



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

May 2018

Old Friends by Connie Cuff



When it comes to living with dogs, the concept of dominance is largely irrelevant. This may come as a surprise to many dog owners. This generally does not require understanding a dog's motivation and emotional state, but rather focuses on what the dog is doing (behavior), and what we want the dog to "do", helping the dog understand how to perform the desired behaviors and then rewarding him for doing so. Dogs that use aggression to "get what they want" are not displaying dominance but rather anxiety-based behaviors, which will only increase if they are faced with verbal and /or physical threats from their human owners.

Far too many times dog owners have been given advice to "show the dog who's boss" and "be the alpha". The unfortunate side effect of this thinking is that it creates an adversarial relationship between the owner and their dog with the belief that the dog is somehow trying to control the home and the owner's life. Such misinformation damages the owner-dog relationship, and may lead to fear, anxiety and/or aggressive behaviors from the dog.

It is the human's responsibility to teach our dogs the behaviors that we find appropriate, and reward them when they do the things we like. Just as importantly, it is our role to show them which behaviors are not appropriate in a constructive and compassionate manner that does not lead to further anxiety on the dog's part.

If Not Dominance, Then what Do we Use? As a trainer you should focus on building a caring and happy relationship with your dog, instead of relying on dominance. For dogs with behavior problems, you should employ a program with "Nothing in Life is Free", which works along the principal that the dog must "do" something to earn what he wants. This program is effective because the dog is issued a structured set of things that he wants such as food, petting, playtime, etc. Because dogs do not have the power of human speech and language, behavior problems and anxiety can result when they are left to fend for themselves in deciding how to live in our world without guidance that makes sense.

You should strive to positively and gently influence and motivate your dog to act in a manner that befits your home and tailor the "rules" for each of you. An educated approach is to aim and strengthen the bond between you and your dog and help you form a more effective way of communicating with your dog.

Till next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



We will continue training at the R.E.C. building in Selinsgrove for the month of May. Beginning Tuesday, June 5 our classes will move to the Shikellamy State Park Marina until the end of August. Times will remain the same - Advanced - 6:15pm and Beginners - 7:15pm. PLEASE - check emails and the Club web-site in case of inclement weather. I will post by 5pm if we need to cancel classes. All dogs should be kept on leash unless we are doing an exercise in training. We have a designated area to train and are covered by Club insurance with our dogs. There will be many people with children walking and other activities in the park, so please be respectful and keep your dog under control when coming to class.

We send our sympathies to Elaine Walz with the loss of her beagle, Eddie. Also Sharon Frederick with the loss of her Golden Retriever, Maddison.

We will be attending the Emergency Prep Day at the Allenwood Correctional Complex Training Area on Thursday, May 17 from 9:30am - 12:00pm. Dogs do not need to be certified and puppies are welcome. This is a nice affair to socialize your dog and interact with children. I will have a sign-up sheet for this event.

We will begin a Star Puppy Class at the Shikellamy State Park Marina on Tues. June 5 at 6:30pm. Classes are limited so pre-registration is required. Dogs must be under 1 yr of age to attend.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

May 2 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
May 3 (Thurs)	Bloomsburg University, Students Services Patio Vintage Knolls Geisinger Rehab - Health South	9:00am -12:00pm 1:00pm 2:00pm
May 7 (Mon)	Penn Manor, Selinsgrove	6:30pm
May 9 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
May 10 (Thurs)	Bloomsburg University, Student Services Patio Shamokin Hospital VNA	9:00am - 11:00am 12:15pm 1:15pm
May 16 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
May 17 (Thurs)	Emergency Prep, Allenwood Prison Complex	9:30am - 12:00pm
May 21 (Mon)	Elmcroft, Lewisburg	6:30pm
May 23 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
May 30 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
May 31 (Thurs)	Emmanuel Nursing Home, Danville Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm

May 2018

- Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
- US Holidays

April 2018

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30					

May 2018

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27	28	29	30	31		

June 2018

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30 6:00 PM Bucknell University (ATD only)	1 6:30 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	2 10:00 AM Riverwoods	3 9:00 AM Bloomsburg University, Students Services Patio 1:00 PM Vintage Knolls 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab - Health South	4	5
6	7 6:30 PM Penn Manor	8 6:30 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	9 10:00 AM Riverwoods	10 9:00 AM Bloomsburg University, Student Services Patio 12:15 PM Shamokin Hospital 1:15 PM VNA	11	12
13 Mother's Day	14	15 6:30 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	16 10:00 AM Riverwoods	17 9:30 AM Emergency Prep, Allenwood Prison Complex	18	19
20	21 6:30 PM Elmcroft	22 6:30 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	23 10:00 AM Riverwoods	24	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29 John F. Kennedy's Birthday 6:30 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	30 10:00 AM Riverwoods	31 1:00 PM Emmanuel Nursing Home 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab - Health South	1	2