel, the dogs can enjoy some play time.**

**We are working on the flag for our plan to participate in the 4th of July Parade in Lewisburg on Saturday, June 26th. We will walk with our dogs weather permitting. If it should be too warm, we will still walk without the dogs. The parade forms at the High School at 9:00 am. I need a good turnout for this event so I have compiled a list. If anyone can help, please contact me so I can notify you if there are any changes. I'm asking everyone to wear either navy slacks or long jeans and a club or navy shirt. Dogs should have a flag scarf.**

**If anyone is interested in taking the TDI test please notify me as Sally Grottini will be giving the test in June once a date has been set.**

**We had a nice turnout for our demo at Mt. Carmel Street Fair and I appreciate everyone who participated. Our club received a donation of \$35.**

## **How do we Teach Dogs to Meet and Greet?**

**(Taken from “Bark” by Victoria Stilwell)**

submitted by Connie Cuff

If your dog and a neighbor’s dog are a potential threat to each other, be sure to introduce them to each other on neutral territory, such as a park (not a dog park) or a street well away from where you both live.

Before the introduction, make sure the dog has learned to focus on you and is good at following your direction. Focus cues such as “watch me” should be built up in a distraction-free environment before they can be effective outside.

Next have your neighbor stand with their dog a good distance away so they can see each other. Ask your dog to “sit” and “watch me” and reward her each time she complies. When a dog is using her “thinking brain” she is less likely to become emotional.

If both dogs are calm, steadily move them closer to each other. If at any time either dog reacts, walk off in the opposite direction, back to a point where both dogs are comfortable. When the dogs are calmly standing within 10 feet of each other, start the “follow walk”, in which one dog follows the other (it is better for the more nervous dog to follow the non-biting end of the other). The next step is to walk them parallel with one another, making sure to maintain enough distance between them to avoid either of them reacting. If this walk goes well, allow the dogs to greet face to face for a couple seconds before walking them in opposite directions and praising them for good behavior.

This may be possible in one session or it may take weeks to get to the point where the dogs can greet calmly. Be sure to allow them time to feel comfortable.

It is important that not allowing the dogs to greet can be frustrating to them, so if both look eager to make a connection, go directly to the quick greeting. If everything goes well, the greeting period can be longer until the dogs either want to play or go their own way.

Good walk and play experiences on neutral ground will bring them to the point where they can play with each other or on home territory.


In some cases some dogs are not meant to be friends.


## UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>June 2 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>June 3 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Elm Croft of Lewisburg (Rt 45)</b>	<b>6:45 pm</b>
<b>June 9 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>June 10 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Northwest Academy Life Geisinger, Kulpmont Shamokin Hospital</b>	<b>1:00 pm 2:00 pm 2:45 pm</b>
<b>June 15 (Tues)</b>	<b>Maximum Prison Allenwood NCIC Only</b>	<b>12:15 pm</b>
<b>June 16 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>June 17 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners</b>	<b>1:00 pm 2:00 pm 2:45 pm</b>
<b>June 20 (Sun)</b>	<b>FATHER'S DAY</b>	
<b>June 21 (Mon)</b>	<b>SUMMER BEGINS</b>	
<b>June 23 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>June 24 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Health South Geisinger</b>	<b>2:00 pm</b>
<b>June 26 (Sat)</b>	<b>Lewisburg 4th of July Parade (Meet at the Lewisburg High School)</b>	<b>9:00 am</b>
<b>June 30 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>

# June 2010

May 2010							June 2010							July 2010								
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
30	31						30	31														

 US Holidays

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31 Memorial Day	1 6:15 PM Beginner Training 7:00 PM Advanced Training	2 10:00 AM Riverwoods	3 6:45 PM Elm Croft of Lewisburg	4	5
6	7	8 6:15 PM Beginner Training 7:00 PM Advanced Training	9 10:00 AM Riverwoods	10 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:00 PM Life Geisinger, Kulpmont 2:45 PM Shamokin Hospital	11	12
13	14 Flag Day	15 12:15 PM Maximum Prison Allenwood (NCIC Only) 6:15 PM Beginner Training 7:00 PM Advanced Training	16 10:00 AM Riverwoods	17 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:45 PM Sunshine Coroners	18	19
20 Father's Day	21	22 6:15 PM Beginner Training 7:00 PM Advanced Training	23 10:00 AM Riverwoods	24 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	25	26 9:00 AM Lewisburg 4th of July Parade
27	28	29 6:15 PM Beginner Training 7:00 PM Advanced Training	30 10:00 AM Riverwoods	1	2	3