



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

June 2021



Old Friends

by Connie Cuff

I would like to address reactive dogs which can occur in any situation with the best of our dogs. It does not mean we have an aggressive dog. A reactive dog responds to normal events in his environment with a higher-than-normal level of intensity.

Sometimes we are surprised at our well-trained dog when it responds to a stimulus such as a larger dog, a barking dog, a new dog, or anything that may make it uncomfortable. A trigger is any stressor that occurs within the dog's threshold, resulting in a reactive behavior.

Knowing how to interrupt a reactive response is worthwhile, but avoiding it is even better. Interrupting a behavior with sit, down, come, touch my hand, watch me, lets go and then rewarding with a treat or favorite toy, you are setting ground rules for the behavior.

One factor is timing and attention. You can't expect any change in behavior if you do not have that key word automatic attention, the mother of all behaviors.

With our very large class (which is wonderful for socialization) we have a variety of size of dogs and some that are more exuberant than others. By teaching your dog to look at your face when she sees another dog and rewarding her with a high value treat, you're teaching her what you want her to do, rather than hoping she'll figure it out herself. Shouting NO and grabbing the dog will only exacerbate the situation and reward the dog for this behavior.

Some people think after a Puppy Class and lots of treats, which should be weaned off gradually, that our dogs will never see them again. Yes, for our CGC test and ATD Testing they are not allowed, but when we continue with training and socializing our dogs, an occasional biscuit (yes Jim, cheerios) can go a long way. How would you feel going through life without that occasional reward.

Let's all keep up the good work a class which amazes me at how well our dogs are doing.

Till next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



The Star Puppy Class is doing well with the help of Kelly, Judy and Doug. So glad to see them getting an early start on good behavior. Hope some of them will continue toward becoming a Therapy Dog. Until you have experienced the rewards of doing this work, you will find how much doing this changes your life and those you visit.

Sara has a nice group of dogs working hard toward having their dog become a Good Citizen. It takes a lot of time and patience to achieve this goal.

I wish to welcome new members:

Linda & John Semicek with Matty, a Drahthaar

Valerie Hackenberger with Pepper, a Standard Poodle

Gregory & Maisha Kelly with Cedric, a mix breed

Vicky & George Sims with Marcy. a Aussiedoodle

Corinne Kleman, with Stella, a Golden Retriever

We wish Mary Jane Purnell a speedy recovery after her recent surgery

Also hope to see Josette Zielinski coming along after her recent surgery

Please mark your calendars for Sunday, Oct 3 for our annual picnic at the Shikellamy State Park Marina, Pavilion #2. We invite members, their families and of course our dogs, for a lovely day with good food, fellowship and games for our dogs. It may be early to think of this but with covid, reservations were filling up, and I was able to secure a date. We will have further announcements as we get closer to this date, and I am hoping for a great turn out.

If anyone has taken their dog for a Rabies Vaccine recently, please make a copy for our records.