



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

May 2016

## Old Friends by Connie Cuff



How do dogs learn?

Animals do what works best for them and it avoids things that make them uncomfortable and seek out things that they like, want or need.

When your dog is making choices and is aware of what he is learning, you are using operant conditioning. It simply means that your dog makes an association between doing something and the resulting consequence.

An example would be that when your dog learns that when he does something you want, something awesome happens. Each time you give your dog a cue to do something he makes a choice. If complying with you works in his favor, he'll likely obey. Same as with people.

Then there is classical conditioning which doesn't require any conscious effort at all. It just happens.

Animals are learning all the time, whether we are aware of it or not. When you were teaching your dog to sit, he was learning more than just how to sit. He was learning about training in general; is it fun and something to look forward to, or something to be avoided? He learns how much he enjoys your company and the world is a safe place to be.

It is critically important for your dog to learn that training time is pleasant, because fear and anxiety block effective and efficient learning. If you want your dog to be an engaged learner, make it a priority to set up training sessions that are short, positive, and rewarding for your dog.

Marjean does a wonderful job teaching the Star Puppy Class. Positive training goes a long way in enforcing a mutually beneficial relationship that can exist across species.

Good training plans take both operant and classical conditioning. You and your dog should both enjoy the process!

Till next time,

*Connie*

## **Minutes (April 5, 2016)**

submitted by Connie Cuff

Congratulations to Star Puppy Graduates: Andrew Morris/Piper; Theresa Krumbine/Maizie; Robert Henry/Justice; Stan Wirth & Thelma Wagner/Maddie

Classes at the Marina will begin in May to be announced. Be aware of people, children, and other dog who are walking through our training area.

Dagny Leininger will do acupuncture presentation at class, maybe May 3.

Do not allow your dog to drink from water fountains when visiting a facility. Use a plastic cup or bring a collapsible bowl.

Marjean will begin a Star Puppy Class in May. Pre-registration is required.

Discussion was presented on the new Seresto collar for flea and tick prevention.

Gail needs material, sports team and novelty, for CART.

People doing therapy work do not need to be certified in nursing homes.

There was a discussion about the closure of the Turtle Creek Dog Park in Lewisburg and they are looking for help to reopen it.



## Notes and Notices



**We will move to the Shikellamy Marina Park in May. An announcement of the date will be sent through email and on our web site. There is a sign-up sheet for those that intend to train with us there as we will organize our groups with trainers and time. Marjean will begin a Star Puppy class with pre-registration required. We have insurance which covers members at the park. Please keep your dog under control and in our training area around walkers, pets and children.**

**On Tuesday, May 3, Dagny Leininger, DVM will give a 20 min. acupuncture presentation, and anyone wishing to speak to her may do so after her talk. Beginner training will begin after her talk.**

**There is a Milton Bark for Life Dog Walk, Brown Ave. Park on May 21, 2016. Registration 9:00am, Walk 10:00am. Fee \$10 per dog.**

**Mt. Carmel St. Fair, Sat. May 14. We will do a short demo at 10:30am and people meet with us and interact with our dogs.**

**May 12 (Thurs) from 9:30am-12:00pm we will be at Allenwood Prison Training Center, Emergency Prep. Dogs do not need to be certified and it is a nice day to interact your dog with children and groups that participate that day. Sign up as lunch is provided.**

**Our nursing home visits are a wonderful time to have your dog socialized with the residents. No certification is required, but your dog should have some bedside manners, and you should have a copy of your dog's rabies certificate with you.**

**There was a news article about the Turtle Creek Dog Park and Preston Ross of the Hallowing Run Youth Org. that they have run into some financial difficulties. It was acquired from the Degenstein Foundation. \$30,000 is spent annually to run the park which includes property taxes, insurance, labor, and portable toilets. Anyone interested in preserving the park should contact Ross at 570-286-1777.**

**Brandon has been working on some problems on our web site and I really appreciate all that he does for us.**

## UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>May 2 (Mon)</b>	<b>CSIU - Champ Ave. Five Star</b>	<b>11:30am 1:00pm</b>
<b>May 3 (Tues)</b>	<b>Presentation Class, Acupuncture, Dagny Leininger DVM</b>	<b>7:15pm</b>
<b>May 4 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>May 5 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Maria Joseph Manor Geisinger Reahab, Health South</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm</b>
<b>May 8 (Sun)</b>	<b>HAPPY MOTHERS DAY</b>	
<b>May 9 (Mon)</b>	<b>Elmcroft, Lewisburg</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>May 10 (Tues)</b>	<b>Presentation Class, Educators, CPR Demo</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>May 11 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>May 12 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Emergency Prep, Allenwood Federal Prison Training Ctr. Shamokin Hospital Life Geisinger</b>	<b>9:30am - 12:00pm 12:45pm 1:45pm</b>
<b>May 14 (Sat)</b>	<b>Lions Club St. Fair, Mt. Carmel</b>	<b>10:30am</b>
<b>May 18 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>May 19 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Manor Care</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm</b>
<b>May 23 (Mon)</b>	<b>Buffalo Valley, Lewisburg</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>May 25 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>May 26 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Holy Family Convent Geisinger Rehab, Health South Maria Hall</b>	<b>1:00pm 1:45pm 2:30pm</b>
<b>May 30 (Mon)</b>	<b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	

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Club web site: <http://www.stdtc.org>

# May 2016

April 2016

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
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May 2016

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June 2016

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28	29	30	31			

■ Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club  
 ■ US Holidays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 ■ 11:30 AM CSIU - Champ Ave. ■ 1:00 PM Five Star	3 ■ 6:15 PM Training Class ■ 6:45 PM AKC STAR Puppy Class ■ 7:15 PM Presentation Class, Acupuncture, Dagny Leininger DVM ■ 7:35 PM Beginner Training	4 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	5 ■ 1:00 PM Maria Joseph Manor ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South	6	7
8 ■ Mother's Day	9 ■ 6:30 PM Elmcraft	10 ■ 6:15 PM Training Class ■ 6:45 PM AKC STAR Puppy Class ■ 7:00 PM Presentation Class, Educators, CPR Demo ■ 7:15 PM Beginner Training	11 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	12 ■ 9:30 AM Emergency Prep, Allenwood Federal Prison Training Ctr ■ 12:45 PM Shamokin Hospital ■ 1:45 PM Life Geisinger	13	14 ■ 10:30 AM Lions Club St. Fair, Mt. Carmel
15	16	17 ■ 6:15 PM Training Class ■ 6:45 PM AKC STAR Puppy Class ■ 7:15 PM Beginner Training	18 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	19 ■ 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital ■ 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home ■ 2:45 PM Manor Care	20	21
22	23 ■ 6:30 PM Buffalo Valley	24 ■ 6:15 PM Training Class ■ 6:45 PM AKC STAR Puppy Class ■ 7:15 PM Beginner Training	25 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	26 ■ 1:00 PM Holy Family Convent ■ 1:45 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South ■ 2:30 PM Maria Hall	27	28
29 ■ John F. Kennedy's Birthday	30 ■ Memorial Day	31 ■ 6:15 PM Training Class ■ 6:45 PM AKC STAR Puppy Class ■ 7:15 PM Beginner Training	1 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	2	3	4