



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

October 2007

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Even though we take our dogs to obedience class to train and it is a necessity, there is also the trend that stresses communication with our dogs. When you have developed a rapport with a dog and established realistic expectations, training becomes a lot more fun for both owner and dog.

"We need to be predictable, but not rigid with our pets", says Dr. Karen Overall, director at the U of P Vet Hospital in Philadelphia. When we walk our dogs they do not constantly need to be at heel, let them sniff. We should be able to use our voice and our body to communicate with our dogs.

Dogs thrive on positive training, they like knowing the rules and they want to please you. Humans must take the role of being the "BOSS" but that doesn't mean being an ogre.

Even the most assertive dog feels the sense of calm that comes from clear leadership. By taking charge you are lifting from the shoulder of your pet the burdens of decision making, protection, leadership. He only has to worry about pleasing you. You are quite easy to please, right?

Praise is so important in your canine training. But you must find what level works for you. If you can anticipate your dog's behavior, and praise while manipulating and guiding it, you'll build a positive foundation for a stronger bond.

The sound of your voice is so important in training your dog. Dogs respond by the tone of your voice and how loud you are saying the commands. Dogs don't respond to most words we use for training, but they sure do respond to the way and the tone we use. If you are using your voice by yelling that sounds like you are mad all the time, change your attitude and put more understanding and respect for your dog in the way you speak.

Most dogs will be visibly calmer after a training session than when they are in the middle of testing you or attempting to steal the scepter of power. That struggle causes conflict for the dog. Your assertiveness removes the conflict. Thus daily "discipline" is the kindest gift you can give your dog.

When love and skill work together, expect a masterpiece.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (September 4, 2007)

Submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club was called to order with 30 members present.

Report of President -

- I wish to thank everyone who helped with Riverfest. We made \$40 on dog biscuits and \$6 on donations.
- 4 new members were introduced
- Car magnet decals for TDI members are for sale at cost
- Classes will resume at the Selinsgrove center Tuesday Oct 2nd. Beginners at 6:15 PM and regular at 7:00 PM. For anyone who hasn't been to the Center I have directions here for you.

Minutes of the August meeting were approved as written in the newsletter.

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

New Business - I wish to thank Giant for continued supplying of bags for the stations here at the Marina. There is a new dog tooth cleaner that is an all natural spray. Further information is available at this web site: www.petzlife.com.

A letter from AKC was received mentioning a new program. "DOG SCOUTS OF AMERICA", where the dogs earn badges, some of which are water badges. The closest place is around Carlisle. We are looking into getting a handout card with a picture of dog and owner to hand out to children of reading programs.

Old Business - The PA Pet Walk is Saturday. If anyone would like to do CGC and/or TDI I would appreciate if you would sign up tonight. Our demo is scheduled for 1 PM. Our Club Picnic is Sunday at 1 PM. If you haven't signed up please do so. Please bring a covered dish and an item for the Chinese auction. We will have hotdogs, soda and water.

Thursday, Sept 13th is our demo at McClure. We have free parking passes, be there no later than 6:45 PM

We have TDI visits on Sept 6 at Nottingham Village at 6:45 PM and Sept 13th Northwestern Academy and Shamokin Hospital, Shamokin, 1 & 2 PM respectfully.

We will be starting Reading to the dogs at Chief Shikellamy and as soon as I have more teachers sign up I will be looking for volunteers.

Linda Bennett is meeting with the Union County Library and when they receive the number of students for the reading program people can sign up to be paired with a child.

In October we will be doing the reading program at White Deer Elementary and that is on a Wednesday morning at 9 AM.

Breed of the Month

Lhasa Apso

submitted by Connie Cuff

The breed's history extends back as far as the seventh century. Lhasas take their name from the capital the Tibet, where they served as personal companions and guard dogs for monks because of their keen hearing and instinctive reaction to strangers.

The breed was introduced to the US in the early 1930's and was admitted to the terrier group. In 1959, Lhasas joined ton non-sporting group.

These dogs draw people to this small but hardy dog but they tend to be leaders and will take the alpha role if they don't have a strong leader as alpha. They need the kind of training a big dog needs.

Since they have little tolerance for what they view as mistreatment from small children , one must be aware that this can lead to biting incidents and subsequent abandonment by owners.

Their most attractive characteristics are extreme loyalty, high intelligence and their sense of considering themselves your equal. Since the breed comes form a live-ordie environment, don't baby these dogs. They're small dogs that think like big dogs.

Lhasa owners must be avid groomers. The dog will need a bath every 1 - 2 weeks and a daily brushing. Some owners tend to keep their dogs in a shorter cut.

Health conditions common to the breed are progressive retinal atrophy, kidney ailments, allergic skin reactions and dislocated kneecap.

If you select the dog as your companion, socialize, train and groom your Lhasa and you'll reap the reward - a loyal, obedient little lion dog that protects its territory and wants to be close to you.



to

A Dog's Purpose

submitted by Kelly Pastuszek

A Dog's Purpose (from a 6-year-old)

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife, Lisa, and their little boy, Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home.

As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away.

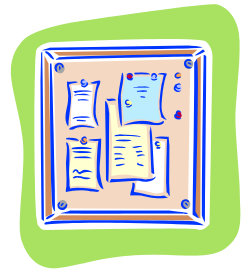
The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why."

Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."



Notes and Notices



I wish to thank the members who made the trip to the McClure Bean Soup - Sally Biddinger, Joe and Kelly Pastuszek, Barbara Minick, Marjean Krech, Barbie Laughman, Joan Haire-Campbell, Ginny Pentz, Josette Zielinski, Everyone did a great job and we all got to taste the famous "bean soup".

We begin our classes at the Selinsgrove Center, Tuesday, Oct. 2nd. Beginners at 6:15 PM and regular classes at 7:00 PM Being indoors we can work our dogs off leash and we will try to have more games for the dogs.

One of our requirements for using the Center is to visit with the residents. Since their dances are in the main building Tuesday evening I will have people sign up for 1/2 hour from 6:30 - 7:00 PM twice a month.

We have started a reading program at Chief Shikellamy, Sunbury on Mondays at 9:00 AM. If anyone is interested, please call Connie as we are scheduled ahead of time with a grade.

The second Thursday of the month we now visit Northwestern Academy, a facility for troubled youth, in Shamokin at 1:00 PM. The facility is located on Rt. 61 between Shamokin and Kulpmont just past the Wal-Mart store turning right off Rt 61 you continue to straight for 1 mile. Our first visit went very well and they are looking forward to our return. We leave there and got to Shamokin Hospital at 2:00 PM.

The Sunbury Halloween Parade is Thursday Oct. 18th. Our theme will be the **Red Hot Dogs**. I have purchased red baseball caps for us to wear and we should dress the dogs as well. There are red bandanas to use on the dogs and try to get your dog to wear a red hat. Please let Connie know if you will participate. The parade forms in front of the Shikellamy High School on Walnut Street. Parking is in their parking lot. You must come onto Walnut from the Front Street side as it will be blocked off at 10th Street and you will not be able to reach the High School. Be there no later than 6:30 PM since the parade begins at 7:00 PM and we are at the beginning.

Our reading program at the White Deer Elementary begins Wednesday, October 3rd at 9:00AM. Please check the calendar for the dates. Anyone interested, please let Connie know the day before so Ann Trudnak can schedule the reading dogs with teachers.

We begin our visits at Bucknell University this month. I have a tablet at class and would appreciate if anyone who intends to participate would sign up so we know the number of dogs that will be visiting.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Oct 1 (Mon)	Reading Chief Shikellamy Sunbury	9:00am
Oct 2 (Tuesday)	CLASSES RESUME AT SELINGROVE CENTER Beginners—6:15pm / Regular—7:00pm	
Oct 3 (Wed)	Reading White Deer Elementary	9:00am
Oct 4 (Thurs)	Maria Joseph Manor Danville	6:45pm
Oct 11 (Thurs)	Outlook Pointe Lewisburg	6:45pm
Oct 14 (Sun)	Susquehanna Valley Mall Outside Bon-ton Entrance to mall (Parking Lot area) DEMO	12:15pm
Oct 17 (Wed)	Reading White Deer Elementary	9:00am
Oct 18 (Thurs)	Sunbury Halloween Parade Meet in front of the High School	6:30pm
Oct 22 (Mon)	Reading Chief Shikellamy Sunbury	9:00am
Oct 29 (Mon)	Bucknell University Lewisburg	6:00pm—7:00pm
Oct 31 (Wed)	Reading White Deer Elementary	9:00am
Nov 1 (Thurs)	Penn Lutheran Village Selinsgrove	6:45pm
Dec 3 (Mon)	Bucknell University Lewisburg	6:00pm—7:00pm

**UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES
(CONTINUED)**

<u>Every Wednesday</u>	Riverwoods Lewisburg, PA	10:00am
<u>2nd Thursday</u>	Shamokin Hospital	2:00pm
<u>3rd Thursday</u>	Sunbury Community Hospital	1:00-1:30pm
	Mansion Nursing Home, Market St., Sunbury	1:45pm
	Sunshine Corners, Market St., Sunbury	2:15pm
<u>Last Thursday</u>	Geisinger Rehab—Health South	2:00-3:00pm

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