



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

May 2006

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



With our classes beginning at the Shikellamy Marina this month, we are all looking forward to being outside again. Of course, we must deal with weather and we cannot train in the rain. So, if you are in doubt, call me before making the trip.

As Summer approaches, we begin thinking about flea season. One of the first successful steps to flea control is diet. A well balanced or high quality food made from natural ingredients will help keep your dogs immune system strong, improve the health of the skin and reduce the risk of flea allergies.

A variety of supplements such as flaxseed oil and evening primrose oil contain fatty acids and promote healthy skin, while vitamin C is good for the coat. A supplement garlic (found in brewers yeast) helps repel fleas.

Regular bathing is another line of defense. For gentle cleansing look for natural products containing aloe and oatmeal. Shampoos with natural oils like rosemary, mint, lavender or cedar not only make your dog smell nice but also act as a repellent because fleas detest pungent odors. In some stubborn cases you may need a shampoo designed for flea control. Many products contain pyrethrin which is derived from the dried flower head of chrysanthemums and attacks the flea's nervous system without harming your dog.

Sprays and powders are the most common means of treating fleas in the home. Both are effective but the powder is best used for prevention and repels rather than kills fleas. It can be used on bedding as well as on the dog. Fleas like access to darkness so they'll be found in carpets, upholstered furniture and baseboards.

Try to avoid commercial flea powders and sprays as most contain substances and overuse can result in the fleas building up immunity to the chemicals.

Essential oils can also be used as a topical treatment for fleas, but it is best to buy products specially formulated for dogs. One of the most essential oils for flea control is tea tree. It will kill fleas when used as a spot-on and can also be rubbed over the dog's coat.

If your flea problem is serious seek the advice of your vet as he might recommend a topical product like advantage or frontline.

The best advice is to brush your dog daily to keep ahead of the problem. Grooming not only has health value, but is an important way we bond with our dog.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (April 4, 2006)

Submitted by: Lydia Storey

Our twenty- fourth monthly membership meeting was held on April 4, 2006 at approximately 7:50 PM at the Selinsgrove Center.

Connie Cuff, President, called the meeting to order. We will move to the Shikellamy Marina on Wednesday, May 3rd.

Several club members have signed up to see the Dog Whisperer in Lancaster in October. If anyone is interested I have information available.

Two club members recently passed the CGC/TDI test: Wanda Wilkinson with her sheltie, Ringo and Janice Corcoran with her collie, Gracie.

The Report of the Secretary:

Secretary's Report – minutes of the March meeting in the news letter. If there are any omissions or corrections please advice

Treasurer's Report – No transactions this month.

(Treasurer's Reports are Not Available in the Online Edition of the STDTC Newsletter.)

New Business:

There will be a beginner's dog obedience class beginning in May. If we do not get the Goodwill Playground they will be held at the Marina on Tuesday's. If anyone would like to attend call Connie to register for the class.

August 19 we will be doing the Riverfest with a stand for dog bite and education literature. We will sell homemade dog bones. We have recipes available for anyone who would like to make them.

On August 26 we will participate with the Northumberland County Expo at the Sunbury Armory. We will have a 30' x 30' tent outside. We will do a TDI/CGC testing, bite prevention and literature. We will do a Square Dance demo in the afternoon. Any bones that are not sold or if anyone would like to make additional ones we will sell them.

If you are interested Connie has Martingale collars, block kits to make training dumbbell and TDI ID card holders.

Old Business:

We have sign up sheets for the Columbia Mall and Mt. Carmel Street Fair, please sign up.

For the READ to the DOGS program at White Deer Elementary please notify Connie the Tuesdays before if you are going. Connie shared with us about her six week Read to the Dogs experience in Union County. Riley worked with a young student with a speech impediment. After the six weeks the young student was comfortable to read aloud in class and his highest report card grade was in reading. All the credit goes to Riley.

TDI visits: This Thursday, Outlook Pointe, Lewisburg, Monday April 10, Bucknell University, Thursday April 13, Penn Lutheran Village, Selinsgrove, Wednesday April 19, Selinsgrove Center, last visit.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

Sherry's Corner

by Sherry Carpenter

COCOA MULCH

Sent to us by Meagan Karnes, of Fur Crazy Pet Care.

Yesterday, one of our clients experienced a tragedy and wanted me to pass a special message along to all of my dog loving friends and family. I was hoping you could forward this to your contact list. My client was the doting owner of two young lab/golden retriever mixes. Over the weekend, they purchased CocoaMulch from Target to use in their garden. They loved the way it smelled and it was advertised to keep cats away from their garden. They set the bag in their yard. Their dog Calypso, decided that the mulch smelled good enough to eat so she broke into it and devoured a large helping. She vomited a few times which was typical of her when she would get into something she shouldn't have gotten in to. She was not acting lethargic in any way. The next day, Mom woke up and took Calypso out for her morning walk. Half way through the walk, she had a seizure and died instantly. Although the mulch had NO warnings printed on the label, upon further investigation on the company's website, this product is HIGHLY toxic to dogs. Denise (Calypso's mom) wanted me to pass this information along so no one had to experience the same tragedy she went through. In Loving Memory of Calypso. Cocoa Mulch is manufactured by Hershey's, and they claim that "It is true that studies have shown that 50% of the dogs that eat Cocoa Mulch can suffer physical harm to a variety of degrees (depending on each individual dog). However, 98% of all dogs won't eat it." True information about the mulch can be found here—<http://www.snopes.com/critters/crusader/cocoa.htm>This site gives the following information:

Cocoa Mulch, which is sold by Home Depot, Foreman's Garden Supply and other Garden supply stores, contains a lethal ingredient called "Theobromine".

It is lethal to dogs and cats. It smells like chocolate and it really attracts dogs. They will ingest this stuff and die. Several deaths already occurred in the last 2-3 weeks. Just a word of caution check what you are using in your gardens and be aware of what your gardeners are using in your gardens.

Theobromine is the ingredient that is used to make all chocolate especially dark or baker's chocolate which is toxic to dogs.

Cocoa bean shells contain potentially toxic quantities of theobromine, axanthine compound similar in effects to caffeine and theophylline. A dog that ingested a lethal quantity of garden mulch made from cacao bean shells developed severe convulsions and died 17 hours later. Analysis of the stomach contents and the ingested cacao bean shells revealed the presence of lethal amounts of theobromine.

And please include Calypso's family in your prayers. Such tragedy is shocking, made so much worse by the fact that it could have been avoided had the manufacturers taken some responsibility for their product.

Thank You.

Therapy Dog Parenting

by Karen Stiff-Carroll
submitted by Connie Cuff

We've all heard of stage parents, horse show parents and sports league parents. Welcome to Therapy Dog parenting, another chapter in the book of unsung heroes. The book where we do all the behind the scenes work and our "children" get all the credit.

There are many similarities in all of the afore mentioned categories. They are as follows:

1. Instead of dropping Johnny or Suzy off at the playing field, we must get Rover to a particular institution at a certain time.
2. There are no uniforms to wash and starch; instead, we have fur, nails, teeth and ears to be washed and cleaned.
3. There is practice however, no soccer balls or baseball mitts. We have "sit", "stay", "heel", "come", and "no jump" to practice. Some tricks are also fun to teach and show off.
4. Parents stay somewhat anonymous. Yes, we go to the games and cheer our "children". We answer various questions on our charges, but the "children" are the true stars.

While there are similarities, there are also difference. The more important ones are listed as follows:

1. Our "children" must be well behaved at all times. No running, jumping or barking.
2. We are all responsible for keeping the good name and reputation of TDI alive and well. One bad incident will affect everyone. It will not be written off as bad parenting.
3. We need to read our "children". If they are too stressed, we must bench them ourselves. There are no trainers or coaches.
4. There are no seasons. This is a year round commitment. If the weather is bad, you reschedule not skip completely.
5. Do not start what you can't finish. The patients you visit come to rely heavily on your visits. If you are not willing to keep up a consistent schedule, please don't start.

Boarding Kennels

submitted by Connie Cuff

How do you pick the right boarding kennel for your dog?

1. What kind of security do they have?
2. Is the person someone who cares about the animal and not just the money?
3. Does the owner of the boarding kennel keep a clean and sanitary building?

Is the kennel insured, if by chance something goes wrong?

All this is good advice, but your best bet is to ask people that used the kennel at some time in the past. Most kennels are like eating out, it only takes one bad meal to ruin a business. We are lucky in this area to have such fine dog people in the boarding business.

**UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES
(CONTINUED)**

Aug 19 (Sat)	Riverfest Sunbury	TBA
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Aug 26 (Sat)	Northumberland County Expo Sunbury Armory (TDI/CGC Testing, Bite Prevention, Demo)	TBA
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Sept 9 (Sat)	PA Pets Shikellamy Marina (Dog Bite Prevention, TDI/CGC Testing)	TBA
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<u>Every Wednesday</u>	Riverwoods Lewisburg, PA	10:00am
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<u>3rd Thursday</u>	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home, Market St. Sunbury	1:00-1:30pm 1:45pm
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<u>Last Thursday</u>	Geisinger Rehab—Health South	2:00-3:00pm
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May 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Bucknell University (Lewisburg) 6pm	2	3 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am Nifty After Fifty (Columbia Mall) 11am	4 Nottingham Village (Northumberland) 6:45pm	5	6
7	8	9	10 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	11	12	13 Lions Club St. Fair (Mt. Carmel)
14	15	16	17 White Deer Elmen. (Reading Prgm.) 9am Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	18 Sunbury Comm. Hospital 1pm-1:30pm Mansion Mrs. Home (Sunbury) 1:45pm	19	20
21	22	23	24 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	25 Geisinger Rehab (Health South) 2pm-3pm	26	27
28	29	30	31 White Deer Elmen. (Reading Prgm.) 9am	Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am		