



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

December 2013

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



As we reflect on this past year with our club and training, it is all about the relationship we have developed with our dogs. Whether our dogs are large, small or in between, we connect with them in a way they can understand.

We are a partner who the dog wants to follow and work with because he knows exactly where he stands and what the relationship is, and more importantly enjoys being and working with you more than anything else. Remember training should be fun for everyone.

If your dog has a hard time with an exercise, you may be asking too much of him.

A relationship with our dog is not there just because the dog likes you, especially if you have a pocket full of treats. Relationship is there because the dog has respect for you and is willing to do what you wish him to do. You as a trainer must get that respect by correcting him, but also showing the dog that you are his true friend.

When we are training our dogs, we must remember to incorporate play into our program. If you have a dog that jumps when people come to your home, have a ball handy for them to throw, then teach the dog to sit on the retrieve to have some control and divert his attention. Over the holidays getting a dog to find his spot, which is a mat with his toys or a few treats will keep him under control when visitors arrive. Training is 24-7 and coming to class prepares your dog for the real world.

We have a wonderful group of people within our club and I count my blessings this holiday season for your friendship and participation in training and club activities.

As we begin a new year may we continue to foster the love we have for our dogs and one another. Relationships are like a dance, and when that dance works, the relationship grows and endures, and enriches our lives in many priceless ways.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (November 5, 2013)

submitted by Karen Sodrick

President's Report:

There is a sign-up sheet for the Christmas Party, which is December 8th at Susquehanna Valley Country Club. The cost is \$17 which includes a buffet, beverage tax and tip. There is a silent auction and a small gift exchange for the dogs. We also collect donations of both cash and goods for Mostly Mutts. They can use old sheets or rugs or extra dog items you may have. Also, if you have made therapy visits with TDI please give your name, dog's name and number to Connie.

Everyone is again urged to keep a watch on your dog, especially at the beginning of class as some are dog reactive and we want all our dogs to have a good experience at the Center, especially the new ones. Please use appropriate scarves if your dog is not entirely reliable.

Because the gym is being used by the Center in December, our last class will be Dec. 3rd. We will resume January 7th. Keep training at home!

I am pleased to report that we were awarded \$45 prize for the Northumberland Halloween parade.

Membership renewals for 2014 will begin in January. Please make sure all records are up-to-date.

Gail Lorady will be visiting Sally Grottini at her new home in Minneapolis next week and will be taking along a card shower from those who would like to sign one. Thanks to Gail for a great idea.

The new dog park in Northumberland is up and running and is a wonderful place to exercise your dog off leash (two acres including a stream). Be sure to take a towel if your dog likes water.

There is a visit to Grayson View on Thurs. evening on November 7.

Congratulations to Sue Attig for earning a CGC with her dog Pogo.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Sodrick



Notes and Notices



We received a thank you letter from Sally Grottini:

Dear Club Members,

Recently as many of you know, I had a visit from club member Gail Lorady in my new home in Minnesota. Gail brought with her a bag, a special bag at that! She asked that I not open it until later and of course that is like telling a child not to touch something! So, the minute she drove down the street after her visit and I as I stood there in the dark driveway waving goodbye, my mind was on that bag! Excitement over took me and I ran inside grabbed the bag and peeked inside. I saw a bunch of cards with my name on it but still did not put 2 & 2 together (I was never good at math!). The first card I opened was from Terry which included pictures of Besse surfing and one of her sitting in a golf cart. Along with the pictures were very warm words of hello and we miss you, which was only compiled by many, many, more cards of similar heartfelt greetings. I have to say that in my lifetime this may have been the best gift I have ever received. (Well, okay except for Peter!)

I wanted to take this forum to say thank you to all, as each card really touched my heart and I do miss you very much. My Tuesday nights have not been the same since I left.

I am hoping more of you will join the STDTC Facebook Page, so I can keep up with as many of you as possible and see pictures of your pups having fun.

Thank you all so very, very much for bringing me such joy while I am so far away from home (it's only an 18 hour drive if you want to visit!). I am thankful that I have some great memories of class to keep me going until we can get together again. Minnesota is pretty, the people are nice, but there's no place like home.

Have a wonderful and joyous holiday and try not to spoil the dog too much!

Love to you all,
Sally

I wish to thank the club members for the birthday wishes and gift.

Congratulations to Sue Attig for passing the Canine Good Citizen test.

Please remember we will not be at the Selinsgrove Center for training Dec. 10, 17, 24 and 31. Our classes resume Jan. 7, 2014. All scheduled therapy visits will continue as scheduled. If you have any questions you can call Connie.

If anyone has borrowed a Canine Good Citizen instructional book from us, would you please return it since we have people looking to use it.

If anyone is interested in taking their dog to the emergency room at Geisinger please contact Diane Laubach at 570-214-5111. The dog must be a certified therapy dog. You can make your own time and there is one dog and handler there at a given time.

Congratulations to the following who graduated from the Star Puppy Class:

Kaley Long with Weimeriner, Madie
Cortlynn Henninger and Aaron with Goldendoodle, Sophie
Stacey Powell with Golden Retriever, Harper
Nan Ruhl with Bernese Mountain Dog, Jack

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Dec. 2 (Mon)	Nottingham Village, Northumberland	6:30pm
Dec. 4 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Dec. 5 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00pm
Dec. 8 (Sun)	Christmas Party, Susquehanna Valley Country Club	5:00pm
Dec. 9 (Mon)	Bucknell University Library, Lewisburg	6:00pm - 8:00pm
Dec. 10 (Tues)	Low Security Prison, Allenwood NO CLASS SELINGROVE CENTER	12:00pm
Dec.11 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Dec. 12 (Thurs)	Shamokin Hospital Life Geisinger Northwestern Academy	1:00pm 2:00pm 2:30pm
Dec. 17 (Tues)	NO CLASS SELINGROVE CENTER	
Dec. 18 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Dec. 19 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm
Dec. 24 (Tues)	NO CLASS SELINGROVE CENTER	
Dec. 25 (Wed)	MERRY CHRISTMAS	
Dec. 26 (Thurs)	Holy Family Convent Geisinger Rehab, Health South	1:00pm 2:00pm
Dec. 31 (Tues)	NO CLASS SELINGROVE CENTER	
Jan. 1 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
Jan. 2 (Thurs)	Geisinger Rehab, Health South	2:00pm

December 2013

 Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club
 US Holidays

November 2013							December 2013							January 2014						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 ■ 6:30 PM Nottingham Village	3 ■ 6:45 PM Training ■ 6:45 PM AKC Star Puppy Class ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	4 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	5 ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South	6	7
8 ■ 5:00 PM Christmas Party	9 ■ 6:00 PM Bucknell Library	10 NO CLASS ■ 12:00 PM Low Security Prison, Allenwood	11 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	12 ■ 1:00 PM Shamokin Hospital ■ 2:00 PM Life Geisinger ■ 2:30 PM Northwestern Academy	13	14
15	16	17 NO CLASS	18 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	19 ■ 1:00 PM Sunbury Community Hospital ■ 2:00 PM Mansion Nursing Home ■ 2:45 PM Sunshine Corners	20	21
22	23 NO CLASS	24 NO CLASS	25 Christmas Day	26 ■ 1:00 PM Holy Family Convent ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	27	28
29	30	31 NO CLASS	1 New Year's Day ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	2 ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab, Health South	3	4