



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

June 2016

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



How many times have I heard in class, “But he does it at home!”. I’ve said it as well. Trainers often define “reliable” as responding to the cue at least 80% of the time. It’s unreasonable to expect 100% reliability from your dog. It takes commitment to your training program to achieve reliability under a wide variety of conditions.

If you only practice “sit” in the kitchen in front of the refrigerator, then your dog thinks “Sit!” means “Sit in the kitchen in front of the refrigerator”.

This means practice, practice, in the front yard, on your walks, at the groomer’s, at your pet store, visiting family and friends. It means doing it, when you are sitting, standing, lying on the floor and when you turn away from him. Once you’ve generalized “sit” (the most important exercise) it will be a little easier for “down”, “wait”, “leave

it”, “come”, and all the other behaviors you’re trying to teach your dog.

You must also teach your dog to respond to your cues when there are other interesting, exciting, fun, sometimes scary things happening around him - “distractions” which is called proofing. The secret is you must be more interesting, more fun, more exciting than the distractions around him. If your dog never knows what fun stuff you’re going to offer at any moment, he stays glued to you in eager anticipation. It takes a lot of rewards and a wide variety of high value reinforcers when a distraction presents itself. This can be in the form of treats, a ball, a favorite toy.

When you first teach your dog a new behavior, you use a continuous schedule of reinforcement. When he sits reliably 8 out of 10 times you are ready to use an intermittent reinforcer with an occasional “good dog” and skip the treat. An intermittent schedule makes a behavior more durable. It teaches your dog that if he keeps working, eventually a payoff will come.

Weening your dog off treats is important to be tested for therapy work. Having your dog focus on you takes time, if you’re not quite there yet start working on proofing, fading, lures, prompts and decreasing your rate of reinforcement. You and your dog have work to do!

“Ambition is the path to success. Persistence is the vehicle you arrive in.”

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (May 3, 2016)
submitted by Karen Sodrick

President's Report

We will move to the Marina as soon as the weather permits and daylight lasts until 8:00 pm. There is a sign up sheet for those who intend to continue to attend there. New groups and times will be organized when I have those numbers. Marjean will begin a Star Puppy Class there and there are pre-registrations as she is limiting it to 6 dogs.

We will be in Mr. Carmel on Saturday May 14 at 10:30 for the Lions Club Street Festival. Please consider joining us there as they always give our club a nice donation and the people love interacting with our dogs/

Please remember Jim Smith's dog Georgie as he goes for a second opinion since his surgery. Also, Dave Grose recently had knee surgery and condolences to Connie Hepner with the loss of her Dad.

There is a Rockin Rescue Pets Block Party on Saturday, May 7 fro 10 am- 3 pm at the Willam Cameron Fire Co, in Lewisburg. We also have a visit at ElmCroft on Monday, May 9 at 6:30. All other events and visit are in our Newsletter.

Dagney Leininger gave a presentation on acupuncture for dogs. Thank you Dagney!

Next Tuesday May 10, Educators will do a presentation on CPR at 7:00 pm



Notes and Notices



We will move to the Shikellamy Marina Park on Monday, May 31. A schedule has been posted on our web site - STDTC.org. We will be working with 2 groups and when help is available, we will divide into groups. Since we are training outside, the weather can be an issue. I will try to post on our web site and send out an email by 4:30pm if we need to cancel. Please be courteous to other people who are walking throughout the park. Keep your dog under control and be aware of other dogs that walk near our training area.

Congratulations to the following who have completed the AKC Star Puppy Class:

**Sharon Lubnow, Standard Poodle, Jasmine
Beth Belotti, Golden Retriever, Tank
Aleigha Heimbach, Golden Retriever, Toby
Lori Zerbe, Standard Poodle, Reuben
Robin Rosancrans, Brussels Griffon, Reuben
Edna Wenrich, Yellow Lab, Leo
Kiley Moyer, Boxer, Sully
Robert Henry, Doberman, Pistol
Amanda Henry, Rottweiler, Xena
Laura Malehorn, Golden Retriever, Samson**

I am scheduled to participate in a Health Fair sponsored by Tom Marino on Mon. July 25 from 10:00am - 2:00pm at the VFW, Rt. 522, Selinsgrove. If anyone is available, please let Connie know.

Thinking of Jim and Joan Smith's dog, Georgie, and hope he continues to heal and his surgery will get him back to his love of Pet Therapy.

If anyone is interested in doing Pet Therapy at the Geisinger emergency room, please contact Connie as they are in need of volunteers. You must be certified and have all the required vaccinations for both you and your pet.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

**May 31 (Tues) CLASSES BEGIN AT THE SHIKELLAMY MARINA PARK
(info on on our web site)**




















June 1 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
June 2 (Thurs)	Grandview, Danville Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm
June 8 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
June 9 (Thurs)	Shamokin Hospital Life Geisinger	12:45pm 1:45pm
June 13 (Mon)	Penn Lutheran, Selinsgrove	6:30pm
June 15 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
June 16 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Manor Care	1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm
June 20 (Mon)	5 Star, Sunbury	1:00pm
June 21 (Tues)	Maximum Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only)	12:00pm
June 22 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
June 27 (Mon)	Grayson View, Selinsgrove	6:30pm
June 29 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
June 30 (Thurs)	Holy Family Convent Geisinger Rehab, Health South Maria Hall	1:00pm 1:45pm 2:30pm

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

June 2016

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
 US Holidays

May 2016							June 2016							July 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4				1	2					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
													31							

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 John F. Kennedy's Birthday	30 Memorial Day	31 Classes Begin at Marina <ul style="list-style-type: none">  6:15 PM Training  6:45 PM AKC STAR Puppy Class  7:15 PM Beginner Training 	1 10:00 AM Riverwoods	2 1:00 PM Grandview <ul style="list-style-type: none">  2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South 	3	4
5	6	7 6:15 PM Training <ul style="list-style-type: none">  6:45 PM AKC STAR Puppy Class  7:15 PM Beginner Training 	8 10:00 AM Riverwoods	9 12:45 PM Shamokin Hospital <ul style="list-style-type: none">  1:45 PM Life Geisinger 	10	11
12	13 6:30 PM Penn Lutheran	14 Flag Day <ul style="list-style-type: none">  6:15 PM Training  6:45 PM AKC STAR Puppy Class  7:15 PM Beginner Training 	15 10:00 AM Riverwoods	16 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital <ul style="list-style-type: none">  2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home  2:45 PM Manor Care 	17	18
19 Father's Day	20 1:00 PM 5 Star	21 12:00 PM Maximum Prison, Allenwood (NCIC Only) <ul style="list-style-type: none">  6:15 PM Training  6:45 PM AKC STAR Puppy Class  7:15 PM Beginner Training 	22 10:00 AM Riverwoods	23 6:30 PM Grayson View	24	25
26	27	28 6:15 PM Training <ul style="list-style-type: none">  6:45 PM AKC STAR Puppy Class  7:15 PM Beginner Training 	29 10:00 AM Riverwoods	30 1:00 PM Holy Family Convent <ul style="list-style-type: none">  1:45 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South  2:30 PM Maria Hall 	31	2