



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

March 2009

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



It wasn't long ago that dogs were either fed table scraps or their meals were made for them. However, it can't be denied that great strides in the field of animal nutrition have been made since that time and thanks to animal nutritionists, veterinarians and pet food companies.

For the majority of dog owners feeding dogs commercial food makes more sense; it is not only convenient but if you select a high-quality food it provides their dogs with a wholesome diet.

No matter how you define it, dog food is "processed" food and goes through many steps before it reaches the dog's bowl and can affect its quality.

March 2007 marked the point for the pet food industry when the general public questioned the reliability of the safety of pet food when the recall story broke.

What seemed the most surprising to customers was the fact that large companies such as Nestle, Del Monte, Master Foods, Proctor and Gamble and Colgate-Palmolive don't always produce their own foods. Instead, their recipes and formulas are given to contract manufacturers who actually make the food and purchase raw ingredients in cost-saving bulk.

So what is a responsible dog caregiver to do?

Bear in mind that most of the ingredients in pet foods are at the low end of the food chain; they come from whatever remains of the animal not deemed fit for human consumption. The consumer does not know the quality or source of the ingredients because it certainly doesn't appear on the label.

Quality of the ingredients should be at the heart of discussion of pet food. What we feed our dogs is more than an assemblage of ingredients, nutrients and additive, it is food -- and it needs to be safe.

We should be more aware about the food we feed our animals. The following are ten things to know about a pet food and should be readily available from the pet food company - it is your right to ask them for it.

Old Friends (Continued)

1. source and origin of ingredients, and location of production facility.
2. human-grade ingredients (provide authentication of this claim)
3. certified organic ingredients
4. hormone and steroid free meats.
5. natural preservatives
6. whole grains, fresh whole fruit and vegetables
7. quality, single-source fats clearly named (chicken fat, lamb fat, etc.)
8. chelated minerals
9. no meat byproduct
10. no meat meal

(If you put your dog food in a can be sure to save the bag the dog food came in so if there is a problem when feeding your dog you will have a reference of the lot # from the bag.)

Till next time, remember to love your dog for what he is, Your Best Friend!

Connie

Minutes (February 3, 2009)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

Meeting of STDTC was called to order by Pres., Connie Cuff.

Report of the President:

We will not be able to use the gym on Feb. 17 because the residents of the Center will be having a party.

I would like to recognize Tiffany Benfer with her rottweiler Ryleigh for passing the TDI test.

There is a pass out here on the peanut butter recall in dog bones. Sherry Carpenter said bones made by the Blue Dog Bakery - Weis, are OK.

New members present:

Bill Krieger from Seilinsgrove with his rescued Pit Bull, Kane.

Kristen Tweed from Northumberland with Choc. Lab, Max.

Report of Secretary:

The minutes are included in the newsletter -- Ginny is presently at an animal sanctuary in Utah volunteering her time there for 10 days. I'm sure she will have some information to give us when she returns.

Treasurers Report:

(Treasurer's Reports are not available in the online edition of the STDTC Newsletter.)

New Business:

I wish everyone would check my e-mail roster information to see that it is correct. If you are not receiving an e-mail, please let me know. We do e-mails when we need to cancel our classes or if there is important information we would like you to know.

There is a fun day for dogs at the Farm Show Building in Harrisburg which benefits Susquehanna Service Dogs. It is held for two days, March 14 & 15. If you order tickets on-line it is cheaper than the day of the affair. Contact www.keystonehumanservices.org/ssd or phone 717-671-7813.

I have been in touch with Teri Leland from and she does presentations on Pet Nutrition. I hope to have her come to our class in April. You will hear more about this in a future newsletter.

Therapy visit for TDI dogs only, Monday Feb 9, at Bucknell.

Meeting adjourned

Breed of the Month

St. Bernard

submitted by Connie Cuff

The fuzzy, lovable Saint Bernard is named after Arch-deacon Bernard de Menthon who founded the Hospice in the Swiss Alps during the Middle Ages. This hospice was a refuge for travelers crossing the treacherous 26 mile mountain pass between Italy and Switzerland. The monks discovered that the dogs excelled at finding paths in the drifting snow, and their highly developed sense of smell led them to finding people injured or buried in the snow as deep as 36 feet. Often strapped around the dog's neck were kegs of brandy used to revive those people the dogs found.



The giant breed is high maintenance. they shed and drool, some Saints drool more than others. Even if you don't mind the shedding and drooling, remember that an 8-week-old puppy weighing 18 lbs. can triple its weight in a month. At a year a typical male can average 150 to 180 lbs. That's a lot of dog to handle, making obedience training imperative.

Early positive exposure to many people and situations help manage the Saint's natural enthusiasm and large size.

In addition to showing, Saints also enjoy agility, obedience competition, drafting and weight pulling.

Known health problems are hip dysplasia, bloat, bone cancer and entropion (eyelids turning inward). The should be brushed several times each week to minimize shedding; keep facial wrinkles clean and dry.

Saint Bernards make the "world's best baby sitters". Although loyal to their owners, they're especially devoted to children and seem to sense how to behave around them. Saint Bernards want to be with their humans. They are just wonderful as companions.

We are happy to have JR owned by Jamie Smith from Watsontown in our training class.

(I recently saw a car with a St. Bernard hanging out the window. This practice is dangerous for any dog and can cause eye problems, even though it looks like the dog is enjoying himself.)



Notes and Notices



We welcome new members:

**Kristen Tweed from Northumberland with her chocolate lab, Max
Bill Krieger from Selinsgrove with his pit bull, Kane
Kathy Hummel from Lewisburg with her cocker spaniel, Freckles**

Yearly club dues are due by April 1. Anyone joining us from Oct. 1, 2009 is paid for 2009. We will be updating our roster beginning in April.

Congratulations to Zeus owned by Katie Davis for passing the TDI test.

Our AKC Star Program is going well with Marjean Krech and Sara Fry running the class with 9 dogs.

We have been very fortunate to have Dr. Ned Moser speak to us on March 31. He is a veterinarian who works as a nutritional consultant for pet food companies. He will explain basic labels reading from your pet food bag. He will be with us from 1 hr. Please bring with you that night the label from the dog food you are using as he will be fielding questions from the audience.

Everyone should bring a folding chair since seating is limited in the gym. If you wish, you may bring a friend with you that evening. I will have a shortened training class from 6:00 to 6:45.

Congratulations to Einstein from Sunbury owned by Regina Russell for passing the TDI test.

Congratulations to Lizzie from Paxinos owned by Karen Sodrick for passing the TDI test.



Notes and Notices



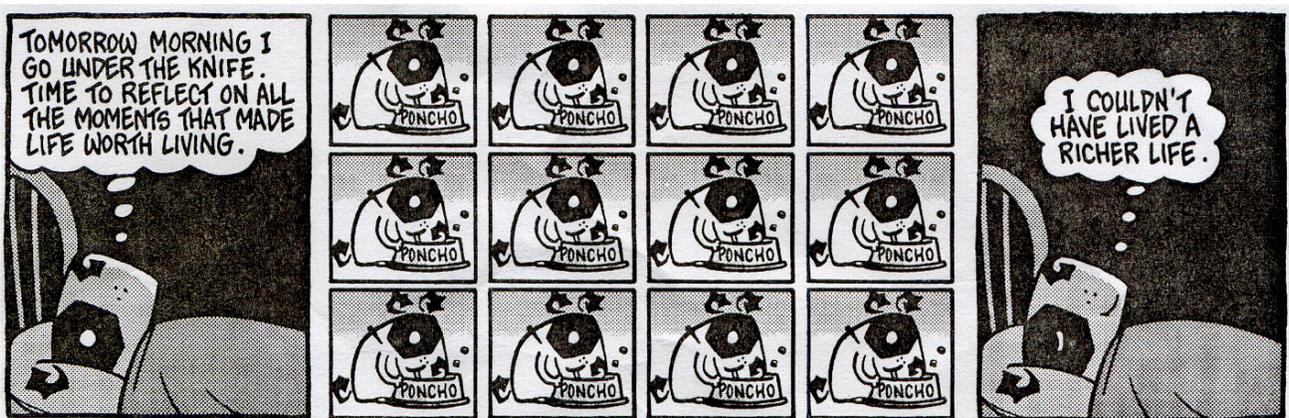
HOWARD HUGE®

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER

"Every dog is an Irish setter on St. Patrick's Day."



cartoon submitted by Connie Cuff



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cartoon submitted by Mary Haas

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

March 4 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
March 11 (Wed)	Reading (Boughner Elementary) Riverwoods	9:00am 10:00am
March 12 (Thurs)	Northwest Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital	1:00pm 2:00pm 3:00pm
March 16 (Mon)	Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	9:00am
March 17 (Tues)	HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY Medium Security Allenwood (memo members only)	12:00pm
March 18 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
March 19 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm
March 25 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
March 26 (Thurs)	Geisinger Health South	2:00pm
March 31 (Tues)	Selinsgrove Gym Dr. Ned Moser, DVM	6:45pm
April 2 (Thurs)	Bucknell University TDI only	6:00pm

March 2009

February 2009

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

March 2009

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

 US Holidays

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	5	6	7
8	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Reading (Boughner Elementary) 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital 	13	14
15	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:15 PM Sunshine Cor-ners 	20	21
22	23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South 	27	28
29	30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Shortened Training Classes 6:45 PM Dr. Ned Moser, DVM 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> April Fool's Day 10:00 AM Riverwoods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:00 PM Bucknell University (TDI ONLY) 	3	4