



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

March 2011

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Much canine behavior can be chalked up to instinct. Consider the wolf pack. When the leader returns from a long absence, the rest of his pack greet him in much the same joyful way our dogs greet us upon our return. When a dog licks its owner's face, an act we consider a show of affection, it is mimicking the action wolf pups use to beg for food from their elders. When you reach down to pet a friendly pooch and it rolls over on its back, the dog is behaving the way the more submissive members of the pack respond to their leaders. In the wild this is what binds the pack together. Our domestic dogs are social creatures that continue to exhibit traces of their wild ancestors' behavior.

Dogs can be depressed, hyper, aggressive, embarrassed, stubborn and uncooperative. They can also be joyful, reliable and supportive. Do these sound familiar? They describe our behavior, feelings, and emotions. These similarities are probably what motivated us to domesticate the dog in the first place.

A dog is the only thing on this earth that loves you more than he loves himself. There is much written about the ability of what a therapy dog can do to lower blood pressure and simply make life more enjoyable. But researchers have found that petting a dog can also lower the dog's blood pressure.

Dogs are constantly communicating their emotion to us. Sometimes we listen, sometimes we don't. But dogs are always listening to us. No doubt emotions, both human and canine, have something to do with it.

There is the emotional dog, whose emotions manifest themselves in such problems as dominance, aggression, separation anxiety, and protection.

Some dogs are born with temperament problems (it is always good to see the mother and father). Others are offered the dominant position in the family pack and begin to rule the family aggressively.

Far too many of these dogs end up in shelters. These problems can

Old Friends (Continued)

usually be remedied or avoided entirely if owners would simply take a little time to educate themselves about how dogs see the world.

Dogs are as unique as we are. Each dog possesses a unique spirit and a unique set of behaviors. Animals haven't changed but our awareness of them has. We who live with dogs see the look in their eyes, the tilt of their head, the wag of their tail, even their smile and we know they harbor a vast array of emotions.

Whoever said that humans are the only species capable of emotion obviously has never lived with a dog. We share the same experiences, sensations, the senses and the same emotions.

Follow the rules in training your dog, but cuddle the dog, walk the dog and let it share your life. The rewards are incalculable.

"Kind words make good echoes"

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (February 8, 2011)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the STDTC was called to order by Pres. Connie Cuff with 31 members present.

Report of President: I received thank you notes from Brandon Pastuszek and Mostly Mutts for their Christmas gifts.

I want to welcome new members to our club:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| Lisa Inch | Michelle Havorille |
| Jayne Witcop | Christine Burd |
| Kate Reid | Amanda Secrest |
| Jessica Kramer | Marlene Dominick |
| Joe West | Chandra Yost |

As I have mentioned, our beginner dogs will train from 6:30 - 7:00. Regular members will train beginning at 7:00. Anyone from the first class is welcome to stay for the second class. We will allow dogs off leash to play after the 7:00 class. Everyone should keep their dogs on leash when coming into the gym.

Anyone doing volunteer therapy work can deduct mileage under contributions on their federal tax return.

Westminster Dog Show is next Mon. Feb 14 & Tues. Feb 15.

Report of Secretary: Minutes are as written in newsletter. Minutes of previous meeting were approved as written in newsletter.

Report of Treasurer:

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

New Business: Great American Cleanup from March 1 to May 31, we usually pick up sticks at the Marina on a Sat or Sun. Waiting to hear from the Park Ranger. Also a demo this summer after Sunday brunch at the park in June.

Please check your E-mail in case of cancellations.

Meeting adjourned.

Breed of the Month

Scottish Deerhound

submitted by Connie Cuff

The Scottish Deerhound was the winner of Best of Breed at the Westminster Dog Show in February.

Great stature with greyhound-like curves and a wiry coat with a shaggy beard and brows give him a wise appearance and reinforce his natural dignity. Keeness, great speed and endurance make him formidable in the field. A Deerhound breeder once said that Deerhounds steadfastly believe the best of their humans. Their quiet dignity, readiness to forgive, remembering kindness and unfaltering friendship are their hallmarks.

This breed was identified as early as the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. From there on, the name Deerhound has been applied to the breed which has been best-suited for the pursuit and killing of deer.



As larger beasts of the chase became extinct, the more delicate smooth Greyhound took the place of the larger Deerhound. The Highlands of Scotland was the last territory wherein the stag remained numerous in a wild state.

It wasn't until 1825 when restoration of the breed was undertaken by Archibald & Duncan McNeill.

He has a keen scent, which makes him used in tracking, but it is that combination of strength and speed that is most valued. The hunting of antlered game with dogs is not permitted in the United States, but it has been used very successfully on wolves, coyotes and rabbits and will match his speed on anything that runs.

Sir Walter Scott who owned the famous Deerhound "Maida" characterized the breed as "the most perfect creature of heaven".



Notes and Notices



The weather has played havoc with our training, but with March upon us we don't have too long to go until nice weather. I plan to stay at the Selinsgrove gym until Daylight Saving goes into effect and we have enough light to train at the Marina. Also, I monitor the river and ice for flooding.

One of our members, Karen Mills, who had two Cocker/King Charles mix dogs, Jack & Turner, has moved to the Buffalo area. We wish her and the dogs much happiness in their new home.

In testing for TDI, there has been a change in the requirement with food. Sally and Marjean said they will test as follows: First they will let the handler tell the dog to leave it and walk around the food. Then, after the handler has the dog's attention, tell it to leave the food again and then walk over it. They want the dog not to be fully focused on the food and give at least some attention to the handler.

We welcome new members Valerie Ricedorf and Darlene Grove.

Ray Ramos attended our classes on Feb. 22. I'm hoping he was able to give our members help in training their dogs. Since he works basically on behavior it is good for him to see the dogs mingling with each other.

Thank you to Gail and Rick Lorady for supplying us with paper towels for our training classes.

The people who are just starting with us need a lot of attention with their new dogs, so I ask that any members with new dogs and beginners train from 6:30 to 7:00. We will have a break for socialization before beginning our 7:00 class. At 7:45 we will allow the smaller dogs off leash and 8:00 for larger dogs to play. With the off leash play, we will work on recalls. So, if your dog has a special toy or treat, please bring it.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

| | | |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| March 2 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00am |
| March 7 (Mon) | Reading Chief Shikellamy | 9:00am |
| March 9 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00am |
| March 10 (Thurs) | Northwestern Academy Shamokin Hospital | 1:00pm 2:30pm |
| March 12-13 (Sat & Sun) | Pawsabilites Farm Show, Harrisburg | |
| March 15 (Tues) | Medium Prison Allenwood (NCIC only) | 12:00pm |
| March 16 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00am |
| March 17 (Thurs) | HAPPY ST. PATRICKS DAY Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners | 1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm |
| March 23 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00am |
| March 28 (Mon) | Reading Chief Shikellamy | 9:00am |
| March 30 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00am |
| March 31 (Thurs) | Health South Geisinger | 2:00pm |

March 2011

February 2011


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March 2011

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April 2011

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 US Holidays

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------|
| 27 | 28 | 1 ■ 6:30 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:15 PM Advanced Training | 2 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 ■ 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy) | 8 ■ 6:30 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:15 PM Advanced Training | 9 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods | 10 ■ 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy ■ 2:30 PM Shamokin Hospital | 11 PawsAbilities | 12 |
| 13 PawsAbilities Daylight Sav...Time Begins | 14 | 15 ■ 12:00 PM Medium Prison Allenwood (NCIC Only) ■ 6:30 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:15 PM Advanced Training | 16 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods | 17 St. Patrick's Day ■ 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital Home ■ 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing ■ 2:45 PM Sunshine Cor-ners | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 ■ 6:30 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:15 PM Advanced Training | 23 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 ■ 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy) | 29 ■ 6:30 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:15 PM Advanced Training | 30 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods | 31 ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South | 1 April Fool's Day | 2 |