



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

September 2014

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



Learning how to turn our little critters OFF is one of the most important tricks of the trade. Living with a dog on Duracell starts to wear thin once you realize your dog's speed and endurance are increasing with age. Your pup should settle down and be quiet for at least some of the time and especially at times of your choosing.

Several times a day, put your pup on a leash and have it settle down and be quiet for five minutes, half an hr. etc. "Settle Down" means remain quietly in this spot, lying down comfortably. Your dog may be restless or vocal at first, but in a few days it

will get the picture. You can coordinate the exercise in the time you spend reading the paper, working on the computer or watching TV. Initially have him settle down right next to you, but later practice at a distance or in a different room. He should learn to go to its mat or crate and settle down and should be periodically praised or offered treats.

The settle down command manages dogs at home but must be practiced away from the home. Use this on walks, stopping at the park and sitting on the bench or during play sessions. Periodically during play sessions, instruct your dog to settle down for a short time-out before resuming play.

The goal is not to spoil the dog's fun by forcing it to settle down for hours on end but to frequently practice calming your dog when it is excited, so that you learn how to 'turn your dog off,' if and when it is necessary. If you can convince a distracted and playful dog or puppy to settle down for just 30 seconds, you could easily keep the dog down for several minutes. Consequently, repeatedly ask your dog to settle down for many short periods within a single walk or play session. Integrating training is the secret to eager reliability.

With Fall, we have the potential danger when running your sporting dog in fields of the Trap encounters. With the return of fur prices and profit more trappers are afield.

If you run your dog, they should be controllable with a recall off lead. This is where the whistle comes in handy. Try to stay close to a beaten path. Know the area you run your dog and if you know the property owner, ask if there are trappers about. You should be wary of public lands, less traveled paths, water's edges where fur-bearing animals frequent and hunting grounds that could be of interest to a trapper.

If your dog should encounter a Trap, use your coat or the lead to muzzle your dog before trying to release the spring that may have caught your dog's leg or foot.

Till next time,

*Connie*

## **Minutes (August 19, 2014)**

submitted by Kelly Pastuszek

Meeting of the STDTC will come to order.

Marjean will begin a Star Puppy Class on Tues., Aug. 19. Pre-registration is required. It is for dogs under 1 yr. of age.

I would appreciate some of our members to sign up for the North. Co. Fair Pet Costume Contest on Friday Aug. 22. Registration is at 6pm and Parade & Judging at 6:30pm.

I have a sign-up sheet for our annual club picnic, which will be held at the Shikellamy Marina Park, (rain or shine) on Sun., Sept. 14 at 1pm. Please bring a covered dish and something dog related for the Chinese Auction. Hot dogs and soda will be provided. Bring your dog for fun, games and socialization.

Welcome new members.

Even though the Halloween Parade is 3 mos. away, we need to start working on outfits and decorations for a float. We will need a flat bed to decorate and was wondering if anyone has one available. The theme will be Dancing with the Dogs.

Gail, Bloomsburg Fair - still needs donations of dog toys, leashes and collars, baby bibs (not rubber)

Knoebel's swim: September 7th from 11a-2p

Lewisburg Swim: September 6th and 10th from 4-7:30pm



## Notes and Notices



We are looking forward to our Club picnic on Sunday, Sept. 14 at 1:00pm. Please sign up by Tuesday, Sept. 9 since I need to purchase soda and hot dogs. You are to bring a covered dish, a dog related item for the Chinese Auction, and, of course, the dog.

Anyone who has a dog that enjoys swimming will have the opportunity to attend pool parties - Lewisburg Pool on Sat. Sept 6 and Wed. Sept. 10 from 4-7:30pm. At Knoebels Grove on Sun. Sept. 7 from 11:00am to 2:00pm.

If you have a dog that is ready to be tested with TDI there is an evaluation on Tuesday, Sept. 23 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. You must contact me to pre-register. This will be held at the Shikellamy State Park.

For your information we have a Facebook Page for STDTC members only. You need to be invited in order to join. There is also a Facebook Therapy Dog Chat page which can be used for anyone who is interested. Please talk to Marjean or me for more information.

Two upcoming events of interest:

Paws in the Vineyard on Sunday, Oct. 12 from 11:00am to 3:00pm being held at Spyglass Ridge Winery, Sunbury

Sunbury Animal Hospital Fall Festival on Sunday, October 19 from 11:00 am to 3:00pm

Our sympathies to Mary Lou Semicek who lost her beloved Boston Terrier, Milo. He spent many years as a Therapy Dog.

I will be moving to the Selinsgrove Center with training on Tuesday, Sept. 30. Our schedule for classes is:

Advanced Training 6:30pm


Beginner Training 7:15pm

Anyone who would like to join our classes is asked to contact me for information.

## UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Sept. 3 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Sept 4 (Thurs)	Emmanuel Nursing Home, Danville Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm
Sept. 6 (Sat)	Doggie Dips, Lewisburg	4:00pm - 7:30pm
Sept. 7 (Sun)	Knoebel's Swim, Elysburg	11:00am - 2:00pm
Sept 8 (Mon)	Bucknell University	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Sept 10 (Wed)	Riverwoods Doggie Dips, Lewisburg	10:00am 4:00pm - 7:00pm
Sept. 11 (Thurs)	Shamokin Hospital Life Geisinger Northwestern Academy	1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm
Sept. 14 (Sun)	Club Picnic, Shikellamy State Park	1:00pm
Sept. 16 (Tues)	Medium Prison Allenwood (NCIC only)	12:00pm
Sept. 17 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Sept. 18 (Thurs)	Sunbury Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners and Manor Care	1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm
Sept. 20 (Sat) - Sept. 27 (Sat)	Bloomsburg Fair	
Sept. 22 (Mon)	Penn Lutheran Village, Selinsgrove	6:30pm
Sept. 23 (Tues)	TDI Testing, Shikellamy State Park Pre-registration required	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Sept. 24 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Sept. 25 (Thurs)	Holy Family Convent Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm
Sept. 30 (Tues)	<b>MOVING CLASSES TO SELINGROVE CENTER</b> Advanced      6:30pm Beginners      7:15pm	
Oct. 2 (Thurs)	Vintage Knolls Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm

# September 2014

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club  
 US Holidays

**August 2014**  
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**September 2014**  
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**October 2014**  
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Labor Day	2 6:15 PM Training 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	3 10:00 AM Riverwoods	4 1:00 PM Emmanuel Nursing Home 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South	5	6 4:00 PM Doggie Dips, Lewisburg
7 11:00 AM Knoebel's Swim, Elysburg	8 6:00 PM Bucknell University	9 6:15 PM Training 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	10 10:00 AM Riverwoods 4:00 PM Doggie Dips, Lewisburg	11 1:00 PM Shamokin Hospital 2:00 PM Life Geisinger 2:30 PM Northwestern Academy	12	13
14 1:00 PM Club Picnic, Shikellamy Marina Park	15	16 12:00 PM Medium Prison Allenwood (NCIC only) 6:15 PM Training 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	17 10:00 AM Riverwoods	18 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home 2:45 PM Sunshine Corners	19	20
21 6:30 PM Penn Lutheran Village	22 6:00 PM TDI Testing, Shikellamy State Park (Pre-registration required) 6:15 PM Training 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	23 6:00 PM TDI Testing, Shikellamy State Park (Pre-registration required) 6:15 PM Training 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	24 10:00 AM Riverwoods	25 1:00 PM Holy Family Convent 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	26	27
28	29	30 Selinsgrove Center 6:30 PM Training 6:30 PM AKC Star Puppy Class 7:15 PM Beginner Training	1 10:00 AM Riverwoods	2 1:00 PM Vintage Knolls 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South	3	4