



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

October 2018

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Humans and dogs are both very special. Because humans and dogs enjoy such a uniquely inter-personal relationship, and because we have bred dogs, or allowed certain individual dogs to breed, for so long, dogs can interpret our body language and facial expressions to a degree no other animal can. Humans can also interpret dog behavior in very useful ways, but we also often misinterpret dog behavior, and mis-assign it human qualities. It is a mistake to think that just because dogs can make some choices, that all of their behaviors are based on choice. We also tend to think that because dogs can experience some of the emotions we can, that they experience all the emotions we do. These tendencies can be frustrating, and even harmful, for dog and human, alike. The most inaccurate, of these behavioral mis-assignments, is the label, "stubborn".

Dogs experience, and respond to, basic emotions like love, fear, joy, and anger, it is doubtful dogs feel more complex emotions like pride, guilt, or shame. Whether dogs can or cannot feel these emotions, what we know for sure is that they never act in a way they perceive to be less rewarding than other behavioral options. Whether or not they can feel pride or spite, dogs will not make choices based on these traits. When humans claim a dog is behaving stubbornly, it is actually because the humans do not understand what motivates a dog's behavior. Stubbornness is a quality uniquely human.

A dog can perceive one behavior as being more rewarding than another, and then learn that a different behavior will be more rewarding, and it will choose the more rewarding behavior according to their own perception. Humans can understand a new behavior to be more rewarding and still not choose it, because they are prideful, and don't want to admit they were wrong, or in order to spite another person. We call this being stubborn. It is a common mistake to think dogs are behaving stubbornly, when actually we have simply failed to recognize why the dog is doing the behavior, what kind of behavior it is, and how to change it. Instead of taking responsibility for our own lack of skill or expertise, we project our frustration onto our dogs, and label them as stubborn. Dogs do not behave stubbornly.

Dogs can't be stubborn and neither can mules. Much of the time when we are frustrated by our dogs, or when we are tempted to label our dogs as stubborn, it is because we are not recognizing, or not respecting, some fundamental aspect of what it means to be a dog.

Till next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



It is nice to be back at the Selinsgrove Center gym. We have more room to train and can avoid all the wet weather.

We are preparing for the Sunbury and Northumberland Halloween Parades. Our theme is Paw Patrol. We are coordinating the outfits for us and dogs. If anyone is interested in joining us, please let us know. The Sunbury Parade is Thurs. Oct. 18 meeting at the Sunbury High School at 6:30pm, and the Northumberland Parade is Wed. Oct. 24 meeting at the Park at 6:30pm.

Congratulations to our member Katelyn Clemens. She raised \$2,500 by herself to win a bid for a 3 yr. Wild Pony at the Chincoteague Wild Pony Auction. The wild Horses are sold at auction by the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Dept. at the charge of the National Park Service. She will be training her Fowl, Scout, and the sky is the limit for her.

Star Puppy Grads are: Jim and Lynn Eckley with Libby & Lexi; Kathy Stettler with Oreo; Tamara and Ernie Normington with Finn and Murphy; Penny Gensemer with Lexi; Mark Davies with Gwyn.

Those passing CGC are Nicole Hallman with Lupa and Susan Bolig with Bella.

Congrats to Monica Wilson for passing ATD Therapy with Meeko.

Welcome new members; Julie Focht who passed ATD Therapy with her Sheba Inu, Lucy

Chuck Luskin with Irish Terrier, Meg; April Trometter with English Springer, Chloe; Keelie Schock with MinPin/Yorkie/Bichon mix, Tucker.

Our Picnic was a success with many Members and their families attending. Everyone enjoyed the day and the dogs had a great time socializing and playing games, thanks to Sara and Kelly.

A reminder about Fall hazards that can be harmful to your dogs. Stagnant piles of leaves contain all kinds of nasty bacteria. They are fine to play in but if ingested, they can cause serious problems. Two of the biggest offenders in the Fall are red maple leaves, wild mushrooms and fallen chestnuts. Signs for poisoning in dogs include vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, lethargy, excessive drooling and lack of coordination. With less sunlight and walking in the dark, remember to keep your dog on leash, use a reflective harness and use a LED light on the collar.

I have purchased Lanyards for our Therapy Cards. If anyone is interested please let Connie know.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Oct. 1 (Mon)	Five Star	1:00pm
Oct. 3 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Oct. 4 (Thurs)	Emmanuel Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm
Oct. 8 (Mon)	Nottingham Village	6:30pm
Oct. 10 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Oct. 11 (Thurs)	Shamokin Hospital VNA or Mountain View Manor	12:15pm 1:15pm
Oct. 15 (Mon)	Buffalo Valley Nursing Home	6:30pm
Oct. 17 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Oct. 18 (Thurs)	Bloomsburg Univ. Mid Term Week, SSC Back Patio Sunbury Halloween Parade, Shikellamy High School	9:00am - 11:00am 6:30pm
Oct. 23 (Tues)	Maximum Prison Allenwood (NCIC only)	12:00pm
Oct. 24 (Wed)	Riverwoods Northumberland Halloween Parade	10:00am 6:30pm
Oct. 25 (Thurs)	Bloomsburg University, Stress Less with Pets. SSC Lobby Maria Joseph Manor Geisinger Rehab, Health South	10am-12pm 1:00pm 2:00pm
Oct. 30 (Tues)	Star Puppy begins (class full)	6:30pm
Oct. 31 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Nov. 1 (Thurs)	Nazareth at Emmanuel Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm

October 2018

September 2018



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October 2018

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November 2018

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 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
 US Holidays

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1 1:00 PM Five Star	2 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	3 10:00 AM Riverwoods	4 1:00 PM Emmanuel 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South	5	6
7	8 Columbus Day 6:30 PM Nottingham Village	9 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	10 10:00 AM Riverwoods	11 12:15 PM Shamokin Hospital 1:15 PM VNA or Mountain View Manor	12	13
14	15 6:30 PM Buffalo Valley Nursing Home	16 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	17 10:00 AM Riverwoods	18 9:00 AM Bloomsburg University (Mid Term Week) 6:30 PM Sunbury Halloween Parade	19	20
21	22	23 12:00 PM Maximum Prison Allenwood (NCIC only) 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	24 10:00 AM Riverwoods 6:30 PM Northumberland Halloween Parade	25 10:00 AM Bloomsburg University (Stress Less with Pets) 1:00 PM Maria Joseph Manor 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	26	27
28	29	30 Star Puppy Begins (Class Full) 6:15 PM Training 7:15 PM Beginner Training	31 Halloween 10:00 AM Riverwoods	1 1:00 PM Nazareth at Emmanuel 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2	3