



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

May 2011

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



I would like to review some points in training your dog. Many of these are familiar to everyone but a quick reinforcement can help us as we train our dogs.

A dog is placed under command for one of the following reasons: To instill a new training concept, to reinforce previous learning, avoid danger, to promote convenience and to promote comfort of owner

and dog.

"Under command" tells him to do something and every time you speak or gesture to your dog you are placing him under command. You need to be clear when you communicate with your dog. Since dogs tend to learn visual signals faster than vocal cues, use the former when possible. Dogs are watching us all the time, so be sure not to confuse your dog in letting him know what you want.

A dog associates with success more often than with failure, so a well-timed correction which contrasts right from wrong should be followed with instant reward. Repeating commands lets the dog know, he can do it in "1 minute" or "wait until later", or I'll do it when I am ready.

Always remain calm. Keeping an air of tranquility lets the dog know he can count on you to keep your cool. Remember to end your training with something the dog does well.

We must be consistent with our training and that involves every member of the family. It is the responsibility of the trainer to train other members of the household. Even children can be taught to train the dog since they take the most interest in their progress and derive the most pleasure from their company.

You should also train visitors to your home and they should know your rules. Jumping always seems to be a problem and by instructing a visitor to ignore the dog until he settles down will help reinforce your training skills.

Old Friends (Continued)

Remember to praise your dog and keep him happy by giving him play time. Playing games and having fun strengthen your bond.

Focusing on your relationship with your dog is the most important aspect of living with him. We love dogs as friends and as family members and being with them enhances our life in unique ways.

"One of the secrets of a happy life is continuous small treats"
--Iris Murdoch

Till next time,

Connie

Breed of the Month

Australian Shepherd

submitted by Connie Cuff

Natural Herding dogs, Australian Shepherds once were the backbone of the U.S. cattle industry. Today, they continue to work on ranches but also help people in other ways: in search and rescue and therapy, as guide and hearing dogs for the blind and deaf.

A well-bred Aussie is mellow, steady, trainable, intelligent, watchful, attentive, and eager to please.

Contrary to its down and under name, Aussies are American through and through. Their ancestors were sheepdogs taken from Spain and France to Australia and then to the United States.

Aussies have a strong drive to work. The breed's high energy can lead to excessive barking, destructiveness and hyperactivity if not channeled into a job or activity.

Owners frustrated by their Aussies' behavior often surrender the dogs to shelters and rescue organizations. Some dogs are placed in foster homes where they receive some training and make a great choice for people who want an instant companion or want to skip puppyhood chaos.

Some breeders and owners recommend up to three hours of daily exercise, as well as participation in an activity, such as agility, search and rescue, or therapy.

Although generally reserved with strangers, Aussies take to therapy work with ease once they understand what is expected of them. They learn to read the patient quickly and offer the appropriate behavior for each situation.

Known health problems are hip dysplasia, cataracts and progressive retinal atrophy.. They are good with other dogs, but must be socialized with cats and smaller animals.

If you like to do agility these dogs are bred for this and learn fast and move even faster.

We are glad to have Sue Heemstra with us with her Aussie.





Notes and Notices



Please keep your eye on E-mail since we are moving to the Marina May 3. We must deal with weather since we are outside so we will notify everyone by 4:00pm if we need to cancel.

Dues for 2011 were due by May 1. Anyone who is not current will be removed from the E-mail list.

Anyone who plans to participate in the 4th of July Parade on Sat. 25 should let me know as I must have enough members to carry the flag.

Best wishes to Brandon Pastuszek, our Newsletter Coordinator, who graduates in May from Rochester Institute of Technology with a degree in Software Engineering. He will be moving to Florida to be a cast member at Disney. Way to go Brandon!

Congratulations to Gail Lorady and Buffy who accumulated 50 TDI visits within 9 months.

UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

May 2 (Mon)	Bucknell University (TDI only)	6:00 pm
May 3 (Tues)	CLASSES BEGIN AT SHIKELLAMY MARINA Advanced 6:30pm Beginners 7:30pm	
May 4 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
May 5 (Thurs)	Penn Lutheran Village, Selinsgrove	6:30pm
May 7 (Sat)	Demo Mt. Carmel Lions Club St. Fair	2:30pm
May 9 (Mon)	Reading Chief Shikellamy	9:00am
May 11 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
May 12 (Thurs)	Northwestern Academy Life Geisinger Shamokin Hospital	1:00pm 2:15pm 3:00pm
May 16 (Mon)	Graysonview, Selinsgrove	6:30pm
May 18 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00pm
May 19 (Thurs)	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home Sunshine Corners	1:00pm 2:00pm 2:45pm
May 23 (Mon)	Reading Chief Shikellamy	9:00am
May 24 (Tues)	Allenwood Prison Medium (NCIC only)	12:00pm
May 25 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00am
May 26 (Thurs)	Health South Geisinger	2:00pm
May 30 (Mon)	MEMORIAL DAY	

May 2011

April 2011

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May 2011

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29	30	31				

June 2011

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26	27	28	29	30		

■ US Holidays

■ Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 ■ 6:00 PM Bucknell University (TDI Only)	3 ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	4 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	5 ■ Cinco de Mayo ■ 6:30 PM Penn Lutheran	6	7 ■ 2:30 PM Mt. Carmel Lions Club Street Fair (Demo)
8 ■ Mother's Day	9 ■ 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	10 ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	11 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	12 ■ 1:00 PM Northwestern Academy ■ 2:15 PM Life Geisinger ■ 3:00 PM Shamokin Hospital	13	14
15	16 ■ 6:30 PM Graysonview	17 ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	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 ■ 9:00 AM Reading (Chief Shikellamy)	24 ■ 12:00 PM Allenwood Prison Medium (NCIC only) ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	25 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	26 ■ 2:00 PM Geisinger Rehab-Health South	27	28
29 ■ John F. Kennedy's Birthday	30 ■ Memorial Day	31 ■ 6:30 PM Advanced Training ■ 7:30 PM Beginner Training	1 ■ 10:00 AM Riverwoods	2	3	4