



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

March 2012

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



In order to properly train a dog, it must want to be trained. Some dogs have a natural learning drive and high intellectual ability, others have a willingness but no aptitude for certain tasks, others have ability but no willingness to learn or please. Every dog is different, requiring individual approaches, attitudes and techniques.

To start, we must know the dog we are working with - its individual motivation and its general breed character. Some dogs, once they have their basic safety and emotional needs met, try for greater achievement and more recognition for their efforts. These dogs are rewarded for their efforts by our applause, whooping, praise and so on.

We train these "high fliers" through repetition but we must recognize their abilities and balance the training with challenging games, exercises and problems to stimulate their intelligence and motivational demands. One of the real reward-forces to utilize is retrieving. Rewards must create and enhance a partnership in which handler and dog are linked mentally through confidence, trust and understanding. If food is given, it should be an additional reward, not the main reward.

A dog's sense of reward comes from two emotions. First, it comes from the feeling of doing a job well and enjoying it. Second, it comes from a reward for doing the job well in the form of a ball or food, when additionally through praise and recognition of a job well done, develops the dog's mind more quickly.

If we keep the training with the individual dog's ability, doing what that dog really enjoys and can succeed at, the dog will learn intelligently and happily. We must never forget, however, to smile and enjoy the exercise ourselves. Laughter can be one of the biggest rewards for many dogs.

Many dogs enjoy retrieving, chasing or just carrying an object. You can incorporate the command "find it" in the retrieving game by hiding the ball and encourage them to find it. It is not difficult to use the retrieve and all the rewards it provides to have a dog heeling, listening, watching, sitting and waiting, and coming when called.

Old Friends (Continued)

It is important to make training sessions short, productive and fun. We as trainers must be instigators and providers of fun training.

"May your troubles be less, your blessings more and may nothing but happiness come through your door."

--Irish Blessing

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (February 7, 2012)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The February meeting of STDTC was called to order by Treasurer Karen Sodrnick with 30 members present.

Report of President: Everyone should read the newsletter for my training schedule.

I have paid our insurance which covers General Liability for the Selinsgrove Center and the Shikellamy Marina Park. Only people that have paid dues and have a current membership are covered by this policy. Ginny is now compiling our list for 2012 and I would like to have dues paid and updated shot records.

Next Monday and Tuesday is the Westminster Dog Show in New York.

Report of Secretary: Minutes for January meeting are printed in February newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:

(Treasurer's Reports are unavailable in the online edition of the STDTC newsletter.)

New Business: At our March meeting we will have Dagny Leininger talk about acupuncture.

I have received a notice for the 4th of July parade in Lewisburg on June 30 and I sent in the application. We will walk as we did last year with a small flag.

We will be participating in the Lions Festival in Mt. Carmel on May 12.

There is no class here April 3, 10, & 17 because they will be using the gym.

I would like to mention a recall of pet meds that some of your dogs may be taking. I received this info from Sherry Carpenter who hears from a vet about dog issues. It is also posted online.

Our dog walk for Mostly Mutts is scheduled for May 5 and we are preparing literature and sign up sheets for this event.

There is a visit at Grayson View on Mon. Feb. 13.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginny Pentz, Secretary.

Breed of the Month

Pekingese

submitted by Connie Cuff

The Pekingese took the Best of Show at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and with its Oriental background and distinctive personality it holds an honored place in the dog world.

The exact date of origin is debatable. The earliest known record of its existence is traced to the Tang Dynasty of the 8th Century. Some were called Lion Dogs evidenced by their massive fronts and heavy manes. The second group were termed Sun Dogs because of their beautiful golden red coats. The third was Sleeve Dog because they were carried about in the voluminous sleeves of the members of the imperial household.



The Pekingese came to the western world as a result of the looting of the Imperial Palace at Peking by the British in 1860. They were found behind some draperies in the home of the aunt of the Chinese emperor. On a return to Great Britain a pair were bred.

The Oriental dog took quick hold of the American fancy and the breed became a member of the American Kennel Club in 1909.

The transplanting of the Pekingese into Western soil has no way changed his personality. He combines marked dignity with an exasperating stubbornness and is independent and regal in every gesture. He is calm and good tempered toward the world in general, but in the privacy of his family enjoys nothing better than a good romp, and it would be an indignity to attempt to make a lap dog out of him.

Although never aggressive, he fears not the devil himself and has never been known to turn tail and run. He has plenty of stamina and is very easy to care for.

Since he has been brought down from his pedestal in Chinese temples, the Pekingese has but one purpose in life, to give understanding, companionship, and loyalty to his owners. It may be truly said that the Pekingese fulfills his mission to perfection

Marjean Krech is the proud owner of Pumpkin, a Pekingese.



Notes and Notices



Dagny Leininger will speak about acupuncture for animals at our March 6th meeting.

We will have some upcoming events that our Club will participate in and I'm hoping we can have a nice turn out. I like to keep our dogs busy with community events since that is what our club is about - service. The people enjoy seeing the dogs and it shows the public what a little training can do to make them better canines to live with.

April 25, 9am to 12pm we will be at an Emergency Preparedness Day at the Allenwood Training Center, Federal Prison complex. There are many services that participate that day and children are brought from schools to attend. If anyone has not gotten in touch with me, I need a count as they provide us with lunch.

I will be at a Kids Day on April 28 at the Sunbury YMCA from 10am to 12:00pm. Children enjoy the dogs and we educate them on bite prevention.

On April 30 we will be at the Milton Elementary School for a Reading night for the children from 6:30 - 7:30pm. Teachers organize the event and a dog will go to a classroom with a teacher and a group of students. I need to have a count so they can coordinate the number of student groups.

May 5 is the Mostly Mutts Marina Doggie Walk at the Shikellamy Park. We have printed flyers for the event along with applications for the walk. The cost is \$15 which includes a T-shirt (\$10 without a shirt). We will need help that day since we will have a food stand and a registration table. The walk is from 10:00am - 2:00pm with registration from 9:00 - 10:00am. Please mark your calendars for our fundraiser for Mostly Mutts.

On Sat. May 12 we will do a demo at the Mt. Carmel Street Fair at 10:00am. The Mt. Carmel Lions Club raises money that day to support their club and the people always enjoy seeing our dogs. I'm hoping you will help me with this worthwhile activity.

On April 3, April 10, April 17 we will not have classes at the Selinsgrove Center since they will be using the gym for their activities.

Since we will not have a meeting in April I will keep everyone posted by e-mail if there are any changes in our schedule.

Our sympathies to Kathi Flock for the loss of her TDI English Setter, Shelby.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

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| March 1 (Thurs) | Elmcroft, Lewisburg | 6:30pm |
| March 5 (Mon) | Bucknell University Coleman Hall | 6:00 - 8:00pm |
| March 6 (Tues) | Club Meeting Speaker Dagney Leininger On Acupuncture | 7:30pm |
| March 7 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00am |
| March 8 (Thurs) | Northwestern Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital | 1:00pm 2:00pm 3:00pm |
| March 13 (Tues) | Maximum Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only) | 12:00pm |
| March 14 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00am |
| March 15 (Thurs) | Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners | 1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm |
| March 17 (Sat) | HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY | |
| March 19 (Mon) | Penn Lutheran Village, Selinsgrove | 6:30pm |
| March 21 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00am |
| March 28 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00am |
| March 29 (Thurs) | Geisinger Rehab, Health South | 2:00pm |
| NO CLASS AT THE CENTER April 3, April 10, April 17 | | |
| April 5 (Thurs) | Vintage Knolls, Danville | 6:30pm |
| April 16 (Mon) | Emmanuel Home, Northumberland | 6:30pm |

March 2012

US Holidays

Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

February 2012

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March 2012

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April 2012

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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
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| 26 | 27 | 28 ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training | 29 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods | 1 ■ 6:30 PM Elmcroft | 2 | 3 |
| 4 ■ 6:00 PM Bucknell University | 5 | 6 ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Club Meeting Speaker Dagny Leinger (Acupuncture) ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training | 7 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods | 8 ■ 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy ■ 2:00 PM Life Geisinger ■ 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital | 9 | 10 |
| 11 Daylight Savings Time Begins | 12 | 13 ■ 12:00 PM Maximum Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only) ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training | 14 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods | 15 ■ 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital ■ 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home ■ 2:45 PM Sunshine Corners | 16 | 17 St. Patrick's Day |
| 18 ■ 6:30 PM Penn Lutheran Village | 19 | 20 ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training | 21 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 | 26 | 27 ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training | 28 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods | 29 ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South | 30 | 31 |