



# Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

August 2013

## Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



This information is from an article "Skin Deep" in Bark Magazine, Sept. 2012.

People try to analyze the way dogs behave citing life experience and breed. We've all heard people say of rescue dogs, "He's a rescue and was probably abused - that's why he's shy" or "He's a retriever, so he always has a ball in his mouth."

As Christine Hibbard from Seattle, Wash. states, when associating a dog with the "look" or "behavior" of a particular breed, it's important to remember that "the way dogs look and their actual genetics can be very different." Mixed breed dogs are a mix of features of their ancestors. Many times they don't look like any of their immediate parents as DNA tests prove. Attributing a dog's behavior to its "look" can sometimes be a faulty assumption.

The AKC gives us guidelines as to the characteristics of each breed. They are simply guidelines, but you really are getting an unknown.

While genetics play a part, factors such as environment, learning and individual life experiences make each dog who she or he is. No two dogs, even of the same breed, will have the exact personality. Since I temperament test puppies at 8 weeks of age, I can attest to this concept since no two dogs of the same litter test the same.

Genetics and life experiences contribute to who dogs are, the other part of the picture is the physical features of the dog.

Physical appearance does not make it easy for dogs to communicate with each other. As an example, dogs that are fuzzy or black are often attacked by other dogs. Any dog with a lot of fur makes it hard for dogs to see muscle tension and read stiffness.

Also, tails come in different shapes and size. Some dogs have docked tails and it takes away their communication signal. Ear cropping (in the state of PA it has been become illegal) makes dogs look alert and misleading to other dogs.

### Old Friends (Continued)

Canine eyes are not the same. Short-nosed dogs focus more clearly on the world in front of them while long-nosed are better at peripheral vision. Long-nosed dogs will take off after something in a distance and a short nosed dog will sit next to you.

For this reason these differences not only affect how dogs see the world around them but how they attend to us humans.

Dogs are a composite of their genes, but the physical features that they come with, or that we give them, can contribute to how they interact with others and are perceived by dogs and humans. When thinking how your dog behaves, it can be helpful to look what is right in front of you.

Till next time,

*Connie*

**Minutes (July 2, 2013)**  
submitted by Kelly Pastuszek

The meeting of the STDTC will come to order.

**Report of the President:**

I wish to thank those of you that helped with the Lewisburg Parade. As I stated in the newsletter we will discontinue walking because of the unpredictable weather. We plan to meet in the President's Grove, which is at the end of the parade, for people to meet and greet our dogs.

We will need people to sign up for our annual visit to the YMCA Kid's Day on July 23. We would like dogs in costume and you can dress as well to promote the North. County Fair where we will host a Pet Costume Contest.

**Secretary's Report:** In newsletter.

**Treasurer's Report:** (not available online)

**New Business:**

I have reserved Pavilion 2 here at the Park for our annual Club Picnic on Sun. Sept. 22 at 1:00pm. We will be hosting a CGC testing that day in conjunction with AKC's Responsible Dog Ownership Day. Marjean & Sara will be available for testing and it will be pre-registration only.

I need sign-ups for our visit to Camp Victory on Sat. July 27.

The Selinsgrove Center is looking for therapy dogs to visit their Program Area. Days are M-F 9:30am - 10:30am or 2pm - 3pm. There are 5 areas and 1 dog per area which will be supervised. You can contact Doug Cooper at 372-5707.

We have a visit on Mon. evening at Emmanuel Home in North. at 6:30pm.



## Notes and Notices



**I wish to congratulate the following for passing the Canine Good Citizen test (CGC)**

**Lee Ann Eichensehr with Lab, Kevin  
Mary Schmoyer with Shih-Tzu, Bella owned by Carol Scartelli  
Sara Fry with Cocker Spaniel, Talley  
Russ Moyer with Lab, Dutch  
Kelly Pastuszek with Bernese Mt. Dog, Diesel**

**There has been an official memorial honoring Special Operations Forces (SOF) dogs, placed at the Airborne and Special Operations Museum in Fayetteville, N.C. near Fort Bragg. In 2010 Sgt. Maj. Yerry, who served several tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, began raising money and lobbying for a memorial. Today over 2,000 working dogs serve in U.S. military operations with 58 SOF dogs killed in action. To see photos of SOF dogs you can go to [parade.com/dogsofwar](http://parade.com/dogsofwar).**

**I wish to thank everyone who took part in the Cavalcade of Champions at Bucknell University, Kids Day at the YMCA, and the Summer Camp at Camp Victory. We were well received and they all appreciated the time you gave to these activities.**

**I will be attending a Senior Expo at the Shikellamy High School sponsored by Lynda Schlegel Culver on Friday, August 16 from 10am - 1pm. We have participated in this event in prior years and everyone enjoyed seeing the dogs. Please let me know if you are available that day.**

**At class each week I have sign up sheets for events I have planned. Please be sure to sign them if you are available since I expect a certain number of dogs to attend and make my visit possible.**

**Our Club picnic will be held Sunday, Sept. 22 at 1:00pm. We are at Pavilion 2 at the Shikellamy State Park. Everyone brings a covered dish (hot dogs and soda are supplied). We have games for the dogs and there is a Chinese Auction. Everyone is asked to bring an item which is dog related for the auction. Mark your calendar for a fun-filled day.**

**At our picnic we will be participating in an AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day by hosting a CGC testing. Marjean and Sara will be available that day and pre-registration is required.**

**We will be losing our dear member and trainer Sally Grottini who will be moving to Minneapolis, Minnesota the end of August. She, her husband Peter, Emma a Newfoundland, and Brody, her new 9 week old Newfoundland/ Golden will be enjoying some much colder weather to the West. She has been such a wonderful mentor to all of our members, along with helping me, as an evaluator to prepare our dogs for therapy work. We wish her well and know through E-mail and Facebook we will keep in touch.**

**I have signed our contract with the Selinsgrove Center and we'll be returning to the Gym sometime in the Fall. You will be notified when this change occurs.**

**There are two upcoming events from the Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority:**



**Doggie Dips is Saturday, September 14th & Wednesday, September 18th. Both are 4-7:30pm at the Lewisburg Community Pool. If anyone is interested in volunteering, please E-mail Katie Davis at [director@bvrec.org](mailto:director@bvrec.org).**

**Tails to Trails is Saturday, September 21st (more details to come soon!). Tails to Trails is the dog walk/run on the Rail Trail.**

## UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

<b>Aug. 1 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Maria Joseph Manor, Danville</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Aug. 5 (Mon)</b>	<b>Keystone Autistic Camp, Alliance Church Stetler Ave., Shamokin Dam</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Aug. 7 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Aug. 8 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Shamokin Hospital Life Geisinger Sunshine Corners</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm 2:30pm</b>
<b>Aug. 14 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Aug.15 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm</b>
<b>Aug. 16 (Fri)</b>	<b>Senior Expo, Shikellamy High School</b>	<b>10:00am - 1:00pm</b>
<b>Aug. 19 (Mon)</b>	<b>Elm Croft, Lewisburg</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Aug. 20 (Tues)</b>	<b>Medium Security, Allenwood (NCIC only)</b>	<b>12:00pm</b>
<b>Aug. 21 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Aug. 28 (Wed)</b>	<b>Riverwoods</b>	<b>10:00am</b>
<b>Aug. 29 (Thurs)</b>	<b>Holy Family Convent Geisinger Rehab, Health South</b>	<b>1:00pm 2:00pm</b>
<b>Sept. 7 (Sat)</b>	<b>Wellness Day, Old Trail Shamokin Dam Church next to Hoss's</b>	<b>10:00am - 12:00pm</b>
<b>Sept. 9 (Mon)</b>	<b>Bucknell University (Library)</b>	<b>6:00pm - 8:00pm</b>
<b>Sept. 14 (Sat)</b>	<b>Doggie Dips Lewisburg Community Pool</b>	<b>4:00pm - 7:30pm</b>
<b>Sept. 18 (Wed)</b>	<b>Doggie Dips Lewisburg Community Pool</b>	<b>4:00pm - 7:30pm</b>
<b>Sept. 21 (Sat)</b>	<b>Tails to Trails Rail Trail</b>	<b>TBD</b>

# August 2013

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club  
 US Holidays

July 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

August 2013  
 S M T W T F S  
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 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

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:15 PM Training</li> <li>7:00 PM CGC/TDI Training</li> <li>7:00 PM Beginner Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Riverwoods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 PM Maria Joseph Manor</li> </ul>			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Keystone Autistic Camp, Alliance Church</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:15 PM Training</li> <li>7:00 PM CGC/TDI Training</li> <li>7:00 PM Beginner Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Riverwoods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Shamokin Hospital</li> <li>2:00 PM Life Geisinger</li> <li>2:30 PM Northwestern Academy</li> </ul>			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:15 PM Training</li> <li>7:00 PM CGC/TDI Training</li> <li>7:00 PM Beginner Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Riverwoods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital</li> <li>2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home</li> <li>2:45 PM Sunshine Corners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Sr. Expo (Shikellamy High School)</li> </ul>	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:30 PM Elm Croft</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>12:00 PM Medium Security, Allenwood (NCIC only)</li> <li>6:15 PM Training</li> <li>7:00 PM CGC/TDI Training</li> <li>7:00 PM Beginner Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Riverwoods</li> </ul>				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6:15 PM Training</li> <li>7:00 PM CGC/TDI Training</li> <li>7:00 PM Beginner Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10:00 AM Riverwoods</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:00 PM Holy Family Convent</li> <li>2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South</li> </ul>		