



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

October 2015

## Old Friends by Connie Cuff



Why you should never punish a dog for growling. In fact a growl is something to be treasured. Many of us grew up with - punish your dog harshly at the first sign of aggression, growling leads to biting. It makes more sense to have a deeper understanding of canine aggression.

Most dogs don't want to bite or fight. He may begin with subtle signs of discomfort that are often overlooked by many humans. What many people don't realize is that aggression is caused by stress. The stressor may be related to pain, fear, intrusion, past association, or anticipation to any of these things. A fearful dog bites because he is stressed by the approach of a human or another dog in his territory.

When you punish a growl or other early warning signs (body language) you may succeed in suppressing the growl, snarl, snap or other warning behavior, but you don't take away the stress that caused the growl in the first place. In fact you increase the stress, because you have become unpredictable and violent as well. You have now

succeeded in ending up with a dog who bites without warning.

A growl is a dog's cry for help! He is telling you "I can't handle this, please get me out of here!" Your first response when you hear your dog growl should be to calmly move him away from the situation. If you are stressed you'll only add to his stress. If the growl was triggered by something you were doing, stop doing it.

This is where counter-conditioning comes in. Your dog growls because he has a negative association with something. You can do lots of lessons that when things that made him uncomfortable makes really good stuff happen. This can take days, weeks, or months.

You should use something special, such as chicken, in training your dog. When you see your dog de-stressed and calm you reward him for this behavior. If you see tension increase, back up, give him time to relax until he feels comfortable.

Remember dogs can't tell us in words what's bothering them, but they can communicate a lot with their body language and canine vocal sounds. Pay attention to what your dog is telling you. Be gentle when your dog tells you he needs help.

We will be starting training at the Selinsgrove Center with new dogs joining us. Please keep your dog under control and watch his body language. For new dogs this is a new experience and they may be stressed with their new surroundings. Consideration on our part will go a long way in making their training a positive experience.

Till next time,

*Connie*

## **Minutes (September 1, 2015)**

submitted by Karen Sodrick

### President's Report

I will send an email and post notification when we will move training to the Selinsgrove Center.

We are hoping to again participate in the Sunbury Halloween Parade which is usually the 3rd Thursday in October. We need a theme for our float and would like to have an estimate of those wishing march. Those unable to walk can ride on the float. The parade forms near Shikellamy HS and ends at Weis Markets.

Our club picnic is Sunday, Sept. 20 at 1:00 pm. Please plan to come and bring your family and your dog of course. It is a fun time for all.

There is a Doggie Swim at Knoebels on Sunday, Sept. 13.

We have a visit at Penn Lutheran Village in Selinsgrove on Monday, Sept. 14 at 6:30 pm.

We will have a table and display at the Fall Festival hosted by the Sunbury Animal Hospital on Sunday, Sept 27. The time is 11 am - 3 pm. Any help would be appreciated.

Pet ID cards are available for anyone who wants one.

Sara will test for CGC on Sept. 15th. Therapy dog testing will be at a later date.

Submitted by,  
Karen Sodrick



## Notes and Notices



### **Congratulations to the Star Puppy Graduates:**

**Matthew Neuffer & Abigail Miller with Boxer/Shepherd, Maximilian  
Leroy Yoder with Yellow Lab, Ali**

### **Congratulations to those passing their Therapy Dog Test:**

**James Specht with Goldendoodle, Riley; Amy Scholl with Boxer mix, Moe; Carol Hanson with Australian Shepherd, Zoe; Holly Heller with Whoodle, Dazy; Brian Jeremiah with Labrador Retriever, Riley; Diane Ippolito with Mini Labradoodle, Hope.**

**Jim Smith with Georgie has completed 500 therapy visits, and we congratulate him for bringing joy to all the people he has met. Grayson View had a celebration party with them and their residents.**

**Our classes at the Selinsgrove Center began on Sept. 29. Marjean will begin a Star Puppy Class on Oct. 6 and the class is full. The Advanced Class will be held from 6:15pm - 7:00pm. The Beginners Class will be held from 7:15pm - 8:00pm. Please sign in each week at the table and then move to the side so newer dogs will be more comfortable when entering the gym.**

**I would like an email or phone call from anyone who is interested in classes. It makes it easier to prepare for training and adjust my class for new members each week.**

**We are preparing for the Sunbury Halloween Parade on Thursday, Oct. 15. We form at the Shikellamy High School by 6:30pm and move to Weis Markets on N. 4th St. Our float will be decorated and riders are welcome. Some of us walk and we will pass out candy. Anyone who would like to donate candy for us would be appreciated. Our theme will be Hawaiian and we are preparing costumes for the dogs and us as well. We will also participate in the Northumberland Parade on Wed. Oct. 28 and the parade forms in the town park by 6:30pm**

**Our picnic at the Shikellamy Mariana was a huge success with over 40 people attending. Thanks to Kelly & Joe for helping with the grill, Sara Fry with games, Ginny Pentz with our Chinese Auction (we realized \$116) and Suzy Smith with posting pictures on Facebook. Thank you to all who attended.**

## UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>Oct. 1 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Maria Joseph Manor Geisinger Rehab, Health South</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm</b>
<b>Oct. 5 (Mon)</b>	<b>Nottingham Village</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Oct. 7 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods Heritage Springs</b>	<b>10:00am 11:15am</b>
<b>Oct. 8 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Mental Health Awareness Day, Bloomsburg University Student Service Center Shamokin Hospital Life Geisinger Building Bridges Northwestern Academy</b>	<b>9:00am - 11:00am 1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm 2:45pm</b>
<b>Oct. 14 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods Heritage Springs</b>	<b>10:00am 11:15am</b>
<b>Oct. 15 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Manor Care Sunbury Halloween Parade, Shikellamy High School</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm 6:30pm</b>
<b>Oct. 21 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods Heritage Springs</b>	<b>10:00am 11:15am</b>
<b>Oct. 28 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods Heritage Springs Northumberland Halloween Parade, Town Park</b>	<b>10:00am 11:15am 6:30pm</b>
<b>Oct. 29 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Holy Family Convent Geisinger Rehab, Health South Maria Hall</b>	<b>1:00pm 1:45pm 2:30pm</b>

Newsletter coordinator: Brandon Pastuszek  
 E-mail: [brandon@stdtc.org](mailto:brandon@stdtc.org)  
 Club web site: <http://www.stdtc.org>

# October 2015

September 2015							October 2015							November 2015						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

- Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
- US Holidays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 11:00 AM Fall Festival, Sunbury Animal Hospital	28 6:00 PM Bucknell University	29 12:00 PM Maximum Prison, Allenwood (NCIC only) 6:15 PM Training 6:45 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	30 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs	1 1:00 PM Maria Joseph Manor 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2	3
4	5 6:30 PM Nottingham Village	6 6:15 PM Training 6:45 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	7 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs	8 9:00 AM Mental Health Awareness Day 1:00 PM Shamokin Hospital 1:45 PM Life Geisinger 2:15 PM Building Bridges 2:45 PM Northwestern Academy	9	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13 6:15 PM Training 6:45 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	14 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs	15 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:45 PM Manor Care 6:30 PM Sunbury Halloween Parade	16	17
18	19	20 6:15 PM Training 6:45 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	21 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs	22	23	24
25	26	27 6:15 PM Training 6:45 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	28 10:00 AM Riverwoods 11:15 AM Heritage Springs 6:30 PM Northumberland Halloween Parade	29 1:00 PM Holy Family Convent 1:45 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South 2:30 PM Maria Hall	30	31 Halloween