



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

October 2012

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



When did people first start training dogs? It is almost certain, however, that people trained dogs long before the time of Christ. Reliable information places hunting and guarding dogs in Turkey in 3000B.C. There is also artwork of hunting dogs from the same period in the Ankara Museum. Although artwork seems to indicate that training did take place in ancient Egypt we must remember that the dog was regarded as god - and it is poor form to tell a god

what to do!

For the most part, dog training began in a more formal way toward the end of the Middle Ages, when royalty began spending inordinate sums of money on dogs. It was about this time that dogs began living in the house, which was a major step forward in increasing our bond. It is said that the Poodle was the first breed to enter the household because of the non-shedding quality of its coat.

In this country's earliest history it was important to use dogs to keep predators away from livestock. This created training for herding. Sport hunting followed and grew into dog shows which evolved into obedience trials and other competitions. All the while dogs were destined to be at our feet and indoors. But when dogs entered the house it was strange land with different rules and requirements.

In the 1920's, there was a growing demand for pet dog training and many German immigrants filled the need with their early experience of training war dogs during World War I.

In the 1930's, obedience competition began with an increase in dog training thru to the 1990's. Early training used corrective measures, but in recent years a newer approach advocating "total positive reinforcement" has been introduced.

Training with a well-behaved combination of methods, and always open to new ideas, will keep the flow going and help foster good training methods and techniques.

### Old Friends (Continued)

The one factor that will safeguard the dog's position in society is their unswerving love and devotion that makes it a prized possession, and dogs along with training will always be with us.

Tips from Marjean:

CAPTURE behaviors you like. When you are with your dog, pay attention to what she is doing. Whenever she does something you like, reinforce her. This is called CAPTURING and it is easy, fun and effective, too! Using praise will make it easy for your dog to understand.

If you want to train a new trick/behavior, CAPTURE the action with immediate praise and then give a reward. At first your dog will be surprised by this new game, but it won't take long for her to figure out she can get you to praise and treat by doing certain things. Try to praise while your dog is doing the behavior, not after she has finished.

To make it a challenge for yourself, count out a number of treats and try to use them all in one day for the behavior you are trying to capture. When the dog has caught on to do the behavior to get you to give them praise and a treat, you can name it - yawn, sneeze, stretch, cross your paws (while lying down) and best of all "watch me"! Then you can start saying the cue word as your dog begins the behavior, then try giving the cue to get the dog to perform it.

Till next time,

*Connie*

## **Minutes (September 4, 2012)**

submitted by Karen Sodrick

### **Report of the President**

Now that classes are at the Center everyone must be sure to sign the form every week so that there is a record of attendance.

Picnic is Sept. 23rd. Please sign up.

Dogs that are reactive to other dogs and/or people should wear a red scarf at class so that new dogs and owners know to give them some space.

**Secretary report:** In the newsletter.

### **Treasurer report:**

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

### **New Business:**

Karen Sodrick will take over as recording secretary and Kelly Pastuszek will keep membership and medical records. Many thanks to Ginny Pentz for her years of service.

Reminder that Marjean's training tips will be included in the newsletter and Sherry Carpenter's blog is online also.

We will again be in the Sunbury Halloween parade October 18th. Please sign up if you plan to be in it.

Please be careful driving on the grounds of the Selinsgrove Center as clients are out and about in the evening.

There is a visit to Emmanuel Center Thursday at 6:30 and we will be meeting with children in foster care at Knoebel's Grove on Sunday at 1:30 at Pavilion D.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Sodrick

## **The Magic of Myth**

submitted by Connie Cuff

In legend and lore, the allure of dogs has reached mystic proportions throughout the ages.

It's natural to want to know where our oldest fables came from:

The father of our race, Noah, took two Afghans aboard the ark. During the 40 days and 40 nights of the voyage, the ark sprung a few leaks. Noah was able to plug most of them, but a few he couldn't stop, so he appealed to his faithful Afghans. They stopped the leaks by putting their long muzzle in the holes, which explains why all dogs have wet noses to this day.

Dog guardians in our oldest tales often listen to the music of the cosmos. In fact, the Kuvasz, whose lineage extends back to ancient Sumaria, is known for barking at the stars - the heavenly body known as the Dog Star.

The Sumerian myth of Sirius, the "Dog Star" explains that when the constellation was observed in the night sky, the Nile would soon overflow. The people knew it was time to move their flocks to higher pasture and they would watch the great river nourish another year's crop. Thus a canine guardian was affixed in the heavens as a permanent dog angel over humanity.

The presence of the Dog Star is seen in Native American lore in the form of trickster dogs. In Roman myths, the dog days of summer were heralded by the Dog Star.

Indeed, modern myths insist that the dog's power is visible in its physical presence. Breed standards, which can be said to embody Aesop's saying, "What is bred in the bone will come out in the flesh", may thus enter the world of mythology. Buried deep within each breed's history are thousands of years of human thinking. But beyond bloodlines, dogs have the mark of God, the power of enchantment, the face of nobility, and the strength and determination of action heroes.



## Notes and Notices



We have started classes at the Selinsgrove Center and it is a nice change to be working inside. Dogs will get used to a new environment and noise so we must stay positive in our training. Please keep your eyes on your dog as you socialize since we have new dogs and we do not want them to have a bad experience. Everyone is considered a trainer in the club so we are here to help one another.

Everyone enjoyed a lovely day at our picnic. The food, games for dogs (thanks to Sara) and our Chinese Auction (\$98 profit) were a huge success. Thank you to everyone who came.

I will be participating in the Fall Festival at the Sunbury Animal Hospital on Sunday, Oct. 7 from 11am to 3pm. If anyone can help me that day I would appreciate it. I will have a table with literature and our dogs will be there for petting.

Please mark your calendar for Thurs. Oct. 18 for the annual Sunbury Halloween Parade. We have chosen our theme as “jail house dogs”. The dogs will be costumed as jail birds, and if anyone has access to a police uniform we would like to have us as officers. The inmates at the Medium Prison at Allenwood have offered to construct a make shift cell for our float. We’ll keep everyone informed at class and I will have a sign-up sheet for participants.

There will be a Blessing of the Animals at the First Lutheran Church in Mifflinburg (front lawn) on Sat. Oct. 13 at 10:30am. Anyone interested is asked to bring a ‘just in case’ bag and an offering that will go to a local animal rescue.

Mark your calendars for Sat. Nov. 10 as I will be attending the Senior Expo at the Shikellamy High for Lynda Schlegel Culver with our dogs for petting and literature will be available. Also, Sunday Dec. 2 for our annual Christmas party at the Susquehanna Valley Country Club.

**Coconut Oil Benefits for your Dog’s Health.** It is used as a nutritional supplement for overall health because of its infection fighting properties. It has improved coat condition and reduced allergies. Dogs with digestive disorders are often healed and nutrients are absorbed better due to improved digestion. Despite its reputation for being high in cholesterol, dogs with coconut oil in their diets actually experience improved cholesterol levels. More information is available on the computer.

The pool swims at the Lewisburg pool were a wonderful experience for our dogs. Thanks to Katie Davis for coordinating this great event.

## UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>Oct. 3 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Oct. 7 (Sun)</b>	<b>Sunbury Animal Hospital Fall Festival</b>	<b>11:00am - 3:00pm</b>
<b>Oct. 10 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Oct. 11 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Northwestern Academy</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
	<b>Life Geisinger</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>
	<b>Shamokin Hospital</b>	<b>3:00pm</b>
<b>Oct. 15 (Mon)</b>	<b>Nottingham Village, Northumberland</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Oct. 17 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Oct. 18 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Sunbury Community Hospital</b> <b>(no visit at Mansion or Sunshine Corners)</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
	<b>Sunbury Halloween Parade (time and location to be announced)</b>	
<b>Oct. 23 (Tues)</b>	<b>Medium Prison, Allenwood, (NCIC only)</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>
<b>Oct. 24 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Oct. 25 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Geisinger Rehab, Health South</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>
<b>Oct. 31 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Nov. 1 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Grayson View, Selinsgrove</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>

# October 2012

September 2012

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October 2012

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November 2012

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■ Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club  
 ■ US Holidays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2 ■ 6:15 PM Training ■ 7:00 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:00 PM CCG/TDI Training	3 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	4	5	6
7 ■ 11:00 AM Sunbury Animal Hospital Fall Festival	8 ■ Columbus Day	9 ■ 6:15 PM Training ■ 7:00 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:00 PM CCG/TDI Training	10 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	11 ■ 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy ■ 2:00 PM Life Geisinger ■ 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital	12	13
14	15 ■ 6:30 PM Nottingham Village, Northumberland	16 ■ 6:15 PM Training ■ 7:00 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:00 PM CCG/TDI Training	17 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	18 ■ Sunbury Halloween Parade ■ 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital	19	20
21	22	23 ■ 12:00 PM Medium Prison, Allenwood, (NCIC only) ■ 6:15 PM Training ■ 7:00 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:00 PM CCG/TDI Training	24 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	25 ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	26	27
28	29	30 ■ 6:15 PM Training ■ 7:00 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:00 PM CCG/TDI Training	31 ■ Halloween ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	1 ■ 6:30 PM Grayson View, Selingsgrove	2	3