



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

March 2017

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



In obedience training the dog's motivation is the interaction and attention it received from its owner, as well as the sheer pleasure of doing something that is fun and exciting.

If you want a dog that is happy it must be more than a 15-minute-a-day training session. It is a 24 hr.-a-day relationship. Everything we do with or to our dogs affects their attitude and behavior from the way we let them out in the morning to where they sleep at night.

Don't merely take your dog for a walk, but interact with playing games with the dog, be it retrieving, frisbee, or hide and seek. The source of the fun is playing with you.

The greatest motivator is the handler's vice. Food and toys are merely an extension or extra perk in training. If you don't get the dog tuned into you, and excited and happy about being with you, the toys and food will do nothing for you.

If you talk to your dog in a normal tone of voice they are happy and attentive and wag their tails. If your voice is higher pitched, they get more excited. Change your tone the tiniest bit and their heads droop and their tails go down. Try tapping your voice. If you were a dog would you be motivated or bored by what you heard?

The bottom line for producing a happy, motivated dog is (1) the dog must have a thorough understanding of what is expected, and (2) there must be a reciprocal trust and respect between dog and handler.

Praise is an important element of any behavior training. You'll need to find the level that works best for you so that it is neither over stimulated (loses focus) nor under appreciated (loses interest).

Remember some dogs respond to training more quickly and easily than others. Training should be in bits and pieces rather than huge leaps - a factor that often leads to impatience and frustration.

Dogs expect and ardently desire for us to become their kindly leaders. Tapping into a dog's potential can payoff in a long and rewarding relationship. Making an effort to understand the dog will make you into the kind of person your dog already believes you to be.

Till next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



Marjean's Star Puppy Class will soon be complete and I'm hoping the new graduates will continue training with us so that their pups can attain their Good Citizen Certificate and go on to become Therapy Dogs. Marjean will begin another Star Puppy class on May 2 and we do need pre-registration for that class.

As I have mentioned, there have been recent changes in Homeowners insurance policies regarding certain breeds of dogs that are considered dangerous by them - Akita, Malamute, Chow Chow, Doberman Pinscher, German Shepherd, Pit Bull, Rotweiler, Siberian Husky, Wolf Hybrid and some dogs that are mixes of these breeds.

Policies may require Homeowners to sign liability waivers for any bites that occur. They may drop coverage or raise premiums if your dog attacks and injures someone.

Having your Good Citizen Certificate can be a plus in dealing with insurance companies and this can apply to any dog you may own, it doesn't need to be a certain breed. When I changed insurers a few years ago an agent came to my home to observe my dog and I have a Golden Retriever.

We will be attending an Emergency Prep at Allenwood Training Facility on May 18 from 9am - 12pm. There are groups of children that come for the day and there are over 50 presenters from Fire Companies, State Police and other agencies. Lunch is provided. I will have sign ups in the coming month.

Kohl's Stony Hill Tree Farm, 3021 Mexico Rd. Milton will have their Third Annual Free Dog Bone Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday April 9 from 1pm - 4pm. There will be two groups - up to 25lbs. and 26lbs. and over. For more information on rules you can visit their web site.

I have completed our Membership List and everyone will be included in our insurance policy. If anyone has any questions or concerns please contact Connie.

Our Club visits many facilities which I include in my newsletter. Nursing homes do not require certification but colleges and hospitals do. If you are interested in having your dog become a therapy dog a good place to start is having them come to our nursing home visits to see if they enjoy this type of work. Someone is usually there to guide you through the visit

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

March 1 (Wed)	Riverwoods Heritage Springs	10:00am 11:15am
March 2 (Thurs)	Emmanuel, Danville Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm
March 6 (Mon)	Five Star Buffalo Valley Nursing Home	1:00pm 6:30pm
March 8 (Wed)	Riverwoods Heritage Springs	10:00am 11:15am
March 9 (Thurs)	Bloomsburg University Shamokin Hospital VNA Life Geisinger	9:00am - 11:00am 12:15pm 1:15pm 2:00pm
March 15 (Wed)	Riverwoods Heritage Springs	10:00am 11:15am
March 16 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Manor Care	1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm
March 17	HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY	
March 20 (Mon)	Penn Lutheran, Selinsgrove	6:30pm
March 22 (Wed)	Riverwoods Heritage Springs	10:00am 11:15am
March 27 (Mon)	Bucknell University Library (Therapy Dogs)	6:00pm - 8:00pm
March 28 (Tues)	Allenwood Maximum Penitentiary (NCIC)	12:00pm
March 29 (Wed)	Riverwoods Heritage Springs	10:00am 11:15am
March 30 (Thurs)	Holy Family Convent Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm

Newsletter coordinator: Brandon Pastuszek
E-mail: brandon@stdtc.org
Club web site: <http://www.stdtc.org>

March 2017

February 2017

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March 2017

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April 2017

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30						

-  Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
-  US Holidays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	1	2	3	4
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Elmcroft 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Emmanuel 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South 		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1:00 PM Five Star 6:30 PM Buffalo Valley Nursing Home 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9:00 AM Bloomsburg University 12:15 PM Shamokin Hospital 1:15 PM VNA 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 		
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19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30 PM Penn Lutheran 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs 			
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