

Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club



January 2026



Old Friends

by Connie Cuff

Let's begin the New Year with a positive attitude in dog training. Good trainers need a kind heart as well as a cool and well-informed head. Good training will pay a lifetime of dividends for you and your dog.

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 enjoys working with you more than anything else.

As we train using treats as reinforcement, there is a difference between treats as a *lure* or a *reward*.

When you use food to guide your dog into a position, that's a lure. When you ask him to do something that he performs correctly, that is a reward. Trying to fade out the lure, make sure your dog performs correctly as you fade out the treat. You can do it without a treat for a few repetitions and then, surprise him with a treat from the opposite hand.

With any training, timing is important and the two second rule will connect the treat to the behavior.

Frequently include praise and petting as you deliver treats. You and your dog are a team, celebrating the occasion. Continue to use treats as rewards throughout your dog's lifetime. Every opportunity throughout your day should be thought of as training and a treat is a meaningful reward for a job well done.

Till next time

Connie



Notes and Notices



As we begin a New Year, 2026, with STDTC, I look forward to another year training and visiting with our Therapy Dogs and dogs in training.

We have grown as a Club, and our visits seem to grow each month. I appreciate all those that come to class and socialize with their dogs which is so important when we do our visiting.

We congratulate the following who graduated from the Star Puppy Class:

Mike and Jeaannie Carroll with Brussels Griffon, **Topher**; **Harry Holliday** with Havanese, **Baylee**; **Chime Rouse** with Golden Retriever, **Banx**; **Denyse Speer** with Icelandic Sheepdog, **Nellie**; **Lindsey Beck** with Golden/Bernese, **Violet**.

We are collecting Club dues for 2026 of \$20.00. I would appreciate hearing from everyone who wishes to continue with us by the end of February. We will need to update our membership list for 2026. If you are unable to reach out to us before then and would like to continue as a member art, please send a message through the club website.

We have sign-up sheets for those with certified dogs to do certified only visits and would appreciate people to sign up using the links or replying to the reminder emails so we know we have enough dogs to attend a visit.

We have a year end statement for the Club and you can review it when coming to class.

If at any time you have anything to add to our class, be it training , doggie tips, or just stories about your pets, please share with us.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Jan 6 (Tue)	Mifflinburg Elementary (ATD only)	9:30 am
Jan 7 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Jan 8 (Thurs)	Mountain View Manor	1:30 pm
Jan 12 (Mon)	Lewisburg High School (ATD only)	10:15 am - 11:15 am
	5 Star (Certified only)	12:15 pm
Jan 13 (Tue)	Nottingham, Heather Court	6:00 pm
Jan 14 (Wed)	Heritage Springs	10:00 am
	Buffalo Valley	10:45 am
	Community Day Basketball @ Bucknell - <i>Handlers only</i>	
	(tickets needed in advance)	
	Women's game	5:00 pm
	Men's Game	7:30 pm
Jan 15 (Thurs)	Mansion Nursing Home	10:30 am
Jan 16 (Fri)	Shikellamy High School (ATD only)	8:00 am - 10:00 am
Jan 19 (Mon)	Columbia County Prison (Certified only)	1:15 pm
Jan 21 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Jan 22 (Thurs)	Lewisburg Federal Prison RDAP (Badged only)	12:00 pm
Jan 23 (Fri)	Bucknell @ ELC (ATD only)	11:30 am - 1:00 pm
Jan 27 (Tue)	Penn Lutheran	10:00 am
Jan 28 (Wed)	Heritage Springs	10:00 am
	Buffalo Valley	10:45 am
Jan 30 (Fri)	Bucknell @ ELC (ATD only)	11:30 am - 1:00 pm

January 2026							Month
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	
SUN 28 ● 1pm CANCELLED - ● 2pm CANCELLED -	MON 29	TUE 30 ● 10am Penn Luther	WED 31 ● 10am Heritage Spr ● 10:45am Buffalo Va	THU 1	FRI 2	SAT 3	
4 ● 1pm Advanced Trai ● 2pm Beginner Train	5	6 ● 9:30am Mifflinburg	7 ● 10am Riverwoods	8 ● 1:30pm Mountain V	9	10	
11 ● 1pm Advanced Trai ● 2pm Beginner Train	12 ● 10:15am Lewisburg ● 12:15pm 5 Star (Cer	13 ● 6pm Heather Court	14 ● 10am Heritage Spr ● 10:45am Buffalo Va	15 ● 10:30am Mansion N	16 ● 8am Shikellamy HS	17	
18 ● 1pm Advanced Trai ● 2pm Beginner Train	19 ● 1:15pm Columbia C	20	21 ● 10am Riverwoods	22 ● 12pm Lewisburg Pr	23 ● 11:30am Bucknell (24	
25 ● 1pm Advanced Trai ● 2pm Beginner Train	26	27 ● 10am Penn Luther	28 ● 10am Heritage Spr ● 10:45am Buffalo Va	29	30 ● 11:30am Bucknell (31	

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Events shown in time zone: (GMT-05:00) Eastern Time - New York

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