



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

June 2012

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



You exercise your dog and take it on long walks, feed your dog the best food, keep him clean and healthy with grooming and trips to the Vet, but do we take advantage of the opportunities to play with our dogs as often as we should?

It has been proven that interaction with pets improves both mental and physical health. According to Ian Dunbar, a veterinarian, "Play is education, is exercise and recreation."

When dog and owner play together, they not only strengthen the bond between them, they also learn about each other's personalities and set boundaries of what is and isn't acceptable behavior.

Play keeps a dog's mind active and helps it remain mentally fit. Boredom leads to destructive behavior, so by inventing games it keeps the dog active and alert.

If training in obedience is sprinkled with play a dog will be more willing to perform exercises correctly and concentrate on the sessions.

Whether play is part of obedience or recreation, there are several things you should keep in mind: First, make all play activity safe. Do not allow bad habits you wouldn't normally allow surface during playtime. Aggressive behavior during play or rowdy or defensiveness that gets out of your control should not be allowed. Find games that are a pleasure for both of you.

So grab that ball, grab the leash and get going. Set out with the purpose of enjoying and strengthening the bond you share with your dog. Bring some treats, plastic bags and a positive attitude. Praise your dog over and over again.

With warmer weather, early morning or evenings are recommended since your dog may have trouble with the heat and water should be available after each play session.

Old Friends (Continued)

After playtime for the dog winds down, just look at the happiness and adoration in your dog's eyes. Isn't your dog worth it?

"Sometimes a winner is just a dreamer who won't quit."

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (May 1, 2012)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club was called to order by Pres Connie Cuff, with 25 members present.

There are copies of the newsletter available for those who don't get it on the computer.

Report of President:

Everyone must sign-in each week.

All dogs must be up-to-date on shots. I must have a copy of the dog's record.

Everyone should keep their eye on their dog, as some dogs do not like dogs in their face. I have scarves to be used for dogs with issues.

All dogs must be kept on leash unless we are doing off leash work in training. This is a requirement of the park.

If your dog is misbehaving and has a stress level, take a time out. You can work the dog away from the group until he is more comfortable.

There are biscuits available after the class is over.

If you are having a problem understanding an exercise, please ask for help.

If you have signed up for any activity we are doing and cannot attend, would you please call or e-mail me if you need to cancel. There are prison visits and activities which I count on you and that day if people do not show up it makes it very difficult.

At any time if you feel a need to address an issue with training, would you please discuss it with Connie.

Report of Secretary:

No report since there was no meeting in April.

Report of Treasurer:

(Treasurer's Reports are unavailable in the online edition of the STDTC Newsletter.)

Old Business:

The dog walk is Sat May 5, we have a sign-up sheet for help. We will begin setting up at 8am.

The Mt Carmel St Fair on May 2 at 10 AM

Milton Elementary on Mon. May 14, be there by 6:15 PM

New Business:

We will be walking in the 4th of July parade in Lewisburg on Sat June 30th and carry small flags. I will have a sign up sheet for that day.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Virginia Pentz, Secretary

Breed of the Month

Basenji

submitted by Connie Cuff

The “barkless” dog is anything but quiet. Its extensive vocabulary includes grunts, moans, whimpers, whines and even an occasional woof. If the dog is upset about being alone, it will let neighbors know blocks away with its extensive sounds.

It retains many characteristics of wild dogs knowing what to do when a litter is born, and burying extra kibble, operating on the theory they could starve tomorrow. They choose their sleeping spots carefully, preferring protected corners that can be easily defended.

Basenji owners spend a lot of time redirecting the dogs’ naturally curious and active nature. Daily walks and games offer exercise and mental stimulation. They find the most comfortable place to sleep and keeping a Basenji off the furniture presents a nearly impossible challenge.

While a fenced in yard is mandatory, most owners find even a 6 foot barrier won’t contain these notorious climbers and diggers. They are very agile, even as puppies, and they are inventive.

Independent and intelligent, they like to be around people. They demand our attention, “Sit down, and you have a dog on your lap”.

Early socialization is important, especially around children. Unless they are raised with kids, Basenjies tend not to be real good with them.

Training a Basenji challenges its owners. You can’t use force methods as they can be dominant or aggressive. Because of these challenges, breeders place their puppies carefully and breed only limited numbers.

From the breed’s piercing scream to its willful, independent nature, it takes a sense of humor to share a home with a Basenji. As one breeder says, “They are challenging because they are always thinking. Keeping one step ahead of them is what makes owning one fun”.





Notes and Notices



I wish to thank everyone who helped in anyway with the fund raiser for Mostly Mutts. We had a great turn out that day with volunteers and with everyone's donations it was a huge success. After all the bills were paid we contributed \$1,032 to Mostly Mutts.

Our visit to Boghner Elementary went very well and the children and parents enjoyed the program. The Milton Area Title I graciously donated a check to us for \$100.

Many thanks to everyone who joined our demonstration for the Mt. Carmel Lions Club and we received a donation of \$35.

The Lewisburg Parade is on Sat. June 30. We plan to walk with our dogs and each of us will carry a small flag. I have not received our number and placement but will notify everyone who has signed up for that day. I would appreciate a good turn out and would like everyone to let me know if you are available that day.

We are planning a picnic at Jim Smith's House on Sun. June 24. If you plan to attend please sign up so we know how many hot dogs and soda to order. Everyone should bring a covered dish. . There is a nice grove, picnic tables, hiking trails and a pond. Be sure to bring your dog so he can enjoy the day also. Directions are: Take Rt. 522 after the bridge coming into Selinsgrove. Before getting to the bridge at Kreamer make a rt. Turn onto Smalsh Barrick Rd. Follow the double yellow line until you come to Erdley's Church on the left. Turn left, go 1/8 mile down hill to Smith's house on left.

Starting in June our training time schedule will change. The first class with Connie will begin at 6:30pm. Marjean has a beginner group that also will begin at 6:30pm. At 7:00 Marjean has a Star Puppy Class and I will begin a second class for off leash and more advanced training at 7:15pm. Sara Fry will begin a CGC class on June 12 at 7:00pm.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

June 6 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
June 7 (Thurs)	Maria Joseph Manor & Emmanuel Center Danville	6:30pm
June 13 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
June 13 (Thurs)	Northwestern Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital	1:00pm 2:00pm 3:00pm
June 18 (Mon)	Grayson View, Selinsgrove	6:30pm
June 19 (Tues)	Medium Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only)	12:00pm
June 20 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
June 21 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm
June 24 (Sun)	Picnic Jim Smith's house (with dogs)	1:00pm
June 27 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
June 28 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00pm
June 30 (Sat)	Lewisburg Parade (meeting place to be announced)	9:00am
July 2 (Mon)	Elmcroft, Lewisburg	6:30pm

June 2012

■ Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
■ US Holidays

May 2012
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June 2012
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July 2012
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28 Memorial Day	29 John F. Kennedy's Birthday ■ 6:15 PM New dogs over 1 yr (Marjean) ■ 6:15 PM Regular Class Training ■ 7:00 PM Advanced off-leash Training	30 10:00 AM Riverwoods	31 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	1	2
3	4	5 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	6 10:00 AM Riverwoods	7 6:30 PM Maria Joseph Manor & Emmanuel Center, Danville	8	9
10	11	12 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	13 10:00 AM Riverwoods	14 Flag Day ■ 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy ■ 2:00 PM Life Geisinger ■ 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital	15	16
17 Father's Day	18 6:30 PM Grayson View, Selinsgrove	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 1:00 PM Picnic, Jim Smith's house (with dogs)	25	26 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	27 10:00 AM Riverwoods	28 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	29	30 9:00 AM Lewisburg Parade (Meeting place TBD)