



Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club

May 2007

Old Friends

by Connie Cuff



As we approach the summer months and thinking of vacations a lot of us may be wondering who will be taking care of our pets. One way of keeping our dogs happy is by hiring a "pet sitter".

Hiring a pet sitter is a serious process. You should carefully interview and get references for the person who will be responsible for your pet. References could include a friend or veterinarian or someone who has personally used the services.

Arrange for a meeting and a trial dog walk. Your dog, the pet sitter and you should all feel comfortable with each other, answering any questions or concerns you might have.

Provide the sitter with a list of essential information, including phone numbers of the vet, local family or friend contact, a number where you can be reached, and pets medications.

Be sure to have enough of the pets food on hand. Show where you keep his food and toys and where your dog likes to sleep. Note any off-limits areas for your dog and if your house has an alarm provide the access code so your pet sitter can come and go without setting off sirens.

The ideal sitter will spend quality time with your dog or cat, not just drop by to fill the water bowl.

Many college students are getting into the pet sitting business. They make a little money and maintain friendships with dogs and cats.

Some of you may be taking your pets with you. There are pet-friendly lodgings for our dogs and the CGC certificate can make the difference of allowing your pet to visit with you. By following basic rules of "petiquette," you and our dog will be welcome back year after year:

1. Take only **house-trained** dogs to a lodging, and be sure to take your pooch for a good walk before entering the facility.
2. Don't sneak a dog into a lodging that doesn't permit pets.
3. Never leave a dog alone in your room. Leaving a dog alone in a strange place is inviting trouble. Dogs who are normally calm become nervous and chew or bark.
4. Take your dog's blanket or bed. Your dog will feel more at home and won't be tempted to jump on the bed. If he sleeps on the bed at home bring a sheet along for him to lie on.
5. Keep the curtains closed. If your dog tends to bark at passerby, removing such visual stimuli will help keep it quiet.
6. Tip the housekeeper well. Face it, when a dog's slept in a room, you have to go through a little extra work to get it hotel-perfect again.

Old Friends (Continued)

Don't forget if you travel to pack your pet's suitcase. This should include, fresh water, pet's regular food, grooming supplies, first aid kit, and by all means baggies for clean up when you walk your dog.

Hopefully by following some of these basic rules and advice you and your pet can enjoy a contended summer.

"There's no question about this look. I know too well his of despair and disapproval when I have just thought that he must be left at home"

John Steinbeck
"My Travels With Charley"

Till next time,

Connie

Minutes (April 3, 2007)

submitted by Virginia Pentz

The meeting of the Susquehanna Trail Dog Training Club was called to order with 14 members present.

Report of the President - As everyone knows there has been a recall on the wet cat and dog food. I received a call from Sherry Carpenter and we should be on alert of our food labels that mention Wheat gluten. That is an ingredient that may be harmful to your cat or dog and it is in dry dog food.

The Pet Adoption Expo will be held May 5 at Montgomery. I have sign up sheets and dog bone recipes available. The time for the Expo is 10am-4pm. There are flyers which you can take to distribute.

If you pull up newsletter on you web site be sure to mark your calendars with up-coming dates.

Anyone who has passed the CGC/TDI with the club may have a basic obedience certificate from the club.

There is a 3 yr. old St. Bernard, dry mouth available for adoption. A young man has had the dog and wants to get rid of it. Very friendly and good with other dogs. It is a smaller St. Bernard. He plans to take it to the SPCA the end of the week Female, spayed

Report of the Secretary - With no additions or correction the minutes were approved as read.

Report of the Treasurer -

(Treasurer's Reports are not available in the Online Edition of the STDTC Newsletter)

New business: There are car magnets available \$3

Therapy visit: - Monday at 6:00 PM at Bucknell University
Thurs. April 12 Grandview, Danville 6:45 PM
Mon. April 30 Bucknell University 6:00 PM

We plan to move to the Marina for May 1. Since our night has been Tues. I plan to keep it on that day at the Marina. If we acquire the Goodwill Playground this year I will schedule it for Wed.

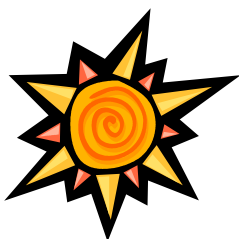
Government Quarantines Hogs Fed Tainted Pet Food

WASHINGTON—Salvaged pet food contaminated with an industrial chemical was fed to hogs in as many as six states, federal health officials said Tuesday. It was not immediately clear if any of the hogs entered the food supply for humans.

Food safety officials have quarantined hogs at farms in California, New York, North Carolina, South Carolina, Utah, and possibly Ohio. The urine of hogs in some states has tested positive for the chemical melamine, the Food and Drug Administration said.

“At this point, I don’t have a definitive answer other than to say that the issue is being addressed,” Stephen Sundlof, the FDA’s chief veterinarian told reporters when asked if any of the hogs had entered the food supply. A poultry farm may also be involved, he added.

Summer Tips for You and Fido



1. Never leave your dog alone in a parked vehicle. Even with the windows open, the temperature in your automobile can quickly skyrocket causing potential for heatstroke and even fatality.

2. Keep your pet well-hydrated and avoid strenuous exercise during the hottest times of the day.

3. Avoid walking your dog in areas you suspect have been sprayed with insecticides or other chemicals. Plant food and fertilizers can be extremely poisonous if your pet ingests them.

4. Have your pet groomed monthly to prevent overheating and to alleviate summer skin problems. A matted dog with a thick undercoat is a breeding ground for parasites, bugs and bacteria that can cause your dog to get sick.

5. Bring your pet into the veterinarian for a summer check-up. Ask your doctor to recommend a pest-control program to combat ticks and fleas.

6. Never leave your pet unattended around a pool. Once in, a dog cannot get out without help and may soon panic and drown.

7. Always make sure your pet is wearing a collar and identification tag. Be sure that the contact information listed is legible and accurate.

8. Prevent your pet from hanging his head out of a moving car or truck window when taking him for a ride. Bugs, rocks and other debris can injure his eyes, and he is also at risk for jumping out of the vehicle.

9. While indoors, make sure your pet has access to the coolest parts of house, such as the basement or a room with air conditioning.

10. Always walk your pet on a leash. This ensures your safety, and the animal's walkers, joggers' and bicyclists'.



Breed of the Month

Shetland Sheepdog

submitted by Connie Cuff

As its name indicates, the Sheltie originated on the Shetland Island, a craggy cluster of islands off the northern coast of Scotland. They are a blend of numerous breeds, including Greenland's Yokki Dog, Pomeranian, small spaniels and others. The islanders employed these hardy little dogs for various tasks around the farm, including keeping free-roaming Shetland sheep out of vegetable gardens and away from fish that were being dried for winter storage. The dogs also warned of approaching strangers and served as family companions.

In the early 1900's the Sheltie came to the attention of fanciers on the mainland of Great Britain. Soon interested breeders in the US began importing Shelties and in 1929 the American Shetland Sheepdog Assoc. was formed. The size limit of the standard requires that dogs under 13" or over 16" at the withers be disqualified from the conformation ring.



The Sheltie excels as a versatile family companion—small enough for apartment life, but athletic and hardy enough to join in almost any outdoor activity. It is their nature to obey, willingly and naturally, with few or no lessons needed, an instinct coming from the many generations of obediently trained dogs behind them.

The instinct to guard property and to give watchdog warning makes them invaluable for work as farm helpers or home protectors. In addition to herding and other performance events such as obedience and agility, Shelties have been trained for search and rescue, as assistance dogs and therapy dogs.

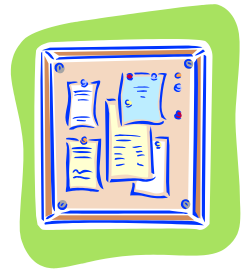
The Sheltie should have a somewhat harsh, water-repellent coat. The double coat sheds twice a year with the second "molt" coming at summer's end.

The breed's well-deserved popularity as a pet has led to some health problems. In the 1960's Sheltie breeders found that their beloved breed had a problem with progressive retinal atrophy. This hereditary eye defect does not show up until the dog reaches maturity. Conscientious breeders eliminated affected dogs from their breeding program and the hereditary eye problems has been greatly reduced. Other health concerns are hip dysplasia, skin ailments and thyroid deficiencies.

Realistic breeders recognize that the vast majority of their puppies do not have a future in the conformation ring but as a bright companion and versatile family dog—the job everyone agrees the Sheltie does best.



Notes and Notices



The Pet Adoption Expo sponsored by the Pet Platoon, Lewisburg, will be held Sat. May 5 at the A-1 Auction Hall, Montgomery. We will man a stand with pet literature, sell homemade dog bones and test for the CGC/TDI test. I would appreciate if anyone could help us, if only for 1 hr. Please bring a chair with you.

Many thanks to Kelly Pastuszek and Kathryn Starkey who helped me pick up sticks at the Marina.

We will begin training at the Marina May 1. New students will start at 6:00p.m and regular members at 6:45. As we have more light in the evening we will extend our beginning time. Our classes will be held weather permitting. If there is rain earlier in the day and it clears, we will be there.

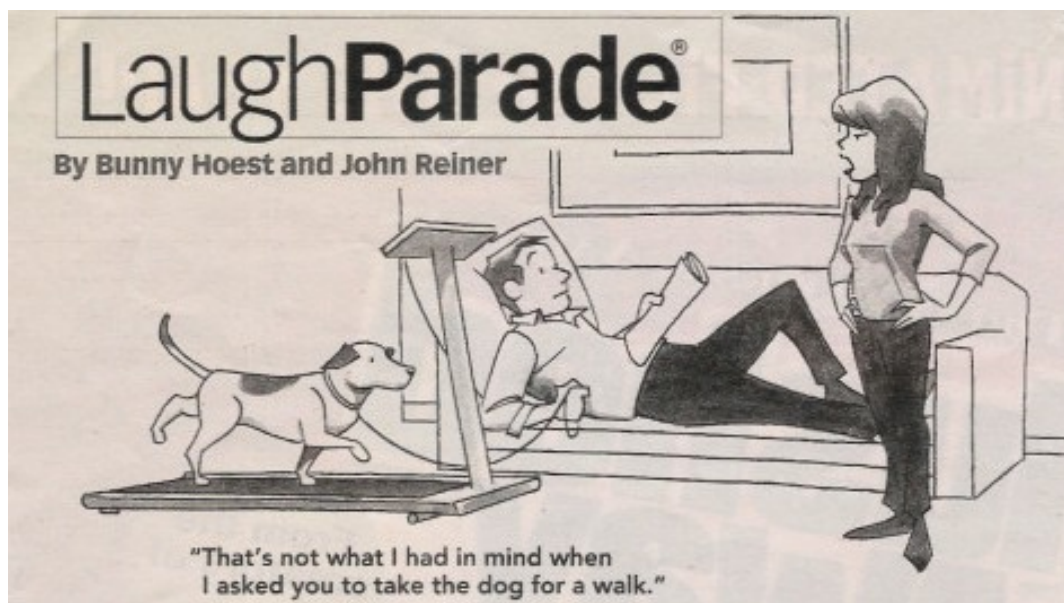
Please let me know if you can participate in the Mt. Carmel Lions Demo. Sat. May 12. It is always a nice Street Fair with vendors and food. Anyone can be with us even if your dog has just started training. The people really enjoy seeing us.

Congratulations to the following who obtained their CGC:

Amanda Ritschard and Lola (Bordeaux)
Joan Haire-Campbell and Missy (Shih-Tzu)
Mary McCreary and Rocky (Boxer)
Virginia Pentz and Sasha (German Shepherd)
Lana Gulden for Kris Gulden and Ocho (Retriever)

Welcome New Members:

Amaka Efe with Saiba (Pug)
Ann Demczko with Tucker (Cocker Spaniel)



UPCOMING TDI VISITS AND CLUB ACTIVITIES

May 5 (Sat)	Pet Adoption Expo Montgomery	10:00am-4:00pm
May 9 (Wed)	Nifty After Fifty Columbia Mall, Buckhorn Demo with Square Dance	11:00am
May 12 (Sat)	Mt. Carmel Lions Demo Mt. Carmel (Meet in front of library at 12:45pm)	1:00pm
May 24 (Thurs)	Outlook Pointe Lewisburg	6:45pm
<u>Every Wednesday</u>	Riverwoods Lewisburg, PA	10:00am
<u>2nd Thursday</u>	Shamokin Hospital	2:00pm
<u>3rd Thursday</u>	Sunbury Community Hospital Mansion Nursing Home, Market St., Sunbury Sunshine Corners, Market St., Sunbury	1:00-1:30pm 1:45pm 2:15pm
<u>Last Thursday</u>	Geisinger Rehab—Health South	2:00-3:00pm

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May 2007

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	3	4	5 Pet Adoption Expo (Montgomery) 10am-4pm
6	7	8	9 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am Nifty After Fifty Columbia Mall (Buckhorn) 11am	10 Shamokin Hospital 2pm	11	12 Mt. Carmel Lions Fair (Mt. Carmel) 1pm (Meet at library at 12:45pm)
13	14	15	16 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	17 Sunbury Community Hospital 1pm-1:30pm Mansion Nursing Home (Sunbury) 1:45pm Sunshine Corner (Market St., Sunbury) 2:15pm	18	19
20	21	22	23 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Riverwoods (Lewisburg) 10am	31 Geisinger Rehab (Health South) 2pm-3pm		