



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

May 2022



## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff

For those of us who have been working with our dogs as Therapy Dogs, we know how much unconditional love they are able to give when we visit.

Our experience this past month with Bucknell students and how they find us when we return could fill a book with stories such as - "I have a dog at home and I miss him"; "I would rather be here than doing anything else"; "He makes me feel so good."

All dogs are not made to do this work, there are other things than make them happy and keep them busy. If your dog loves agility, scent work, rally, lure coursing, all of these can have the same benefits of making the dogs feel good and us as well.

How do you know if your dog is loving the things you're asking him to do? There is a "consent testing" where you might use a procedure to see if your dog loves petting or letting someone else pet your dog.

1. Sit down in an enclosed area with you dog off-leash.
2. Rest one open hand on your leg or lap, palm up. Ideally the dog will approach, but you can call, but no treats.
3. When the dog approaches, initiate contact with a scratch under the chin, not over the head.
4. Use the 3 second rule. Pet for 3 seconds, then remove your hand. If the dog moves close or nudges your hand and has a relaxed facial expression, she is inviting more attention.
5. Repeat several times, continuing to use the 3 second rule. Be alert for signs that he has had enough. Repeat this process when allowing other people to pet your dog.

If your dog pulls your hand toward him, shoves nose under your hand, is relaxed, he is well on his way to becoming a therapy dog. If your dog ducks away, body is tense, yawns, scratches, or exhibits other stress signals, you know that he is not cut out to do this work.

I know with bringing dogs to class and having them socialize with other dogs is one benefit that will always be #1 in keeping us happy and the dogs happy too. We all need socialization whether it be in the dog's world or ours as well.

Till next time,

*Connie*



## Notes and Notices



**We will be attending Southern Columbia High School Tiger Stadium on Saturday, May 10 from 12:00pm to 4:00pm for an event Students Against Violence Everywhere. All dogs and puppies are welcome. We will be set up along the track for children and students to meet and greet with our dogs. This is a good time to educate everyone how to pet a dog and help with bite prevention.**

**Our Club is offering a "Spring Get Together" at the Wayside Inn outside of Shamokin on Sunday June 12 at 2:00pm. We will be outside under the tented area. They have offered us a limited menu of hot roast beef sandwich, fish sandwich, cranberry salad (shrimp and chicken can be added) along with sides. Our club will give everyone \$10 towards their meal. Since we were unable to do a Christmas Party it will be nice to have a get together and celebrate after being shut down with the pandemic. I ask everyone to register no later than Wed. June 8.**

**We send our sympathies to Bob & Elaine Walz with the loss of their beagle Queenie.**

**Connie Hepner with Labrador Retriever, Mable has successfully passed the CGC test.**

**The month of April & May were very busy with visitation at Bucknell University. I wish to thank everyone who participated and know how much the students enjoyed the visits. Being away from home, missing their pets and preparing for finals is a very stressful time for them.**

**As we begin our training at the Marina, I ask everyone to pay their membership and up-date shot records. Our insurance for using the park requires everyone to be a member and also those using our private Facebook, you must also have dues paid.**

## UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>May 2 (Mon)</b>	<b>Mifflinburg Elementary School Five Star</b>	<b>10:00am 1:00pm</b>
<b>May 4 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>May 5 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Geisinger Rehab, Health South</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
<b>May 9 (Mon)</b>	<b>Montour County Prison</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
<b>May 10 (Tues)</b>	<b>Star Puppy Class begins</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>May 11 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>May 12 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Mt. View Manor</b>	<b>1:30pm</b>
<b>May 14 (Sun)</b>	<b>Southern Columbia High School</b>	<b>12:00pm to 4:00pm</b>
<b>May 16 (Mon)</b>	<b>Columbia County Prison</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
<b>May 17 (Tues)</b>	<b>Lewisburg Prison Camp (badged only)</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>
<b>May 18 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>May 19 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Elm Croft Mansion</b>	<b>10:30am 1:30pm</b>
<b>May 25 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>May 26 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Geisinger Rehab, Health South</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
<b>May 30 (Mon)</b>	<b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>	

# May 2022

April 2022							May 2022							June 2022							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7					1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			

- US Holidays
- Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 <b>Eid al-Fitr</b> ■ 10:00 AM Mifflinburg Elementary School ■ 1:00 PM Five Star	3 <b>Eid al-Fitr</b> ■ 6:00 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:00 PM Beginner Training (sign up required)	4 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	5 <b>Cinco de Mayo</b> ■ 1:00 PM Health South Geisinger	6	7
8 <b>Mother's Day</b>	9 ■ 1:00 PM Montour County Prison	10 ■ 6:00 PM Advanced Training ■ 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class (Class is full) ■ 7:00 PM Beginner Training (sign up required)	11 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	12 ■ 1:30 PM Mountain View Manor	13	14 ■ 12:00 PM Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Walk
15 ■ 1:00 PM Columbia County Prison	16	17 ■ 12:00 PM Lewisburg Camp visit - BADGED ONLY ■ 6:00 PM Advanced Training ■ 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class (Class is full) ■ 7:00 PM Beginner Training (sign up required)	18 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	19 ■ 10:30 AM Elmcroft - indoor large room ■ 1:30 PM Mansion Nursing Home	20	21
22	23	24 ■ 6:00 PM Advanced Training ■ 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class (Class is full) ■ 7:00 PM Beginner Training (sign up required)	25 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	26 ■ 1:00 PM Health South Geisinger	27	28
29	30 <b>Memorial Day</b>	31 ■ 6:00 PM Advanced Training ■ 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class (Class is full) ■ 7:00 PM Beginner Training (sign up required)	1 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	2 ■ 1:00 PM Health South Geisinger	3	4