



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

February 2008

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



When you introduce distractions in training on purpose to cause your dog to goof up, it is called proofing. Proofing your dog means teaching him under all circumstances that you expect him to obey. Training is not a one-time event. He must be compliant in high-pressure situations, in speeding traffic or when he sees a squirrel. Just because he does a sit stay in your living room or at dog class, the next step is to see that he reliably performs whatever is asked, no matter what is going on around him.

There are three distracter factors:

1. External stimulus - the doorbell ringing, a squirrel, a piece of food dropped on the floor.
2. Range - how far are you from the dog? He's used to training close and persona. He must be reliable 100 yds. away.
3. Duration - how long can the dog obey before succumbing to distraction (he should go up to 20 mins.)

You should take care to increase the degree of various factors gradually. If the dog breaks, always go back to square one.

If your dog is driven by a tennis ball, start training at close range with a leash correction. If he breaks, calmly lead him back to the spot he ignored the command. Sit him, praise him and release (ok). If throwing the ball was driving him wild, try placing the ball on the floor as it may be easier for the dog to handle.

By mastering the distraction in the kitchen, yard, or obedience class, he must understand to obey anywhere. Remember, distractions should reflect your lifestyle, by training the dog with things most likely to lead your dog to stray. Once you've attempted individual distractions, experiment with multi-variables.

How much distraction should your dog learn to endure? As much as he's likely to encounter in the sort of world he lives in. Individual dogs vary as to their strengths and weaknesses, so train at the pace our dog can handle.

Old Friends (Continued)

Now that we are working our dogs inside, we should try to master the proofing of our dogs since it is easier to correct in a closed environment.

Once the dog understands how to work through distractions, he'll learn to factor them out more quickly when learning any new behavior.

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (January 8, 2008)

submitted by Ginny Pentz

The meeting of STDTC was called to order by President, Connie Cuff, with 24 members present.

Report of President:

We wish to thank Connie and Jim Hepner for our whistles. We have them available for anyone who has not as yet recieved one.

Everyone should fill in a new application for 2008 as many addresses and e-mails have changed.

Be sure to check the monthly newsletter since dates for activities may not be every 2 weeks with reading. We had to change dates because of testing.

Report of Treasurer:

(Treasurer's Reports are not available in the online edition of the STDTC newsletter.)

New Business:

We will be visiting the medium security Allenwood on Jan.22, those intending to go, please sign up. Please keep in mind for this visit you must have Drivers Lisence or Photo ID and NO phones, pagers, etc, Be aware that shoes and any metal will set off dectector, including underwire bras.

People have asked about ordering shirts. If anyone is interesed we will take orders at our next class.

I have pet insurance brochures available for anyone who is interested. This is the company that I use for my dogs. If you have any questions you can call them and they will go over the information with you.

Starting in January, TDI has a new award for reading to the dogs. YOu must keep a separate log for reading if you want to participate. Each visit only counts once, either for reading or for a regular visit.

Minutes (Continued)

Please note that Sherry Carpenter just lost one of her dogs to Lyme's disease. There is a test that will show if your dog has antibodies for Lymes.

Old Business:

TDI visits, Wed. Regular visit to Riverwoods
Thurs. Northwestern Academy, 1 PM,
Life Giesinger 2 PM
Shamokin Hospital 3 PM

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Virginia Pentz

Breed of the Month

Siberian Husky

by Connie Cuff

These dogs are very intelligent and very independent and that's a dangerous combination because they will make their own decisions. For those who are cut for the challenge of owning a Siberian Husky, this breed is loyal and loving, yet ever beholden to its own decisive drummer.

The Husky was originated by the Chukchi people of northeastern Asia as an endurance sled dog. Possessed of both physical and emotional strength, the companionship they provide is rooted in their ancient past. For centuries these dogs lived intimately with humans, sharing their food, their shelter, and the responsibility for survival. What developed was a bond that has carried on today.

Historically the Siberian Husky was accustomed to working in a team pulling sleds where conditions were deadly, but the dogs worked tirelessly and earned the loyalty of their companions. Today's Siberians must work too, as they have the same high level of energy, the same heart, eth same lust for activity that have forever fueled this dog's stamina and endurance. This dog requires at least half an hour of vigorous exercise every day. Among the avenues of exercise are race-oriented mushing, inviting the dog on daily jobs, inline skating or bike riding. If you're a couch potato, you don't want this breed.

Its reputation blossomed when Siberians played a pivotal role in the first Iditarod or Great Serum Run in 1925 transporting diphtheria serum from Anchorage to Nome. Through the efforts Leonard Seppala and his life-saving dog team being introduced in the United States, they won the respect and hearts of sportsmen and the AKC gave the Siberian Husky recognition in 1930.

Siberians are frequently seen at the nation's animal shelters, the victims of owners who were unprepared for life with such a dog or unwilling to learn to handle them effectively. Obedience training is a must as it lays a strong foundation between dog and owner and lets everyone know who is and isn't boss.

If you are looking for a watch dog this dog's genuine affection for humans makes everyone welcome in his home. He is by nature fastidiously clean and free from the body odors that many dense-coated breeds have.

His natural desire to roam makes a measure of control necessary. Even with a fenced in yard you always have to watch that the dogs aren't digging under or jumping over it.

This breed is susceptible to hip dysplasia and eye problems such as PRA and hereditary cataracts.

As breeder, Shayne Moon of Canada says, "living with a Siberian is like having another member of the family rather than having a pet". Given the sanctity of such a position, only those prospective owners with the purest of hearts and intentions need apply.



Sherry's Corner

Sherry is compiling an article for the Daily Item about how pet owners can cut pet costs and still be responsible pet owners. If you would like to contribute tips to the article, send her a short bio about you and your pet, as well as a picture of you and/or your pet. If you are looking for ideas, consider beds, toys, and any other pet item you find is a real value. Her E-mail address is itemcolumnist@yahoo.com.

“Dogs Can Teach Us What’s Important”

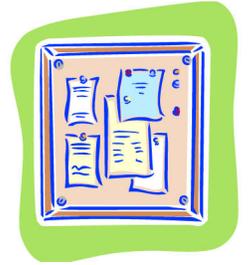
What better time than the beginning of a new year to reflect on what would really bring meaning and happiness to our lives in the upcoming year.

*Everything you ever really needed to learn in life, you learned from your dog
Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride
Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in our face to be pure ecstasy
When loved ones come home, always greet them (not by jumping up)
When it's in your best interest, practice obedience
Let others know when they've invaded your territory
Take naps and stretch before rising
Run, romp and play daily
Eat with gusto and enthusiasm
Be loyal
Never pretend to be something you're not
If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it
When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by and nuzzle them gently
Avoid biting when a simple growl will do
On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree
When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body
No matter how often you're scolded, don't buy into the guilt thing and pout,
run right back and make friends
Bond with your pack
Delight in the simple joy of a long walk*

Author unknown



Notes and Notices



Please fill in a new application when you renew membership for 2008 along with an up-dated shot record.

Another reminder when filing your income tax for 2007 to calculate mileage for therapy visits under contributions.

I need sign ups for Selinsgrove Center visits for February.

If you have not left Linda Bennett know if you are interested in participating in “Reading to Dixon’s Dogs” at the Union County Library she can be reached by E mail – lbennett@bucknell.edu.

Please check E mails in case there are any changes in classes or activities.

There is a 3 year old female Brittany Spaniel available for adoption. She is spayed, chipped, up-to-date on shots, trained to underground fencing. Reason for new home – owner passed away. Please call Connie.

Our sympathies to Deb Stark for the loss of her Golden Retriever, Maggie. Also it is with sadness that Kathryn Starkey lost her beloved Tessie Mae.

Glad to see Mary Lou Walsh’s shih tzu, Lizzie is doing well after surgery. Also Mary Haas’s lab, Snookie is also recovering from leg surgery.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

| | | |
|------------------------|--|--|
| Feb. 4 (Mon) | Reading Chief Shikellamy | 9:00 am |
| Feb. 6 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00 am |
| Feb. 11 (Mon) | Bucknell University (TDI only) | 6:00 pm |
| Feb. 13 (Wed) | Reading White Deer Elementary Riverwoods | 9:00 am 10:00 am |
| Feb. 14 (Thurs) | Northwestern Academy, Rt. 61 Life Geisinger, Kulpmont Shamokin Hospital | 1:00 pm 2:00 pm 3:00 pm |
| Feb. 20 (Wed) | Reading White Deer Elementary Riverwoods | 9:00 am 10:00 am |
| Feb. 21 (Thurs) | Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners | 1:00 pm 1:45 pm 2:15 pm |
| Feb. 25 (Mon) | Reading Chief Shikellamy | 9:00 am |
| Feb. 26 (Tues) | FCI Medium, Allenwood (Badged members only) | 12:00 pm |
| Feb. 27 (Wed) | Riverwoods | 10:00 am |
| Feb. 28 (Thurs) | Geisinger Health South Rehab | 2:00 pm |
| Mar. 3 (Mon) | Bucknell University (TDI only) | 6:00 pm |
| Mar. 5 (Wed) | Reading White Deer Elementary | 9:00 am |
| Mar. 14 (Thurs) | Elm Croft of Lewisburg (formerly Out Look Pointe) | 6:45 pm |

NO CLASS AT THE SELINGSGROVE CENTER MARCH 18

Newsletter coordinator: **Brandon Pastuszek**
E-mail: brandon@stdtc.org
Club web site: <http://www.stdtc.org>