



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

October 2013

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Lets decipher the way dogs express happiness.

Wagging tail - Does it indicate a happy dog? Not always. What it simply means is "I am ready to interact". Some wagging tails signal could mean I'm ready to bite. You can trust a wagging body but never a wagging tail. With the 'happy' tail wag comes the rear-end wag, shoulder wag and even a head wag. A dog who is considered aggressive will tend to hold his head high with a slower wag, stiff body and shift his weight forward.

We have the "play bow" - It is the ultimate gesture of friendliness from the dog's perspective. It is intended for playful interaction. A play face and smiling often accompany the play bow.

Then there is the "body wiggle" which is a green light and often accompanies a "play bow". Jumping, bouncing and running in jerky movements is an invite for play. At the dog park I see Cagney backing up to a dog with his welcome to play.

Two dogs may display different signs of happiness. As an example, an English Bull Dog is less able to make exaggerated facial expressions. Bloodhounds and Mastiffs express more with their eyes (check out Bo when he comes to class).

Jane Shaw, DVM at Colorado State Veterinary School claims the most expressive breeds are the Golden and Labrador Retrievers. "I'd definitely call them the 'Happiness Spokesdogs' for the species". (Cagney fits this category well)

Sharing happy moments with your dog is priceless but at some point you may need to interpret your dog's behavior. People who are around dogs should learn canine language and respect what a dog says - it's a safety issue for all who interact with dogs.

Keep this in mind when you come to class or visit a Dog Park. We need to read these behaviors correctly for the safety of ourselves and our dogs.

Till next time,

*Connie*

## **Minutes (September 3, 2013)**

submitted by Kelly Pastuszek

Meeting of the STDTC will come to order.

### Report of the President:

As I announced in my Newsletter, advanced classes will begin at 6:00pm and beginners at 7:00. Once I move to the Selinsgrove Center I will go back to the old schedule.

If anyone has not signed up for the Club picnic, you need to do so as I need a count to order hot dogs and soda.

I have enjoyed training here at the Shikellamy State Park Marina and the staff here have always been very gracious in allowing us to be here. I will be sending them a note acknowledging this. If at anytime you run into staff here, please let them know what a good job they do in keeping up with the park.

How many people are interested in doing the Sunbury Halloween Parade? Also, I would like suggestions as to what we can use as a theme.

The Pet Costume Contest went well at the Northumberland County Fair with many entries, dogs, cats, sheep, llamas. One of our members, Phil Hallden took third place with Sage & Tucker.

I have heard from Sally Grottini and she and Peter, Emma and Brody have arrived safely in Minneapolis. She will up-date us on her future ventures.

### Upcoming Activities:

Sunday Sept. 8 a swim at Knoebels Grove from 11am to 2pm.

Swimming at the Lewisburg Pool Sat. Sept. 14 and Wed. Sept. 18 from 4 to 7:30pm

Rail to Trail walk on the Buffalo Valley Rail Trail Sept. 21 starting at 9:30am

On Mon. Sept. 9 from 6pm to 8pm we are at the Bucknell Library. Please let me know if you plan to attend.



## Notes and Notices



Those that attended our Club Picnic enjoyed good food, games for our dogs and a Chinese Auction with a nice variety of items. We realized \$83 which paid for the Pavilion rental. I want to thank everyone who helped make this a great day for us and our best friend.

We will be participating in the Sunbury and Northumberland Halloween Parades. Our theme is Country. If anyone has anything to add to the float, please let me know. Also, we will need candy to pass out and would appreciate some donations for the parade. Our dogs will be dressed as farm animals or have plaid shirts. I have cowboy hats for us to use. Looking forward to a fun night with our club members and dogs. Sunbury Parade is Thursday Oct. 17. Please meet behind the Shikellamy High School between 6:15 and 6:30. The Parade begins promptly at 7:00 and we will be at the beginning. (We will announce the date for the Northumberland Parade as soon as it is confirmed.)

We welcome new members:

Stacey Powell from W. Milton with 3 Golden Retrievers

Amy Frost from Selinsgrove with a Terrier Mix, Freddie

Please sign up to be at the Fall Festival at the Sunbury Animal Hospital. We will have our dogs there to socialize and pet along with a table of literature. The date is Sunday Oct. 20 from 11:00am to 3:00 pm.

Our sympathies to Kelly & Joe Pastuszek with the loss of their beloved Hannah. She was a visitor at the Geisinger Children's Hospital and spent many years as a Therapy Dog. She joins her friend Kira who left us a few months ago.

A note to those of you that use dried kibble for your dogs Dry food is packed with oils that go rancid with exposure to air. To keep dry food fresh, nutritious and safe:

Buy only the amount of food your dog eats in a month.

Check the bag's "best by" date and write down the date you open the bag.

Keep the food in its original packaging because it's engineered to retain freshness and protect nutrients. This is useful in case of a recall.

Roll the top of the bag down as tight as possible and clip it shut to minimize air exposure.

Put the whole dog food bag into a container with an airtight seal for added freshness.

Store food in a cool, dry place below 70 degrees F.

## UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>Oct. 2 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Oct. 7 (Mon)</b>	<b>Emmanuel Nursing Home, Danville</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Oct. 8 (Tues)</b>	<b>Maximum Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only)</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>
<b>Oct. 9 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Oct. 10 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Shamokin Hospital</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
	<b>Life Geisinger</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>
	<b>Northwestern Academy</b>	<b>2:30pm</b>
<b>Oct. 16 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Oct. 17 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Sunbury Hospital</b>	<b>1:00pm</b>
	<b>(Mansion &amp; Sunshine Corners cancelled)</b>	
	<b>Sunbury Halloween Parade, meet behind the Shikellamy High School</b>	<b>6:15 - 6:30pm</b>
<b>Oct. 20 (Sun)</b>	<b>Fall Festival, Sunbury Animal Hospital (Route 890)</b>	<b>11:00am - 3:00pm</b>
<b>Oct. 23 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Oct. 30 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Oct. 31 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Holy Family Convent</b>	<b>1:00am</b>
	<b>Geisinger Rehab, Health South</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>

# October 2013

September 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November 2013

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club  
 US Holidays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 ■ 6:30 PM Training ■ 7:15 PM CGC/TDI Training ■ 7:15 PM Beginner Training	2 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	3	4	5
6	7 ■ 6:30 PM Emmanuel Nursing Home	8 ■ 12:00 PM Maximum Prison, Allenwood (NIC only) ■ 6:30 PM Training ■ 7:15 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:15 PM CGC/TDI Training	9 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	10 ■ 1:00 PM Shamokin Hospital ■ 2:00 PM Life Geisinger ■ 2:30 PM Northwestern Academy	11	12
13	14 Columbus Day	15 ■ 6:30 PM Training ■ 7:15 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:15 PM CGC/TDI Training	16 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	17 ■ 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital ■ 6:15 PM Sunbury Halloween Parade	18	19
20 ■ 11:00 AM Fall Festival	21	22 ■ 6:30 PM Training ■ 7:15 PM CGC/TDI Training ■ 7:15 PM Beginner Training	23 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	24	25	26
27	28	29 ■ 6:30 PM Training ■ 7:15 PM Beginner Training ■ 7:15 PM CGC/TDI Training	30 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	31 Halloween ■ 1:00 PM Holy Family Convent ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	1	2