



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

September 2025

Old Friends

by *Connie Cuff*



When the newness of a puppy wears off, we may wonder, *how long will it take to help the pup fit into family life?*

From birth a pup is learning, through touch and scents, even though it does not see or hear and going to the next step of socialization and experiencing multiple stimuli which it should look forward to.

Factors that influence learning are: maternal care and stress level during pregnancy, good puppy nutrition, genetic predisposition, learning style and training technique. A mother's stress level can affect future

behavior in her pups making them more anxious or fearful and they can benefit from additional socialization.

Feeding high quality food containing fish oil, has shown to improve learning ability in puppies and may have stronger responses to training.

There are different types of learners in the breed: herding have a reputation as fast learners; hounds and guardian dogs may seem to not have caught on but they are watching and thinking; independent dogs have good problem-solving skills which makes it difficult to stay ahead of them.

In training it is not unusual for dogs to mimic when they see other dogs, especially if they are being rewarded for behavior.

How long does it take to learn basic cues? "It Depends" - dogs learn more quickly with practice and patience; build on you and your dog's successes. No matter when your dog achieves maturity, learning is a life-long endeavor. Continuing to practice a dog's skills and teach new ones through life, (tricks) even into old age, it helps to keep their brains supple and may help to stave off dementia.

Getting together each week at a class and socializing our dogs keeps them well-socialized and trained for many situations. As a Club and working with our members it gives all of us something to look forward to and make it a "learning experience" for me which I enjoy.

Till next time,

Connie



Notes and Notices



For those that are certified with ATD you are required to do one visit in a 3 month period. Members are telling us they are hearing from them if the visits have not been recorded or you have not done the visit. If you do not keep up with the visiting, you will need to be retested.

Please keep up with sign-ups for ATD visits using the links for visits at Bucknell, Federal Prisons and local Schools, so we know we have enough to attend those scheduled visits.

We will be having our annual Club Picnic on Sunday, Sept. 7 at the Shikellamy State Park Marina (Pavilion #2) at 1pm. I have a nice group signed up and everyone is bringing a covered dish and an item for the "Chinese Auction". I have asked my supportive and rewarding son-in-law, Sgt. Major, Retired, U.S. Army, Kevin Bittenbender to speak to the group about the America's Vet Dogs. He has a Service Dog, Kirby, who will be with him. Looking forward to this get together.

We are planning our trip on October 10th to the Veteran's Grove in Harrisburg which is a village for Veterans experiencing homelessness. There will be a container at class and at the picnic for donations of items for the Veterans including hats, socks, gloves, toiletries, etc.

Classes will begin Sundays starting September 14th. Advanced at 1pm and Beginners at 2pm. We will stay at the Marina until weather will not permit. There is NO class on Tuesday, September 9th.

Please check our web site and emails for cancellations due to weather conditions.

Sympathies to **Lori Steele** with the passing of her Golden Retriever, **Maggie**, who was a Therapy Dog and did many visits at Bloomsburg University.

We welcome new member, **Amanda Heavner** and her dog, **Doug**.

UPCOMING THERAPY VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

Sept 1 (Mon)	Labor Day	
Sept 2 (Tues)	Allenwood Max Federal Prison (Badged only)	12:00 pm - 2:00 pm
Sept 3 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Sept 5 (Fri)	Bucknell Paws for a Shake	12:00 pm
Sept 7 (Sun)	Club Picnic, Shikellamy State Park Marina	1:00 pm
Sept 8 (Mon)	Lewisburg High School (ATD only) <i>please make note of earlier time than previously announced</i> 5 Star	10:15 am 12:15pm
Sept 9 (Tues)	NO CLASS	
Sept 10 (Wed)	Allenwood Low Security Health Fair (Badged only) Heritage Springs Buffalo Valley	8:00 am - 10:00 am 10:00 am 10:45 am
Sept 11 (Thurs)	Mt. View	1:30 pm
Sept 12 (Fri)	Bucknell Paws for a Shake (ATD only)	12:00 pm
Sept 14 (Sun)	Classes beginning at Shikellamy State Park Marina	Advanced 1:00 pm Beginner 2:00 pm
Sept 15 (Mon)	Columbia County Prison (Certified only)	1:15 pm
Sept 17 (Wed)	Riverwoods	10:00 am
Sept 18 (Thurs)	Mansion	10:30 am
Sept 19 (Fri)	Bucknell Paws for a Shake (ATD only)	12:00 pm
Sept 22 (Mon)	Brookdale (Grayson View, Selinsgrove)	6:00 pm
Sept 24 (Wed)	Heritage Springs Buffalo Valley	10:00 am 10:45 am
Sept 25 (Thurs)	Lewisburg Main Prison (Badged only)	12:00 pm
Sept 26 (Fri)	Allenwood Training Center - Suicide Awareness Walk Lewisburg Prison - Suicide Awareness Walk Bucknell Paws for a Shake (ATD only)	9:00 am - 11:00 am 10:30am - 1:00 pm 12:00 pm
Sept 30 (Tues)	Penn Lutheran, Selinsgrove	10:00 am

<div> <div>Today</div> <div>< ></div> <div>September 2025 ▾</div> <div> <div>!</div> <div>📅</div> <div>🖨️</div> </div> <div>Month ▾</div> </div>						
SUN 31	Next month MON Sep 1	TUE 2	WED 3	THU 4	FRI 5	SAT 6
		<div>● 12pm Allenwood Ma</div> <div>● 6pm Advanced Trai</div> <div>● 6:45pm Beginner Tr</div>	<div>● 10am Riverwoods</div>		<div>● 12pm Bucknell - AT</div>	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
<div>● 1pm Club Picnic</div>	<div>● 10:15am Lewisburg</div> <div>● 12:15pm 5 Star (cer</div>	<div>● 6pm NO CLASS - A</div> <div>● 6:45pm NO CLASS</div>	<div>● 8am Allenwood Lov</div> <div>● 10am Heritage Spri</div> <div>● 10:45am Buffalo Va</div>	<div>● 1:30pm Mountain V</div>	<div>● 8am HOLD - Shikel</div> <div>● 12pm Bucknell - AT</div>	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
<div>● 1pm Advanced Trai</div> <div>● 2pm Beginner Train</div> <div>● 2pm Star Puppy Cla</div>	<div>● 1:15pm Columbia Co</div>		<div>● 10am Riverwoods</div>	<div>● 10:30am Mansion N</div>	<div>● 12pm Bucknell - AT</div>	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
<div>● 1pm Advanced Trai</div> <div>● 2pm Beginner Train</div> <div>● 2pm Star Puppy Cla</div>	<div>● 6pm Grayson View</div>		<div>● 10am Heritage Spri</div> <div>● 10:45am Buffalo Va</div>	<div>● 12pm Lewisburg Pr</div>	<div>● 9am Hold - Allenwo</div> <div>● 10:30am Hold - Lev</div> <div>● 12pm Bucknell - AT</div>	
28	29	30	Oct 1	2	3	4
<div>● 1pm Advanced Trai</div> <div>● 2pm Beginner Train</div> <div>● 2pm Star Puppy Cla</div>		<div>● 10am Penn Luthera</div>	<div>● 10am Riverwoods</div>		<div>● 12pm Bucknell - AT</div>	

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Events shown in time zone: (GMT-04:00) Eastern Time - New York

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