



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

May 2009

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Are you cultivating separation anxiety in your dog?

How many times have I heard people say, "I hate leaving my dog alone" or "my dog misses me so much when I'm gone". Loving your dog is great, but smothering her obsessively with your affection - not so good.

Dogs as pack animals, are not genetically designed to spend long periods of time alone. What dogs were designed for and what our lifestyle demands of them, we need to help them from puppyhood to their twilight years to grow comfortable with alone time.

Just as we tend to thrive when our bodies and brains are well exercised and our social needs are met, so do our canine companions. By gradually introducing Fido to alone time right from puppyhood and providing physical, intellectual, and social needs we greatly reduce many problems, anxiety included.

As dog lovers we sometimes nurture anxiety problems by allowing our own emotional needs to interfere with what the dog needs for good mental health.

If your dog gets used to 24/7 companionship this is disaster in the making. Help your dog become comfortable spending time alone before it becomes a necessity.

Do you lavish your dog with continuous attention when together? This very behavior that soothes your guilty conscience can hinder your dog's independence. Even when you are home with your dog during the day give him some alone time be it behind a closed door or on his crate.

Dogs suffering from separation anxiety make better progress in their training when "nothing in life is free" rule is invoked: the dog has to comply with a request before he is given something he wants such as sitting before he is fed or at the door before going outside. By giving your dog confidence and structure will breed a sense of security and stability.

Healthy affection is but one of the ingredients to keeping your dog off Prozac. Taking your dog to obedience class to provide physical, social and intellectual stimulation is enabling your dog to pursue interests other than you. Remember, cultivating confidence and independence in your dog so that he can enjoy time apart from you is a sure sign of healthy love.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (April 7, 2009)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the STDTC was call to order April 7th by Pres. Connie Cuff with 38 members present.

Report of President:

I was very happy to see so many people here for Dr. Moser's presentation. I feel we all learned something from his talk to help us in feeding our pets.

As I mentioned in the newsletter, there is no class here next week, April 14th. I do not know when we will move to the Marina, but everyone will be notified by e-mail or it will be announced at class.

New members introduced themselves and where they were from.

Reminder: We must wait until 6:10 - 6:15 PM until people ahead of us leave the gym.

Report of Secretary:

Minutes of March 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:

The Star Puppy Program will run for 6 weeks and Marjean will be leading the class.

If at all possible, anyone who is coming to the 6 PM class and has been training for awhile, if you could possibly come to the 7 PM class since we have quite a few beginners that need extra attention.

There was no old business. Meeting was adjourned.

Breed of the Month

Rottweiler

submitted by Connie Cuff

Originally used in Germany for carting, guarding, herding and general farm work, the Rottweiler ancestors have been traced to working dogs in ancient Rome. That work ethic makes for a modern breed that is happiest and best behaved when it has a job. They excel at obedience, agility, search and rescue and therapy.



The Rottweiler tail was docked to keep it out of the way when pulling meat carts to market. Since several European countries banned docking, Rottweilers with tails have become more common.

This people-oriented worker thrives when exposed to positive, gentle interaction with people and other dogs. This breed, given proper training and socialization make wonderful pets. Socialization is required throughout their lives: without it, they can grow nervous, suspicious, and unpredictable.

If you own a Rottweiler be prepared for prejudice. Boarding kennels, landlords, hotels and some insurance companies have the breed on their high-risk list. That is why owners of this breed are encouraged to take their dog to obedience school and obtain the AKC Good Citizen Certificate.

Potential owners should spend time around adult Rotts before taking home a puppy knowing they can manage walking a large adult.

Rottweiler puppies shouldn't be allowed to jump on people, play-bite hands or protect food or toys with a growl. Avoid rough games such as tug of war and exercise your Rottie because if they don't get enough exercise they can become overweight which leads to hip dysplasia and heart trouble.

As one owner states, "the Rottweiler is a pal, a friend, a companion, always committed to the family, striving to please. Just one of those dogs that gets right into your heart; he will be your friend forever."

We are happy to have Tiffany Benfer with her two rottweilers in our class.



Notes and Notices



With the start of warmer weather dogs enjoy having cool treats. These are some homemade ideas for you to keep your dog happy:

Cool Treat

3 Cups of Plain non-fat yogurt
1 Cup of peanut butter (unsalted)
1 tbs honey

Combine, whisk thoroughly. Pour into ice cube tray – freeze solid at least 2 hours
Pop out 1 cube at a time and serve

Pupsicle

The next time you are preparing an ice-cube tray, drop a kibble or a small dog bone into each before it freezes. “How many licks does it take to get to the surprise nugget inside?”

Bobbing for Treats

Toss treats and/or toys into a shallow pool or bucket – Let the fun begin!

Shock, bark collar – if you decide to use either collar, watch your dog carefully to make sure the collar is not going off at inappropriate times (picking up some other signal). One situation found the tv remote control caused the dog to be zapped. Also make sure to remove the collar once a day to be sure it is not rubbing or causing any skin problems.

We have a demo in Mt. Carmel for the Lions Club, 4th & Oak Streets on Saturday, May 9th at 2:00 pm. I would appreciate anyone who can participate, even if you only have been training for a short time. The people love to see the dogs. There are vendors and good food which everyone can enjoy. We have been doing this event the past few years and they always give a donation to our Club.

We will be moving to the Marina for our training on May 12th. Please check the web site and emails for cancellations.

I wish to thank all the club members who have been very supportive of me during this difficult time with my Mother’s illness. Dixie always said you guys were the best and I echo his feelings.

Doreen Slaybaugh reports a Lycoming County puppy mill is closing and the SPCA is looking for homes for goldens, beagles, pugs, Bostons and Daschunds. Phone 570-322-4646. Manager is Vicki Stryker. (Thanks to Sherry Carpenter for this information.)

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

May 6 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
May 9 (Sat)	Mt. Carmel Lions Club, Demo 4th & Oak Streets, Mt. Carmel (Directions on website)	2:00 pm
May 12 (Tues)	Obedience Classes begin at Shikellamy Marina Beginners 6:15 pm – 7:00 pm Advanced 7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	
May 13 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
May 14 (Thurs)	Northwestern Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital	1:00 pm 2:00 pm 3:00 pm
May 18 (Mon)	Reading Chief Shikellamy	9:00 am
May 20 (Wed)	Reading Boughner Elementary Riverwoods	9:00 am 10:00 am
May 21 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00 pm 1:45 pm 2:15 pm
May 27 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
May 28 (Thurs)	Geisinger Health South	2:00 pm

May 2009

- US Holidays
- Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

April 2009

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May 2009

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31						

June 2009

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 ■ 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy) ■ 6:00 PM Bucknell University (TDI ONLY)	27 ■ 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy) ■ 6:00 PM Bucknell University (TDI ONLY)	28 ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes	29 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	30 ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	1	2
3	4 Cinco de Mayo ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes	5 ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes	6 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	7	8 ■ 2:00 PM Mt. Carmel Lions Club (Demo)	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12 CLASSES MOVE TO MARINA ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes	13 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	14 ■ 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy ■ 2:00 PM Life Geisinger ■ 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital	15	16
17	18 ■ 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	19 ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes	20 ■ 9:00 AM Reading (Boughner Elementary) ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	21 ■ 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital ■ 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home ■ 2:15 PM Sunshine Corners	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day	26 ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes	27 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	28 ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	29 John F. Kennedy's Birthday	30
31	1	2 ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes	3 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	4	5	6