



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

October 2009

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



How many times have our dogs nudged their noses at our hand, "I want you to pet me NOW". As much as you are reluctant to reinforce demand behaviors, your hand drops and you scratch him briefly behind the ears.

You are setting on the couch, your dog waves his paws, "I want up, NOW". Because he's so cute you encourage him to sit up next to you.

These are "demand behaviors" frowned upon in the dog training world. What's perfectly appropriate to one dog-person may be annoying to the next.

A dog's mission in life is to make his world work for him; his goal is to get as much good stuff as possible. He spends a good part of his time figuring out how to manipulate his humans into making good stuff happen.

Every moment you are with your dog, one of you is training the other. Your relationship with your dog is more successful if you are the trainer more often than the trainee.

We as the trainer must pay attention to what our dogs are doing and reinforcing behavior we like and not reinforcing those we don't.

For an example, when your dog comes to you to be petted, try to notice and pet him before he nudges you. And then give a cue such as "enough" or "that's all" when petting is done. If your dog continues to bother you, say "Oops!". The more often a pushy behavior does get reinforced the more likely your dog will decide it's a successful strategy and he will be more persistent the next time.

If your dog jumps up, say "Oops!" and turn away. If he persists, walk away, perhaps through a door, and close the door behind you. Or practice on a tether so he can't follow you.

Consistency is vitally important and you get to choose which behaviors you want to reinforce. Your dog will be the least frustrated if you remember that negative punishment works best when it's followed by positive reinforcement for a desirable behavior.

All of this training only works when every member of the household participates in making it work.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (September 1, 2009)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the STDTC was called to order by Pres. Connie Cuff with 34 members present.

Report of President

New members were introduced:

Nan Ruhl of Mifflinburg with her Bernese Mt. dog
Pamela Richardson of Selinsgrove with Tucker
Lindsey Lerch of Elysburg with her Golden Retriever.

Connie Cuff has just picked up clean-up bags for the Marina from Giant Foods who graciously donate them as a donation for our club. 1 box costs \$31 and so far this year they have donated 4 boxes.

Report of Secretary

Minutes of the August 2009 meeting were approved as written in the September Newsletter.

Report of the Treasurer

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

New Business

Be sure to sign up for our picnic Sept. 27.

We will start classes at 6 & 6:45 PM because of darkness. Check e-mail and the web site as to when we will be moving back to the center, Connie has signed our new contract.

Connie would like to keep up with our square dancing, and help new people who would like to participate, its really fun and easy. Each week I will try to work on the square dancing, so when we have an activity we are prepared.

Old business

Thanks to all who participated at the Read across America and Northumberland County Expo. Those who made dog bones, donated the basket and Sue Heemstra who made dog scarves.

TDI Visits

This week we have Emmanuel Center on Thursday. You can participate even though you don't have TDI. Just make sure your dog behaves well.

Meeting adjourned.

Breed of the Month

Doberman

submitted by Connie Cuff

Intelligent, agile, courageous, the breed was developed primarily for guard work in Germany a little over a century ago. The breed has done consistently well in conformation, obedience, agility, tracking and schutzhund competition.

Karl Friedrich Louis Doberman of Apolda, Germany is considered the father of the breed. As a tax official, police officer, and dog-catcher, he often took his dog along for protection on his night rounds. He bred selective dogs from 1860 to 1890 and produced dogs like the Dobe today.

Dobermans require much mental and physical exercise and thrive on daily walks whether they live in the country or city. These dogs are not good for people too busy to give enough attention. Conscientious breeders have stabilized their temperament so they're not the unpredictable beasts urban myth has portrayed, and people are more understanding that the breed is not vicious as perceived years ago.

The Dobe's appearance easily attracts attention. The shiny short coat is most often black or red, but may be fawn or blue, all with characteristic rust markings on feet, legs, chest and head. Potential buyers should make sure both parents have good temperament and are health tested for genetic problems. The inherited diseases include hip dysplasia, Von Willebrand's disease, bloat, liver disease, hypothyroidism and cancers.

Despite their rough reputation, most Dobs are softies about personal comfort. As one owner stated, "her dog needs no training about rain, he won't even stick his nose out the door".

We are glad to have Cal Arter, a TDI evaluator, as a member of our club from Lock Haven with his Doberman, who recently passed his TDI test. Cal spends winters in Lakeland, Florida where he works with the SPCA and does therapy work in hospitals and nursing homes.





Notes and Notices



Our picnic was a great success. The weather didn't dampen the day and we all enjoyed good food, an excellent Chinese Auction and the dogs had fun playing games thanks to Sara Fry. Our team winners were Haven to Home and the Danville SPCA. We made a donation to them of \$25 each from our profit of \$110.

Also thanks to Ginny Pentz for cooking and helping with the Chinese Auction, the DeLong girls (our runners) and Kelly and Joe Pastuszek for the grill and cooking supplies and Cecilia Margani for her donation of dog beds and pet dog bags. We will have recipes from our picnic posted on the web site for everyone to enjoy.

Now that we have returned to the Selinsgrove Center, I am looking forward to training indoors and having our dogs off leash for our activities. The games that Sarah introduced at our picnic will be part of our training sessions.

Our annual Sunbury Halloween Parade activity will be Thursday, October 22nd. Our theme this year is what we do – Therapy Dogs. We will be decorating a float with a hospital bed, prison visit, school visit and Bucknell University. We would like to have a nice turn out and if you intend to participate, please sign up. We will need people on the float, including children. I would like everyone there by 6:15 pm. It forms at Walnut Street in front of the High School and moves down 10th Street to Weis Markets on North Fourth Street. This year the line up is first come first serve, so we are hoping to get the float there early so we can be at the beginning of the parade. If you have any questions, call Connie. Rain date is October 23rd.

It has been brought to my attention about a product Pet Tabs, a vitamin supplement for cats and dogs which has found to contain high levels of lead. They are made by Pfizer or Virbac. This report comes from Consumer Labs. If your dog shows clinical signs you may want to mention this to your veterinarian if you have been using this product.

There is a two day show at the Bloomsburg Fair Grounds run by the Back Mountain Kennel Club, Saturday, October 31 and Sunday, November 1st, which includes Breed, Obedience and Rally. Friday, October 30th, the Bald Eagle Kennel Club will have an all Breed Show.

Food for Thought

submitted by Marjean Krech

“Oh but Doctor, he only gets a couple of treats every day. That’s OK, right?”

Well, it’s all relative. Who’s getting the treat? A Chihuahua or a Mastiff? A kitten or a mature Maine Coon?

Hill’s, the pet food company, has some interesting numbers when it comes to pet treats:

- For a 20 pound dog, 1 small oatmeal cookie is the caloric equivalent of 1 hamburger or 1 entire chocolate bar for a person.
- If a 10 pound cat ate just 1 ounce of cheddar cheese, it would be the same as if a person ate 3 1/2 hamburgers or 4 entire chocolate bars.
- For a 20 pound dog, eating just 1 hotdog is the same as a person consuming 3 entire hamburgers or 3 chocolate bars.
- Just 1 potato chip for a 10 pound cat is the caloric equivalent of 1/2 hamburger or 1/2 chocolate bar for a person.
- One ounce of cheddar cheese given to a 20 pound dog has the same number of calories as 2 1/2 hamburgers or 5 1/2 chocolate bars for a person.
- For a 10 pound cat, 1 cup of milk has the same number of calories as 4 1/2 hamburgers or 1 1/2 chocolate bar for a person.

So please remember: it’s all relative.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Oct. 5 (Mon)	Reading Chief Shikellamy	9:00am
Oct. 7 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Oct. 8 (Thurs)	Northwest Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital	1:00pm 2:00pm 3:00pm
Oct. 12 (Mon)	COLUMBUS DAY!	
Oct. 14 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Oct. 15 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm
Oct. 20 (Tues)	Allenwood Medium Prison (memo members only)	12:00pm
Oct. 21 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Oct. 22 (Thurs)	Sunbury Halloween Parade Walnut Street f/o High School Rain Date Oct. 23rd	6:15pm
Oct. 26 (Mon)	Reading, Chief Shikellamy	9:00am
Oct. 28 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Oct. 29 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00pm
Nov. 3 (Tues)	ELECTION DAY!	
Nov. 4 (Wed)	Riverwoods Bucknell University (TDI only)	10:00am 6:00pm
Nov. 5 (Thurs)	Penn Lutheran Village Selinsgrove	6:45pm

Newsletter coordinator: Brandon Pastuszek

E-mail: brandon@stdtc.org

Club web site: <http://www.stdtc.org>

October 2009

September 2009

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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27	28	29	30			

October 2009

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November 2009

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

■ US Holidays

■ Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 ■ 1:00 PM Club Picnic (Pavilion 2)	28 ■ 6:00 PM Bucknell University-Coleman Hall, TDI only	29 ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training	30 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	1 ■ 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy ■ 2:00 PM Life Geisinger ■ 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital	2	3
4	5 ■ 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy - TDI ONLY)	6 ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training	7 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	8 ■ 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy ■ 2:00 PM Life Geisinger ■ 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital	9	10
11	12 ■ Columbus Day	13 ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training	14 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	15 ■ 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital ■ 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home ■ 2:15 PM Sunshine Corners	16	17
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