

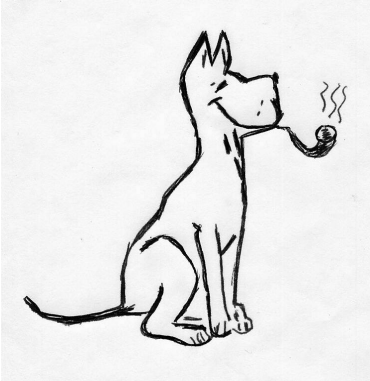


Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

March 2006

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Do dogs understand what we say?

It is critical that people understand dogs are not born understanding the English language. It is just the sound of the word "sit". They make association once they hear the sound and pair it with things that are rewarding or not rewarding to them.

A dog's vocabulary includes not only sounds we call words but environmental sounds. How often do you pick up your keys and your dog knows you're leaving the house.

Dogs hear higher frequency sounds and quieter sounds than humans. They also adjust their ears to hone in on the location of a sound and it is left over from the days when dogs were wild and ever

alert for prey or predators.

Repeating the dog's name too many times with a significant action leaves him ignoring you. In training a dog he should be told sit, down, heel, one time, as Dixon would say he may wait for the 4th or 5th sit each time if you let him get away with it.

Dogs draw on our speech, body language, even our facial expressions. They can detect something fun is about to happen or when they are in trouble.

Dogs can discriminate different car sounds and they become accustomed through conditioning which car is the owners arriving home.

In deaf dogs their ability to detect floor vibrations and their sense of smell keep them aware of their surroundings. While deaf dogs rely on their senses, deaf people can rely on their dogs to hear for them. They alert their owners when the doorbell or phone rings, a baby cries, a blaring smoke alarm or something is left on the stove.

Dogs are a lot smarter than people give them credit for; they pick up extraordinary things. At class we will have a discussion on each of our dogs and how they seem to know without verbalizing our feelings and anticipating what we may be about to do next.

When you come to training class Tuesday, there are things you can do to make your training more productive. Don't feed right before class. Wear clothing that is not too loose and interferes with training. Wear shoes that will help with heeling and wear the same shoes each week. The way you move your body shows the dog what his next command will be. Your facial expression tells the dog if you are nervous or in a happy mood. If you are relaxed your dog will train with ease. A smile goes a long way.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (February , 2006)

Submitted by: Lydia Storey

Our twenty-second monthly membership meeting was held on February 7, 2006 at approximately 7:30 PM at Selinsgrove Center.

Connie Cuff, President, called the February meeting to order.

Secretary's Report – Any additions or corrections. The report is approved

Treasurer's Report – No Report:

Old Business:

Remember the membership dues - \$12.00 single and \$15.00 family

New Business:

We are waiting to hear about a reading program at the Selinsgrove Library.

A new organization SUN CART (Snyder, Union, Northumberland County Animal Rescue Team) will have a Pet First Aid course Feb. 13 and a First Aid Course and CPR Course on Feb. 27 at the Carrer Link in Selinsgrove.

At a meeting at CART (Snyder, Union, Northumberland County Animal Rescue Team) Lindsay Lawer gave an excellent presentation with a complete computer slide show of her two trips as a volunteer in Louisiana to rescue dogs displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

We will participate with the Northumberland County Expo on August 26 and will do a TDI/CGC testing, bite prevention and literature, and the Square Dance.

At the end of the meeting Cinda Klatil will talk to us about the search and rescue work that she did with her Golden Retriever.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Sherry's Corner

by Sherry Carpenter

On Wednesday night, February 8th I had the opportunity to listen to Lindsay Lawer talk about her work rescuing pets and animals post Katrina. Lawer explained her sixteen hour day schedule caring for the 30 homeless dogs and cats which were hers to nurture during her first trip to the flood ravaged city. She explained a pet culture which allows all pets to run unattended, dogs and cats who were not neutered because their owners **CHOSE NOT TO HAVE THE SURGERY** even if it cost nothing...there were so many puppies! And, of course there many pictures of dogs used for fighting. She showed us pictures of food and water drop sites and explained trapping homeless pets so they could be cared for. There were dogs waiting for their owners in the driveways of homes in rubble---owners who might never return.

I, for one, could not imagine the commitment and energy this young girl and all the volunteers from across the country gave to this effort. The smells, the dirt, the toxin coated pets, always danger of dog bites and attacks was vivid in the presentation. This was truly not a task for those who think love is enough!

The audience was filled with people from every animal group in our area--except the Pennsylvania SPCA. And, I am proud to say that all the commissioners were there for the whole evening and openly participated in the discussion. Also, our regional dog law enforcement director was there and available for questions. We now have a realistic picture of what could happen here. Will we be ready? Is Pennsylvania ready? Connie Cuff was there and we need dog trainers to be active in all of our CARTS. We also need groomers. And, since the loss of a pet can be devastating we need grief counselors.

I am sorry more of you could not have been present. You missed an opportunity to understand what a disaster can do to the dogs and cats and all the other animals who share our lives with love and loyalty. Some New Orleans residents have acknowledged that their pets are all they have left of their families!



Notes and Notices



Welcome to New Members:

Sue Hornberger with Libby, her Labrador Retriever (who recently passed the CGC/TDI test).

Karen Miller with King Charles, her Cocker Spaniel Mix.

Elizabeth Lewis with Izzie, her Golden Retriever.

Nikki Kirger with Jazzy, her Labrador Retriever Mix who was rescued from New Orleans by Lindsey Lawer.

Condolences to Noreen and Chick Stamm who lost their beloved Matti, an English Mastif. He was a remarkable therapy dog who will be sadly missed.

There will be no class Tuesday, March 14, because of an event the Selinsgrove Center will be hosting in the gym.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Mar 8 (Wed)	White Deer Elementary (Reading Program)*	9:00am
Mar 9 (Thurs)	Emmanuel Center Danville	6:45pm
Mar 11 & 12 (Sat/Sun)	PawsAbilities Farm Show, Harrisburg Tickets at the door \$10 adults, \$5 Child Tickets purchased ahead of time \$7 adults, \$4 child	8:00am - 4:00pm
March 13 (Mon)	YMCA Gym Demo Sunbury	10:00am
Mar 15 (Wed)	Riverwoods (E Wing) St Patrick's Day Demo and Square Dance (Bring dog's favorite toy)	10:00am
Mar 15 (Wed)	Selinsgrove Center Selinsgrove	6:30pm
Mar 22 (Wed)	White Deer Elementary (Reading Program)*	9:00am
Mar 23 (Thurs)	Buffalo Valley Nursing Home Lewisburg	6:45pm
Apr 10 (Mon)	Bucknell University (TDI only) (Coleman Hall) Lewisburg	6:00pm
May 1 (Mon)	Bucknell University (TDI only) (Coleman Hall) Lewisburg	6:00pm
May 3 (Wed)	Nifty After Fifty Demo Columbia Mall	11:00am

* *White Deer directions:* Rt. 15. At New Columbia exit come to a stop sign and school is across road.

**UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES
(CONTINUED)**

**Aug 26 (Sat) Northumberland Co. Expo
TDI/CGC Testing, Bite Prevention, and Demo**


**Every Wednesday Riverwoods 10:00am
Lewisburg, PA**

**3rd Thursday Sunbury Community Hospital 1:00-1:30pm
Mansion Nursing Home, Market St. Sunbury 1:45pm**

Last Thursday Geisinger Rehab—Health South 2:00-3:00pm

**Newsletter Coordinator: Brandon Pastuszek
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March 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Riverwoods (10am)	2 Outlook Pointe Lewisburg (6:45pm)	3	4
5	6	7	8 Riverwoods (10am) Whitedeer Elementary (9 am)	9 Emmanuel Center Danville (6:45pm)	10	11 PawsAbilities Harrisburg (8am-4pm)
12 PawsAbilities Harrisburg (8am-4pm)	13 YMCA Gym Sunbury (10am)	14 NO CLASS	15 Riverwoods (10am) *St. Patrick Demo	16 Sunbury Hospital (Sunbury) 1pm - 1:30pm	17 	18
19	20	21	22 Riverwoods (10am) Whitedeer Elementary (9am)	23 Mansion Nursing Home (Sunbury) 1:45pm	24	25 Buffalo Valley Lewisburg (6:30pm)
26	27	28	29 Riverwoods (10am)	30 Health South (Danville) 2pm	31	