

GOOD NEIGHBOR NEWS



MAY/JUNE, 2015

Training Schedule: Last
Classes @ Abington
Friends Triangle Gym
are June 6th, 13th and
20th

CLASS TIMES:

BEGINNER: 9:00 a.m - 10:00 a.m.
INTERMEDIATE: 10:00 a.m.– 11:00 a.m.
ADVANCED: 11:00 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

May/June – Almost Time for Summer

CLUB BUSINESS & MORE

NO CLASS – JUNE 2, 2015

BRAGS

We have had some very busy Members!!!

Eileen and her **Border Collie, Shane**, earned their AKC CDX title. Shane earned his CDX with 1st Places at the Baltimore County Kennel Club, Lancaster KC and Albany KC trials, with qualifying scores of 196.5, 197 and 190.5. Eileen said, "...Had a few bumps in the road with Stays, but managed to hold it together this weekend for his title." Great job, you two!!!

Linda and her **German Shepherd, Mia**, also recently earned their AKC CDX title! And in another venue, also earned their Rally Level 1 in World Cynosport Rally!

Congrats to those hard working teams!!!

SUMMER CLASSES?

We are still trying to work out some classes for July and maybe the first 2 weeks in August. We will email members if we get a location to train in for that time.

AKC – NEW RULES, NEW REGULATIONS, NEW CLASSES

CHECK OUT THIS LINK!!! It contains a PowerPoint presentation of the changes going into effect on **December, 2015**.

<http://clubs.akc.org/saints/Archives/AKC%20Regulation%20Changes%202012-1-15.pdf>

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!!!

We have been having a lot of fun with the newest Beginner class. It is very diversified, with 12 dogs that run the gamut of the dog world from really teeny (Chihuahua mix) to pretty large (Doberman) and lots in between (a Bulldog, Goldens, a few Heinz 57's and 2 Basenjis!). We have taken advantage of using helpers for this class as it is just too busy for 1 person to watch and that has worked out really well. Thank you for those who have volunteered and helped, and know that we may need you again when classes start up again in September!!



SPOTLIGHT ON.....

Crate Games by Susan Garrett

Crate Games is a fantastic way to introduce distractions into your training with your dog or young puppy. Your dog should stay and if he doesn't, you simply close the door of the crate. No need to verbally or physically interfere with the dog; he makes his choices, you provide consequences for those choices. However, for some reason people feel the need to stack these distractions one after another during their training, which I see as unbelievably deflating to the dog.

The way I look at it, every challenge or distraction we throw at a dog in Crate Games is like asking the dog a question, in the past I have referred to this as "Green Eggs and Ham" training (from the Dr. Seuss book of the same name). Working your distractions this way is like having a conversation between you and your dog, it should be a playful exchange. Picture this "conversation" between (my dog) Swagger and I during a round of Crate Games:

Susan: "Swagger, do you know you are supposed to sit still in your crate even if I smack your favorite toy on the ground?"

Swagger: (an enthusiastic) "Yes, yes I know that!"

Although no words are spoken Swagger communicates his answer to me with clarity by his responses; his tail wagging, his nails turned out on all of his paws as he is showing great intensity, wanting his favorite toy but holding form to earn it. Swagger is a keen participant here, completely focused as he waits for me to evaluate the quality of his answer.

Susan: "SUPA-STAR!"

I praise wildly, and either release him immediately to play with that favorite toy or I run back to deliver a cookie directly into his mouth as he sits holding position in his crate. If I feel his answer is not a quality one, I may choose to re-set the session. I evaluate each answer Swagger gives me. If I don't like his response I swiftly move in and

close the door of the crate, if I do like his response, I reward the good choice. It is simply a conversation between friends.

Imagine if you are having a conversation with your friend, they ask you a question and you give a brilliant answer, you are feeling kind of proud of yourself with your insightful answer! Immediately after you respond your friend says "Aaah, yeah but..." and challenges you further on the subject. You are confused, because you thought your first answer was pretty darn good, so you re-formulate your words and give your friend a new answer. Once again they immediately come back at you, pushing you more "Okay, sure but..." Doesn't this start to feel a little antagonistic? Don't you feel a little deflated and frustrated by your friend?

Here is what such a conversation between a dog and his trainer would sound like:

Trainer: "Do you know you are not supposed to move when I throw your tennis ball?"

Dog's: "YEP! I sure do know the answer to THAT question."

The dog expresses his answer by making the correct choice, narrowing his eyes and enthusiastically wags his tail awaiting the results of his good choice.

Trainer: "Yeah, but do you know you are not supposed to move when I drop a cookie?"

Dog; Slightly less enthused, maybe now the nails on his front paws are now retracted but his tail still thumps a little slower as he says; "Yes, yes, I know that too!"

Trainer: "Yeah but do you know you shouldn't move if I drop a whole handful of cookies, right in front of your crate?"

Dog: The tail is no longer moving, his eyes are starting to glaze over as he communicates to you a disinterested; "Sure, I guess so."

Eventually this dog loses the joy of this game. It is no longer a game to him, it is a one sided conversation, more like an interrogation rather than a playful exchange. "Stays" become stressful, the dog worries.

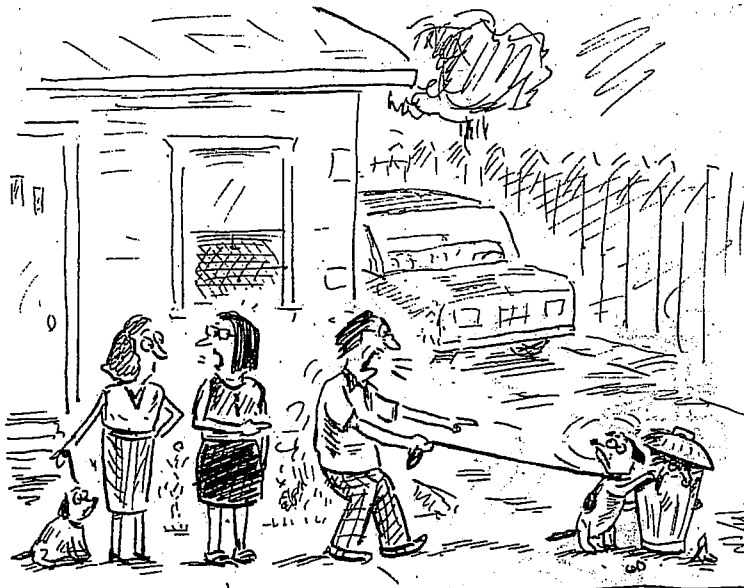
Distraction training is meant to be a playful banter back and forth between friends, not a one sided cross-examination. It is meant to be fun for everyone. You ask a question, you evaluate the quality of the answer and you respond appropriately, laughing is recommended during this exchange because that is what friends do when they talk to each other.

Please consider this the next time you want to work control behaviors with your dog. Training this way works, it really does work and it is incredibly fun for all involved!

Today I am grateful for the pure joy my dogs show during any control responses. Regardless if it is an intense wait at the start line in agility or a relaxed out-of-sight stay in obedience, interactive communication starting with Crate Games has taught them the boundaries of the game and they are always happy to play along, abiding by the rules.

Interested in exploring Crate Games? Ask Camille to borrow the DVD!.....Ed.

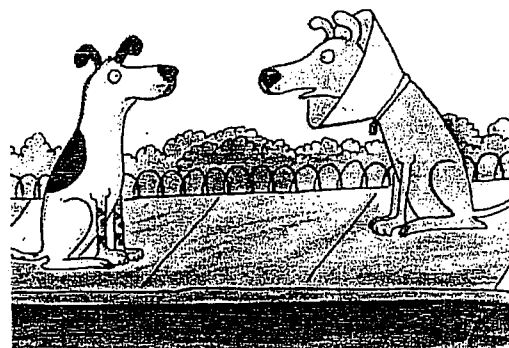
REMEMBER! Train With Humor!! ☺.....Ed.



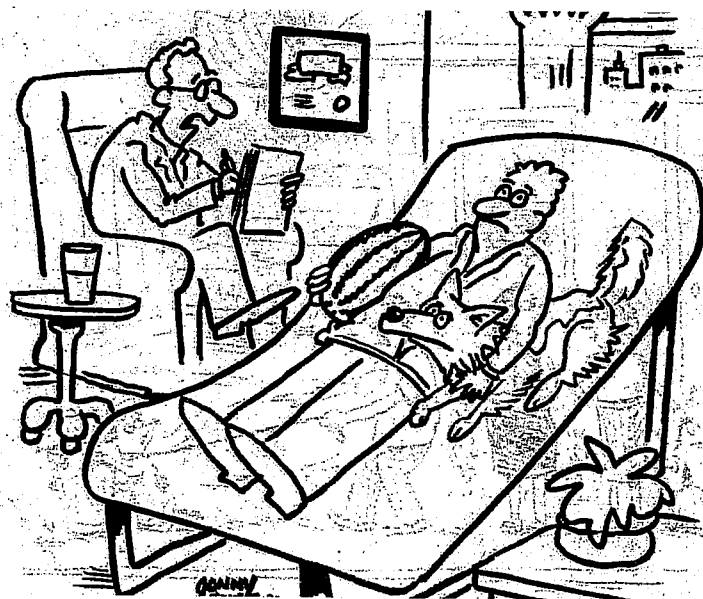
"Fred is the Dog Screamer."



FACEBOOK.COM/OFF_THE_LEASH_DAILY_DOG_CARTOONS



"I thought it would give me better cell phone reception."



I cut off the caption, but I would imagine the doctor is asking his patient if he feels a little "Melon-Collie" – Get it?? Melancholy??? HA HA!

**MAKE SURE TO CHECK
our Club Website for Class
News, Closing for weather,
etc., etc.**

**Our website is:
www.gndog.com**

Please feel free to send me any newsworthy
tales, stories, jokes, articles (recipes?) or
anything else you think may be of interest
to our Members for inclusion in future
newsletters! Emails are:

kacosta@fsalaw.com

and home email is: kacosta66@gmail.com

Kathy Acosta, Editor



POST OFFICE BOX 42
ABINGTON, PA 19001

First Class