



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

October 2011

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



In training our dogs they not only absorb sound, but tone and visual cues, as well.

Many times people ask me "Will you train my dog?" I reply, "No, I will train you to train your dog."

Dogs draw on all kinds of information when we give a command: speech, body language, even by looking at facial expressions. Whatever is learned comes from the repetition of the word or sound, and then the association the dog makes with the related thing or action.

When we train a new behavior a dog will learn what works and what doesn't by their response to our command. If he hears "good boy" and gets a treat or affection, he knows that's right. On the other hand, if he jumps on you and hears the word "no" and is pushed away that's wrong.

Lets assume your dog does not deserve the severity of "no" and we introduce the word "wrong". If you start saying the word "wrong" in a normal tone of voice when Fido makes a mistake, it will take on the meaning "why don't we try it again".

This tells the dog that there was something wrong with the behavior and to get the prize he has to try it again. Unlike "no", which tends to reduce the chance that Fido will play the game.

Instead of repeating the command such as "sit" three or four times, say wrong, turn your back and walk away. The dog is now trying to figure out what went "wrong" Ask him to "sit" again. If his response is better, praise him and treat.

While the average dog can connect signals and reinforcements in a few repetitions "wrong" is more difficult for a dog to understand. Expect some time for the dog to understand this new command and try to use it sparingly at first.

Be sure to reward any improvement in Fido's performance when using the word "wrong" meaning his training will continue.

Old Friends (Continued)

Developing tools that aid in communication with our dogs and reducing the need for punishment can make learning a fun and positive experience for you and your pet. Sometimes learning it "wrong" can get you on the right track.

"Do not let what you cannot do interfere with what you can do"

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (September 6, 2011)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of the STDTC was called to order by Pres. Connie Cuff.

Report of the President: Our picnic will be held on Sun., Sept. 25 at 1PM. Please sign up by Tues., Sept 20 since I need to know the amount of people coming to order hot dogs and soda. Don't forget the Chinese Auction.

I wish to thank everyone who participated at the Northumberland County Fair. I know they appreciated it. Everyone including the dogs had a great time at Doggie Dips, many thanks for those who made dog bones - we realized \$36.00.

Report of the Secretary: Aug. minutes were approved as written in the Sept. newsletter.

Report of the Treasurer:

(Treasurer's Reports are unavailable in the online edition of the STDTC newsletter.)

New Business: I have been asked to set up a booth at the Sunbury Animal Hospital Fall Festival on Sun., Oct 3rd from 11 to 3PM. I will have dogs there for petting, literature to hand out and information on TDI/CGC. Please sign up and come.

We will be participating at the Sr Expo at the Sunbury YMCA on Oct 20 from 9AM to Noon. Anyone who has the time to bring their dogs and talk to the Seniors would be appreciated. We also will be doing our square dance.

The Sunbury Halloween Parade will be here before we know it. Laurie Cooper has been busy with her ideas on a pirate theme. I have a sign up for those who will be with us that evening so we can coordinate our outfits for ourselves and the dogs. If anyone was in last year's parade and have the black shirts we used, bring them to class.

There are new rules for training at the Center. You must sign in each week. I will have a printed sheet and all you need to do is check it off. I must turn the sheet in after class at the office. Please sign my yellow sheet as well so I have a record.

TDI rules no martingale collars! Buckle and harness only. Using food for visits, only for tricks.

Therapy Visits: Sept. 19th Emmanuel Center, Danville 6:30pm
Oct. 6th Vintage Knolls, Danville, Demo 6:30pm

Meeting Adjourned.
Respectfully Submitted,
Ginny Pentz, Secretary

Breed of the Month

Irish Setter

submitted by Connie Cuff

Fun-loving, adventurous, Irish Setters need equally energetic owners who'll give them plenty of exercise. If no one is around to show an Irish Setter a good time, it'll make its own fun.

The Irish Setter's scarlet coat makes it one of the showiest members of the Sporting Group. In the show ring Judges look for traits that reflect the breed's original purpose as a gun dog. Though the breed rarely competes in field trials, where competitors favor Pointers and English Setters, they find competition in hunt tests and excel in obedience.

The original Irish Setters of the 18th Century were different looking than the Setter of today; they were a mix between Irish Water Spaniel and Irish Terrier or English Setter, Spaniel and Terrier. The Red Setter developed in Ireland 100 years later and became the preferred breed for aristocrats because of their beauty.



In the 1970's when the Disney movie "Big Red" and President Nixon's dog King Timahoe were popular it began a surge in the breed which caused a population explosion. This caused problems with more people concerned about profit without regard to health and temperament.

Puppyhood for an Irish Setter tends to last until they are 2 to 3 years old. Once they've gotten through that wild and wooly puppy stage, they usually settle down to become calm and trustworthy dogs.

To have a well-behaved adult you must invest time and energy in training. Love tempered with firmness, never harshness or cruelty, is the wise owner's way of schooling an Irish.

Epilepsy, hip dysplasia, thyroid disorders and bloat can occur in Irish Setters. Buying your Irish from a reputable breeder can help insure you get a healthy dog.

Every Irish Setter is a champion in the eyes of those who love this charismatic sometimes mischievous dog. As one owner commented: "God made 'em good, but sometimes they have the devil in 'em. Kelly Pastuszek can share with you stories as a one-time owner of an Irish Setter.-



Notes and Notices



Our annual picnic was a huge success. The weather was perfect and food delicious as always. Thanks to Sara Fry, the dogs enjoyed their Olympic games, Ginny and Jim for doing the Chinese Auction which brought in \$107.00 and Kelly and Joe for doing the cooking. It was a wonderful time for all of us to share our love for our dogs.

What a surprise it was for me to receive the Citation from the House of Representatives presented to me by Representative Lynda Schlegel Culver. This award means so much to me and I could not have achieved it without the love and support of all the members. A big thank you to all of you.

We have begun our classes at the Selinsgrove Center with advanced beginning at 6:30pm and beginners, CGC/TDI training at 7:30pm We are required to sign in each week as a log is kept at the Center office for all who attend classes.

The Sunbury Halloween parade will be held on Thursday, Oct. 20, (rain date Fri. Oct.21) and Laurie Cooper is busy making plans for our Pirate theme. Anyone who is interested in participating, please let us know as we are coordinating our outfits for ourselves and the dogs. If you do not care to walk we will have a float for riders. We will distribute candy throughout the parade and will take donations if anyone cares to donate.

There is an Agility Show being held at the Sports Zone in Northumberland on Sat. and Sun. Oct. 8 & 9. One of our members, Don Wilkinson, will be participating with his dog Jada. If anyone is interested, you may enjoy seeing this event.

Anyone who attended the Doggie Dips at the Lewisburg Pool with their dog, I'm sure enjoyed a fun time. The dogs had a lot of exercise and socialization which is a plus in training our dogs. Hope more can join us next year.

There was a white sweater left at class at the Marina. Please let me know if it is yours.

There is a new program at Bucknell called Canine Romps. You can schedule to have a student walk or play with your dog. This will match up dog-less or dog-crazed Bucknellians for walks. A small donation for a local dog rescue is appreciated but not necessary. Dogs and walkers must be pre-approved. If anyone is interested email Students Helping Animals at its001@bucknell.edu.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Oct. 2 (Sun)	Fall Festival, Sunbury Animal Hospital	11am-3pm
Oct. 5 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Oct. 6 (Thurs)	Vintage Knolls, Danville, Demo & Visit	6:30pm
Oct. 8, 9 (Sat & Sun)	Agility Show, Sports Zone, Northumberland	
Oct. 12 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Oct. 13 (Thurs)	Northwestern Academy	1:00pm
	Life Geisinger	2:00pm
	Shamokin Hospital	3:00pm
Oct. 19 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Oct. 20 (Thurs)	Sr. Expo, YMCA Sunbury	9am - 12 noon
	Sunbury Halloween Parade forming across	6:00pm
	From Sunbury High School, Walnut St.	
Oct. 25 (Tues)	Medium Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only)	12:00pm
Oct. 26 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Oct. 27 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00pm
Nov. 3 (Thurs)	Grayson View, Selinsgrove	6:30pm

October 2011

September 2011

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October 2011

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- US Holidays
- Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 1:00 PM Club Picnic (Shikellamy Marina)	26 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	27 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	28 10:00 AM Riverwoods	29 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	30	1
2 11:00 AM Fall Festival Sun-bury Animal Hospital	3 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	4 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	5 10:00 AM Riverwoods	6 6:30 PM Vintage Knolls (Demo/Visit)	7 Agility Show, Sports Zone	8
9 Agility Show, Sports Zone	10 Columbus Day	11 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	12 10:00 AM Riverwoods	13 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital	14	15
16	17 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	18 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	19 10:00 AM Riverwoods	20 9:00 AM Sr. Expo, YMCA 6:00 PM Sunbury Halloween Parade	21	22
23	24 12:00 PM Medium Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only) 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	25 12:00 PM Medium Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only) 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	26 10:00 AM Riverwoods	27 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	28	29
30 Halloween	31 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	1 6:30 PM Advanced Training 7:30 PM Beginner Training	2 10:00 AM Riverwoods	3 6:30 PM Grayson View, Selinsgrove	4	5