



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

March 2007

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



For some of you who have not experienced a prison visit I would like to preview the time we spend with federal prisoners at Allenwood Penitentiary.

Looking back over the years we have been visiting I see so much good coming from the program. The joy and respect for our dogs has been so rewarding. I remember the first visit with Dixie and driving up to the complex and seeing the barbed wire enclosure. After entering the building we do paper work, present our license, and then after a few tries of removing glasses, wrist watch and steel-toed shoes we pass through a metal detector. Our hands are stamped, we pass through a metal gate and then our hands are checked with infra red lighting.

We were greeted by guards who were changing shifts and they talked about their dogs at home. The Warden came out to greet us and offered to take us through the complex sometime.

Our walk down the hall and then to the elevator or stairs, whichever we preferred brought us to the visiting room. There sitting in chairs in a circle were about 20 inmates. The looks on their faces seemed nervous yet anxious since they did not know how we would accept them. It didn't take long for the dogs to greet them with their usual "I want to be petted" attitude and all the apprehension disappeared in a heart beat. They started asking all kind of questions since they do a lot of TV watching and see many programs on dogs such as Animal Planet.

The psychology supervisor asked us to put on a little demonstration to acquaint the inmates with our training and what our dogs can do. They were amazed how well the dogs behaved, especially with each other.

Some of us brought balls and brushes which they interacted with the dogs. Many of them grew up with dogs or had dogs at home that they talked about. Of course, most of them were Pit Bulls, Rottweilers, Dobermans or German Shepherds. Time just flew by and after 1 1/2 hrs. there was a photo session where each inmate can pick a dog to be photographed with and send it home to his family. I must say the dogs do a good job in being maneuvered to get the right pose.

After the session the inmates shook our hands and thanked us and said they would look forward to our next visit. As we awaited the guard to unlock the gate for us to leave the room many of the inmates held back to wave us a good-bye.

Walking down the hall and back to the entrance it left us with a feeling that a good deed was done that day. The dogs got back in the car exhausted from their visit and leaving the complex our thoughts reflected on such a positive program for inmates.

Recently we have moved pet therapy to a Chapel which makes a more comfortable setting. There is a waiting list for inmates trying to get into the program. I think our trip down the hall and the inmates seeing us parading by has contributed to their interest in our program. The staff have found the inmates to be less agitated since we visit and they talk about our dogs for two months until we return. Since we are usually the only visitors they have, just having contact with someone from the outside brings much joy to their lives. Little did one think that starting this program five years ago would change so many peoples lives, including the participants.

## Old Friends (Continued)

### Fun game with your dog

Ball-driven dogs will love this game. Take an old beach towel and cover a ball, encouraging your dog to uncover and find it. Once she understands the concept is to get the ball, start wrapping the ball into the towel. Make the game harder by wrapping the ball tightly, then knotting the towel. Dogs that do not respond to a ball, use a favorite toy.

Those dogs that love fleece toys, you can make a non-sew toy by braiding strips of fleece material and knotting the ends. They are washable, good for removing plaque from doggy-teeth and great for fooling our dog-owning friends into thinking you're ever-so crafty.

Till next time,

*Connie*

## Minutes

submitted by Virginia Pentz

The meeting of the Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club came to order with 22 members present..

### Report of the President:

We have started a therapy program at Shamokin Hospital the 2nd Thurs. of the month and it is a very good visit with patients as well as staff.

There is a Bucknell visit Monday Feb. 12 at 6:00pm for TDI members only. It is held in Coleman Hall.

Our visit at White Deer Elementary has been cancelled for Wed. the 7th because of a late start because of the cold. We resume our reading program on the 21st.

Wed. Feb. 14 we will be visiting E Wing at Riverwoods for a party. I would like as many that can participate at 10:00 am.

I had a call for the Mt. Carmel Lions Street festival for Saturday, May 12. We do a demo and square dancing. The time is 1:00 in front of the library..

Our sympathies to Don and Marjean Krech for their loss of Rusty the beagle.

Read card from Mary Lou Walsh.

### Report of the Treasurer:

**(Treasurer's Reports are Not Available in the Online Edition of the STDTC Newsletter)**

### New business:

Present certificate Crystal Delgado

Have sign up sheet for club shirts. Will take orders the month of Feb.

Ramos, a local animal behavioralist, will come to your house to help you sort out issues within your pack.

### Old business:

Library books

Membership, list Some have new addresses especially R.D. so I need an up-dated membership form

Does anyone have anything to add to the meeting

## **Breed of the Month**

### **English Springer Spaniel**

submitted by Connie Cuff

The English Springer Spaniel's Black-and-white or liver-and-white tuxedo coat and dignified expression may look serious but this breed knows how to let its hair down. They are focused competitors in the show ring or at field trials.

Bonding with every member of the family comes naturally to the English Springer Spaniel for it has been bred over the centuries for companionship as well as sporting ability. Thought to originate in Spain, they were introduced to Britain sometime before 300 A.D. in the 14th Century. In the 17th Century large and small spaniels were distinguished by hunting styles. Smaller dogs, used to hunt woodcock, were called cocker spaniels, while the larger ones, used to "spring" or flush game, became known as Springer spaniels.

In 1902 Britain's kennel club recognized the English Springer as a distinct breed and the AKC recognized the breed in 1910.

Through the 1940's many English Springers earned both a field title and conformation championship. But eventually breeders began to specialize in the field type - which tend to have less coat, be lighter boned and lighter colored, or a show type - striving for perfect conformation.

Even though the breed demonstrates versatility in conformation, hunt tests, obedience, tracking, agility and field trials, does not mean the breed will train itself. Firm, consistent training and early socialization with children and strangers are imperative for a well-balanced Springer.

A well-kept Springer takes a lot of grooming and daily brushing will keep the coat tangle free. Rage syndrome, an aggression disorder, has been associated with Springers. Any buyer should spend time with adult parents if you are considering to get a puppy. Reject any puppy that exhibits fear, excessive shyness, aggression, or has a parent with any of these traits.

Owners who invest the time, energy and love a Springer needs finds they make a connection with their owner's needs. With their good looks, what more could you want?



## **Not So Sweet**

submitted by Connie Cuff

The artificial sweetener Xylitol, sometimes used to sweeten sugar-free Chewing gums and candies, can be toxic to dogs.

Eaten in significant amounts, Xylitol-containing sweets may cause a drop in blood sugar less than 30 minutes after ingestion. If your dog shows symptoms - including depression, loss of coordination and seizures - see a veterinarian immediately.

## **Moldy Snacks Can be Fatally Poisonous**

submitted by Connie Cuff

Ingestion of moldy dairy products can be fatal. Whether the mold begins in your fridge or after you discard foods into the garbage, chemicals produced by food molds or fungi can be poisonous. If ingested, symptoms of poisoning can begin within one to two hours. Signs can include vomiting, weakness, abdominal pain, muscle tremors, and full-body seizures. In early stages or mild cases, dogs may become irritable or over-reactive to stimuli, such as movement and sound. Prompt emergency treatment is necessary or death may ensue. Intensive care to control the seizures and monitor heart and lung functions is vital to saving the dog's life.

Inducing vomiting or pumping the stomach may be a useful way to reduce toxin absorption by removing the moldy food that has not yet left the stomach. However, because swallowing may be impaired by the poison and by the drugs used to stop seizures, vomiting poses a very serious risk to the dog.

Because of the risk, if a dog begins to vomit on his own, his head should be lowered far below his chest so that the vomit flows down and out of the mouth. This lessens the chance of aspiration. It may become necessary for a person to stay with the dog until recovery is apparent. In most dogs, signs will be clearly resolving within 48 hrs.

Prevention of moldy dairy produce poisoning is simple. -Proper disposal of garbage and preventing access to the garbage. However, if a dog becomes ill after garbage ingestion of such types of foods, medical attention should be sought right away.



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

<b>May 9 (Wed)</b>	<b>Nifty After Fifty Columbia Mall, Buckhorn Demo with Square Dance</b>	<b>11:00am</b>
<b>May 12 (Sat)</b>	<b>Mt. Carmel Lions Demo Mt. Carmel (in front of Library)</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
<b><u>Every Wednesday</u></b>	<b>Riverwoods Lewisburg, PA</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b><u>2nd Thursday</u></b>	<b>Shamokin Hospital</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>
<b><u>3rd Thursday</u></b>	<b>Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home, Market St., Sunbury Sunshine Corners, Market St., Sunbury</b>	<b>1:00-1:30pm 1:45pm 2:15pm</b>
<b><u>Last Thursday</u></b>	<b>Geisinger Rehab—Health South</b>	<b>2:00-3:00pm</b>

Newsletter Coordinator: Brandon Pastuszek  
 E-mail: [Brandon@stdtc.org](mailto:Brandon@stdtc.org)  
 Website: <http://www.stdtc.org>

