



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

March 2010

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



We are well aware of what our therapy dogs do in the work we perform as members of the Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club.

Going beyond the realm of our therapy work are tasks which dogs perform in a variety of jobs, that we have only begun to understand.

Newfoundlands act as lifeguards on dangerous beaches in Italy. A sniffer dog found psyllid (sap-sucking insect pests) in a FedEx package sent from India and saved California's citrus crop.

Twenty years ago, no one thought to ask dogs if they could warn diabetics when their blood sugar was too high or too low.

We haven't asked dogs the right questions, we've been slow to figure out what they can do.

Dogs bring people out of comas. As an example, a young man was in a coma for two weeks and after a dog was put in his bed and leaned over and starting licking his hand, he woke up and spoke.

For some autistic children, just having a dog in the environment is enough to help them concentrate better. In talking to a friend of mine from Tenn., a facility near Knoxville trains dogs for children with autism. He said it takes up to two years to train a dog and they go as far as video taping the child in his home and training a dog specifically for that child.

In Seattle, dogs are used as Courthouse dogs, especially in juvenile court. At Walter Reed, they are using dogs to help soldiers with PTSD.

Dogs are used to find sewage leaks, mold, bedbugs, underground bumblebee nests and termites. They are quick to pick up specific odors. The difficulty is applying that in the field and isolating that odor from all others. In Florida, a Beagle is training for termites and pest control and finds these bugs every day, whether he's on the job or at home.

One of the most exciting uses of dogs is dogs that detect melanomas. In San Francisco, teams of highly trained dogs inhale breath captured and frozen in vials to detect molecules of ovarian cancer.

### **Old Friends (Continued)**

Recently Clair Guest, a training and behavior consultant for the Amer-dam Research Trust, found one of her dogs began behaving anxiously around her. When Guest found a painful spot on her chest, it was diagnosed as breast cancer. Since in England routine mammograms are not begun until they are in their 50's, they would never have felt the tumor.

Our best friends are ready, willing and able to assist, and all they ask for is a toss of a ball, a pat on the head, a cookie and a smile.

"No endeavor is in vain; its reward is in the doing, and the rapture of pur-suing is the prize the vanquished gain."  
"The Wind over the Chimney"

Till next time,  
*Connie*

### **A Few Training Tips by Dixon J. Cuff**

By yelling at the dog in a rude manner, some handlers expect to command the dog's attention, but in so doing they eventually lose the dog's respect.

Are you training with honesty and respect, or correcting for things your dog doesn't understand?

Remember you can't teach a dog anything if you don't have his attention.

If something is worth doing, it is worth doing well.

Look into your dog's eyes. It will tell you a lot about your dog.

Your voice is a valuable tool, but only when you use it correctly. You can use "good dog" so often that it means nothing. The same with "no" or "bad dog". Commands should not be repeated continuously. When your dog does something wrong, you should be in a position to correct it quickly and easily without harshness.

Next time you are going to train your dog for obedience work, forget about the training and take your dog for a good fifteen minute or longer walk. In building a bond between you and your dog by having fun with no pressure on your dog can mentally stimulate your dog and reinforce your next training session.

**Because of conditions at the Center, the monthly meeting could not be held and thus no minutes are listed in this newsletter.**

## Breed of the Month

### Scottish Terrier

submitted by Connie Cuff

This small, alert, brave dog exemplifies her breed's nickname: the Diehard. They are big, dignified dogs in a small body, very courageous and full of themselves.

It has plenty of room in its heart for affection. They have different moods and are very person-like in how they interact with you.

The Scottish Highlands provided the setting for the rugged Terrier's development in the 16th century. Used for hunting vermin, the Terriers were bred along pure lines for centuries, but it wasn't until the mid 1800's that the Scottish Terrier was officially distinguished from other Terrier breeds.



In 1886, the American Kennel Club registered the first Scottie in the Terrier Group. This year, the Scottish Terrier won Best of Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

Originally used to hunt badger and fox, the breed's instinct for prey remains strong. Scotties should be kept on a leash or a fenced yard because of their tendency to roam.

Owners face distinct challenges and rewards when training these dogs. If you raise your voice or lose your temper, they get very hurt. Even though they're tough, you can break their spirit. Patience is the key.

Even though you may think of a Scottie as black, Scotties may also be brindle or wheaten. Everything about its movement should suggest coordination and power. The Scottie is a great hiking companion and he will be with you from beginning to end.

Prospective owners should ask breeders about genetic disease including Von Willebrand's disease and inherited bleeding disorder. Scottie cramp, CMO, a painful inherited disease of the bond of the lower jaw.

Many breeders will not sell a puppy to a family with a toddler or young children. The dogs have little tolerance for rambunctious kids and ear or tail-pulling, and may defend themselves to nip.

The right attitude equals happy ownership. If you can appreciate a Scottish Terrier's independent nature rather than be frustrated by it, you will be rewarded with a special place in its grand heart.



## Notes and Notices



I hope everyone and their dogs have survived our winter snows. It will be nice to be back at the Center for socialization not only for the dogs but us as well.

The winner of the DNA test raffle sponsored by Mostly Mutts was Karen Sodrick.

I have signed a contract with Shikellamy State Park for our summer training. We will notify everyone by E-mail and post the date on our web site when we will move to our new location.

In visiting the park, they are doing a lot of clean up after the high water. I noticed there are a lot of sticks down. Our club does a Spring pick-up-sticks for them and I am hoping we can have some volunteers help with this project. I will let everyone know when we set a date.

The AKC Star Program for dogs three months to one year of age will begin at the Center March 23. If interested, please sign up with Marjean Krech.

Congratulations to Karen Mills and her two Cocker-King Charles Spaniels Jack and Turner that placed in a recent AKC agility show.

Once again Susquehanna Service Dogs will hold their PawsAbilities event at the State Farm Show complex March 13 and March 14. For more information, you can visit their web site by logging on to [www.pawsabilities.net](http://www.pawsabilities.net).

A recent article in the newspaper makes us aware of dogs riding in our car and not being secured. A woman driver lost control and rolled her vehicle because one of her dogs being held in her arms made its way into the foot pedal and caused an accident.

Thank you to everyone who donated to Mostly Mutts.

Please try to take care of membership dues as Ginny will be updating our list for 2010.

## UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>March 2 (Tues)</b>	<b>CLASSES RESUME AT SELINSGROVE CENTER</b>	
<b>March 3 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>March 10 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>March 11 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Northwest Academy Shamokin Hospital</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:15pm</b>
<b>March 15 (Mon)</b>	<b>Reading Chief Shikellamy</b>	<b>9:00am</b>
<b>March 16 (Tues)</b>	<b>Medium Prison Allenwood (NCIC Only)</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>
<b>March 17 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY</b>		
<b>March 18 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm 2:30pm</b>
<b>March 23 (Tues)</b>	<b>AKC Start Program Begins at Selinsgrove Center</b>	
<b>March 24 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>March 25 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Geisinger Rehab, Health South</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>
<b>March 31 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>April 1 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Bucknell University (TDI only)</b>	<b>6:00pm</b>

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