



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

June 2018

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



We will be at a new training space with many distractions so it may take a little work for your dog to get use to the change. I encourage that you have treats with you to reward your dog for positive responses.

In class we work on attention or “check-in time”. Checking in with you is a behavior you want your dog to offer it easily without thinking about it. When you get that eye contact, no matter how brief it may be, you always should mark it with a word marker. At first this should be followed with a food reward but can eventually be weaned out. Always have a few good treats with you to give a reward occasionally so they maintain their “check-in time”.

If we pay attention to teaching eye contact only for training purposes we are missing out on one of the most fulfilling aspects of behavior - our dog’s ability to use his eyes to communicate with us. As behavior science continues to explore the cognitive capabilities of our canine companions, we are realizing that our dogs may possess “theory of mind”.

Theory of Mind (ToM) is the ability to attribute mental states - beliefs, intents, desires, knowledge, etc. to oneself and others. Humans who have close relationship with their dogs recognize ToM communications in their daily interactions with their canine, and it often involves eye contact.

As an example, when you grab your keys, leaving the house, your dog runs to the door, looking into your eyes, saying “I know we’re going for a ride”.

You may have other examples of cognitive communications with your dog, so pay closer attention to your dog’s efforts to communicate with you. By reinforcing his eye-contact communication you will encourage him to communicate more, and you’ll get better at translating his messages.

When dogs learn the value through eye contact, it opens up a whole new door in the relationship between the two of you and makes your time together even more rewarding for both of you.

Till next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



Congratulations to the following who have passed the test for ATD:

Elaine Walz with Buddy, Gretchen Nash with Oddie, Sharon & Fred Lubnow with Jasmine, Edna Weinrich with Leo, Dave Grose with Sadie, Faith Bastian with Pepper

Those passing the CGC Test: Peter Carroll with Gracie, Jenifer Ayers with Maggie, Elaine Walz with Buddy

Our classes begin at the Shikellamy State Park Marina on Tues. June 5.

Advanced - 6:15pm Beginners - 7:15pm Star Puppy (pre-reg. only) - 6:30pm

When doing any visiting with your dog be sure to keep a Rabies Certificate with you or in your car. All visits, when you are certified, are represented by your therapy organization. You should not represent STDTC. When visiting Geisinger Hospital and Evan Hospital you must go through their training and be certified through them before taking your dogs on visits.

Everyone who is certified through their organization must abide by all their rules and keep up-dated with yearly Vet exam and shot records.

We have enjoyed our training at the R.E.M. Building and Kelly has been very gracious with our group. Myra Deitrich and Kelly Pastuszek organized an ice cream social for the children and I thank them for doing this. I will keep you up-dated as to where we will be training in the fall.

There is a Match sponsored by the Mid-Susquehanna Valley Kennel Club at the Fireman's Grounds in Middleburg on Sunday, June 10 starting at 10:00am. You can bring your dog just to socialize.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

June 4 (Mon)	5 Star, Sunbury	1:00pm
June 5 (Tues)	Classes begin at the Shikellamy Park Marina Adv. Beg. Star Puppy	6:15pm 7:15pm 6:30pm
June 6 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
June 7 (Thurs)	Nazareth at Emmanuel, Danville Geisinger Rehab - Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm
June 11 (Mon)	Nottingham Village	6:30pm
June 12 (Tues)	Lewisburg Prison Camp (NCIC only)	12:00pm
June 13 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
June 14 (Thurs)	Shamokin Hospital VNA	12:15pm 1:15pm
June 20 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
June 21 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital Mansion Manor Care	1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm
June 25 (Mon)	Buffalo Valley, Lewisburg	6:30pm
June 27 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
June 28 (Thurs)	Maria Joseph Manor Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm
July 4 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
July 5 (Thurs)	Grandview, Danville Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm

June 2018

- Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
- US Holidays

May 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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June 2018

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29	30	31				

July 2018

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29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28 Memorial Day	29 John F. Kennedy's Birthday 6:30 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	30 10:00 AM Riverwoods	31 1:00 PM Emmanuel Nursing Home 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	1	2
3	4 1:00 PM 5 Star	5 Classes Begin at Marina 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	6 10:00 AM Riverwoods	7 1:00 PM Nazareth at Emmanuel 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab - Health South	8	9
10	11 6:30 PM Nottingham Village	12 12:00 PM Lewisburg Prison Camp (NCIC only) 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	13 10:00 AM Riverwoods	14 Flag Day 12:15 PM Shamokin Hospital 1:15 PM VNA	15	16
17 Father's Day	18	19 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	20 10:00 AM Riverwoods	21 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:15 PM Manor Care	22	23
24	25 6:30 PM Buffalo Valley	26 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	27 10:00 AM Riverwoods	28 1:00 PM Maria Joseph Manor 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	29	30