



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

September 2009

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



How many of us have experienced the canine door-darter--a dog who slips out the tiniest crack of an open door every chance he gets. Jan Mull knows the frustration she has with "Sophie Love" and how hard she tried to control her from running off by tethering her outside the door. It only takes one time, as she was hit by a car and is being treated for leg injury.

If your dog dashes out the door here are things you can do:

1. Keep a whistle at the door and have your dog trained to return by using it.
2. Don't chase; you'll be playing his game. If he has a favorite toy take it outside and squeak it. If he grabs it, let him grab one end and squeak it by following you into a fenced area or back in the house. If he loves car rides, yell, "wanna go for a ride" and open the door, have him jump in and take him for a ride.
3. Reward don't punish. You've finally got hold of your cavorting canine, no matter how upset you are, don't yell at him! Don't even reprimand him calmly, he'll associate the punishment with returning to you. Don't take him back inside immediately - that's punishment too. Instead reinforce him with whatever he loves best - fetch, a car ride, high value treats.
4. Create "airlock" for your doors. Use baby gates or set up a barrier inside to block his access to the door and make sure he is behind the barrier before you go out the door.
5. Teach him to "wait" at doors. Be consistent. Implement "sit and wait" at doors until he's given the release cue. This should be done by everyone in the family.
6. Increase his exercise. If you keep your canine busy and tired, he'll be less inclined to look for opportunities to dash through doors. A tired dog is a well-behaved dog.

"If things are tough, remember that every flower that ever bloomed had to go through a whole lot of dirt to get there."

Barbara Johnson, author

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (August 4, 2009)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The Meeting of STDTC was called to order by President, Connie Cuff.

Report of President: Introduction of new members, Paige Orwig, Cindy Fegley, Ortiz.
Star puppy graduates announced.
Beth Longer passed CGC with her Beagle, Honey.

We did a presentation at the Union Co Library. There is a video on the Daily Item web site.

Report of Secretary: Minutes are as written in the August Newsletter.

Report of Treasurer: Not present

Old Business: Phil Holden has set up a reading date for Sept 24th at 6:30 PM at the Priestly-Forsyth Library in Northumberland. If anyone is interested in that program talk to Phil.

We received a check for \$60.00 from Sit Happens a training facility in Williamsport. Marjean and Sally did TDI testing for them and they made a donation to our Club. I've sent them a thank you note.

Copies of the By-Laws of STDTC were handed to those who did not have a copy.

New Business: As is mentioned in the newsletter, we will be at the Priestly-Forsyth Library on August 22 for the Kick-off Parade for Read Across America. If anyone is interested in making dog bones for us there are recipes here. Also, please sign up for that day.

Whistles are in and all those who have not received a whistle please take one and sign the sheet.

There is a sign up sheet for the Northumberland County Expo which is also Aug. 22 from 3:30 thru 4:30 PM. Please come for a short demo even if you do not square dance.

Don't forget our picnic date Sunday Sept. 27th at 1 PM at the marina. Bring a covered dish. There will be a chinese auction.

Thursday there is a TDI visit at Nottingham village. You do not have to be TDI for this visit.

Breed of the Month

Pug

submitted by Connie Cuff

It's tough to resist a Pug's sense of humor and affectionate companionship.

Pugs possess an easygoing disposition and a gentleness that makes them trustworthy around people of any age. They will happily share their home with other pets whether it is a city apartment, country house or a motor home.

With a history predating 400 B.C., the earliest example of the Pug was in the monasteries of Tibet. From Tibet, the breed was introduced to Japan, then Europe where it became a favorite in many royal courts.

The name Pug may have originated from the dogs' resemblance to marmoset monkeys which were popular pets in Europe at the same time, and were called Pugs as well. The American Kennel Club accepted the breed in 1885.



The Pug's face is unique and reflects distant Mastiff ancestors. At first many people think they're ugly but when they spend time around Pugs they grow on you. As with short-nosed breeds Pugs make an assortment of respiratory noises, and they can snore loudly which can keep light sleepers awake, especially if they sleep at the foot of the bed.

When training a Pug you must remember that they do have a stubborn streak, and they couldn't care less what others think about them as long as they're having a good time.

The Pug requires minimal fuss, but brushing at least once a week, wiping the skin folds on the Pug's face, and brushing the teeth are maintenance that will keep your dog healthy.

Genetic health problems include loose kneecaps, narrow restrictive nostrils that interfere with breathing, and eye disorders. Responsible breeders select only the healthiest dogs, so the incidence of these diseases in well-bred Pugs is low.

Pugs aren't designed for aerobics; they're better adapted for snoring in an armchair. They need daily walking, but not jogging partners as they might get dangerously overheated.

A Pug will not herd, hunt, guard or chase rats, but it will always be a true companion. A Pug is a professional at wriggling its way onto the couch, onto your lap and into your heart. We are glad to have Asha, owned by Robert Fontaine as a member of our Dog Club.



Notes and Notices



We wish a speedy recovery to Steph Fullmer's dog Penny and Mary Haas's dog Snookie who are recovering from surgery.

Our sympathies to Virginia Pentz for the loss of her lab, Beuraguard.

When we move our training to the Selinsgrove Center the date will be posted on our web site and an E-mail will be sent.

Our picnic is for Sunday, Sept 27 at 1:00pm at Pavillion 2 at the Shikellamy Marina. Everyone should bring place settings, a covered dish and an item for the Chinese Auction. If you plan to attend I would appreciate that you sign up with the number of people that will be coming. Remember to bring your canine friend.

We wish Erin Pastuszek well as she begins her studies at Shippensburg University.

I wish to thank everyone for participating in the kick-off parade at the Priestly-Forsyth Library for Read Across America. Riley, Dugan and Lizzie were awarded the Best Behaved in the Pet Parade.

Everyone enjoyed our demo and Square Dancing at the Northumberland County Fair. Thanks to everyone who made dog bones and participated.

We welcome new members:

Paige Orwig from Selinsgrove with her Pointer/Beagle mix

Nan Ruhl from Mifflinburg with her Bernese Mountain Dog, Marley

Cindy Fegley with her lab puppy Rosie from Sunbury

Alan Fegley with his lab Boomer from Sunbury

Felix Garcia with his German Shorthair Pointer, Leah, from Sunbury

Sue Heemstra with her Australia Shepherd from Northumberland

Pamela Richardson from Selinsgrove with her Catalar Shepherd, Tucker

Lindsey Lerch from Elysburg with her Golden Retriever

Newly elected Sen. Al Franken introduced a bill which was unanimously passed which helps veterans get service dogs. The cost of training service dogs doesn't come cheap. His bill calls for the VA to train and match 50 dogs with 50 veterans. The training for every other subsequent service dog will be paid for by the VA with private agencies participating big time to find dogs, train and match them with veterans. Franken says costs run about \$50,000 for each dog, including training of the dog and partner, as well as care for the dog and staff expenses during the training period. Steve's website is www.stevedalepetworld.com.

Difficult Decisions

by Marjean Krech

Sometime in our dog's life most of us will be faced with making the most difficult decision a loving owner has to make - when is the time for euthanasia? Babe, the Beagle we inherited in June 2008 has been diagnosed with lymphoma and given about 2 to 3 months to live, so I have been agonizing about having to make this decision. I don't want to end her life too soon, but I also don't want her to deteriorate and suffer just because I can't decide. She's a sweet girl and deserves to have joyful days and a peaceful end.

Not long ago I came across this list which I will use to help me and I thought other members might find it helpful, also.

Quality of Life Scale

1. Hurt
2. Hunger
3. Hydration
4. Hygiene
5. Happiness
6. Mobility
7. More good days than bad

These items are in no particular order and by no means not hard and fast rules, just guidelines. I feel somewhat comforted by this scale, but it will still be a difficult decision to make.

So far, Babe is doing well, but she sleeps alot more and moves more slowly. On the other hand, she has never missed a meal and loves doing her Beagle thing in the yard and those are good things!

If anyone else has suggestions, I'll be happy to hear from you...

Marjean

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

| | | |
|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Sept. 2 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00am |
| Sept. 3 (Thurs) | Emmanuel Center, Danville | 6:45pm |
| Sept. 9 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00am |
| Sept. 10 (Thurs) | Northwest Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital | 1:00pm 2:00pm 3:00pm |
| Sept. 15 (Tues) | US Penitentiary Maximum TDI Memo Only | 12:30pm |
| Sept. 16 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00am |
| Sept. 17 (Thurs) | Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners | 1:00pm 1:45pm 2:15pm |
| Sept. 21 (Mon) | Reading, Chief Shikellamy (if interested call Connie) TDI Only | 9:00am |
| Sept. 23 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00am |
| Sept. 24 (Thurs) | Geisinger Rehab, Health South Northumberland Priestly-Forsyth Library Reading (does not have to be TDI) | 2:00pm 6:30pm |
| Sept. 27 (Sun) | Dog Club Picnic, Shikellamy Marina Pavilion 2 (Please sign up) | 1:00pm |
| Sept. 30 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00am |

Newsletter coordinator: **Brandon Pastuszek**

E-mail: brandon@stdtc.org

Club web site: <http://www.stdtc.org>

September 2009

August 2009
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- US Holidays
- Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|--|---|---|--------|----------|
| 30 | 31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6:45 PM Emmanuel Center | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Labor Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy ■ 2:00 PM Life Geisinger ■ 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 12:30 PM US Penitentiary Maximum (MEMOED ONLY) ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital ■ 1:45 PM Mansion Nursing Home ■ 2:15 PM Sunshine Cor-ners | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy - TDI ONLY) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South ■ 6:30 PM Reading (Priestley Library) | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 1:00 PM Club Picnic (Pavilion 2) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 6:15 PM Beginner Training Classes ■ 7:00 PM Advanced Training Classes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 | 2 | 3 |