

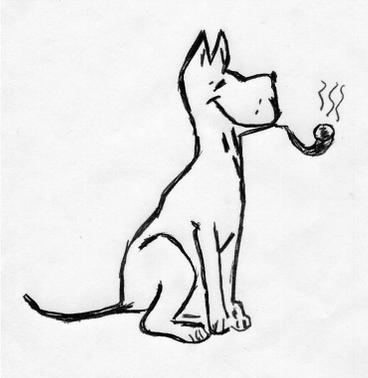


# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

November 2005

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Where does your dog sleep? It is a touchy subject that sets off strong feelings. Questions of comfort, safety, cleanliness, restfulness and sometimes health come up when we get ourselves and our pets ready for bed.

A lot of us find cuddling with our dog at night comforting. According to a 1996 survey of more than 1,000 pet owners, one-third of all dogs regularly sleep on their owner's beds, nearly another third sleep beside or under the bed.

It pays to be certain about sleeping arrangements from the start of your pets life. Dogs are creatures of habit and sleeping arrangements can be hard to break. When you invite your cute little puppy to bed, think about how welcome he'll be as an adult dog.

In many households today, pets are part of the family and enjoy the run of the house. "An animal's life is not improved by its coming into the bedroom at night," says Hugh Tebault of the Latham Foundation of Alameda, Calif.

If you introduce a dog to a crate when you bring him home as a puppy he will feel comfortable in it and it becomes his "den". Dogs feel safe in a crate and prefer sleeping there.

Any dog who shows signs of aggression or tries to be an alpha dog should never be allowed to sleep in your bed.

A veterinarian advised a client to put her dog out of the bedroom because it was becoming too attached to her and was acting out its loneliness with destructive behavior whenever she left the house.

A dog that sleeps in bed also needs extra grooming. You don't want to invite fleas and extra brushing will cut down on the fur dogs leave behind.

Whatever your choice, the best thing you can do for yourself is be consistent. When the rules are clear, everybody sleeps easier.

We had a wonderful response to our "Read to the Dogs" program at Milton. I wish to thank everyone who participated. Ann Trudnak did a great job in coordinating the event and everyone benefited, the children, handler, parents, and dogs.

The Sunbury Halloween Parade was a lot of fun. Thanks to Sara and John Fry for getting the trailer from Bailey's Farm Market and using their truck. We came away with 2nd place so it was well worth while.

I wish to thank everyone for attending and supporting the memorial for Dixie. It was something I will never forget and honoring him meant so much to me.

I hope everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving.

Till next time,

*Connie*

## Sherry's Corner

More letters to remember--"cognitive dysfunction syndrome" or CDS. Many readers know this is the term given to behavioral changes seen in elderly pets. And, since we have a growing senior canine population veterinarians are seeing more and more pets who may exhibit such unusual behaviors--for them--as reduced mental alertness, more jealousy and irritability and the need for more attention. CDS is also marked by sleep disturbances. Believe it or not for sleep problems behaviorists advocate a night light among other solutions. Other ways an owner can help with sleep is playing a radio softly and taking the dog for a brief walk before bedtime.

According to Dr. William Fortney CDS is a disease that has behavioral manifestations, is slowly progressive and difficult to diagnose. However, the veterinarian says there are a lot of management options. Playing with toys and other animals can be a simple solution to CDS. The four most common signs are disorientation, less social interaction, altered sleep patterns and house soiling. Fortney feels that low thyroid hormone concentration causes a lot of this disease.

Besides having a veterinarian check thyroid function perhaps we need to have special toys for elderly pets? We may need to add a younger dog to the household? And, if our dog is a therapy dog we may need to have a list of nursing homes where the footing is not a slippery floor and there are no steps to climb? Certainly, older pets if at all possible, should not give up therapy activities. Probably most important would be special training classes for senior canines. Practice CGC exercises, play games and just take walks. Of course, there should be a weekly check for weight gain, grooming, and for mouth hygiene. These are steps we should take throughout the life of our pet but we need to reinforce and emphasize them as our dogs age.

## Notes and Notices

Thank you to all the club members who helped with and participated in the Halloween Parade. We placed second in the animal category.

Congratulations to Lee Hummel and his German Shepherd Tess, as well as Virginia Pentz and her Golden Retriever Katie-Do for passing their Canine Good Citizen tests.

There will be T.D.I. testing Tuesday, November 8th at the Selinsgrove Center at 6:30pm.

There will be no dog training on December 13th and December 20th.

The Christmas Diner will be held at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club on December 4th. The club will be paying \$8.00 toward everyone's meals so the final cost per person is \$16.00, which includes tip and tax. For the Christmas party, remember to bring a donation of money, food, toys, etc. for Mostly Mutts, a local no-kill animal shelter. Donations do not have to be new items.

Thank you to Lindsey Lawer who traveled to Louisiana to help at a shelter for displaced animals after hurricane Katrina.

## UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>Nov 3 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Manor Care Sunbury</b>	<b>6:45pm</b>
<b>Nov 7 (Mon)</b>	<b>Bucknell University (Outside Langone Center) Lewisburg Note: TDI only</b>	<b>6:00-7:00pm</b>
<b>Nov 10 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Penn Lutheran Selinsgrove</b>	<b>6:45pm</b>
<b>Nov 16 (Wed)</b>	<b>Selinsgrove Center (Main Administration Building, which is the large building on the right off of route 522)</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Dec 1 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Nottingham Village Northumberland</b>	<b>6:45pm</b>
<b>Dec 4 (Sun)</b>	<b>Christmas Party Susquehanna Valley Country Club Selinsgrove</b>	<b>TBA</b>
<b>Dec 8 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Buffalo Valley Lewisburg</b>	<b>6:45pm</b>
<b>Dec 21 (Wed)</b>	<b>Selinsgrove Center (Main Administration Building)</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b><u>Every Wednesday</u></b>	<b>Riverwoods Lewisburg, PA</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b><u>3rd Thursday</u></b>	<b>Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home, Market St. Sunbury</b>	<b>1:00-1:30pm 1:45pm</b>
<b><u>Last Thursday</u></b>	<b>Geisinger Rehab—Health South</b>	<b>2:00-3:00pm</b>

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# November 2005



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			Riverwoods (Lewisbury) 10am	Manor Care (Sunbury) 6:45pm		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	Bucknell University (Lewisbury) 6pm-7pm		Riverwoods (Lewisbury) 10am	Penn Lutheran (Selinsgrove) 6:45pm		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
			Riverwoods (Lewisbury) 10am	Sunbury Hospital (Sunbury) 1pm - 1:30pm		
			Selinsgrove Center (Admin Building) 6:30pm	Mansion Nursing Home (Sunbury) 1:45pm		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
			Riverwoods (Lewisbury) 10am	<b>THANKSGIVING</b>		
27	28	29	30			
			Riverwoods (Lewisbury) 10am			