



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

November 2010

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



There was a time when you rarely encountered the word "socialization" in dog circles. Today it's the buzzword.

A half-century ago dogs did their own socialization. They wandered freely in neighborhoods, accompanied kids to the bus stop, and hung out with their pals all day. They got into occasional scuffles, but they worked it out.

Today our pet-owning population is made up of canine guardians, and many of our four-legged family are kept inside our homes and supervised closely around other dogs. They encounter each other at training class, on-leash greeting or at a dog park.

Behavioral scientists have identified the period from 4 to 14 weeks as the most important window of time for a puppy's socialization. He'll most likely believe the world is a safe and happy place. You must be careful during your socialization efforts that you do not create negative association with the world around him. You need to be sure he's having a great time playing fun games, getting good stuff and protected from scary things while you're teaching him the world is a safe and happy place.

Think of taking your pup to a soccer game where screaming kids can't wait to see your new pup! They run toward the dog screaming and oogling over him. The terrified pup screams, pees and tries to run away. The owner scoops the dog up in her arms further trapping the dog with a child trying to grab to pet him, the dog snaps at the boy. When the Mother smacks the pup for being bad, further traumatizing the dog.

You now have taught the puppy negative association, children are scary, they try to grab your hand and snapping is a successful behavior for making scary hands go away.

Of course, your dog's genetics also influence his behavior and social tendencies. When picking a pup you should always try to see the Mother and Father. If the Mother is fearful and aggressive, pups can learn that behavior from watching how the Mother reacts to humans or environmental stimuli.

Old Friends (Continued)

Don't despair if you adopt from a shelter and know nothing about the dog's genetics. The answer is to super-socialize every single puppy or dog regardless of what you think or know about his genetics.

There's no such thing as overkill. You can't do too much. Pups and dogs who are super-socialized tend to assume that new things they meet in life are safe and good until proven otherwise.

Our dog club members are doing a good job working toward a well-socialized dog. By exposing them to children at reading, nursing homes, parades, and just bringing them to class will give them a lifetime of good behavior around many situations.

"Take chances, make mistakes, That's how you grow."
--Mary Tyler Moore

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (October 5, 2010)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the STDTC was called to order by President Connie Cuff with 24 members present.

Report of the President: I wish to thank everyone who participated at our annual picnic. I think everyone had a good time and the dogs enjoyed themselves. We realized \$95 from the Chinese Auction.

There will be no class on Oct. 26.

There are bathrooms either side of the stage, bags are available for clean up for outside and inside the gym. Also spray and paper towels.

Sally Biddinger's dog Moses passed away recently. He did many pet therapy visits. We purchased two books for the Chief Shikellamy where he did Reading to the Dogs.

I have talked to Marjean Krech and she is doing well after her surgery.

Report of the Secretary: Minutes of previous meeting were approved as written in the September Newsletter.

Treasurers Report:

(Treasurer's Reports are not available in the online edition of the STDTC newsletter.)

Old Business: The Halloween parade is Thurs. Oct. 21. I want everyone to sign up who is participating. We have shirts which we will put dog bones on, so we want everyone to try on the dog's size and we will mark it and give it to you after we iron on the bones. It forms at the Shikellamy High School. I ask everyone to be there by 6:30. If anyone can help decorate, be there by 5. If anyone has anything to add to the float please bring it to class. Also if you want to donate candy for us to pass out you can bring it to class also.

This Sat., we are at Kids Grove in Selinsgrove. Turn off Market St. onto Sassafras to the Grove. Be there by 9:45 AM.

Does anyone wish to order shirts.

New Business: Sometime ago we had explored buying oxygen masks to be used by the Fire Co for pets. I have asked the Upper Augusta Fire Co if they would be interested. The cost is \$49.95 which includes 3 different sizes.

There are 3 dog shows at the Bloomsburg Fair grounds Nov. 5, 6, & 7.

Sally Grottini will be giving the TDI test here on Oct 19

This Thurs. we are at Elmcroft of Lewisburg on Rt 45.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ginny Pentz, Secretary.

Breed of the Month

English Setter

submitted by Connie Cuff

The English Setter is the oldest setter known today. It descended from crossbreeding between the Spanish Pointer, Springer Spaniel and other Water Spaniels. So called because the dog would naturally crouch or set, when it spotted game.

The English Setter came to be seen as having two distinct classes: Laverack's show setters were prized for looks and elegance, while Llewellen's field setters excelled at hunting and field work. It was imported to the United States from England in the latter half of the 19th Century and recognized by the American Kennel Club in 1878.

The breed's standard temperament is best described as a "Gentleman by Nature". However, it can be strong-willed and mischievous. English Setters are energetic, people-oriented dogs that belong in families that can give them attention and activity or be used by a hunter, where they have a job. Two dogs from our club, Pat Campbell's Riley and Katie Flock's Shelby are therapy dogs, and we are glad to have them with us.



English Setters are very intelligent and can be trained to perform about any task, but their natural bird instinct can make it difficult in outdoor environments. Since their temperament is a soft one, they are very sensitive to criticism.

Some of the genetic problems they have are hip and elbow dysplasia, congenital deafness, hypothyroidism and a specific form of cancer.

Having owned two English Setters from the field line, I know what a wonderful breed this is. It did take a lot of work as they did have the hunting instinct. They both received a CGC and one attained a CD title in obedience. As with any breed it is in the amount of time you put into training your dog and a life-time commitment brings many rewards.



Notes and Notices



A big thank you to all who participated in Sunbury's Halloween Parade and donated candy. All our little skeletons had a wonderful time and we couldn't have done it without Kelly, Joe and Laurie's help. We took 3rd place.

Congratulations to the Club for winning the grand prize at the Lewisburg Halloween Parade with our skeletons theme. Great work everyone!

It is time to prepare for our annual Christmas party which will be held at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club on Sunday, Dec. 5 at 5:00pm. We have prepared a new menu this year and are looking forward to an evening of fun and socialization. I would like people who are interested to sign up as soon as possible. Payment will be due by Tues. Nov. 30. The cost is \$17. We always do a silent auction and accept donations of food, toys, etc. for Cheryl Hill's shelter. Items for the silent auction can be any type, does not need to be dog related.

There is a 3-day Dog Show at the Bloomsburg Fair Grounds. Nov. 5,6,7. Anyone interested in seeing a certain breed can check the web site of raudogshows.com and check judging programs to see when they are being shown.

Congratulations to the following who passed the tests for CGC/TDI:

Myra Dietrich with Toby	CGC/TDI
Terry Burns with Bessi	CGC/TDI
Kathi Flock with Shelby	TDI
Elaine Walz with Lettie	CGC

Marjean will be giving the TDI test on Nov. 16. Please let her know if you're interested in doing this.

I need to know who has attained TDI titles with their dogs this year.

Name of person - Name of dog - and Title

Please get this information to Connie as soon as possible

If you are 10 away from completing your title you can also let me know

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Nov. 1 (Mon)	Reading Chief Shikellamy	9:00am
Nov. 2 (Tues)	ELECTION DAY	
Nov. 3 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Nov. 4 (Thurs)	Emmanuel Center, Danville	6:45pm
Nov. 5 (Fri) - Nov. 7 (Sun)	Dog Show, Bloomsburg Fair Grounds (raudogshows.com)	
Nov. 10 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Nov. 11 (Thurs)	VETERANS DAY	
	Northwest Academy	1:00pm
	Life Geisinger	2:00pm
	Shamokin Hospital	2:45pm
Nov. 16 (Tues)	Medium Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only)	12:00pm
	TDI Testing, Selinsgrove Center	6:30pm
Nov. 17 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Nov. 18 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital	1:00pm
	Mansion Nursing Home	2:00pm
	Sunshine Corners	2:45pm
Nov. 22 (Mon)	Health South, Geisinger	2:00pm
Nov. 24 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Nov. 25 (Thurs)	HAPPY THANKSGIVING	
Dec. 1 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Dec. 5 (Sun)	Christmas Party, Susquehanna Valley Country Club	5:00pm

November 2010

October 2010

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31						

November 2010

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December 2010

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26	27	28	29	30	31	

-  US Holidays
-  Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Halloween	1 9:00 AM Reading Chief Shikellamy, Sunbury	2 Election Day 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	3 10:00 AM Riverwoods	4 6:45 PM Emmanuel Center Dog Show	5	6
7 Dog Show Daylight Savings Time Ends	8	9 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	10 10:00 AM Riverwoods	11 Veteran's Day 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 2:45 PM Shamokin Hospital	12	13
14	15	16 12:00 PM Medium Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only) 6:30 PM Beginner Training 6:30 PM TDI Testing 7:15 PM Advanced Training	17 10:00 AM Riverwoods	18 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:45 PM Sunshine Corners	19	20
21	22 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	23 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	24 10:00 AM Riverwoods	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28	29	30 6:30 PM Beginner Training 7:15 PM Advanced Training	1 10:00 AM Riverwoods	2	3	4